

LOUDONVILLE VILLAGE COUNCIL

May 21, 2018

The Loudonville Village Council met for a regular meeting on Monday, May 21, 2018 at 6 p.m. at the Loudonville Fire Station. Mayor Stricklen called the meeting to order and answering roll call were Mr. Bill Welsh, Mrs. Traci Cooper, Mr. Tom Young, Mr. Michael Robinson, Mr. Jason Van Sickle and Mr. Tom Gallagher. Also in attendance at the meeting were Village Administrator Curt Young, Fiscal Officer Elaine Van Horn, Assistant Fire Chief Joe Kiefer, Cathy Thiemens, Dee Hinkle and Loudonville Times Reporter Jim Brewer.

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

CONSENT ITEMS:

Council Minutes – May 7, 2018: Councilman Gallagher moved the minutes be approved as presented. Second by Councilman Welsh. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

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

GUESTS:

Dee Hinkle – Neighboring Property Concerns: Ms. Dee Hinkle of 334 N. Spring Street was present to express her ongoing concerns with the adjacent property at 330 N. Spring Street caused by the tenants. Ms. Hinkle noted that the property is owned by Richard and Karen Van Dyne, further stating that she has been unsuccessful in her attempts to resolve the issues with them directly. She noted that the problem has been ongoing since 2007, distributing correspondence and pictures supporting her claims. She shared several of her concerns with the property including vicious dogs, trash, animal feces, rats, old tires, a tarped vehicle, and a deteriorating fence that she believes was erected on her property line without a permit. She stated there are children that live at the residence and she is concerned for their safety as well. She expressed frustration, noting that she feels the Village is not utilizing the ordinances in place to resolve the problems, noting that she has contacted the Mayor, the Police Department, several council members and the Village Administrator over the years but the problems continue. She noted that in one of her many contacts with the Police Department, she was told by them that she should contact the Ashland County Health Department and Children's Services. She noted that when she called the Health Department, they questioned why the Village of Loudonville was not handling the issue. Councilman Gallagher stated that having old tires may be an issue the Health Department could become involved with due to mosquitos. Mayor Stricklen acknowledged Ms. Hinkle's frustrations and noted that perhaps the Village ordinances need to be reviewed and revised to give the Village more authority to force the clean-up of properties such as this one. Ms. Hinkle referenced Village Codified Ordinance Chapter 1460.01 that defines a public nuisance. She stated that she did not understand why the Village is not treating this property as a public nuisance, further commenting that the Village then has the authority to assess the property owner \$100 per day for each day that the property is not cleaned up after the initial order to abate the public nuisance. Councilwoman Cooper noted that at times it can be difficult to determine what possessions are deemed trash on a resident's property. Ms. Hinkle stated that she can not use her yard for recreation due to the dog feces odor coming from this neighboring property. She also stated she is concerned with their dogs which she noted are of the pit bull breed and should be treated as vicious dogs per Chapter 618.01 of the Codified Ordinances. Councilman Welsh assured Ms. Hinkle that the Village would do everything possible to resolve the problems at the property. Councilman Van Sickle stated that he believed the property appears to be unsafe based on the photos Ms. Hinkle presented. Mayor Stricklen assured Ms. Hinkle that the he, along with Administrator Young and Chief Taylor, would again meet with the Village Solicitor to determine the next best approach and most aggressive action to take given that prior legal action has not been successful.

Firefighter Chad Callahan: Assistant Fire Chief Joe Kiefer announced that Paramedic Chad Callahan had recently successfully completed his firefighter training, with Mayor Stricklen expressing commendation.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Parking Lot Improvements: Administrator Young asked Council to consider how much they want to expend on improving the Pool/Park Complex parking lot and Riverside Park Lot. He noted that Maintenance Superintendent Burkhart estimated the cost to be \$8,500 to use limestone on both parking lots. Councilman Young stated he thought that was estimated too high and further questioned if Riverside has been graded yet. The Council briefly discussed limestone versus gravel. Administrator Young agreed to further discuss the options with Maintenance Superintendent Burkhart and will report back to Council.

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LEGISLATION:

ORDINANCE 30-2018

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING ANNUAL INCREASES IN THE WATER AND SEWER BASE RATES OF THE VILLAGE OF LOUDONVILLE

SECOND READING of Ordinance 30-2018

ORDINANCE 31-2018

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND FISCAL OFFICER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT IN SETTLEMENT OF A CIVIL LAWSUIT

This was the second reading of Ordinance 31-2018.

EMERGENCY MEASURE VOTE

Councilman Welsh moved to suspend the rules and Councilwoman Cooper seconded that Ordinance No. 31-2018 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 Ordinance No. 31-2018. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

Mr. Welsh, yes; Mrs. Cooper, yes; Mr. Young, yes;
Mr. Van Sickle, yes; Mr. Robinson, yes; Mr. Gallagher, no. Motion carried.

ADOPTION VOTE

Councilman Welsh moved that Ordinance No. 31-2018 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, yes;
Mr. Van Sickle, yes; Mr. Robinson, yes; Mr. Gallagher, yes. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE 32-2018

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE PROVISION OF ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE BUTLER STREET RESURFACING PROJECT IN THE VILLAGE OF LOUDONVILLE

EMERGENCY MEASURE VOTE

Councilwoman Cooper moved to suspend the rules and Councilman Welsh seconded that Ordinance No. 32-2018 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 Ordinance No. 32-2018. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

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

ADOPTION VOTE

Councilwoman Cooper moved that Ordinance No. 32-2018 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. Van Sickle, yes; Mr. Robinson, yes; Mr. Gallagher, yes. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

High grass: Councilman Young stated that there appears to be an issue with un-mowed properties around town again this year. Mayor Stricklen noted that he has discussed the problem with Chief Taylor and was assured that the Police Department has a procedural system in place to notify property owners of the violations.

Bike Path: Councilman Young reported that the Parks and Buildings Committee had previously discussed a potential issue with the bike path where the riverbank is eroding. He noted that he contacted Mr. Chris Tuttle about the problem. Mayor Stricklen stated that he had received an email from Mr. Tuttle advising him that the Bike Path Committee was trying to determine what action should be taken. Councilman Young questioned whether the Village should consider closing the bike path until it is repaired, stating he feels a portion of the path is going to slip. Councilwoman Cooper noted that there is caution tape around the area of concern, and speculated whether additional action was really needed at this time. Council

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discussed whether additional signage could be added warning bike path users to travel at their own risk. Council took no action and Councilman Young offered to speak with Solicitor Gilman regarding the matter.

NEW BUSINESS:

Council Chambers Renovations: Mayor Stricklen presented two quotes for the painting and repair of plaster of the 2nd floor stairwell and council chambers. One quote was from Derr's Painting of Ashland for \$6,750 and the second was from Steven Shiplet Painting of Loudonville for \$3,845. Councilman Welsh moved to accept the quote from Steven Shiplet Painting at a cost not to exceed \$3,845. Second by Councilman Robinson. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

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

Waiver of Pavilion Table Rental Fee: Council considered a request from Angela Matteson Strong to waive the \$70 fee for the use of 14 tables at the Riverside Park Pavilion on June 16 for a fundraiser for the Juvenile Arthritis Foundation. Councilman Van Sickle moved to waive the fee. Second by Councilman Cooper. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

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

Village 2016-2017 State Audit Report: Mayor Stricklen acknowledged what he described as a stellar report from the State Auditor's Office for the spotless audit for the years 2016 and 2017, expressing appreciation to the Fiscal Officer, Village Administrator, and staff. Councilman Welsh concurred and further noted that he had a recent conversation with Ashland County Auditor Cindy Funk, who conveyed commendation for Fiscal Officer Van Horn's efforts with the Village finances.

MAGF Support Acknowledgement: Mayor Stricklen shared a letter of appreciation from the Mohican Area Growth Foundation thanking the Village for their recent contribution of \$10,000.

CLAIMS ORDINANCE 2018-10:

Claims Ordinance 2018-10 was presented for approval. Councilwoman Cooper moved to approve Claims Ordinance 2018-10. 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.

ADJOURN: With no further business to be brought before Council, Councilman Welsh moved the meeting be adjourned at 6:47 PM. Second by Councilman Robinson. A roll call upon said motion resulted as follows:

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

Fiscal Officer

Mayor