

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

VILLAGE OF MCCONNELSVILLE COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION

Held: August 6, 2013

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The Village of McConnelsville convened in regular session from 6:00 P.M. to 7:15 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	Present
Councilwoman Michele Blackburn	Absent
Councilwoman Mary Gessel	Present

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

VISITORS: Carol Morris, Kathy Montgomery

Invocation

Invocation given by Mayor John W. Finley.

Pledge of Allegiance

Lead by Mayor John W. Finley.

Excuse Absent Council Member

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

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

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes of July 16, 2013

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

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

NEW BUSINESS

Bills of the Village

Councilman Matheney made a Motion to approve the bills, seconded by Councilwoman Gessel.

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

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Public Participation

Ms. Kathy Montgomery, owner of Morgan County Family Practice addressed Council stating the community support in the opening of her new business has been tremendous; and, she is thrilled with the number of patients she is accruing. Ms. Montgomery offered Council a tour of her business; and, welcomed any questions from them.

Mayor and Council welcomed Ms. Montgomery to the community; and, thanked her for opening her practice here.

Mayor John W. Finley

Mayor Finley reported he received a letter from David E. Brightbill, the Executive Director of the Community Action Program. They are preparing a grant application to the USDA Rural Development Service for housing preservation funds. If received, these funds will be used in rural areas of Washington and Morgan counties. The program will provide funds to rehabilitate or preserve housing occupied by very low and low income homeowners. They are requesting the Village's help in promoting the availability of the program. Mayor Finley stated they have applied for this grant; however, it has not been received as of yet.

Mayor Finley reported Fiscal Officer Henry received the insurance renewal figures. The health insurance increase was 3.6296 percent; dental increase was 5 percent; and, there was no increase in vision. Mayor Finley stated he encouraged council to accept these renewal rates.

Councilman Bragg made a Motion to renew the insurance coverages as they stand; seconded by Councilman Robison.

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

Mayor Finley reported the Village Administrator received a letter from the OEPA in regards to community water systems; he has it on file if anyone is interested in seeing it.

Mayor Finley reported July Income Tax receipts as \$42,252.46. Mayor Finley reported July Mayor's Court receipts as follows: Village - \$4,110.00; Morgan County Treasurer - \$75.65; Treasurer of State - \$927.35 for a total of \$5,113.00. Mayor Finley reported July Parking Meter receipts as follows: Fines - \$280.00; Meters - \$1,593.82 for a total of \$1,873.82.

Mayor Finley stated he received a letter from the Governor of the State of Ohio in regards to improving Ohio's Economy. Mayor Finley stated he has it on file if anyone would like to see it.

Mayor Finley stated he received a call from Jodi Woodward who works for the County Flood Program. They would like to park employee vehicles for a short term at the Wharf Park as they lost their parking at the Fair Grounds.

Mayor Finley stated he received a letter from Dick and Anita Coffey, thanking the street crew for the repair work done on the streets.

Mayor Finley stated he received a letter from a resident complaining about a house located at 125 West Liberty Avenue. Mayor Finley stated he has talked with the owner regarding this, they have a contractor hired; however, they did not show up and they are working on getting another.

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Mayor Finley reported Apperson's were due in Court today regarding the house on Ninth Street. Mayor Finley stated he has discussed this with them and gave them a 28 day extension to appear in court on September 3rd as the house is to be torn down and the site cleaned within the next 30 days.

Councilman Dille reported he was contacted by Cheri Grove on McConnel Avenue regarding her basement flooding and back up of sewage; this has happened twice. Her son, Bill Grove, explained this did not occur until the sewer separation; and, wondered what could be done to prevent it from happening again. Councilman Dille stated he advised him to write a letter to Mayor and Council. Councilman Dille stated Mrs. Earich who lives beside her has had the same problem.

Village Administrator Thompson stated we will have to wait until the river gets down to a certain point.

Mayor Finley stated he realizes there are some issues with the sewer separation; however, we have had an unusual amount of rain this year.

Councilman Bragg stated he did know that has happened in the past when his grandmother lived there.

Councilman Matheney stated he has had several complaints from people regarding neighbors running their water off onto other properties. It was noted these were civil suits; and, the Village couldn't be involved.

Councilman Dille questioned about people running their eaves, etc into the sewers. Village Administrator Thompson stated that was illegal.

Village Administrator stated all of these issues are ongoing and have been for years. The only thing that can be done is take them back to their original state; and, that is not always possible. The Village will not be able to fix all of these issues as they do not have the funds to do so.

Mayor Finley stated he was pleased to report there is a little progress at the old Ashland Station.

Mayor Finley stated the Englefield Oil Company is to have their area smoothed out in the next few weeks.

Councilwoman Gessel reported she talked with Prosecutor Mark Howdyshell today regarding the Lowe properties. He is doing a proof of claim for the total property taxes due and is working with the Bankruptcy Court. The Bankruptcy Court is proceeding with selling these properties; and if they don't sell, Prosecutor Howdyshell can offer them for sale. Prosecutor Howdyshell stated they do not want Council or the community to think they aren't actively working on this matter; he has laws he must follow. They filed Chapter 13; then, that was dismissed so they filed Chapter 7. The properties will be sold. Prosecutor Howdyshell stated this is Council's village; and, if there is a problem, he feels we should pitch in and take care of it. If the grass needs mowed, or trash cleaned up, we should do so. Prosecutor Howdyshell stated he hopes to have them all sold within the year.

Village Administrator John Thompson

Village Administrator Thompson reported we have been having some issues with the pool. The pump was changed out and running; then the motor blew up; then the rains came and flooded the pool. Once we got it pumped out and cleaned with help from the Fire Department we experienced some electrical problems. The pool is operating right now;

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however, we are still experiencing some electrical problems with the pump motor. Eppley Electric has been working on it. We are currently booked with pool parties.

Village Administrator Thompson reported we need to enter into a contract with MS Consultants on the Distress Grant for \$25,900; and, then one to finish up the UV at the Sewer Plant for \$12,000.

Councilman Matheney made a Motion to go into a contract with MS Consultants for both; seconded by Councilman Bragg.

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

Village Administrator Thompson reported the crew repaired a 4 inch water main in front of Darla Fox's residence.

Village Administrator Thompson reported the globes are in for the street lights and the money has been sent in for the LED lighting. We will be doing the installation in house.

Village Administrator Thompson reported the alley bids are out and will be opened on the August 26, 2013 at 10:00 A.M. in the Commissioner's Office.

Village Administrator Thompson reported we have begun patching streets. We are running a couple weeks behind due to the storm and pool issues.

Village Administrator Thompson reported regarding the rain issues; some things we can work with and in certain areas we can help; however, there are other areas we won't be able to help with.

Councilman Matheney stated he would like to commend John Kirkbride; he is working with us very good with the issues at his place.

Village Administrator Thompson stated he has worked with us and we are working with him.

Mayor Finley stated overall, everyone has been good to work with.

Councilwoman Gessel questioned when we fix the problem at the end of Seventh Street, will this solve the problem legally.

Village Administrator Thompson stated yes, we have permission to put these two CSO's back in from the OEPA. This will just be a temporary fix until we do the separation on 8th, 9th, and 10th Streets; then that will make a permanent fix.

Village Administrator Thompson reported he has met with Dan McCreary and the creek on 16th Street has built up and is creating the water to come over onto his property. Mr. McCreary feels this is a manmade issue and is requesting the Village to correct it. Village Administrator Thompson stated this was something he was not going to make a decision on brought it to Council for them to decide.

Councilman Matheney stated he does not feel the Village can dredge the creek; and, it is not the Village's responsibility.

Chief of Police Troy Copeland

Chief Copeland reported there has been several break in of vehicles and wanted to warn the residents to not leave valuable items in their vehicles.

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Chief Copeland reported during the OVI checkpoint; they checked over 400 vehicles; and, no arrests were made.

Chief Copeland stated Parking Enforcement Officer, Mike Chern asked today if Council would be interested in putting meters on Main Street between 4th and 5th Streets.

Mayor Finley turned this matter over to the Streets and Alleys Committee for review.

Councilwoman Gessel reported a citizen told her the speed limit on Kennebec was 35MPH and coming into town it was only 25MPH.

Chief Copeland stated coming down Kennebec, the 25MPH started at the Church of the Gospel Ministry. Chief Copeland stated Kennebec is a State Route outside of a business district, so the speed limit is 35MPH.

Councilwoman Gessel reported she has also had noise complaints on Kennebec.

Councilman Robison reported the trash truck is still running the alley between Main Street and Union Avenue; and 8th and 9th Streets.

Councilman Dille stated on Beechwood also.

Recreation & Buildings Committee

Councilman Dille reported he attended the Park Board meeting on July 30th. Kevin Morrow has taken over as President. Councilman Dille thanked Steve Inman for all the time and effort he put into being President.

Councilman Dille stated Homer Weekly went over how a Park Board from a community where he previously lived managed their park. It is owned by the Village also; however, the Park Board is allowed to run it as they see fit.

Councilman Dille stated the Park Board felt the Village was complaining about giving the \$2,000 every year; however, he informed them that is not the issue. The main issue was the mowing and maintenance due to money and time constraints. Councilman Dille reported they are looking into getting bids to have the park mowed to take stress off our maintenance crew.

Councilman Dille reported the next meeting will be held August 27th.

Councilman Matheney reported he has been talking with the Pool Manager; and, due to the pool issues we have had and having it closed, there are some wanting reimbursed for their pool deposits.

Fiscal Officer Henry stated the Pool Manager will need to give her the names, addresses, and amounts needing reimbursed so she could place them on the next bill sheet.

Councilman Matheney stated if we want to have an employee pool party before we close the pool to let the Pool Manager know.

Economic Development Committee

Councilwoman Gessel reported the auto part supplier, Miba Sinter Group is getting ready to expand and bring more jobs into the county.

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Technology and Website Committee

Councilman Robison stated he has discussed with Homer Weekly regarding the park adding more things to our website.

Other Business

Adjournment of Meeting

Councilman Robison made a Motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Matheney.

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

The meeting was adjourned till August 20, 2013 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.