

LOUDONVILLE VILLAGE COUNCIL

January 2, 2018

The Loudonville Village Council met for a regular meeting on Tuesday, January 2, 2018 at 6 p.m. at the Loudonville Fire Station. Answering roll call were Mr. Bill Welsh, Mrs. Traci Cooper, Mr. Tom Young, Mr. Michael Robinson, Mr. Jason Van Sickle, and Mr. Tom Gallagher. Mayor Steve Stricklen presided. Also in attendance were Village Administrator Curt Young, Fiscal Officer Elaine Van Horn, Fire Chief Mike Carey, Paramedic Brad Bilancini, Fire Department members Dan Robinson, Joe Kiefer, and Brad Dilgard, residents Danny Bilger and Denise Gallagher, and Times Reporter Jim Brewer. (Note: Village Solicitor Gilman arrived just before the Executive Session.)

THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: Mayor Stricklen led the Pledge of Allegiance.

OATHS OF OFFICE: Mayor Stricklen swore in Councilpersons Traci Cooper, Tom Gallagher, Tom Young and Jason Van Sickle.

ELECTION OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE: Councilwoman Traci Cooper moved to elect Councilman Bill Welsh as the 2018 Council President Pro Tempore. Second by Councilman Young. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

Mrs. Cooper, yes; Mr. Young, yes; Mr. Welsh, yes;

Mr. Robinson, yes; Mr. Van Sickle, yes; Mr. Gallagher, yes. Motion carried.

Councilman Welsh thanks the councilmembers for their confidence in him.

2018 COUNCIL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: Mayor Stricklen presented the following list of Council Committees for 2018:

FINANCE/AUDIT: Traci Cooper, Chair; Bill Welsh; Michael Robinson

SAFETY: Bill Welsh, Chair; Jason Van Sickle; Tom Young

STREETS: Tom Gallagher, Chair; Traci Cooper; Jason Van Sickle

PLANNING & ZONING: Tom Young, Chair; Michael Robinson; Tom Gallagher

PARKS & BUILDINGS: Michael Robinson, Chair; Traci Cooper; Tom Young

UTILITIES: Jason Van Sickle, Chair; Bill Welsh; Tom Gallagher

MAYORAL STATE OF THE VILLAGE ADDRESS: Mayor Stricklen read the following address:

It is my privilege to address the people of the Village of Loudonville summarizing the State of the Village in January, 2018.

Financial Status: *The Village remains in a stable financial position. The Village's income tax collections, its most significant revenue source, continue to show a positive slight increase annually, with almost \$1,158,000 collected in 2017. Property tax revenues have remained the same over the past several years. As we move into 2018, we will continue to be mindful of the Village's financial health through sound budgeting and efficient day-to-day operations.*

Police, Fire and Safety: *Our Fire and EMS departments responded to about 800 calls for service throughout 2017. As a unit, they logged 332 hours of drill and night training hours, along with an additional 240 hours of confined space training. Another 240 hours of initial fire training was accomplished. Apparatus was tested according to schedule - and aerial, pumping, ground ladders and SCBA inspections were completed with no failures reported. Fortunately, there were no major structural fires in our first due area, and no civilian or firefighter casualties resulting from fire. The Loudonville Police Department, with six full-time, one part-time and seven auxiliary officers, answered 2,173 calls for service, issued 324 traffic citations and made 183 arrests this year.*

Village Operation and Improvement Projects: *2017 was another very productive year for the Village of Loudonville, with improvement projects completed, and others in design and/or under construction. The Village saw the replacement of the asphalt walk-way on East Main Street from Young's Terrace to the Swimming Pool with a widened concrete sidewalk, funded in large part by a \$143,000 grant through the Ohio Department of Transportation LTAP program. Additional donors to the project included the NiSource Community Grant program, and the Samaritan Hospital Foundation. The total project cost was approximately \$200,000, and provides a safer and noticeable aesthetic improvement to the East corridor entrance to the Village.*

In response to a request for funding from the FY 2016-2017 budget of the State of Ohio, the Village received a grant in the amount of \$250,000 for improvements to the Loudonville Theatre and Village Hall. This project included the renovation and enlargement of the restrooms on the second floor of the Ohio Theatre, with ADA accessibility for both. Electrical improvements were also a part of the project, and new carpet throughout the Theatre was provided by an anonymous donor through the Loudonville Theatre and Arts Committee. The completion of the project is delayed due to an error in the design of an ADA-compliant ramp to replace the fire escape on the north side of the building. A revised plan has been submitted and approved, and the completion of the construction is expected by mid-February, weather permitting.

In recent Council meetings, a number of local people and organizations who have worked very diligently in providing the time, labor and financial resources for additional improvements to the Theatre have been recognized for their efforts. A great deal of painting throughout the Theatre has been finished, and renovations of the concession stand, Projection and Audio booth have also been completed. New draperies will be hung on the Main Floor and in the balcony areas. This year the Loudonville Theatre and Arts Committee received a matching grant from the Hugo and Mabel Young Foundation which purchased new LED spot lights for the stage and house lighting for the main floor of the Theatre. The upgrade of the lighting will be a tremendous compliment to the state of the art audio and visual capabilities of the Theatre in future productions, and we are looking forward to an increase in the use of the both the Theatre and the Second Floor of Village Hall when public meetings will be held there. The consultation services of Sally Hollenbach has been very helpful to the Village, and a number of advancements have been made in her efforts to improve the operation of the Theatre.

Bids for the reconstruction of Village Water Reservoir #1 will be received and opened on January 23. The Village will receive \$500,000 in grant funding from the Ohio Public Works Commission for this project that has been an object of discussion for many years, but will finally be completed in 2018. The project will cost in excess of \$1,000,000 and will also require a low-interest loan from the Ohio Water Development Authority.

In the last two years the Loudonville American Legion Post #257 generously contributed over \$60,000 in financial support for the construction of a new Maintenance facility on Wally Road, which will be under construction this year. The large red metal storage building previously occupying the lots just west of the Water Treatment plant property was demolished in 2017 to make way for a 7,000 square foot building that will include vehicle parking and service bays for the Street Maintenance Department, along with mechanical repair and office areas. The project is anticipated to cost about \$360,000, and would not be underway without the continued support and financial assistance of Post #257. They are certainly deserving of our thanks and appreciation for their many years of continued service to this community.

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Our Village Maintenance, Utilities, Business Office and employees of the Theatre, Swimming Pool and Cemetery have done another great job in the past year. I would like to offer my thanks for their hard work and dedication to the Village of Loudonville. I will also take this opportunity to thank Village Council for their support in 2017. There are some very good things ahead for the Village in 2018, and I look forward to working with this Council in furthering our efforts to make the Village of Loudonville a great place to live and work. It has been a pleasure serving the citizens of Loudonville, and with your help I intend to keep moving forward in promoting and advancing the interests of the Village in the coming year, and throughout my term in this office.

CONSENT ITEMS:

Council Minutes – December 18, 2017: The minutes of this regular meeting were presented for approval. Councilwoman Cooper moved to accept the minutes as presented. Second by Councilman Robinson. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

Mrs. Cooper, yes; Mr. Robinson, yes; Mr. Welsh, yes;
Mr. Young, yes; Mr. Van Sickle, yes; Mr. Gallagher, abstain. Motion carried.

GUESTS: None.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Ashland County Solid Waste Management Plan Update: Administrator Young reported that plan update was available on line for review and asked Council to advise if they had any concerns.

Reservoir Project Bid Opening: Administrator Young reported that the bid opening for the reservoir replacement project is scheduled for Tuesday, January 23, 2018 at Noon on the 2nd floor of the Village Hall.

LEGISLATION:

RESOLUTION 1-2018

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SALE DURING THE CALENDAR YEAR 2018 OF MUNICIPALLY OWNED PERSONAL PROPERTY WHICH IS NOT NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE, OR WHICH IS OBSOLETE OR UNFIT FOR THE USE FOR WHICH IT WAS ACQUIRED, BY INTERNET AUCTION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mayor Stricklen noted this is an annual resolution required so that the Village can utilize the services of GovDeals for online sales of unneeded or obsolete Village property throughout the year.

EMERGENCY MEASURE VOTE

Councilwoman Cooper moved to suspend the rules and Councilman Welsh seconded that Resolution No. 1-2018 be declared an emergency measure and that the rules of the law, which require an ordinance to be read on three different days, be suspended with respect to Resolution No. 1-2018. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

Mrs. Cooper, yes; Mr. Welsh, yes; Mr. Young, yes;
Mr. Robinson, yes; Mr. Van Sickle, yes; Mr. Gallagher, yes. Motion carried.

ADOPTION VOTE

Councilwoman Cooper moved that Resolution No. 1-2018 be passed as read. Second by Councilman Welsh. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

Mrs. Cooper, yes; Mr. Welsh, yes; Mr. Young, yes;
Mr. Robinson, yes; Mr. Van Sickle, yes; Mr. Gallagher, yes. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

Theatre Renovation Project: Councilman Young asked why the theatre project completion date was pushed back. Administrator Young responded that the steel fabrication for the ramp was held up because of a design error, noting the error was recognized before the ramp was manufactured. Mayor Stricklen noted that there was a 3' design error on the original plans. He further commented that the weather will be another factor once the ramp has been fabricated.

NEW BUSINESS:

Speed Limit near McDonald's: Councilman Van Sickle reported that he was approached by a resident who was concerned with the speed limit in front of McDonald's, questioning whether it would be possible to extend the 35 mph limit to the south of the McDonald's. Mayor Stricklen noted that this suggestion has come up before, but could be revisited with the State again, noting the ODOT governs the speed limit on the state route.

Zoning Board of Appeals Appointment: Mayor Stricklen introduced Danny Bilger as his appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals to replace Councilman Gallagher. Councilman Welsh moved to accept the appointment. Second by Councilwoman Cooper. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

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Mr. Welsh, yes; Mrs. Cooper, yes; Mr. Young, yes;
Mr. Robinson, yes; Mr. Van Sickle, yes; Mr. Gallagher, yes. Motion carried.

Sidewalk Complaint: Council reviewed a complaint from Norma Butts about uncleared snow on sidewalks downtown. She noted that some of the businesses that are not open daily or are closed for the season are not maintaining their walks free of ice and snow. Mayor Stricklen noted that there are Village regulations that govern the sidewalks, but asked business owners to keep their sidewalks maintained to avoid formal action.

CLAIMS ORDINANCE 2018-01:

Claims Ordinance 2018-01 was presented for review. Councilwoman Cooper moved to approve Claims Ordinance 2018-01. Second by Councilman Welsh. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

Mrs. Cooper, yes; Mr. Welsh, yes; Mr. Young, yes;
Mr. Robinson, yes; Mr. Van Sickle, yes; Mr. Gallagher, yes. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Because Solicitor Gilman was not at the meeting prior to the Executive Session items that were on the Agenda, the Council decided to forego the Executive Session and end the meeting. However, at 6:26 PM Solicitor Gilman arrived at the Council meeting and Council decided to enter the Executive Session. At 6:27 PM, Councilwoman Cooper moved to enter into an Executive Session to discuss the potential purchase of real property and the potential sale of real property by competitive bid. Second by Councilman Welsh. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

Mrs. Cooper, yes; Mr. Welsh, yes; Mr. Young, yes;
Mr. Robinson, yes; Mr. Van Sickle, yes; Mr. Gallagher, yes. Motion carried.

RECONVENE: At 7:01 PM, Councilwoman Cooper moved to end the Executive Session and reconvene the regular meeting. Second by Councilman Van Sickle. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

Mrs. Cooper, yes; Mr. Van Sickle, yes; Mr. Welsh, yes;
Mr. Young, yes; Mr. Robinson, yes; Mr. Gallagher, yes. Motion carried.

ADJOURN: With no further business to be brought before Council, Councilwoman Cooper moved the meeting be adjourned at 7:02 PM. Second by Councilman Young. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

Mrs. Cooper, yes; Mr. Young, yes; Mr. Welsh, yes;
Mr. Robinson, yes; Mr. Van Sickle, yes; Mr. Gallagher, yes. Motion carried.

Fiscal Officer

Mayor