

LOUDONVILLE VILLAGE COUNCIL

July 3, 2017

The Loudonville Village Council met for a regular meeting on Monday, July 3, 2017 at 6 p.m. at the Loudonville Fire Station. Answering roll call were Mr. Bill Welsh, Mrs. Traci Cooper, Mr. Roy Wilson, Mr. Tom Young, Mr. Michael Robinson and Mr. Jason Van Sickle. Mayor Steve Stricklen presided. Also in attendance were Village Administrator Curt Young, Fiscal Officer Elaine Van Horn, Village Solicitor Thom Gilman, Fire Chief Mike Carey, Paramedic Brad Bilancini, Police Captain Jim Coey, Police Detective Gary Hannan, Police Officer Sean Gorrell, and (to be sworn in) Police Officer Adam Harper and his family including Ron, Kelly & Emma Fetzer, Megan Yoak, John & Mary Loyd, Dawn & Bruce Burkhart, and Mason Harper. Also in attendance were Georgia Kauffman of the Mohican Visitors Bureau and Ted Fraser, Tammy Fraser and Sarah Fraser, Gregg Beechy of the Trinity Church, and Times Reporter Jim Brewer.

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

OATH OF OFFICE: Mayor Stricklen swore in Adam Harper as a full-time Police Officer. Captain Coey introduced Officer Harper to the Council, noting that he was a recent graduate of Ashland University with a degree in Criminal Justice as well as graduating from the Police Academy. Mayor Stricklen expressed support of Officer Harper, sharing that he has known him since he was a child and was confident he will be an outstanding patrolman for the Village.

CONSENT ITEMS:

Council Minutes – June 19, 2017: The minutes of this regular meeting were presented for approval. Councilman Welsh moved to accept the minutes as presented. Second by Councilwoman Cooper. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

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

GUESTS:

Dog Park Fence: Three citizens, Ted Fraser, Tammy Fraser, and Sarah Fraser, were present to express their feelings regarding the removal of the dog park fence. Sarah Fraser spoke first and introduced herself as one of the girl scouts who helped to install the fence. Ms. Fraser voiced her disappointment that the fence was removed, stating that she felt Council should have contacted the former scouts directly before removing the fence so that they might have an opportunity to repair it themselves. She stated that she felt the fence was damaged due to carelessness by the Village while mowing around it. She commented that she had learned many good lessons about community service while working on the project, but felt those lessons were negated by the Village removing the fence. Tammy Fraser then spoke, asserting her feelings that the fence could have been repaired had the Village not removed it, further alleging that the Village deliberately removed the fence in the morning knowing they were coming to Council in the evening to discuss the matter. She stated that she felt the wire gauge used was sufficient and further said it was her opinion that the fence was damaged by a mower. She further accused the Village of damaging the flag poles in Central Park with the mower. Ted Fraser stated that while they understood that the fence had issues, they were in contact with individuals who they thought could help them make necessary repairs. Mr. Fraser expressed his disappointment that the fence was removed the morning of the Council meeting, criticizing Council members of handling the matter poorly with a lack of sensitivity to the girl scouts. He further chastised council members for what he considered a lack of respect, noting that he had spoken with two Council members who said they had not looked at the fence and one Council member who disparaged the workmanship of the scouts. Mr. Fraser then suggested all Council members resign, noting he would be willing to take their place. Councilwoman Cooper responded first, stating that the Village Council was very appreciative of the dog park over the years, noting she was a frequent visitor in the past with her dog. She further assured the Frasers that the recent deteriorated condition of the fence did not diminish the fact that the girl scouts had donated their efforts to provide something that was greatly enjoyed by residents and visitors for many years. Councilwoman Cooper affirmed that the Council had discussed the fence in open council meetings on several occasions. She went on to say that the Village Council had welcomed the gift when it was installed and maintained it throughout the years, even though she felt it was not in the best location. She noted that the dog park was almost always soggy, and she felt it was too close to the river. Councilwoman Cooper further remarked that the wet area caused the posts to settle and loosen, stretching the fencing, which created an unsafe condition whereby dogs could easily escape. Councilman Van Sickle reiterated that the fence was discussed in at least three or four public meetings, and no interested parties contacted the Council with input. Mayor Stricklen commented that the fence had to be removed for liability reasons. Maintenance Superintendent Burkhart presented Council and the Frasers with two pieces of wire fencing of different gauge, demonstrating the inadequacy of the lighter gauge while commenting that he personally witnessed a Rottweiler go through the fence and escape. He stated that the corner posts were also not sufficient. Administrator Young reported that the Village Office had received numerous complaints about

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dogs escaping, which necessitated the closing of the dog park. Mr. Fraser questioned why Council took the fence down if the dog park was closed anyway. Administrator Young noted he didn't think the closed sign on the dog park was sufficient to protect against liability concerns. Administrator Young further reminded the Frasers of several conversations he had with them that resulted in Mr. Fraser agreeing that the fence gauge was not heavy enough and that the posts needed to be replaced. Mayor Stricklen assured Mr. Fraser that the Village Council was in no way being vindictive but rather were doing what they felt was best for the residents of the Village. Mayor Stricklen further commented that while it was a shame the fence did not last longer, it was his hope that everyone could work together to determine if a new fence is feasible. Councilwoman Cooper agreed and commented that while the Village allowed the girl scouts to construct the dog park at the Wally Road location at the time of their project, she feels a different location would be better considered moving forward. Councilman Young joined the discussion, stating that he had often walked by the dog park on his daily walks, was familiar with the frequent use it received, and was opposed to closing it at the start of the discussions months back. Councilman Young went on to say that he made it a point to examine the fence closely on several occasions and realized the poor condition of the fence, noting that he felt that patching the fence was not the best option but rather replacing the fence entirely. He stated he felt this was the best option given the chance that dogs could easily escape. Mr. Fraser stated that he just wished Council would have discussed it with them more. Mayor Stricklen shared that many communities are doing away with their dog parks because of potential liability issues. He recapped that the Village Council did not remove the fence for any reason other than liability concerns after considerable discussion in Parks & Buildings Committee meetings and Council meetings. Councilwoman Cooper again expressed sincere appreciation to Sarah Fraser for her hard work when the dog park was constructed many years ago.

BRIDGE PROJECT: Georgia Kauffman, Executive Director of the Mohican Visitors Bureau, was present to address several questions on behalf of the MCVB with regard to the ODOT 2018 bridge replacement project on West Main Street over the river. Administrator Young noted that he had asked Ms. Kauffman to review the letter from ODOT to open an early line of communication between the Village, ODOT and those businesses affected by the bridge project. Ms. Kauffman noted that the MCVB had several concerns regarding the timing of the project, which is scheduled for the peak tourist season from Memorial Day through Labor Day in 2018. She noted this timeframe also encompasses the mountain bike race which attracts thousands to the area. She also questioned the feasibility of ODOT planning to have canoeists exit the river, carry their canoes and re-enter the river past the bridge project. Administrator Young noted that ODOT also presented the possibility of completing the project in the nighttime for Council consideration. Solicitor Gilman noted that there are no Village regulations which would prohibit the night work. Solicitor Gilman also expressed concern with closing the river as there are individuals who might be on the river who are unaware of the periodic closures of the river and might not be capable exiting and reentering. Council directed Administrator Young to collaborate with Ms. Kauffman and ODOT on the project to generate several options for Council consideration.

LEGISLATION: None.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Parking Lot Closure: Administrator Young presented a request from Triple M Roofing to close the Village parking lot across from the City Building while they recoat the roof of the dentist office on Wednesday and Thursday. He noted they will be submitting the required Certificate of Insurance. Councilwoman Cooper moved to approve the request. 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. Wilson, yes; Mr. Young, yes; Mr. Robinson, yes. Motion carried.

Reservoir Project: Administrator Young reported that the Village has received official notice from OPWC that the \$500,000 grant has been approved for the reservoir project.

Opera House Renovation Project: Administrator Young reported that a pre-construction meeting with Adena Corporation was held. He noted that the project start date is scheduled for September 11. He further stated that the project length per the contract is 128 days from the contract commencement date of July 1. He advised Council that the project plans are available for review at the Village Office.

ODOT West Main Street Bridge Project: Administrator Young advised Council that the project plans for the 2018 ODOT Bridge Project are available for review at the Village Office.

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East Main Sidewalk Project Construction Administration: Administrator Young presented a proposal from ADR & Associates for additional construction administration services for the project beyond the scope of the original contract for an amount not to exceed \$2,500. Councilman Welsh moved to approve the proposal for additional services not to exceed \$2,500. 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.

East Main Sidewalk Project Modification Quote: Administrator Young presented an estimate from D.L. Smith Concrete, LLC in the amount of \$2,000 to reconstruct one section of the sidewalk at the entrance to a driveway at the homeowner's request. Administrator Young noted that the original plans were modified at the time of construction at the request of the homeowner (926 E. Main Street), who shares the driveway and had requested the contractor not go up into their drive. The other homeowner (936 E. Main Street) with the shared driveway is not satisfied with the angle of the driveway entrance and has requested it be revised. Mayor Stricklen noted that he and Administrator Young have met with the property owner to present the proposed revisions, noting he will sign an agreement that he accepts the new grade before it is excavated. Councilman Young moved to approve the quote for \$2,000 to D.L. Smith Concrete LLC to replace the concrete at the entrance to the drive. Second by Councilwoman Cooper. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

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

OLD BUSINESS:

GPS Equipment: Councilwoman Cooper presented Council with a quote from Precision Laser & Instrument, Inc. for the purchase of GPS equipment in the amount of \$16,748, noting it was included in the approved appropriation budget. Administrator Young noted that the quote was a State Contract price. Councilman Van Sickle moved to approve the purchase of the GPS equipment in the amount of \$16,748. Second by Councilman Welsh. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

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

Rotary Business Membership: Council discussed the invitation from the Loudonville Rotary to join their business membership. Council agreed that it would be a hardship for councilmembers to attend the weekly meetings due to employment commitments and declined the offer.

Revised Park Usage Request: Ms. Julie Tucker resubmitted her request to use the walkway bridge in Riverside Park for a wedding, revising the date from July 17 to July 29. Councilwoman Cooper moved to approve the request. Second by Councilman Robinson. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Park Usage Request – Trinity Church: Councilwoman Cooper moved to approve a request from Trinity Community Church to use the NE quadrant of Central Park on September 3, 2017 for their annual Pie & Ice Cream Social from 5 to 7 PM. Second by Councilman Wilson. 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.

Fireworks Donation: Council considered a request from the Chamber of Commerce for a donation in support of the Loudonville Fireworks Fund. Mayor Stricklen commented that they were the best fireworks he could remember in the Village. Councilwoman Cooper moved to contribute \$200 to the Chamber of Commerce Fireworks Fund. 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.

CLAIMS ORDINANCE 2017-13:

Claims Ordinance 2017-13 was presented for review. Councilwoman Cooper moved to approve Claims Ordinance 2017-13. 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.

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ADJOURN: With no further business to be brought before Council, Councilman Welsh moved the meeting be adjourned at 7:05 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