

## Regular Session of Village Council

September 12, 2023; 6:30 pm

### **Call to Order**

The Regular Session of Council was called to order by Mayor York Bryant. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

### **Roll Call**

Roll Call was completed by Solicitor, John Kaspar. The following members were present.

Kiley Dane

Jim Frederick

Mike McKeehan

Mitchell Fisher

Rebecca Isaacs-Niemesh

Ben Steiner

### **Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Council reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion to approve July 11, 2023 Special Session made by Isaacs-Niemesh; second by Frederick. All yea. Motion to approve August 8, 2023 Regular Session by Steiner; second by Fisher. All yea.

### **Reports / Legislation from Village Officials**

Monthly Village Fiscal Revenue Status by Fund Summary, Bank Reconciliation and Disbursements, Mayor's Court Report and Bank Reconciliation were provided for Council.

### **Staci Williams – Economic and Community Development Institute**

Williams is with ECDI, Economic Community Development Institute, a non-profit Small Development Business Center. ECDI are lenders for small businesses. Williams presented a slide show to council. ECDI is #1 SBA microlender in the country. Williams is local resident of Morrow who is a lender and investing specialist. The ECDI can be found on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

### **Sue Benskin – Maximum Freedom, Inc.**

Benskin informed council that Maximum Freedom Inc is the newest business in the Plaza, located at 519 W Pike. Maximum Freedom is a non-profit business that serves teens in six counties and approximately 40 schools. This is a four-day program of healthy relationships, risks, optimal health, physical and mental health. Maximum Freedom is organizing a parking lot event on Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 – 7pm to advertise the program. The event will include guest speaker Lee Rouson with SportsWorld.org. Solicitor Kaspar asked council for an up or down vote. Council approved with an all up vote.

### **Depot Proposal #2**

The Village Administrator introduced John O'Maley and Scott Tilford. Tilford presented the Depot Brewing Company – Morrow Station to council. Each council member was presented with a packet and a detailed slide show presentation was made. Depot Brewing Company has invested \$10,000 to date, registered LLC, filed for trademark protection and is ready to invest \$500,000 of their own money to begin. The Depot Brewing Company is a three-phase investment beginning with updating the depot into an operational Depot Brewing Company. Next, invest into a family friendly DORA greenspace to connect businesses together in the downtown area. Finally, invest in a transportation infrastructure to get people downtown from near by neighborhoods. O'Maley has home-brewed for 20 years and has more than 70 recipes. O'Maley and Tilford are both local residents. If space in the depot allows, a small kitchen will be utilized and food would be made to order.

### **Rumpke Rates**

The Village Administrator presented council with the updated rates for Rumpke. A handout with the breakdown was given. Whitacre proposed to council to tie the Village rates to Rumpke rates. The Village would add 2% on to the Rumpke rate for residential accounts and 5% for business accounts, to cover the Village administrative costs. This increase will take place when Rumpke rates increase on August 1<sup>st</sup> of every year. The Rumpke rate increased on August 1, 2023 and the Village is now losing money. Discussion followed. The Village will ask Warren County Water to make this change yearly to the rate until further action is given by council. Resolution to increase trash rates based on the yearly increase of Rumpke rates was made by Kaspar. A motion to suspend the rules made by Steiner; second

by Isaacs-Niemesh. All yea. Motion to adopt made by Isaacs-Niemesh; second by McKeehan. All yea.

**Village Officials**

The Administrator updated council on the following:

1. Tree in front of the Plaza is down and being cleaned up.
2. Radar speed signs are up on Welch Road and Front Street.

Councilmember Fisher asked when Center Street and the Phegley Park basketball court will be striped. Shawn Campbell with Jones Warner Engineering stated that the basketball court was done and the street should be completed soon.

Councilmember Frederick asked for the October council meeting to be moved to 7pm due to his meeting with the Warren County Planning Commission. Frederick stated that he has received questions regarding Duke Energy’s recent power outages, low pressure on Allen’s Ridge, more speed signs on Allen’s Ridge and a possible bike path from the Woodlands to downtown Morrow.

Zoning Inspector, Vic Center, informed council that there are now 5 fiber optic companies in the Village. These companies must meet with Phil Kaufman, Water Operator, before any lines are placed. Center suggested that a street opening permit be mandatory and a fee be added soon. Campbell stated that this should already be in action. Center will look into this.

**Open to the Floor**

Discussion was opened to the public. Resident asked if there would ever be a turn lane added at the intersection of 22&3 and 123. This is controlled by Ohio Department of Transportation and not the Village.

**Executive Session** – requested by Administrator for disposition of real property and depot proposals.

Motion to go into executive session made by Isaacs-Niemesh; second by Frederick. All yea.

Motion to return to regular session made by Frederick; second by Steiner. All yea.

**Adjournment**

Motion by Steiner to adjourn; second by Isaacs-Niemesh. All yea.

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Tina Powell, Clerk of Council  
& Fiscal Officer

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York Bryant, Mayor