

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

## VILLAGE OF MCCONNELSVILLE COUNCIL

### REGULAR SESSION

Held: April 17, 2012

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The Village of McConnelsville convened in regular session from 6:30 P.M. to 8:13 P.M. in the McConnelsville Village Office. Mayor John W. Finley called the meeting to order with the following members and visitors present:

Councilman Tom Bragg	Present
Councilman Rhett Matheney	Present
Councilman Terry Robison	Present
Councilman Mark Dille	Absent
Councilwoman Michele Blackburn	Present
Councilwoman Mary Gessel	Present

**EMPLOYEES:** Chief of Police Rocky Woodburn, Fiscal Officer Ellen M Henry

**VISITORS:** Judy Radcliff, Barb Matson

#### **Invocation**

Invocation given by Mayor John W. Finley.

#### **Pledge of Allegiance**

Lead by Mayor John W. Finley.

#### **Excuse Absent Council Member**

Mayor Finley stated Councilman Dille was out of town due to work related issues and would not be attending the meeting this evening.

Councilwoman Gessel made a Motion to excuse Councilman Dille, seconded by Councilwoman Blackburn.

Votes were: Councilman Tom Bragg, Aye; Councilman Rhett Matheney, Aye; Councilman Terry Robison, Aye; Councilwoman Michele Blackburn, Aye; Councilwoman Mary Gessel, Aye.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

##### **Minutes of April 3, 2012**

Councilwoman Blackburn made a Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, seconded by Councilman Bragg.

Votes were: Councilman Tom Bragg, Aye; Councilman Rhett Matheney, Aye; Councilman Terry Robison, Aye; Councilwoman Michele Blackburn, Aye; Councilwoman Mary Gessel, Aye.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **Bills of the Village**

Councilman Bragg made a Motion to approve the bills, seconded by Councilman Robison.

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Votes were: Councilman Tom Bragg, Aye; Councilman Rhett Matheney, Aye; Councilman Terry Robison, Aye; Councilwoman Michele Blackburn, Aye; Councilwoman Mary Gessel, Aye.

#### **Public Participation**

Judy Radcliff addressed Council stating she was here to represent herself and her husband Steve Radcliff. Mrs. Radcliff thanked the Village for getting the tower out and replacing/repairing everything; she is very pleased and it looks very nice.

Mrs. Radcliff stated the little piece of property; a 40 x 40 x 44 area where the tower sat on has been maintained by them for the past 19 years. They have been mowing and trimming it at their expense. Mrs. Radcliff stated they would like to do something with the property; but, they can't unless it is deeded back to them. Mrs. Radcliff stated it was deeded to Village for the tower to be built on and she feels it should be deeded back to them as they have more than paid for it by maintaining it for the past 19 years. Mrs. Radcliff stated her husband is very upset and it would mean a lot to them to have it. She stated she cannot see anyone in their right mind wanting to buy that piece of property since there is no access to it.

Mayor Finley stated this does not fall under any specific committee; it would need to be declared as excess property and then it would have to be sold at public auction or by sealed bids. Mayor Finley stated the Solicitor researched it and that is the way it would have to be handled. Mayor Finley stated we have similar situations in other parts of town.

Mrs. Radcliff stated she felt it was unfair that they should have to buy back something that is really worth nothing. They would pay a \$1.00 for it but it isn't worth more.

Mayor and Council stated they understood and appreciate how gracious they were with allowing the contractors to use their property while the demolition of the tower was going on.

Mayor Finley stated the Solicitor is still looking into it and he would personally continue to press on what we can do with it.

Mayor Finley stated the only other reason he sees it would be of value to the Village was if we needed to put another water tower on it in the future.

Mayor Finley thanked them for coming and appreciated them bringing their concerns to us.

#### **Mayor John W. Finley**

Mayor Finley reported he met with the manager of Kroger last week and asked him what their plans were for the future as he had heard they were thinking of building out of town. He informed the Mayor they have looked; but don't know how or where to expand; and, that they would like to stay on Main Street. Mayor Finley stated told him he would like to see the business kept inside the corporation limits and assured him we would like to help as a Village.

Mayor Finley reported he received a letter from HomeServe. It is a company that warranties utilities and they are going to send letters out to everyone in our village talking about buying an insurance plan for their water lines. Mayor Finley stated he wanted to bring this to everyone's attention and to note that this is not sponsored by the Village; he has not endorsed it as Mayor.

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Mayor Finley passed around an article that was in a paper in the Cambridge area regarding Bed Tax information. Mayor Finley stated we may have to consider this in the future. Mayor Finley turned the matter over to the Economic Development Committee for review.

Mayor Finley reported we have a situation at the Eagles regarding parking. Stop blocks were placed in the center of the sidewalk for their parking, creating the sidewalk to be blocked.

Councilman Bragg stated he felt there still may be enough room for people to get around.

Mayor Finley turned the matter over to the Streets and Alley Committee for review and to talk with Larry Gessel about it as he was the one who had contacted the Mayor initially.

Mayor Finley reported they met with the gentleman that sold us the street sweeper and another one of their experts. They found some challenges that need repaired and an item that was plugged up due to a missing screen. Mayor Finley stated some of the issues we are going to try and attempt to fix in house. Mayor Finley stated we couldn't even test it as the current problems are making it work terribly.

Mayor Finley reported he has asked Village Administrator Thompson to have the crew work around the trees in the Downtown Historic District; cleaning up the beds and mulching them. Mayor Finley stated we are already seeing an improvement.

#### **Ordinance 12-12**

Mayor Finley introduced Ordinance 12-12 for the second reading, AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SKATEBOARDING, ROLLERBLADING, AND ROLLER-SKATING ON PUBLIC PROPERTY.

Councilman Robison made a Motion to pass Ordinance 12-12 on the second reading, seconded by Councilman Bragg.

Votes were: Councilman Tom Bragg, Aye; Councilman Rhett Matheney, Aye; Councilman Terry Robison, Aye; Councilwoman Michele Blackburn, Aye; Councilwoman Mary Gessel, Aye.

Ordinance 12-12 was passed on the second reading.

#### **Recreation and Buildings**

Councilman Matheney reported the pool is showing a tremendous difference with all the work that is being done. The painting in the bathrooms and ceilings have begun.

Councilman Matheney stated he sat down with Village Administrator Thompson and went over the dollar figures left. With all the projects we have done; and, are currently doing, we still have around \$4,000 to spend.

Councilman Matheney stated originally there were around twenty-six hangers in the bathrooms. He has found double hangers for \$4.00 each and has purchased ten of them to be installed. He also purchased new handicap rails through the Discount Store in Malta. The total of the hangers and handicap rails came to \$180.00.

Councilman Matheney stated we will have to take in consideration that there will probably be some unforeseen expenses when installing the new pumps.

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Councilman Matheney stated the toilet in the girls bathroom that broke last year will be replaced at a cost of around \$1,000.

Councilman Matheney stated some other items that needed addressed are gravel for the parking lot and an on-demand hot water heater under the sink.

**Councilman Matheney left the meeting at 7:13 P. M. due to work related issues.**

#### **Village Administrator Report**

Village Administrator Thompson reported the income survey's have been completed. A lot of help was received from the Fire Department; we conducted 100 surveys and they conducted 200.

Village Administrator Thompson reported the driveways are repaired/replaced at the old high tank.

Village Administrator Thompson reported the Consumer Confidence Report is completed. He has to get it to Morgan-Meigsville this month and to the residents of the village next month.

Village Administrator Thompson reported he hired Travis Brownrigg as a Seasonal Laborer for the summer.

Village Administrator Thompson reported the revised plans for Phase 3 Sewer Separation for Seventh Street are revised are completed and being submitted to the EPA for approval. Village Administrator Thompson stated we picked up another block of separation on McConnel when they rerouted it; this way Seventh Street will be completed. Village Administrator Thompson stated it will cost a little more; but, we had a little extra to cover these additional items.

Village Administrator Thompson reported we have received some of the sample results back from the Hawk Sewer Plant; once the remaining are received we will be able to move forward with the filter media replacement. Village Administrator Thompson is in hopes we have the remaining results by the end of the week.

Village Administrator Thompson reported he delivered the ARC Grant to Buckeye Hills in Marietta on Monday. This is a \$300,000 Grant for the installation of a UV Disinfection and new screens for the Waste Water Plant. Village Administrator Thompson stated this will replace the chlorine gas and sulfur dioxide gas we are currently using and should improve the operations of the plant. Village Administrator Thompson stated this was a last minute thing; but, we are pretty sure we will get it. Initially we were not approved to receive this Grant; and, then someone else dropped out putting us in place to receive it.

Village Administrator Thompson reported there was a 6" water main break on Plum Street; the sewer grinder pump at the Park in Malta is not working and the crew is trying to repair it; and, we will begin the Sewer Separation the end of April and will start on Fifth Street.

Village Administrator Thompson reported he has been working on the water rate increase for Morgan-Meigsville (a copy was passed out to Council). He spent a lot of time on it, refining it to show them where the pricing came from.

Village Administrator Thompson stated his calculations came out to \$3.62 per thousand where Scott Brown had \$4.22 calculated. Village Administrator Thompson stated the main difference between their figures is that Mr. Brown calculated the replacement of the 10 inch

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supply line with a 20 year useful life; whereas, he used the actual industrial standard of 50 to 100 years.

Village Administrator Thompson stated he will be meeting with them this week to go over his figures; and, if Council had any questions to feel free to get with him.

Mayor Finley questioned how often should we review this. Village Administrator Thompson stated at least every year or two. The fixed costs will go up each year along with the costs from Malta; whereas, the projected costs would stay relatively the same.

Village Administrator Thompson stated Morgan-Meigsville met last Thursday and the paperwork was not prepared for them at that time; therefore, they are asking for yet another month before the increase goes into effect. Council did not feel additional time should be given.

Councilman Bragg made a Motion to improve the increase and charge Morgan-Meigsville \$3.62 per thousand gallons with a starting date of May 1, 2012, seconded by Councilwoman Gessel.

Votes were: Councilman Tom Bragg, Aye; Councilman Terry Robison, Aye; Councilwoman Michele Blackburn, Aye; Councilwoman Mary Gessel, Aye.

The Motion carried.

Mayor Finley stated he has not reviewed the Village Administrator applications in detail; however, he will try to have something at the next meeting.

Mayor Finley stated he wanted to point out that this grant had originally been turned down; and, while present at an Oil and Gas Meeting in Cambridge he was approached by Misty Casto stating we could have the grant money if we would be able to have it ready in three days. Village Administrator Thompson worked hard with other employees and our Engineers to get this accomplished. Mayor Finley stated Village Administrator Thompson personally drove down to Buckeye Hills on Monday so it would be delivered on time.

#### **Chief Rocky Woodburn**

Chief Woodburn reported in the month of March, the Police Department had driven 3,046 miles and used 394.1 gallons of gasoline. The police department issued 41 warnings, 14 traffic tickets, 12 misdemeanor citations, making a total of 26 tickets issued. Chief Woodburn reported total hours worked for all officers was 740 hours 44 minutes; they issued 3 crash reports and 26 incident reports.

#### **Fiscal Officer Henry**

Fiscal Officer Henry reported March's month and year to date expenditures and percentage of the year to date budget as follows: General Fund month to date \$49,108.88, year to date \$147,875.83, or 17%; Street M & R month to date \$4,804.45, year to date \$14,008.80, or 15%; Water Fund month to date \$44,113.19, year to date \$84,918.62, or 15%; Sewer Fund month to date \$48,813.75, year to date \$102,815.63, or 16% of the YTD budget.

Fiscal Officer Henry reported February's month and year to date revenue and percentage of the year to date budget as follows: General Fund month to date \$80,483.99, year to date \$178,811.69, 31%; Street M & R Fund month to date \$6,526.31, year to date \$20,092.23, 25%; Water Fund month to date \$38,207.53, with \$5,429.92 of that being from Morgan Meigs, year to date \$112,938.09, 25%; Sewer Fund month to date \$45,450.98, with

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\$5,151.91 of that being from Malta for Joint Sewer Operations, year to date \$90,316.99, 18% YTD budget.

Fiscal Officer Henry stated February is 25% of the year and you can see we are right in line with revenue received and under on our expenditures verses what was appropriated.

Fiscal Officer Henry reported we expended more in water and sewer in the month of March than we received in revenue for the following reasons: demolition of the water tower and reservoir and the drainage; sludge processing since we were not able to land apply; camera & jetted a sewer line; and Engineering fees.

Fiscal Officer Henry reported the Auditors have been here; during the Exit Audit the only issues were we needed to adopt a Credit Card Policy; a Cell Phone Policy; a Policy stating we would not support those running for office; and, we will possibly be written up for purchasing the tractor last year as it was over \$25,000 and we did not take it out for bid. Since it was a used tractor, it may not make it in the Audit; just the Management Letter.

#### **Streets & Alley Committee**

Councilman Robison stated he brought up DDTI at the last meeting. With this we would have the ability to map our water and sewer lines. This will have a contractual fee of \$1000 a year. Councilman Robison feels this would be very useful as we can not only map where they are located; but, the size of the pipe, how deep it is, etc. Councilman Robison stated by going with the County on this it will be very cost effective.

Councilman Bragg made a Motion to approve the purchase of this system, seconded by Councilwoman Blackburn.

Votes were: Councilman Tom Bragg, Aye; Councilman Terry Robison, Aye; Councilwoman Michele Blackburn, Aye; Councilwoman Mary Gessel, Aye.

The Motion carried.

Councilman Robison stated he is still working with Chief Woodburn regarding the sidewalks at Parkway Automotive.

#### **Economic Development Committee**

Councilwoman Blackburn stated she has been working on Ordinance 98-16. She has talked to Ginny Bond at great lengths about it as she was on the original committee. Councilwoman Blackburn has been talking to others about serving on this committee and about some grants we could get to do other areas in town. Councilwoman Blackburn hopes to have a draft prepared for the next meeting.

Upcoming Events within the County are: The Veterans Wall; Extravaganza; 5K Race; and, the Fourth of July Festival with fireworks on June 30<sup>th</sup> at 10 P. M.

Chief Woodburn reported the next meeting on the Wall will be held on April 25, 2012; and then again on May 16, 2012. Chief Woodburn stated we may need to make handicap parking on Tenth and Union.

Councilwoman Blackburn questioned if the Village wanted to do a banner. Mayor Finley stated he felt that would be nice. Councilwoman Blackburn stated we wanted to make sure all the old signs were cleaned up along with the flags being flown.

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Councilwoman Blackburn reported Morgan High School has developed an Earth Club and they are planting trees; so, if there are any trees that need planted within the Village they would be the ones to contact.

#### **Public Utilities Committee**

Councilman Bragg reported the April 16<sup>th</sup> Joint Utility Committee Meeting has been rescheduled until April 23<sup>rd</sup> at Malta's Council Chambers.

Councilman Bragg stated he has the letter drafted that will be sent with the check to Malta.

#### **Finance Committee**

Councilwoman Gessel stated we did receive the application for the Chase Credit Card. Councilwoman Gessel stated Council needed to set a limit, and she felt it should be fairly low to start with; then we could apply for more if needed in the future. Councilwoman Gessel stated we do need to get a Credit Card Policy in place before getting the charge card. All of Council agreed a \$30,000 limit was suffice.

Councilwoman Gessel stated she has not done anything with the pay ordinance since the last meeting as she was waiting to gather all the recommendations from Council and the Village Administrator. Councilwoman Gessel stated she would like to set a meeting one evening next week.

Councilwoman Gessel reported that we did have an "almost perfect audit"; and, that our new employee, Jonnie Mudd is working out fabulously.

#### **Technology and Website Committee**

Councilman Robison reported he has moved the Website to Jonnie's computer. She has a smaller screen that does not allow you to see the website properly and he suggests getting a bigger monitor for her computer. Council agreed this should be done.

Mayor Finley stated we have several outstanding warrants and he has asked Mayor's Court Clerk Missy Scott to check with the Herald on pricing to run an ad every week and list approximately 25 outstanding warrants and put a complete list on the Website.

#### **Community Clean-Up Committee**

Councilman Bragg stated something needed to be done with the Lowe properties.

Mayor Finley requested Fiscal Officer Hemry to contact Solicitor Tarbert to find out the process of condemning a property. Can we condemn something and tear it down, then charge to the property taxes.

#### **Adjournment of Meeting**

Councilwoman Blackburn made a Motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Bragg.

Votes were: Councilman Tom Bragg, Aye; Councilman Terry Robison, Aye; Councilwoman Michele Blackburn, Aye; Councilwoman Mary Gessel, Aye.

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The meeting was adjourned till May 1, 2012 at 6:30 P.M. at the McConnelsville Village Office.

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John W. Finley  
Mayor

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Ellen M. Henry  
Fiscal Officer

All formal actions of the Village of McConnelsville concerning and relating to the adoption of resolutions and/or motions passed at this meeting were adopted in a meeting open to the public, in compliance with the law, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.