

The Strasburg Village Council met in regular session on Tuesday, September 17, 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, and Jeff Smith. Kathy Burrier was absent from the meeting. Others present were Village Administrator Ron Lambert, Police Chief Dave Warrick, Planning Commission Chairman Mike Durbin, Zoning Inspector Karl DiBacco, Legal Counsel Richard Fox, Press Representative Barb Limbacher, Lewis Dreher, Jerry Schultz, Gary Spinell, Paul Schwab, Ed Dailey, Josh McKenzie, and Steve Smith.

Martin Zehnder noted a correction to the second page of the minutes. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Don Wallick, to approve the September 3, 2019 amended minutes. At roll call, all members present voted approval.

The August financial statement, August Unified Bank Statement, August SSB Worksheet, and the list of bills were presented and reviewed. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Don Wallick, to approve the August financial statement, August Unified Bank Statement, August SSB Worksheet, and the list of bills in the amount of \$ 190,298.47. At roll call, all members present voted approval.

Council set trick or treat for Thursday, October 31, 2019 from 6:00-7:30 pm. Mayor Bitikofer noted that the Police Department and the Fire Department will be present and patrolling village streets during the event.

Mayor Bitikofer reported that Ron Lambert attended the waterline extension project preconstruction meeting today noting that the work is set to begin the second week of October. Mayor Bitikofer reported that the sewer line extension is now north of 250 and that the drywells have been installed on 4th Street NE and the street is ready for paving. Mayor Bitikofer noted that Village Administrator Ron Lambert will contact the paving contractor to get the paving projects scheduled to begin.

Police Chief Dave Warrick reported that everything has been ordered for the installation of the new server and that the server will be installed next week. Warrick reported that the Ox Roast parade went very well and traffic flowed well with the police officers guiding them through town. Warrick reported that the department has been issuing warnings for parking related issues and will follow up with citations if warnings are not followed. Warrick noted that the department is working on getting all officers certified and is reviewing the policies through the Ohio Collaborative Board to adopt for the department. Warrick noted that it will hold our department to a higher standard. Warrick reported that the WatchGuard equipment is working great noting that the uploads are all secured and is a great improvement for the department.

Village Administrator Ron Lambert reported that the contractor for the waterline extension will begin moving in equipment the middle of October and then start soon after. Lambert noted that weather will play a huge role in the completion of the waterline extension project and that they will begin once the sewer line extension project is completed. Lambert noted that the project will take time getting set up and getting their equipment and materials in and delivered. Lambert noted that the ditch is only half as deep as the sewer line and should take less time than the sewer line extension, but that the weather will be a factor. Lambert noted that Provia would like to have water in December for use of construction.

Park Committee – Chairman Martin Zehnder reported that he had talked to Matt Niedenthal regarding the proposed changes to the high school baseball field and that as one of the donors for the grass infield, he is not opposed to the proposed changes outlined by the landscape contractor. Lewis Dreher noted that he also talked to Matt Niedenthal and that he stated that Ridgewood has a facility like we are proposing and that there should be no safety issues on the field with the pegs as proposed.

ORDINANCE O-32-2019

Ordinance O-32-2019 was given its first reading by title only. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Dustin Briggs, to suspend the rules of the mandatory three readings. At roll call, all members present voted approval. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Liz Dreher, to approve Ordinance O-32-2019, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EMPLOYMENT OF KARLA GARDNER BY THE STRASBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT TO SERVE AS A PART-TIME FIRE FIGHTER AND AS AN EMT, PENDING COMPLETION OF HER HIRING REQUIREMENTS, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2019 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. At roll call, all members present voted approval and this ordinance shall take effect immediately.

ORDINANCE O-33-2019

Ordinance O-33-2019 was given its first reading by title only. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Liz Dreher, to suspend the rules of the mandatory three readings. At roll call, all members present voted approval. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Dustin Briggs, to approve Ordinance O-33-2019, AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EMPLOYMENT OF ELI BOSLER BY THE STRASBURG VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPARTMENT TO SERVE AS A PART-TIME FIRE FIGHTER, PENDING COMPLETION OF HIS HIRING REQUIREMENTS, EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2019 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. At roll call, all members present voted approval and this ordinance shall take effect immediately.

ORDINANCE O-34-2019

Ordinance O-34-2019 was given its first reading by title only. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Liz Dreher, to suspend the rules of the mandatory three readings. At roll call, all members present voted approval. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Dustin Briggs, to approve Ordinance O-34-2019, AN ORDINANCE ENTERING INTO A CONTRACT WITH KENNEDY INSURANCE AGENCY FOR PROPERTY, AUTOMOBILE, AND OTHER INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE VILLAGE OF STRASBURG, OHIO, FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR, ESTABLISHING A COST THEREOF, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. At roll call, all members present voted approval and this ordinance shall take effect immediately.

RESOLUTION R-06-2019

Resolution R-6-2019 was given its first reading by title only. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Don Wallick, to suspend the rules of the mandatory three readings. At roll call, all members present voted approval. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Don Wallick, to approve Resolution R-6-2019, A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR. At roll call, all members present voted approval and this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Dustin Briggs noted that he still feels that the pegs would be a safety issue in changing the high school baseball field and made a motion to not change the high school field and to proceed with changing field #1 to create a field to accommodate the pony league team. Don Wallick seconded the motion. Zehnder asked for discussion on the issue and stated that he disagrees with the safety concern. Ed Dailey noted that timewise field #1 cannot accommodate a third team. Briggs suggested changing two of the fields and noted that the high school baseball field is a nice field and they deserve a nice field that is not altered. Jeff Smith noted that the school was never contacted in the beginning of the discussions. Lewis Dreher noted that the money for the grass infield came from outside investors. Smith noted that originally Niedenthal was against this proposal. Zehnder noted that he now has no problem with the issue. Briggs noted that the peg will right where the third baseman on the high school player will be. Josh McKenzie noted that he never thought that the high school field was an option and that the other fields are universal dirt fields, which can be used by anyone. McKenzie noted that he has collected \$ 4,000.00 in donations that can put toward this issue either way. A brief discussion was held on the advantages and disadvantages of both fields. Dailey noted that the high school coach Becker is in favor of changing the high school field and Strasburg Athletic Director Gary Spinell noted that that statement is incorrect. McKenzie noted that he was trying to do something great for the town and try to give the pony league a place to play. Zehnder asked if anyone else attending the meeting was down there laying block in the winter. McKenzie noted that he has put in time and labor for ten years at those fields and batting cages. Spinell noted that it is a safety factor and noted that he spoke to a coach from another school that has a field that is altered and they stated that we should not alter the high school field. Spinell noted that other schools have changed their fields and that they wished that they did not have to, but had no other fields to change. Spinell noted that it is a great field and should not alter the field. Briggs noted that he doesn't want to see anyone get injured. Dailey noted that we will figure something out if the high school is not altered, but asked that field 1 not be changed. Zehnder asked if there is room by the school for a field, noting that maybe that would be the option. Mayor Bitikofer noted that he had asked the park committee two weeks ago to get together and make a decision and now we have a third option with looking at the school property. Mayor noted that we have one of the nicest parks in the county and we have talked about this issue for six weeks now. Lewis Dreher noted that Dailey is saying that they looked at moving the fence on field one and it will not work. Dailey noted that foul balls are an issue, the fence will be egg shaped, and even if it is perfect, the field cannot accommodate another team because of too many other practices and games on the field. Briggs asked why the coach pitch kids could not use the 8u softball field. McKenzie asked about using the field behind the stadium for some of the younger

teams. Zehnder noted that maybe there is another alternative that we need to look at that is not the high school field and not field one. Mayor Bitikofer stated again that he asked the park committee two weeks ago to meet to come up with a solution.

Steve Smith noted that the Strasburg School Superintendent and the Strasburg School Athletic Director were at the meeting two weeks ago and stated that their main concern is the safety of the kids.

Legal Counsel Fox noted that there is a motion on the floor and the vote was as follows: Zehnder, no; Wallick, no; Smith, yes; Dreher, yes; and Briggs, yes.

Martin Zehnder told Mayor Bitikofer that he had asked two months ago to be taken off as the chairman of the park committee. McKenzie asked if the park committee held a meeting after the council meeting two weeks ago to discuss this issue. Mayor Bitikofer noted that he asked the park committee to meet and that Zehnder suggested that all of council get together and come up with solution. Zehnder noted that we all met at the park weeks ago and that everyone was in agreement of changing the high school field. Legal Counsel Fox asked if the landscaping contractor was ever contacted about looking at field one.

Zehnder suggested doing chip n seal on the north parking lot at the park instead of spending \$ 117,000 on paving the parking lot. Lambert noted that he has contacted the paving contractor about the paving of the lot because council approved the project at a previous council meeting.

Legal Counsel Fox noted that Jerry Schultz was elected as the chairperson of the Board of Zoning Appeals at the end of their public hearing before council. A motion was made by Jeff Smith, seconded by Dustin Briggs, accepting the election of Jerry Schultz as the chairperson of the Board of Zoning Appeals. At roll call, all members present voted approval.

Zoning Inspector Karl DiBacco reported a permit for a garage.

Mayor Bitikofer asked Dailey and McKenzie to get their groups together to work out schedules for all of the kids to play.

Zehnder noted that Conotton Valley has a playground area by their football stadium that is very nice and suggested that we look into installing a playground area in our football stadium area. Zehnder also suggested increasing the speed limit on Zeltman Avenue from 25 to 35 on the east side from the railroad tracks to the bridge. Street and Alley will review.

A motion was made by Dustin Briggs, seconded by Don Wallick, to enter into an executive session at 8:30 pm to discuss a pending legal matter. At roll call, all members present voted approval. Council reconvened into regular session at 8:36 pm. A motion was made by Martin Zehnder, seconded by Don Wallick, to adjourn at 8:37 pm. At roll call, all members present voted approval.

MAYOR JOHN BITIKOFER

FISCAL OFFICER JENNIFER MAHONEY