

Regular Session of Village Council

January 9, 2024; 6:00 pm

**Call to Order**

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

**Roll Call**

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

York Bryant	Rebecca Isaacs-Niemesh
Jim Frederick	George Schraffenberger
Mike McKeehan	Ben Steiner

**Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Council reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion to approve December 12, 2023 Regular Session made by Frederick; second by Steiner. Schraffenberger abstained. Motion carried. Motion to approve December 12, 2023 Special Session made by Frederick; second by Steiner. Schraffenberger abstained. Motion carried.

**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.

**Village Officials**

Mayor Fisher discussed the appointment of a Vice-Mayor, this was discussed and decided to wait until the open council seat was filled.

**Samantha Spence** – EPA – Environmental Specialist, Division of Drinking and Ground Waters recognized the Village of Morrow for their Source Water Protection Plan and was given a Certificate of appreciation.

Mayor Fisher updated council on a few items. First, water updates, there is a seal leaking at the water plant that Phil is currently getting bids for. The water pressure in the Woodlands will be discussed in a sit-down meeting with Jones Warner to review. The booster station currently only flows one way and the idea is to change the flow to move both ways to improve pressure. Next, zoning updates will be moving forward. The Mayor will be requesting a meeting with the planning commission to seek their advice on the zoning code or to ask for approval to make a sub-committee to oversee zoning code improvements. Lastly, the Mayor made the motion to open the floor for nominations to fill the open council seat; second by Schraffenberger. All yea.

Nominations: York Bryant – made by Becky Isaacs-Niemesh  
Martin Hamlin – made by Jim Frederick  
David Anthony Mayer – not eligible due to amount of time in Village.

The Mayor asked three times for nominations and closed the time for them. Discussion followed on allowing the nominees to submit letters or resumes to council for consideration. Motion was made from the Mayor; second by Frederick.

Vote was taken: Isaacs-Niemesh – No  
McKeehan – No  
Frederick – Yes  
Schraffenberger – Yes  
Steiner – No

Isaacs-Niemesh motioned to appoint York Bryant as councilmember effective immediately; second by McKeehan.

Vote was taken: Isaacs-Niemesh – Yes  
McKeehan – Yes  
Frederick – No  
Steiner – Yes  
Schraffenberger – No

Motion carried. Solicitor Kaspar swore York Bryant in as a councilmember to the Village of Morrow. Bryant will fill this seat for the remaining two years.

Discussion to fill Vice-Mayor role was opened. Mayor asked for nominations. McKeehan nominated Steiner; Isaacs-Niemesh second.

Vote was taken: Frederick – No  
Isaacs-Niemesh – Yes  
Bryant – Yes  
Schraffenberger – No  
McKeehan – Yes  
Steiner – Yes

Motion carried.

Mayor Fisher updated Council on the Villages Certified Deposits. These have been changed to a higher interest rate. The Village currently has two active loans – the Skid Steer at \$12,427.96 @ 5.8% and the OPWC loan at \$850,000 for the Water Treatment Plant. The Mayor complimented Officer Scott Aronoff for his hard work updating the Village website. The Mayor informed council that he has asked the Police department and the Maintenance department to track their mileage and maintenance on the vehicles to allow for a replacement schedule to be in order. A new cruiser will be needed for the Police Department soon, the Mayor asked for a thumbs up from council to allow Chief Kilburn to be on the lookout.

The Administrator discussed the Brownfield Remediation Grant Program, this is \$1 million dollars per county. This was discussed in a meeting with Warren County Economic Development and the owner of the old Sunoco Station in the Village. This does not cost the Village anything and will take care of the contaminated soil in that area. The Village would be supporting the owner, Brian Simmerman in this effort. Council gave a thumbs up on this action.

Next, the Administrator discussed the Community Development Block Grant, Resolution 1-24. At most 10% from Morrow would be requested for the lighting on the railroad bridge. McKeehan asked if an approval was needed for the lights from ODNR, the administrator will contact ODNR. Motion by Frederick to suspend the rules; second by McKeehan. All yea. Motion by Frederick to adopt Resolution 1-24; second by McKeehan. All yea.

### **Open to the Floor**

Ron Hawaski from Plug PV, a solar installer, informed council that they were in the area installing solar panels. Several residents from the Woodlands of Morrow, including Mr. Constable and Mr. Mayar, stated that numerous solicitors are in the area and they would appreciate some action being taken by council to cut down on those solicitors.

Mike Kilburn congratulated the new Mayor on his election and thanked Mr. Bryant for his service to the Village. Mr. Kilburn gave the Village a Certificate of Election for Earl J Maag, Mayor of the Village, dated November 1933. The Village will frame this certificate and give it to the historical society.

Michael Danhoff a resident of the Village of Morrow has an issue with his yard and a temporary road that was placed in it to install the Booster station. The Mayor will look into this item and be sure that the yard is repaired.

The owner of Miranda's Ice Cream shop asked for help advertising her business.

Motion to adjourn to Executive Session made by Steiner; second by Frederick. All yea.

Motion to reconvene to regular session made by Mayor; second by Steiner. All yea.

### **Adjournment**

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

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Tina Powell, Clerk of Council  
& Fiscal Officer

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Mitchell Fisher, Mayor