

The Strasburg Village Council met in regular session on Tuesday, October 1, 2019 at 7:30 pm. Mayor John Bitikofer presided over the meeting.

Members answering roll call were Liz Dreher, Don Wallick, Martin Zehnder, Dustin Briggs, Kathy Burrier, and Jeff Smith. Others present were Zoning Inspector Karl DiBacco, Legal Counsel Richard Fox, Press Representative Barb Limbacher, Jerry Schultz, Ed Dailey, Lewis Dreher, Duck Krantz, Bruce Metzger, and Steve Smith.

Mayor Bitikofer noted a correction to the minutes stating that he did not attend the preconstruction meeting, that Village Administrator Ron Lambert had attended and reported to him. A motion was made by Don Wallick, seconded by Dustin Briggs, to approve the amended minutes from September 17, 2019. At roll call, all members voted approval.

Legal Counsel Fox noted that the demolition contractor is waiting on brick bags to continue with the demo. Fox noted that the contractor is responsible for filling in the basement and noted that they will be using dirt from the rear of the property. Mayor Bitikofer noted that there is a water service at the property if we want to put in a sprinkler system on that property and a fountain. Fox noted that he has the stone that has a name and date that could also be placed on that property. Mayor Bitikofer noted that Fire Chief Andy Slemmer brought the water truck to the site to help keep down the dust when the demo was making dust.

Jeff Smith reminded residents that the fall clean-up is Tuesday, October 22, 2019 and that the list of items that qualify for pick up are on the website and available in village hall. Smith noted that we have received an email from Ed Dailey regarding a decision that was made by the baseball association to have the pony league team play in a 60/90 league, noting that the pony league team would play on the high school field and there would be no changes made to the field. Duck Krantz noted that we have had teams in the past play in that league. Dailey noted that four years ago they played in that league. Smith noted that he has talked to Athletic Director Gary Spinell and that the school agrees that they can play on that field and that the school is in favor for that opportunity for the students. Bruce Metzger noted that he talked to Ridgewood and that their field was put in the beginning for pony league and high school and they are eligible for tournaments. Metzger noted that he has coached baseball in the past and does not understand why these pony league kids will have to play at high school distances. Metzger noted that the previous decision of changing field one would not have worked because of trees needing to be removed, too close to the walking path and a utility pole. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Don Wallick, to change the previous decision from the last council meeting and to now leave field #1 in its current condition and make no changes to the high school baseball field, and allow the pony league to play on the high school field with no changes to the field. At roll call, the vote was as follows: Zehnder, no; Wallick, yes; Smith, yes; Dreher, yes; Burrier, yes; and Briggs, yes.

Dailey noted that he will get with Spinell about the schedules. Smith asked if there has been any consideration about helping with maintaining the condition of the field. Dailey noted that he will talk to the Baseball Association.

Safety Committee – Chairwoman Kathy Burrier read a resignation letter from Auxiliary Police Officer Zach Smith. A motion was made by Kathy Burrier, seconded by Jeff Smith, to accept the resignation of Zach Smith. At roll call, all members voted approval. Burrier reminded residents of the Fall Fest that will be held at the Strasburg Library on Tuesday, October 22, 2019 beginning at 5 pm and reminded residents of Christmas in the Village which will be held on Saturday, December 14, 2019 from 5 – 7 pm.

Street and Alley – Chairman Don Wallick reported that the paving contractor NorthStar plan to begin paving in the village the last week of October, weather permitting. Wallick noted that there was a request at the last council meeting to increase the speed limit on Zeltman Avenue to 35 mph from the railroad tracks to the corporation limit. Wallick noted that he drove on Zeltman Avenue/Strasburg Bolivar Rd to Bolivar and noted that in his opinion with the truck traffic from all of the businesses in that area, the 25 mph speed limit is good for safety reasons and suggested to keep the speed limit at 25 mph.

Zoning Inspector Karl DiBacco had no permits to report, but reported that he will contact the three new business owners for their business permits, sign permits, and business questionnaires for income tax information.

Jerry Schultz thanked everyone on behalf of the American Legion for supporting the chicken BBQ's for the summer.

Bruce Metzger reported a safety concern regarding a house on his street that has stopped construction. Metzger noted that there is a hole on the property to the waterline and is concerned of the waterline freezing this winter. Mayor Bitikofer noted that he will talk to Village Administrator Ron Lambert regarding the issue. Metzger also noted that there was mud coming off the property during the rain yesterday that ran down Weber Avenue to 9th Street SW. Mayor Bitikofer noted that we can see who now owns the home and contact the property owner. Metzger noted that the drinking fountain at the park is still not working. Mayor Bitikofer noted that he will ask Lambert.

Legal Counsel Fox noted that three of the four annexations have been filed with the Tuscarawas County Commissioners. Fox noted that the Tiger Drive annexation had to be resigned because the type of annexation had been changed. Fox noted that the Pine Ridge annexation will require a public hearing.

A motion was made by Martin Zehnder, seconded by Jeff Smith, to enter into an executive session for a pending legal matter at 8:05 pm. At roll call, all members voted approval. Council reconvened into regular session at 8:22 pm. A motion was made by Martin Zehnder, seconded by Don Wallick, to adjourn at 8:23 pm. At roll call, all members voted approval.

MAYOR JOHN BITIKOFER

FISCAL OFFICER JENNIFER MAHONEY