

Minutes of Regular Council Meeting and Re-zoning Hearing

June 6, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Larry Haver.

The Pledge of Allegiance was repeated by all present. Present were; Council members, Mick Pocratsky, Ron Jones, Mike Barth, Ron Beverly, Bruce Hart & Mike Headley; Administrator, Kent Miller; Solicitor, Troy Essex; and Clerk/Treasurer, Diane Collins. There were approximately 23 visitors present.

Beverly moved to approve the May 16 minutes. Headley seconded. All voted yes.

Hart moved to approve the May 19 minutes. Pocratsky seconded. Barth, Headley, Hart, Pocratsky & Beverly voted yes. Jones abstained.

Jones moved to approve two bills list. Hart seconded. All voted yes.

Residents Tom & Sandy Sholl and Deanna Mayhew from the Oak Park area of town spoke about issues they had with the recent heavy rainfall. They stated the largest share of the water was coming from across state route 49 (Antwerp Drive). Sholl stated there seems to be a problem since Guilford put that addition in. Deanna voiced frustration over the water issue & the work involved in keeping debris off the catch basin cover. She wanted to know why the pumping did not start earlier and why barricades weren't put up to keep traffic off the streets. She noted the Fire Department pumped the Wholesale House which sent the water to her neighborhood.

Pocratsky gave some statistics he gathered from Ft. Wayne. In April we had 21 days of rain. In May we had 24 days of rain. It was the wettest May recorded in history.

,Jim Handy of Meadow Lane asked Miller if we were going to get any appropriated funds to help with our problems. Miller stated no. He asked if adding catch basins at the neighborhoods expense would work if they all were agreeable.

Mayor Haver explained that we were under a summons from the EPA to respond by explaining what we are going to do about our sewer problems. The economy prevents us from doing anything right now. He suggested Gordon Creek be looked at again. He stated twenty years ago it was cleaned out and maybe it needs it again.

Larry Schohl stated he still has water running on his property. Beverly pointed out that it is water from the farm fields and he doesn't understand why he thinks we are responsible for field water running through his property. Headley feels as good neighbors we should speak to the farmer. Schohl blames Parker Hannifin's mountain and the new church on Meuse Argonne has caused more problems. Headley suggested we start a Citizens Committee.

Greg Zimmerman stated that when Nemco Food built the hill and swale water was re-directed and did not come into his house. He asked if anyone is looking to see if there is something manmade causing the problems. His suggestion was acknowledged as a good one.

Mayor Haver stated that the creek running through the Industrial Park is going to be 20' wide and redesigned in a zig zag pattern to hold back some of the water as it heads to Defiance Avenue.

Planning Commission: Minutes of the May 26 meeting were in the packet. The re-zoning hearing was called to order. Superintendent Jesse Steiner was present. No one else acknowledged being present due to the re-zoning hearing. The school has requested to rezone 105 East Smith Street from A-1 Public Use to R-4 Residential with Deed restrictions. Beverly voiced his objection to the re-zoning as he wants the village to purchase the property for a future municipal complex. Steiner explained that he wants to give anyone interested in the property an opportunity to purchase it. Steiner noted there are several interested parties. Essex will bring legislation back to the next meeting.

Cable TV: The May 14 meeting minutes were in the packets.

Park Board: The May 18 meeting minutes were in the packets. Susan Gonwick announced Ron Bauer's resignation as the park director. Mayor Haver recommended Mike Altman be hired at \$6,500 annually to replace Bauer. There is the usual probationary period. It is unclear if Altman needs certification to operate the pool. Essex will check on that. Since Altman was a village employee in the past the drug screen and physical were already on file and therefore not necessary to repeat. Headley moved to accept the Mayor's recommendation. Jones seconded. All voted yes.

Water/Sewer/Refuse Committee: Pocratsky called a meeting for June 13 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss sewer issues such as flow metering, RCAP's opinions, etc. A Monthly Water Report was passed out. The Water Superintendent, Jessi Elson, reported that hydrants will be flushed this week. She asked that the residents call the water dept. should they happen to see water bubbling out anywhere.

Nuisance Board: Minutes from the May 16 meeting were in the packets. A meeting was held prior to this meeting. Several properties are being contacted due to nuisance violations.

Police/Fire/EMS Committee: A meeting has been called for June 20 at 6 p.m.

Finance Committee: A meeting has been called for 6:30 am on June 10. Jones stated the Finance Committee wants to recommend adding another \$5,000 to the pool budget. Police Chief Szabo asked the committee to allow her to increase the budget in the DUI fund so she can spend the funds.

Administrator's Report:

- There will be a site walk at the Industrial Park on Thursday, June 9, at 1:30. Verizon would like to place a tower there.
- Following is a list of locations where streets were either closed or had restricted traffic for a few hours due to heavy rain fall. Note: on field water problems, all catch basins in the areas were not able to keep up with field water along with the usual storm water from streets, downspouts, etc. This was also surface water which could be seen rolling across fields and open spaces. The big storm line running from Meuse Argonne was full, as were the creeks; once the rain slowed/stopped the storm line went down rather quickly.

Oak Park (field water)

Woodlawn (catch basins could not keep up)

E. Edgerton/Walnut area (catch basins could not keep up)

Meuse Argonne/Elm, including Elm at Trailer Park (field water)

Sholl Terrace/W. Arthur (low spot, pond overflow tied into combined sewer and it was also overflowing)

W. Arthur/W. High (flow coming from Chicago Ave across rear of property to W. Arthur corner)

Chicago/Spencerville (field water)

500 block Spencerville (combination field water, full sewer line and some houses sit below surface of road)

Spencerville/W. High (some flow from rear of Sholl Terrace in addition to lines being full)

900 Block E. High (field water)

E. High viaduct (catch basins could not keep up--but it did go down quickly when event was done)

700 block E. Cornelia and Whitten/Bunnell area. (storm line was full--went down shortly after rains stopped; field water)

200 block E. Smith along with viaduct (catch basins could not keep up)

700 block E. Smith (catch basins could not keep up)

500-700 blocks of E. Cornelia (catch basins could not keep up)

200 block N. Main (catch basin at mouth of old high school alley could not keep up)

Antwerp Drive (field water)

Columbia/Hattery area (field water)

Meadow Lane/Beverly Dr., especially rear of yards facing Meadow Lane that butt up to funeral home parking in rear. (field water as well as back yards of a couple houses on Beverly Dr. drain back to a point at Jones and Handy)

N. Bryan/W. Arthur and into park (catch basins could not keep up)

Haver Drive (usual drainage issues along with lift station could not keep up)

East end of Cherry Lane (field water)

Rear of Hospital

For the last two, we did not close streets or divert traffic as neither were in publicly traveled areas.

Miller also had calls from residents complaining about neighbors pumping water out and running it onto their property, having nowhere to pump their own water without it running back in the house, all creeks should be deepened/cleaned, each street should have a storm line or retention pond to handle all water, and the Village should have enough sandbags to supply everyone in town during an emergency. The storm lines would be doable providing folks want to pay for the work. It would be impossible and impractical to have sandbags to accommodate everyone, and I pointed out to several they can buy their own sandbags to have on hand for future events.

- Miller asked council if they were interested in bidding out the liability insurance since it will be time for renewal in October. They felt if the cost was not going to go up and Miller is satisfied with the Ohio Plan we will stick with them.
- Miller asked if council wanted to continue to have signs posted on Rock Street as people are ignoring them, including at least one council member according to the residents. No change was made.

Miscellaneous:

Essex reviewed the proposed Verizon tower agreement and questioned a couple details.

Ordinance 2011-03 to approve the codification of village ordinances was read by caption only for the first reading.

Clerk's Report: The MTD/YTD Income Tax Report and Cash Report were passed out.

Police Department: Chief Szabo did not have a report.

Fire Department: Chief Miller did not have a report.

EMS: No report was given.

Mayors Report: The May Mayor’s Court report was included in the council packet. Mayor Haver thanked the village employees for their hard work and thanked the Hicksville Beautification Committee for their efforts in beautifying the community. A letter to the Mayor and Council from Bridget Hoblet was read aloud. It concerned the water issues.

Beverly moved to go into executive session to discuss personnel and possible litigation. Headley seconded. All voted yes. (8:30 – 8:45) Returned to regular session. Hart moved to return to regular session. Barth seconded. All voted yes.

Beverly made a motion to adjourn. Headley seconded. All voted yes.

MAYOR _____

CLERK _____
