

Minutes of Regular Council Meeting

July 16, 2012 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, Mike Headley, Mark Haver, Mick Pocratsky, Ron Beverly, Mike Barth and Ron Jones; Clerk/Treasurer, Diane Collins; Administrator, Kent Miller and Solicitor, Troy Essex.

Jones moved to approve the July 2, 2012 minutes. Pocratsky seconded. All voted yes.

Haver moved to approve the bills. Headley seconded. All voted yes.

Planning Commission: There will be a public hearing on July 26, 2012 concerning a request to split a portion of Lot 19, Edgerton's Outlots, a/k/a 322 Chicago Avenue.

Water/Sewer/Refuse: Barth reported the committee met on July 9 and prior to this meeting to consider some appeals to the utility billing fees. Four firms had submitted technical proposals to do work resulting in a master plan. The applications were evaluated and graded. A company by the name of EMHT was their first choice. The committee will meet with EMHT representatives to discuss a contract. Radio read meters were re-discussed with the water superintendent. Barth asked RCAP to re-evaluate our rates.

Water Superintendent, Jessica Elson, was asked how our water well levels are. Elson stated the wells are not giving any indication they are struggling or having any difficulties at all. Defiance County has been declared in drought conditions but Hicksville receives its water from a different source and it does not seem to be affecting our supply.

Beverly asked Elson where the 429,900 gallons of monthly backwash water goes. It goes into the sewer system. Beverly stated he would like to see that water rerouted to a creek or something instead of going into the sewer. Elson explained that the place she worked previously did that but to do that here she would be required to apply for EPA permits to release the water and additional testing. Such a project would need to be engineered.

Mayor Haver brought up the subject of the radio read water meters. He has decided that he wants them ordered. Mark Haver gave an explanation as to why he changed his mind about the meters and is agreeable to the purchase. Headley also changed his mind about purchasing the radio read meters. The previous quote received was under the amount necessary for legislation to be passed by council.

Personnel Committee: Jones reported that his committee is going to meet on August 6 at 6:30 p.m. to considering giving raises in 2013. He also reminded all department heads to buy local when possible.

Park Board: Val Shull was present. When asked, she stated there are a still a few smokers in the park. The pool has been packed.

Administrator's Report: Miller reported the following:

- Brush chipping due to storm damage is done. Tree trimmers will be returning to remove dead limbs and taking down trees as their schedule permits.
- Miller attended a meeting on Thursday July 12 relating to our medical insurance and the new regulations taking effect shortly. Simply put, the new rules take up several thousands of pages (and will be expanding to approx 400,000 pages as the years go by), and will entail a lot more work on Collins part to complete all the new forms and submit things as required. The speaker said that almost any size company should probably have a position dedicated to just this issue as it is so complex. With this new set of guidelines with which to comply, he thought perhaps it is time to investigate further.

- Miller reported so far in 2012 we have had seven workman's compensation claims, with five of them still on-going (three just from Thursday and Friday). He noted these take up a lot of his time as well. In 2009, we had five, 2010 saw four, 2011 had three, and so far in 2012 we are already at seven claims.
- The reps from Powerhouse Electric came today to present the results of their recent visit regarding upgrading the lights in various buildings. Superior Energy Solutions gave a quote of \$28,582.21 to do all the buildings. Projected payback would be 7.9 years. Council did not want to do 510 West High or the 111 South Main Street EMS garage pending a decision on whether to move the PD to city hall or not. That decreased the quote. Beverly moved to hire Superior Energy Solutions to removal all lighting fixtures, dispose/recycle fixtures, ballasts, and lamps and prepare paperwork for submission to to move forward with the project. Pocratsky seconded. All voted yes.
- The Water Superintendents June report was in council packets.

Miscellaneous:

Ordinance 2012-07 to transfer \$440,000 of General Fund funds to the Police Pension and Capital Projects funds was read by caption only for the first reading.

Legislation authorizing the fire chief to hire a grant writer to apply for two grants will be brought to the next meeting.

Clerk/Treasurer's Report: Collins passed out the quarterly EMS and Utility billing reports as prepared by Cheryl Smith.

Police/Fire/EMS: Fire Chief, Scott Cramer, asked permission to use a fire hydrant at the fairgrounds during the Ball Fest this weekend. Last year 17,000 gallons of water were used for the water ball contest. Council gave the okay after asking the water superintendant about the water well levels. Cramer stated he has 14 firemen up to the 5K challenge the PD made. The FD shirts will say "running from the cops" on the back.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Haver stated the USDA needed more information to apply for a grant for a retention pond at the Industrial Park. He told council he would prefer to wait until the hydrology study is done and then apply at a later date if necessary. Council was agreeable. Mayor Haver reminded the residents of the Summer Fest to be held on Saturday August 4. He commended the village employees and residents on the remarkable recovery after the storms.

Barth moved to adjourn. Headley seconded. All voted yes.

MAYOR _____ CLERK/TREASURER _____