

The Council of the Village of Millersburg met in regular session via ZOOM on January 25, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was streamed on YouTube for public viewing (Covid-19). Mayor Huebner called the meeting to order. Clerk-Treasurer Karen Shaffer gave roll call, and the following members were in attendance: Devone Polen, Brent Hofstetter, Kelly Hoffee, Tom Vaughn, Robert Shoemaker, and Brad Conn. Solicitor Robert Hines was also in attendance.

MINUTES: Motion made by Shoemaker to suspend the reading of the minutes of Council held 01/11/21. Seconded by Hoffee. Upon roll call, motion carried with Shoemaker, Hoffee, Hofstetter, Polen, Conn, and Vaughn voting aye. Motion made by Hofstetter to accept the minutes as presented. Seconded by Polen. Upon roll call, motion carried with Hofstetter, Polen, Vaughn, Hoffee, Shoemaker, and Conn voting aye.

BILLS: Motion made by Hoffee to pay bill resolution 2021-02 bills \$142,728.50 payroll \$52,520.28; total \$195,248.78. Seconded by Conn. Upon roll call, motion carried with Hoffee, Conn, Polen, Hofstetter, Shoemaker, and Vaughn voting aye.

VISITORS: Michelle Skolmutch of the Holmes County District Public Library, spoke to council about adding story walks along the hiking trail at Deer Run Park. The point of this project is to reach out to the community and promote literacy Skolmutch said. With COVID-19, the programs offered by the Library have been limited. This would allow for something library related, literacy related and community related, to provide a safe venue for people to gather in small groups and do some activities, as opposed to something that is virtual. Adjacent counties have already installed these walks, and they are becoming very popular all over the world. Skolmutch noted she is working on a grant for the project and there would no cost to the Village, other than she is asking for village staff to install the posts for the walk. The library is also willing to pay for the labor and concrete, they would only need someone to install the posts. The costs, estimated at \$5500, will be paid for in the form of grant funds, advertising, and financial assistance from the Friends of the Library. There would be 20 frames, with 2 pages per frame. The stories would be changed out twice a month and will include general books as well as seasons and holidays. Council all agreed the project is a great idea and supporting this new program will add another fun option for patrons at Deer Run Park, to go along with disc golf, the skate park and senior exercise stations on the hiking path. A motion was made by Conn to approve the use of Village property (along the hiking trail) for the Library Story Walk project. Seconded by Polen. Upon roll call, motion carried with Conn, Polen, Hofstetter, Vaughn, Hoffee, and Shoemaker voting aye.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

Chief Shaner: Informed Council Connor Bailey has completed his one-year probation and recommended Council remove him from probationary status. Motion made by Hofstetter to classify Bailey as a full-time regular status employee. Seconded by Hoffee. Upon roll call, motion carried with Hofstetter, Hoffee, Conn, Shoemaker, Vaughn, and Polen voting aye.

Informed Council he is recommending the hiring of Noah Wardle as full-time dispatcher. Wardle is certified and his start date would be February 13, 2021. Motion carried with Shoemaker, Polen, Hofstetter, Vaughn, Hoffee and Conn voting aye.

Informed Council dispatcher Tyler Larson submitted his resignation to be effective April 10th, 2021. He will be moving out of state. Chief Shaner also asked for approval to continue the search for Larson's replacement. Motion made by Conn to accept the resignation of Tyler Larson and to continue the search for his replacement. Seconded Hofstetter. Upon roll call, motion carried with Conn, Hofstetter, Hoffee, Shoemaker, Vaughn, and Polen voting aye.

Shoemaker asked Chief Shaner the status of the new logos for the cruisers. Shaner noted the newest car is marked and is awaiting the installation of equipment. Upon completion of that vehicle, the other cruisers will be done on a rotating basis.

Administrator Troyer: Informed Council the DRB and P&Z are expected to review plans for a new 3000 sq. ft. building at the corner of East Jackson and South Crawford for West Main Investments at their February 3rd meeting.

Shaffer, Johnston & Lichtenwalter has the information for the 2021 sidewalk project. A few areas were added from last year. A bid package will be forthcoming.

Informed Council the organizers of the Paul Laney Memorial Tournament have requested waiver of the fees for reserving Deer Run Park for their annual fundraising tournament. The dates this year are July 30 and 31. Motion made by Hoffee to waive the fees. Seconded by Polen. Upon roll call, motion carried with Hoffee, Polen, Vaughn, Shoemaker, Conn, and Hofstetter voting aye.

Conn asked Troyer if there is a completion date for the approved "Story Walk". Troyer indicated the Library is applying for a grant, so a time is not yet available. Conn suggested when the Village installs the posts for the "Story Walk", the small area at the skate park should be repaired at the same time.

LEGISLATION: Mayor Huebner read Ordinance 2020-104 “An Ordinance Amending Zoning Map (Zoned Territory) of The Village of Millersburg” for the third time by title only. Motion made by Hofstetter to pass and adopt Ordinance 2020-104. Seconded by Hoffee. Upon roll call, motion carried with Hofstetter, Hoffee, Conn, Polen, Shoemaker, and Vaughn voting aye.

NEW BUSINESS: Shoemaker relayed a thought he had on helping to attract the building of homes and businesses. He asked Council to think about possibly reducing the current building/lot split/ zoning fees, etc. to help with community growth. Troyer noted the associated fees are to help offset the required advertising fees and supplies, in addition to his time. He even suggested the Village may not be even charging enough to cover those expenses. Solicitor Hines noted fees could be reduced case-by-case, with good cause shown. Consensus was if Council agreed to proceed with reducing fees, it should be all or none. There was no additional discussion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Motion made by Polen to adjourn into executive session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee. Seconded by Hofstetter. Upon roll call, motion carried with Polen, Hofstetter, Vaughn, Shoemaker, Conn, and Hoffee voting aye.

REGULAR SESSION

EXECUTIVE SESSION ACTION: None.

ADJOURNMENT: Motion made by Polen to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Hofstetter. Upon roll call, motion carried with Polen, Hofstetter, Conn, Hoffee, Shoemaker, and Vaughn voting aye.

Approved Date _____

Karen Shaffer, Clerk-Treasurer

Jeff Huebner, Mayor