

LOUDONVILLE VILLAGE COUNCIL

January 3, 2017

The Loudonville Village Council met for a regular meeting on Tuesday January 3, 2017 at 6 p.m. at the Loudonville Fire Station. Mayor Steve Stricklen called the meeting to order and answering roll call were Mr. Bill Welsh, Mrs. Traci Cooper, Mr. Tom Young, Mr. Roy Wilson, Mr. Michael Robinson and Mr. Jason Van Sickle. Also in attendance at the meeting were Village Solicitor Thom Gilman, Village Administrator Curt Young, Fiscal Officer Elaine Van Horn, Paramedic Brad Bilancini, Fire Department member Mike Carey, Mohican Valley Pullers Zeb Brecheisen and Ryan Shriver, and Loudonville Times Reporter Jim Brewer.

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

ELECTION OF 2017 PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE: Councilman Wilson moved to elect Councilman Bill Welsh as the 2017 Council President Pro Tempore. Second by Councilwoman Cooper. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

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

2017 COUNCIL COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: Mayor Stricklen made the following Council Committee appointments, noting they are the same as 2016:

FINANCE/AUDIT: Traci Cooper, Chair; Bill Welsh; Michael Robinson
SAFETY: Bill Welsh, Chair; Roy Wilson; Tom Young
STREETS: Roy Wilson, Chair; Traci Cooper; Jason Van Sickle
PLANNING & ZONING: Tom Young, Chair; Michael Robinson; Jason Van Sickle
PARKS & BUILDINGS: Jason Van Sickle, Chair; Traci Cooper; Tom Young
UTILITIES: Michael Robinson, Chair; Bill Welsh; Roy Wilson

CONSENT ITEMS:

Council Minutes – December 19, 2016: Councilman Welsh moved the minutes be approved as presented. Second by Councilman Wilson. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

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

GUESTS: Mr. Brecheisen and Mr. Shriver from the Mohican Valley Pullers were present to ask Council for permission to use the track again during 2017 for their tractor pulling events throughout the summer. Mr. Brecheisen noted that they worked in cooperation with the Youth Association last year and heard no complaints. He commented that they would avoid scheduling a pull during the weekend of a ball tournament this year. Solicitor Gilman affirmed that they were following the same policies that govern the Fair Board's pulling events. Mr. Brecheisen stated that they will continue to carry a one million dollar liability policy. Councilman Welsh moved to approve their request to use the track on Wally Road during 2017. Second by Councilwoman Cooper. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

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

LEGISLATION:

ORDINANCE 1-2017

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE APPROVING THE EDITING AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE FOR THE ADOPTION AND PUBLICATION OF NEW MATTER IN THE UPDATED AND REVISED CODIFIED ORDINANCES; AND TO REPEAL ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT THEREWITH.

Solicitor Gilman noted while the Village of Loudonville had no changes to its specific codified ordinances passed by Council, these updates include amendments required to keep the Village's Codified Ordinances consistent with the latest State Codes.

EMERGENCY MEASURE VOTE

Councilwoman Cooper moved to suspend the rules and Councilman Wilson seconded that Ordinance No. 1-2017 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 Ordinance No. 1-2017. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

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

ADOPTION VOTE

Councilwoman Cooper moved that Ordinance No. 1-2017 be passed as read. Second by Councilman Wilson. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

LOUDONVILLE VILLAGE COUNCIL

January 3, 2017

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

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

PARKING METERS AND CHRISTMAS LIGHTS: Administrator Young reported that the Chamber of Commerce has asked Council to consider keeping the free parking downtown until after the Winterfest. They also asked to keep the Christmas lights up until the Winterfest is over. Councilwoman Cooper moved to keep the parking free downtown and the Christmas lights in place until after the Winterfest. Second by Councilman Welsh. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

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

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

MAGF 2017 SUPPORT: Council reviewed a request from the Mohican Area Growth Foundation, asking the Village to consider again supporting MAGF in 2017. Mayor Stricklen noted that the Village contributed \$7,500 in 2016 and further stated that the Hugo & Mabel Young Foundation matches all donations. Mayor Stricklen commented that Executive Director Kathy Goon continues to work hard for the Village behind the scenes. Councilwoman Cooper reported that the Village has, in the past, contributed \$10,000, but reduced it to \$5,000 during hard economic times and then in the last several years increased it to \$7,500. Councilwoman Cooper moved to approve contributing \$10,000 to the Mohican Area Growth Foundation, Inc. in 2017. Second by Councilman Young. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

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

STATE OF THE VILLAGE ADDRESS: Mayor Stricklen presented his State of the Village Address, below in its entirety:

2017 STATE OF THE VILLAGE ADDRESS

It is my pleasure as the Mayor of Loudonville to present to you the State of the Village address in 2017.

VILLAGE FINANCES

The financial status of the Village remains stable at this time. \$1,080,621.86 was collected in Income Tax dollars in 2016, and through the cooperation of our Fiscal Officer, Village Council, Village Administrator and Department Heads we were able to maximize our resources to effectively provide needed services to our residents and business community. We intend to continue that same thoughtful management of finances that the taxpayers of the Village of Loudonville have entrusted to the care of the elected officials of the Village in 2017.

2016 IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

A number of infrastructure improvement projects were completed in 2016. The widening and resurfacing of Wally Road, and the replacement of the water main and service lines on North Water Street were accomplished with a \$362,580 grant from the Ohio Public Works Commission. North Water Street was also resurfaced, along with parts of North Brentwood and North Park Place. ADA curb ramps were placed at several intersections. The total project cost was about \$600,000.

New water lines, sidewalks and curbing were constructed on East Bustle Street between South Wood and South Adams Street as part of the Safe Routes to School Program. A federal grant and contributions by the Village of Loudonville and Loudonville Schools also allowed for the removal of the steps at the intersection of East Bustle Street and Walnut Court, and the student drop off and pickup area on Walnut Court was improved with new curbing and ADA parking spaces. This project has greatly reduced the traffic congestion in the area surrounding the McMullen Elementary School.

A \$50,000 dollar grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources allowed us to replace the infant pool at the Loudonville Swimming Pool in the late fall of 2015, and the asphalt shingle roof on the main building was replaced with a standing seam roof in the spring of 2016. The main swimming pool was blasted and repainted in the spring of 2016.

On behalf of the Village, I would like to express my appreciation to the American Legion, who also helped with critical repairs at the swimming pool last summer. Their very timely gift enabled us to replace failed electrical equipment and other needed items. The Milton and Beulah Young Foundation was once again a generous donor to our Pool, and deserve our thanks as well.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Kristy Spreng and Angie Heffelfinger for their efforts in raising about \$40,000 to install a new playground area in Riverside Park. The Loudonville maintenance department, along with area volunteers were able to complete the installation of this new equipment that is designed for 2 to 5 year olds. A number of organizations and individuals donated to this worthy cause, and I am sure the children are going to enjoy this tremendous gift for many years to come.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Noticeable progress has been made in the renovation of formerly vacant properties in Loudonville last year. We would like to congratulate Joseph Shrock on the purchase and renovation of the former Flexible building. The Zickefoose family has made a tremendous improvement to our downtown business district by their purchase and renovation of the vacated First Merit building. Their transformation of the building that restored much of the former facade of the old Ullman Hotel is amazing. Noticeable improvements have been completed in a number of buildings in the downtown area and we thank everyone involved.

2017 IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

As we look ahead to the coming year, three improvements to our infrastructure are scheduled for completion. The **East Main Street Pedestrian Pathway Improvements** project will go out to bid in early February. The asphalt sidewalk and curbing will be removed, and a new 5' sidewalk and concrete curbing will be constructed from Young's Terrace to the Loudonville Swimming Pool Park. The sidewalk will be relocated a few feet south of the existing walk to provide a barrier between traffic on SR 39 and the sidewalk. The total cost of this project is expected to total about \$200,000, with \$143,000 of that amount funded by the ODOT LTAP grant program. We expect the construction phase of this project to be complete by August, 2017.

We also anticipate funding through the Ohio Public Works Commission to reconstruct the **Loudonville Water Reservoir # 1** on South Mt Vernon Avenue. This necessary improvement has been postponed for several years due to a lack of funding, but we are

LOUDONVILLE VILLAGE COUNCIL

January 3, 2017

expecting the formal approval of a \$ 500,000 grant from the OPWC in July, 2017. A loan application to the Ohio Water Development Authority will be filed to fund the balance of the estimated \$930,000 reservoir replacement project.

This year the Village will receive funding for \$250,000 to replace the fire escape for the second floor on the north side of the Ohio Theatre and Loudonville Village Hall with a handicapped accessible ramp. The restrooms on the second floor of the Theatre will be renovated, and the Ladies room will also be expanded to provide accessibility for the handicapped as part of this project.

We are anxious to begin the construction of a new maintenance building on Wally Road at the site of the old Ashland County Garage. This project will be accomplished over a period of very few years, beginning with the demolition of the existing building this spring. The American Legion has generously offered to provide needed funding for this project, along with Village funding, will provide a much needed maintenance facility.

SERVICE ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As always, it is a pleasure to recognize the members of the various committees and private organizations that provide a valuable service to our Village. The Tree Commission, the Cemetery Board, the Planning Commission, the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Loudonville Theatre and Arts Committee continue to do a great job, and each play a very important role in their respective services to this community.

Allow me to close this address by offering my sincere thanks to the Village Council of Loudonville for making my first full year as Mayor a very successful one. I would also like to thank our Village employees, who very tirelessly perform their duties and often go beyond their responsibilities to offer great service to our residents and business establishments. I would also like to extend a special "thank you" to retiring Fire and EMS Chief Tom Gallagher for his many years of service to the Village. We wish him all the best.

Lastly, I would like to thank the residents of the Village of Loudonville for the confidence you have placed in me as your Mayor. I intend to continue to serve the citizens of the Village to the best of my ability, and to continue to work with our business community, Village Council and the Mohican Area Growth Foundation to attract new industry to our area. Thank You, and may the New Year bring peace and prosperity to us all.

Mayor Steve Stricklen

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS VACANCY: Mayor Stricklen reported that ZBA member Brian Wise has submitted his resignation from the Zoning Board of Appeals effective immediately. The Mayor asked Council to consider a resident to replace Mr. Wise, noting that he would make the appointment at the next Council meeting.

RECOGNITION: Mayor Stricklen expressed appreciation to the Samaritan Hospital Foundation for their donation of \$1,000 to the Loudonville Police Department for the purchase of two devices used to avert ambush on a cruiser.

CLAIMS ORDINANCE 2017-01:

Claims Ordinance 2017-01 was presented for approval. Councilwoman Cooper moved to approve Claims Ordinance 2017-01. Second by Councilman Welsh. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

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

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

ADJOURN: With no further business to be brought before Council, Councilman Welsh moved the meeting be adjourned at 6:23 PM. Second by Councilwoman Cooper. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

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

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

Fiscal Officer

Mayor