

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

VILLAGE OF MCCONNELSVILLE COUNCIL

REGULAR SESSION

Held: October 4, 2011

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The Village of McConnelsville convened in regular session from 6:30 P.M. to 7:10 P.M. in the McConnelsville Village Office. The meeting was called to order with the following members and visitors present:

Councilman Tom Bragg	Present
Councilman Rhett Matheney	Present
Councilman Kevin Morrow	Absent
Councilwoman Michele Blackburn	Present
Councilwoman Mary Gessel	Present

EMPLOYEES: Chief of Police Rocky Woodburn, Fiscal Officer Ellen M Henry, Village Administrator Scott Brown, Solicitor David Tarbert

VISITORS: Sara Hurst, Tricia Nesselroad

Invocation

Invocation given by Sara Hurst.

Pledge of Allegiance

Lead by Councilwoman Blackburn.

OLD BUSINESS

Minutes of September 20, 2011

Councilwoman Gessel made a Motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting, seconded by Councilman Bragg.

Votes were: Councilman Tom Bragg, Aye; Councilman Rhett Matheney, Aye; Councilwoman Michele Blackburn, Aye; Councilwoman Mary Gessel, Aye.

Elect President Pro-Tem

Councilwoman Blackburn stated Councilman Inman was the President of Council and with his resignation a new President would need to be elected.

Councilman Matheney made a Motion to nominate Councilwoman Blackburn as President Pro-Tem, seconded by Councilwoman Gessel.

Votes were: Councilman Tom Bragg, Aye; Councilman Rhett Matheney, Aye; Councilwoman Michele Blackburn, Abstain; Councilwoman Mary Gessel, Aye.

The Motion carried. Councilwoman Blackburn is now President Pro-Tem.

President Pro-Tem Blackburn set in place of Mayor Wells in his absence.

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Election of New Council Member

President Pro-Tem Blackburn stated Council has discussed different residents of the Village to replace the vacancy. President Pro-Tem Blackburn asked for recommendations from Council.

Councilman Bragg made a Motion to appoint John Walter Finley to set in the vacant seat through the end of the year, then appoint a new member at the first of the year when he takes over the Mayor's seat; seconded by Councilwoman Gessel.

Votes were: Councilman Tom Bragg, Aye; Councilman Rhett Matheney, Aye; Councilwoman Michele Blackburn, Abstain; Councilwoman Mary Gessel, Aye.

John Walter Finley will be sworn in by Mayor Wells.

President Pro-Tem Blackburn suggested Council get a few candidates in mind and interview them like they done in the past when it comes time to refill the seat at the first of the year.

NEW BUSINESS

Bills of the Village

Councilman Bragg made a Motion to approve the bills, seconded by Councilman Matheney.

Votes were: Councilman Tom Bragg, Aye; Councilman Rhett Matheney, Aye; Councilwoman Michele Blackburn, Aye; Councilwoman Mary Gessel, Aye.

Monthly Financial Reports and Bank Reconciliation

Council signed off on the September Monthly Financial Reports and Bank Reconciliation.

Village Administrator Scott Brown

Village Administrator Brown stated he has had a request from village resident, Amy Martin, to have a Children at Play sign erected at the intersection of McConnel and Fourteenth Streets. VA Brown stated he could not find anything in the ordinances on the process.

President Pro-Tem Blackburn turned the matter over to the Street Committee for review and to bring their recommendation back to the next council meeting.

Excuse Absent Council Member

Councilwoman Gessel made a Motion to excuse Councilman Morrow, seconded by Councilman Matheney.

Votes were: Councilman Tom Bragg, Aye; Councilman Steve Inman, Aye; Councilwoman Michele Blackburn, Aye; Councilwoman Mary Gessel, Aye.

Votes were: Councilman Tom Bragg, Aye; Councilman Rhett Matheney, Aye; Councilwoman Michele Blackburn, Aye; Councilwoman Mary Gessel, Aye.

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President Pro-Tem Blackburn

President Pro-Tem Blackburn stated since there was not a majority for voting on an Emergency Resolution; they will tentatively set a Special Meeting for 12:00 PM Friday, October 7, 2011.

Recreation and Buildings Committee

Councilman Matheney stated Pool Manager Tricia Nesselroad has passed a report out to each council member for their review.

Councilman Matheney stated he went over the figures through August of this pool year and compared it to the same time frame in 2010. Councilman Matheney reported in the year 2010 we had a net loss \$9,777.46; in 2011 our loss was \$13,266.65; a difference of \$3,489.19.

Councilman Matheney stated in looking over the report you will see the expenditures this year are pretty close to the expenditures in 2010; however, the revenue brought in this year was less than what was brought in the year 2010.

Councilman Matheney stated when he began as Chairman of the Recreation Committee, he wanted to work on it a couple of years and see where we were at before he put any additional capital improvements into it.

Councilman Matheney stated it was up to Council on what they want to do; basically the tax payers of the Village of McConnelville are subsidizing the pool.

President Pro-Tem Blackburn questioned Tricia Nesselroad if she heard any comments from people as to what created the decrease in income.

Tricia stated she changed the swimming lessons to in the mornings so it would free up the evenings for pool parties; and that did not help increase the number of parties. She stated there were days they were really busy; however, there were more rainy days this year than last.

Councilman Matheney stated in Tricia's report; she gave a list of things that needed to be fixed at the pool. Councilman Matheney stated everything on the list needed done; however, he felt they had to start with the bathrooms. There is no ventilation in the bathrooms or the chlorine room. Councilman Matheney wants to get someone in to look at them and see if it can be opened up. He also feels we could get a fan to put in the chlorine room to help suck out the air and ventilate it.

Councilman Matheney stated we purchased a new pump and computer system for the baby pool, which saved in chlorine expense; however, the admissions revenue just wasn't there this year.

Councilwoman Gessel stated she did not feel anyone had any complaints regarding the monies it cost to run the pool.

Councilman Matheney stated he knows we need money in the water and sewer funds; and, questions if we should put the money into the pool.

Councilman Bragg stated he felt we could do some of the initial work ourselves to help cut the expense in repairs.

Village Administrator Brown stated we have a vent at the waterworks chlorine room we can take down to the pool and use.

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Councilwoman Gessel questioned the roof of the pool and its needing replaced. Councilman Matheney stated that was discussed a couple of years ago and to be truthful, he forgot about it; however, it is not leaking anywhere.

Comments were made that there is a problem with bats laying out on the concrete wall during the day; sometimes the music will agitate them.

Streets and Alley Committee

Councilman Matheney reported he has been contacted by Ray and Roxie Cordray regarding cleaning the creek bank by their house. Councilman Matheney discussed the matter with the Village Administrator and the County has a grant where they are cleaning these types of areas and they will be taking care of that creek bank in the next few weeks.

Councilman Matheney stated he has found that all of the neighbors deposit their grass clippings and other trash there; however, if we begin maintaining it that will have to stop. He feels if it is our property we need to maintain it.

Questions were brought up regarding spraying the weeds rather than weeding them. VA Brown stated he has talked to ODNR and there is a special spray that can be purchased to spray around creek areas. Neal Offenberger has the license for the village to spray.

President Pro-Tem Blackburn stated she had received complaints about a pick-up truck sitting at the Bond residence; it has had a flat tire for two or three months; expired tags; and is blocking vision. Chief Woodburn stated he will check into it.

Councilman Bragg questioned if we cut the curb for Mr. Oliver. VA Brown stated yes.

Economic Development Committee

President Pro-Tem Blackburn questioned the VA if there was any grant out there they could use to get rid of the old reservoir and reclaim the land. VA Brown stated the only thing he has been able to find currently is one of those green works grant. You wouldn't be able to sell the property; it would have to stay as a green space. That type of grant is 75% reimbursable; you pay it all up front and then they reimburse you the next year.

Councilman Bragg questioned how many shelter houses were being built at the park. VA Brown stated he thought just one. Councilman Bragg stated he thought we should look at getting something like that and put it across from the waterworks where we just reclaimed it.

Public Utilities Committee

Councilman Bragg questioned if we had any information on auto-pay for the utility bills. Fiscal Officer Hemry stated she could not remember the figures; however, yes the Water Clerk had gotten figures earlier this year when it was talked about and she had turned it over to the Mayor.

Councilman Bragg stated the joint meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2011.

Councilwoman Blackburn questioned how many people were late in paying their water bills each month. VA Brown stated around \$3,000; therefore 15% would be around \$450 a month is collected in late fees.

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Councilwoman Gessel questioned how many homes in McConnelsville were shut off right now. VA Brown stated he believes six; two or three of them have been shut off for six months or more.

Councilman Matheney questioned if there was any news on the Lowe properties. Solicitor Tarbert responded that the Attorney was in court tonight. He is trying to sort through the paperwork; he intimated the properties will have to go to public sale due to all of the liens against them. Probably a foreclosure process. Solicitor Tarbert stated if anything needed mowed, etc; that the Attorney is responsible for that and to contact him and he would forward it on.

Councilman Bragg stated he needed a proposed budget for the Sewer Treatment Plant to give to Malta. VA Brown stated he would get that prepared.

Finance Committee

Councilwoman Gessel stated she would be setting a finance meeting in the near future; however, she wanted to wait until John Walter Finley was there to check his schedule.

Councilman Bragg questioned if there was a gate at the top of the hill to the pool as there used to be one. VA Brown stated he has never seen any posts. Chief Woodburn stated they were all rusted and had been removed.

Adjournment of Meeting

Councilman Bragg made a Motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Matheney.

Votes were: Councilman Tom Bragg, Aye; Councilman Rhett Matheney, Aye; Councilwoman Michele Blackburn, Aye; Councilwoman Mary Gessel, Aye.

The meeting was adjourned till October 18, 2011 at 6:30 P.M. at the McConnelsville Village Office.

Michele Blackburn
President Pro-Tem

Ellen M. Henry
Fiscal Officer

All formal actions of the Village of McConnelsville concerning and relating to the adoption of resolutions and/or motions passed at this meeting were adopted in a meeting open to the public, in compliance with the law, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.