

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

VILLAGE OF MCCONNELSVILLE COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION

Held: August 19, 2014

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The Village of McConnelsville convened in regular session from 6:00 P.M. to 7:31 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 Darrell Newton	Present
Councilman Terry Robison	Present
Councilman Mark Dille	Absent
Councilwoman Michele Blackburn	Present
Councilwoman Mary Gessel	Present

EMPLOYEES: Chief of Police Troy Copeland, Fiscal Officer Ellen M Henry, and Village Administrator John Thompson

VISITORS: Carol Morris, Fred Morris, Jim Greer, Shannon Wells

Invocation

Invocation given by Mayor John W. Finley.

Pledge of Allegiance

Lead by Mayor John W. Finley.

Excuse Absent Council Member

Councilwoman Blackburn made a Motion to excuse Councilman Dille from the meeting, seconded by Councilman Robison.

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

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes of August 5, 2014

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

Bills of the Village

Councilman Newton made a Motion to approve the bills, seconded by Councilwoman Blackburn.

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

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Public Participation

Mrs. Shannon Wells from the Morgan County Development Office reported to Council that the Village was successful in receiving the Neighborhood Revitalization Grant. They awarded twelve grants in the State of Ohio and Morgan County received two; one for the Village of McConnelville; and, one for the Village of Stockport.

Mrs. Wells stated she was here this evening representing the Visitor's and Convention Bureau. The new Director started last week; they are wanting to make some changes to their office and was questioning what the Village's plans for the building were going to be.

Mayor Finley stated the Village is going to advertise to lease/rent the building jointly. The Village is going to move their Council Chambers and Mayor's Court Hearings over there. Mayor Finley stated the Village would be occupying the room two to four times a month as well as the Court. Mayor Finley stated we currently do not know what the exact layout is going to be and are planning to start renovations this fall.

Mrs. Wells questioned when we were going to bid it out, as they would like to stay there; however, if they are not the successful bidder they will have to search for another office space to rent.

Mayor Finley stated we will put it in the Herald next week and advertise it for the next five weeks.

Mr. Jim Greer handed out insurance packets and discussed our current insurance plan; as well as alternate plans the Village could choose. He briefly discussed the changes in health care; and, the fact that The Health Plan needs the signed renewal tomorrow to avoid any lapse in coverages for the employees.

Mayor John W. Finley

Mayor Finley reported he attended the Mayor's Partnership for Progress meeting in Athens County on August 14th. Mayor Finley passed around a summary of the meeting for Council to view. Mayor Finley stated this meeting was very informative and he is going to join this organization. The Mayor of Chillicothe was chairperson of this event.

Mayor Finley reported we received communication from Century Link in regards to the area code overlay for the 740 area code. All of Council received a copy.

Mayor Finley stated the Village Administrator has been working on the Ordinance to revert the Hess property. Mayor Finley read the reverter in part; neither the County or Village has done anything to the property due to lack of funds. Mayor Finley stated we do not have a Legal Opinion from our Solicitor yet; however, he asked Council to pass the Ordinance on the first reading tonight.

Ordinance 14-33

Mayor Finley introduced Ordinance 14-33, AN ORDINANCE REVERTING THE CLARENCE R HESS PROPERTY BACK TO THE GRANTOR, IT'S SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS.

Councilman Newton made a Motion to pass Ordinance 14-33 on the first reading, seconded by Councilman Bragg.

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

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Ordinance 14-33 was passed on the first reading.

Mayor Finley reported he has been in contact with Ashland Oil; they are receptive to the Mayor asking for a donation to assist in tearing down the buildings. Mayor Finley is going to meet with them later on this week and bring information back to Council.

Mayor Finley stated the Village Administrator passed out the monthly water and sewer information to Council.

Village Administrator John Thompson

Village Administrator Thompson reported the work has been started on the slip on Fourth Street; it should be completed in a couple of weeks.

Village Administrator Thompson reported the Pool hasn't been open the last couple of days, School starts tomorrow; it should be open this weekend.

Councilwoman Blackburn reported there were three pool parties this week.

Councilwoman Gessel stated the pool was closed due to no manager being available; as their full-time jobs started back up.

Village Administrator Thompson reported he is filing for Grant and Loan through OPWC. Right now if we can get the local county points, it appears we will be funded; therefore, he feels it is worth the gamble.

Village Administrator Thompson reminded Council the water and sewer rates will be raising at the first of the year.

Village Administrator Thompson reported Chris Apperson turned in his resignation and is going to work for the Village of Malta. Village Administrator Thompson will be looking to replace him within the next couple of weeks; he is going off the old applications we received earlier this year.

Village Administrator Thompson reported the Wharf Park restrooms were vandalized over the weekend. The crew has cleaned it up; it happened when the other vandalism was done in town.

Village Administrator Thompson reported the diving board will be replaced the first of September.

Councilman Newton stated he would still like to see the second dive put in.

Village Administrator Thompson stated he currently doesn't know of any Grant for funding this; and, will check into a Block Grant next year.

Councilwoman Gessel stated she would like to see the trees in the corner of the pool area where the diving boards are be cut down. It is very shady and causes mold and slime on that corner. She feels if there was more light on the corner they would not have that problem. It was noted the trees are holding the bank.

Village Administrator Thompson noted he was disappointed in the fact that the renewal Mr. Greer mentioned that has to be signed by tomorrow wasn't brought to the Village back the first part of July when it was received by Mr. Greer. Village Administrator Thompson just found out about it that morning and had to call to have it brought over to be completed. Village Administrator Thompson stated Council had to make a decision tonight on which deductible they wish to go with; and, then we can pay on a month to month basis until they make the final decision on whether or not they are going to change insurances.

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Councilman Robison stated he was originally very interested in the Consortium Insurance; however, it was a three year contract and the committee wanted to stick with a year by year plan.

Discussion was made that they needed to sign this contract and keep it on a month to month basis until they decided what they wanted to do. If they did not do so; the employees insurance would lapse.

Mayor Finley questioned Council which deductible they wished to go with.

Councilman Newton made a Motion to continue with the current plan and the \$500 deductible until another decision is made; seconded by Councilman Robison.

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

The motion carried.

Fiscal Officer Ellen Hemry

Fiscal Officer Hemry reported as of July 31st, the Pool Revenue is up over 2013 by \$3,146.00 and the expenses are also up by \$2,244.64. Overall we are \$1,018.36 less in the negative than we were last year.

Chief of Police Troy Copeland

Chief Copeland reported Doug Spurlock with Leisure Time stated he would like it noted that he sold his Beer License along with his Liquor License to Bad Eye Bobs. They will no longer have any form of Liquor License and will not be selling any alcohol there; it is strictly a food and video store now. Bad Eye Bob's sold their Beer License to someone out of the County.

Chief Copeland reported there was some vandalism in town, the Officers done a good job; the case has been solved, they are in jail and charges are being pressed.

Councilwoman Gessel reported she has received a couple e-mails; one is regarding a concerned citizen and Bab Eye Bob's receiving the Liquor License. They are hoping the Police will step up surveillance. The other is from a concerned citizen questioning what kind of protection the Village has if fifteen cars and other damage could be done and they were not caught in the act. Councilwoman Gessel questioned what time this happened.

Chief Copeland stated the incident occurred around 11:30 P.M. and there were five vehicles involved, not fifteen. Chief Copeland stated the paint came right off of the vehicles, so there was no permanent damage.

Streets & Alley Committee

Councilman Newton reported he has been contacted regarding the Senior Citizen's drain being blocked underneath their sidewalk.

Village Administrator Thompson stated he has been dealing with the Commissioners about it. Village Administrator Thompson stated with the Downtown Revitalization being done and the amount of money that was spent on the sidewalks; he does not allow strips cut in them; the entire section has to be replaced.

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Councilman Newton reported a lady told him she almost hit a pedestrian because she couldn't see them on account of the low lighting.

Economic Development Committee

Councilwoman Blackburn reported the Opry is going to have a big named entertainer on September 20, 2014 and they are expecting 1,200 people that night of the event (there will be two shows). Councilwoman Blackburn wanted to make this announcement to prepare the businesses.

Councilwoman Blackburn reported she is still working on the October project and will have more details to come at a later date.

Councilman Newton questioned if we had opened the bids for the boat docks yet. Village Administrator Thompson stated the opening will be on August 28, 2014.

Councilwoman Gessel questioned if we had the fencing yet. Village Administrator Thompson stated it was on the bill sheet tonight so the check could be cut for him to purchase it. He is looking to do so and have it installed in the next week or two if they have it in stock.

Public Utilities Committee

Councilman Bragg reported the next Joint Utility Meeting will be held on Monday, August 25th at 7:00 P.M. in Malta Council Chambers.

Finance Committee

Councilman Robison reported the Finance Committee met the other evening and discussed different insurance possibilities.

Other Business

Mayor Finley stated we continue to have yard sale signs put up all over town that is not being taken down. Mayor Finley stated he has personally taken some down himself. Mayor Finley requested Council to think about creating an Ordinance regarding signs.

Executive Session

Mayor Finley stated he has personnel items he would like to discuss with Council and requested Council to go into Executive Session; with no action being taken when coming out.

Councilman Bragg made Motion to go into Executive Session, seconded by Councilman Newton.

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

Council went into Executive Session at 7:12 P.M.

Councilwoman Blackburn made a Motion to come out of Executive Session, seconded by Councilman Robison.

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

Council came out of Executive Session at 7:31 P.M.

Adjournment of Meeting

Councilman Robison made a Motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilwoman Gessel.

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

The meeting was adjourned till September 2, 2014 at 6:00 P.M. at the McConnelsville Village Office.

John W. Finley
Mayor

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.