

LOUDONVILLE VILLAGE COUNCIL

July 2, 2018



PUBLIC HEARING

Mayor Steve Stricklen opened the Public Hearing at 5:45 PM for the 2019 Tax Budget at the Loudonville Fire Station. Councilmembers present for the Public Hearing were Bill Welsh, Traci Cooper, Tom Young, Michael Robinson, Jason Van Sickle, and Tom Gallagher. There was no public question or comment. Mayor Stricklen closed the public hearing at 5:55 PM.



The Loudonville Village Council met for a regular meeting on Monday, July 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, Police Chief Kevin Taylor, Fire Chief Mike Carey, Village resident Renata Lunt, Cabot Oil & Gas Corporation representatives Brittany Ramos, Kelsey Mulau and George Stark, Fire Department members Lydia Balliett, Robert Stewart, Bob Stewart Sr. and Times Reporter Jim Brewer.

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

CONSENT ITEMS:

Council Minutes – June 18, 2018: 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, yes. Motion carried.

GUESTS:

Golf Cart Concerns: Resident Renata Lunt read a prepared statement expressing her concerns with the proposed ordinance governing golf carts. She noted that she was familiar with golf carts on public streets as she and her husband own property at Put-in-Bay. She stated that she had safety concerns with golf carts on Village streets such as S. Mt. Vernon Avenue, noting that Mt. Vernon Avenue would be the route taken from the campgrounds with the mph speed restriction and that it has several blind spots. She questioned whether cars would be permitted to pass the slow-moving vehicles and encouraged Council to consider all possible issues. Councilman Robinson stated that he was concerned with potential safety issues of having golf carts operating on the Village streets and stated he felt Mrs. Lunt had many good points. Councilman Young concurred, noting he was not in favor of allowing the slow-moving vehicles on the Village streets. Mayor Stricklen thanked Mrs. Lunt for her input and noted that Council would be further discussing and considering the Ordinance later in the meeting.

Cabot Oil & Gas Corporation: George Stark and Brittany Ramos of Cabot Oil & Gas Corporation were present to answer any questions that may be posed regarding their exploration of oil and natural gas in the area. Ms. Ramos stated that the drilling has begun at one location in Green Township, with two other sites pending, where they are exploring for both oil and gas. She noted that Cabot has subleased the gas storage fields from Columbia. Ms. Ramos and Mr. Stark briefly reviewed the development and drilling process that takes place at the site, the role of water in the production of the oil and natural gas at the site, the water testing process that Cabot maintains within a 3,000-foot radius of the drilling site, and reiterated Cabot’s commitment to safety as well as to the protection of the environment. Upon question by Councilman Gallagher, Mr. Stark explained that the chance of an earthquake occurring during the fracking process is nearly eliminated with the proper disposal of the water used in the process. Councilman Young questioned the reason Cabot was making a presentation to the Village, with Mr. Stark explaining that Cabot is committed to keeping community leaders informed. Mr. Stark stated that there could be increased traffic within the Village. He further commented that the Village could be positively impacted in several ways from the exploration of oil and gas in the surrounding townships, including increased employment opportunities and wages in the area. He also noted that anywhere from four to seven million gallons of water are used in the process, and further commented that Cabot may be interested in purchasing water from the Village of Loudonville for the area sites. Mayor Stricklen thanked the representatives of Cabot for their attendance at the meeting.

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LEGISLATION:

**ORDINANCE 34-2018
AN ORDINANCE ADDING CHAPTER 478 TO THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE
VILLAGE OF LOUDONVILLE.**

Ordinance 34-2018 was presented on a Third Reading.

Councilman Gallagher questioned what had transpired that initiated the drafting of Ordinance 34-2018 regarding slow moving vehicles before it was first discussed by Council or a council committee. Councilpersons Welsh and Cooper along with Mayor Stricklen concurred that the subject has been discussed by former Council members in previous meetings. Councilman Gallagher stated that he didn't think it was appropriate for a councilman to go directly to Solicitor Gilman to have an ordinance drafted without prior Council knowledge. Councilman Welsh stated the Police Department needed guidance in dealing with these types of vehicles which are permitted under certain State regulations, further noting that the ordinance covers more than golf carts. Councilman Young stated he thought the Safety Committee should have reviewed it before it came before Council, with Councilwoman Cooper responding that she recalled it being discussed sometime in the past in a committee meeting. Mayor Stricklen stated that the Ordinance was read on three different readings, and questioned Councilman Young if he felt needed more time than the four weeks that it has been before Council. Mayor Stricklen further encouraged Council to not be afraid to engage in open discussion in the Council meetings rather than just committee meetings, stating Council had two prior Council meetings before this one to openly deliberate on the ordinance and discuss their concerns. Chief Taylor commented the Police Department would be able to do the inspections, and the vehicles would have to be licensed by the State. Mayor Stricklen stated that the operation of golf carts on the streets would be no more dangerous than bicycles, motorcycles, tractors and other slow-moving vehicles that currently travel through and around the Village.

ADOPTION VOTE

Councilman Welsh moved that Ordinance No. 34-2018 be passed as read. Second by Councilwoman Cooper. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

Mr. Welsh, yes; Mrs. Cooper, yes; Mr. Young, no;

Mr. Robinson, no; Mr. Van Sickle, yes; Mr. Gallagher, no.

Mayor Stricklen cast an affirmative vote to break the tie. Motion carried.

**RESOLUTION 39-2018
A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE TAX BUDGET FOR THE VILLAGE OF LOUDONVILLE FOR
THE YEAR COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2019, AND SUBMISSION OF THE SAME TO THE
ASHLAND COUNTY AUDITOR.**

EMERGENCY MEASURE VOTE

Councilwoman Cooper moved to suspend the rules and Councilman Welsh seconded that Resolution No. 39-2018 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. 39-2018. 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. 39-2018 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.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Maintenance Building Project: Administrator Young reminded Council that that bid opening for the project is Friday, July 6, at 1:00 PM at the Village Office Building.

FEMA Grant Award: Chief Carey announced that the Village has received an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) award in the amount of about \$86,000 for a direct source capture exhaust system to be installed in the fire station.

Ohio Dept. of Public Safety EMS Grant: Chief Carey announced that the Village has been awarded a 2018-2019 Priority One Grant in the amount of \$6,692 to be used for EMS equipment and training.

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OLD BUSINESS:

EMS Soft Billing: Councilman Gallagher reviewed information he had prepared and distributed to Council the week prior regarding his concerns with soft billing for residents outside the Village. He noted he wanted to take the opportunity in the Council meeting to explain his position and reasoning since he cannot participate in the Safety Committee meeting scheduled at the conclusion of the Council meeting. He stated that his examples show that the average household within the Village pays approximately \$187 per year while township residents pay only about \$75. Mayor Stricklen responded that he feels those residents that live in a township that contracts with the Village for Fire and EMS services should be soft-billed. The Mayor further stated that a few years ago the Village had negotiated with the townships for a gradual increase from \$60 to \$75 to \$90 per household over the next several years and felt that they were getting close to a fair amount. Councilman Gallagher answered that he would consider soft billing when the townships get closer to the amount paid by residents of the Village. Mayor Stricklen stated that the Safety Committee would be meeting with Chief Carey in a scheduled committee meeting immediately following the regular Council session to hear Chief Carey's position.

Shrock Radio Tower Use Agreement: Solicitor Gilman presented the proposed agreement between the Village and Shrock Premier Construction to place a wireless radio repeater on the radio tower on the roof the Theatre/Village hall building. Solicitor Gilman noted that the term of the agreement is month-to-month and can be terminated at any time by either party. Councilman Gallagher moved to approve the agreement. Second by Councilman Van Sickle. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

Car Show Street Closure Request: Councilwoman Cooper moved to approve the request for the street closures for the Chamber of Commerce Car Show on July 7. Second by Councilman Gallagher. A roll call vote upon said motion resulted as follows:

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

Impound Lot Disposition of Vehicles: Council considered a request from Chief Taylor to dispose of five vehicles in the impound lot either by sealed bid or auction. Chief Taylor commented that he has filed for salvage rights and has secured the titles. He also noted that he didn't feel the vehicles were worthy of putting on GovDeals. Solicitor Gilman stated he would have to look up the values to determine the proper method to dispose of the vehicles based on their estimated value. Councilman Gallagher moved to approve of the disposition of the five vehicles in the impound lot in whatever manner is recommended by Solicitor Gilman. Second by Councilman Welsh. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

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

Historic Zoning: Council briefly discussed an email that they had all received from Norma Butts regarding historic zoning in the downtown business district. Her email expressed her concerns that renovations to some of the downtown storefronts made by business owners were not historically authentic. Her written request stated "*I'd like to encourage your organization to promote keeping old features, having storefront zoning rules, or incentives to keep the old.*" Councilwoman Cooper stated she thought that the downtown storeowners understood that the outward appearance of their stores should reflect the spirit of the town. She went on to say that she felt that given how costly improvements to the old buildings can be, she appreciated the outstanding efforts being made by the storeowners to enhance the appearance of their exteriors. Mayor Stricklen thanked Ms. Butts for her email, and Council took no action on the request.

Chamber Mohican 5K Sponsorship: Councilwoman Cooper moved to approve contributing \$250 to be a Silver Sponsor of the 2018 Mohican 5K Run/Walk to benefit the bike path. Second by Councilman Young. A roll call vote upon said motion resulted as follows:

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

Flag Recognition: Mayor Stricklen expressed appreciation to Wende Lance of Coldwell Banker Ward Real Estate for their efforts in placing approximately 250-300 flags in the tree lawns around the Village. He noted this was the 7th year that they have placed the flags, noting they also retrieve them after the holiday.

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CLAIMS ORDINANCE 2018-13:

Claims Ordinance 2018-13 was presented for review. Councilman Welsh moved to approve Claims Ordinance 2018-13. Second by Councilwoman Cooper. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

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

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

ADJOURN: With no further business to be brought before Council, Councilman Young moved the meeting be adjourned at 7:05 PM. Second by Councilwoman Cooper. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

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

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

Fiscal Officer

Mayor