

Regular/Public

September 3, 2019

Council President Baker called the regular meeting to order. Pastor Brad Kelley, East Chippewa Church of the Brethren, led the prayer. The pledge was recited.

Roll call: Shupp, Hamsher, Aspiras Sr., Corfman and Lorson were present.

Excused: Wilson and Aspiras Jr.

Council minutes of regular meeting held July 15, 2019, were presented for approval. Corfman moved to approve the minutes as posted. Lorson seconded. Roll call vote; Shupp abstained; all remaining yeas; motion carried.

Public Comments - None

Standing Committee Reports

Utilities – Corfman: The Utility Board received a Water/Wastewater study that will be coming to the council in the future.

Special Committee Reports – None

Administrative Reports

Mayor Handwerk: August 11th was National 8-1-1 Day. There is state law that requires property owners, and contractors both, to contact 8-1-1, Ohio Utilities Protection Service (OUPS) to have utility lines marked at least two business days but no more than 10 business days prior to any digging projects like building an addition, mailbox posts, fencing, decks, planting trees just to name a few. Ohio law mandates you call in to 8-1-1 for every digging project. Both you and your contractor need to call. There is no cost to you or your contractor. The utilities pay for this for your safety. Erosion and root systems can change the depth and locations of buried lines so don't assume you know where they are. Pipeline markers indicate a line in the area. Calling 8-1-1 will give you the location. Even if you nick a line, you need to call because the protective coating could be damaged or a small dent can cause an issue in the future.

Our August Employee of the Month is Steve Gulsby in our Technical Services Department of Orrville Utilities. He was hired August 1, 2017. Steve came to Orrville Utilities with a strong background in telecommunications and has served his department well. He always has a positive, confident attitude about accomplishing his assigned tasks, whatever they may be, which makes for a pleasurable work environment. In his spare time Steve's hobbies include wine vintner, experimenting with computers & electronic devices, raising chickens for farm fresh eggs, home maintenance and landlord duties. And yes, he lives out of the city limits. You can't have chickens in the city limits. We had lunch at Jerry's.

Our September Employee of the Month is our Utility Director Jeff Brediger. Before coming to Orrville, Jeff worked as a corporate engineer for American Electric Power for 5 years. He started with Orrville Utilities 32 years ago as the staff engineer and has held other positions before being appointed as our utility director in 2008. He oversees the electric, water and wastewater utilities as well as the computer, fiber and GIS systems. He currently serves as our state electric association's – AMP – vice chairman and has been a Jr Achievement consultant for 25 years. He holds a mechanical engineering degree from Ohio University and an MBA from Ashland. His wife Sheri is the children's librarian at Orrville Public Library and they have three married daughters and one grandson. They are members of Trinity Church. Jeff enjoys wood working, furniture restoration, hiking, a day at the range and not having to lobby in DC. Which he did a great deal of for us. Without Jeff's work we probably wouldn't have a power plant any more. We are grateful for that.

You may have noticed some digging and concrete work out front and might be curious as to what is going on out there. This is a project that came from an idea of a former Orrville resident and OHS alumni, Bob Weltlich. Bob, an OSU graduate and head basketball coach at several colleges: South Alabama, Florida International University and the University of Mississippi. He was also an assistant coach for Bob Knight at both Army and Indiana. Bob wanted to do

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something to honor those that serve and their families, past, present and future; fire, police, military, all branches of service that helps preserve our safety every day. It is a joint venture. Bob came up with the idea, the City Service Department who are doing all the work out there, the Exchange Club who paid for what will be out there, and the VFW is paying for a beautiful plaque. That's all I can say for now. The group wanted to keep it hush hush until it gets further along. There will be a dedication time, yet to be determined.

Safety Service Department Director Wheeler: Trash pickup will be Friday instead of Thursday, due to the Labor Day holiday. Asphalt street update: intermediate was paved on North Crown Hill, Magnolia, Beaver and South Elm today. Then they will have curb and ADA ramp repair and finish up with surface course. High Street paving contractor will be in the week of the 16th to mobilize and working in coordination with Norfolk Southern. The section of Vine and High will be closed during that week as they do some track approach repairs, coordinating that together. Avoid that area if possible. East Pine moving along and is expected to wrap up in the next couple of weeks. With the closing of the section at the railroad, they will have access to all the business on High Street. The project completion requirement, before there are compensatory damages, is the end of October. These OPWC projects can't be bid until the middle of July, not even using just our own monies to begin or we lose the grant. As a result, the contractors have other work scheduled prior to ours they need to complete before beginning ours and the weather can push them back. Once they come in, it should move fairly quickly. Mayor Handwerk had discussed, with a new state senator, the timing of these grants when it comes to Ohio roadwork and our window of opportunity to get roadwork completed before the season ends. The State budget is what holds us up from starting earlier in the year. She wasn't aware of that.

Utilities Director Brediger: Adding on to the Mayor's OUPS comments, it is to keep you safe as well as from keeping you liable for damages, which could be quite costly to you.

The utility board is exploring new generation projects, with fast-start peaking diesel generator sets with possibly purchasing three existing diesel units and new diesel generation at our water and wastewater utilities. The diesel would be to replace one of the oldest smallest coal fired steam generator at some point. They start up and come on line in minutes as opposed to 8-10 hours. There will be more conversation coming on this.

We were host to the Ohio Energy Project Program, created by teachers on energy and science, at the water plant then tour the power plant. We have hosted this for many years.

The plant was placed in service for all call-up events so far this summer, operating at top capacity during the top 5 transmission events so far this year. We will maximize the full amount of transmission credits we hope to receive at year end. We estimate paying transmission systems operators and owners about \$6.8 million and estimate our credits around \$6.5 million.

There will be work on turbine 9 this October. We had legislation prior to council break.

Two distribution crews are on standby to possibly deal with aftermath damages of hurricane Dorian. Orrville and a couple dozen other AMP communities were placed on hold.

The south water tower project was completed and is back in service as of August 8.

A public meeting was held to review the 2018 water/wastewater rate program. We will stay with the current schedule in place. Reviews will continue annually.

State House Bill 6 was signed into law on the 23rd. Our customers are not participants in that program. It creates a fund providing roughly \$150 million through 2027 to First Energy to subsidize two of their nuclear plants. \$50 million a year through 2030 to subsidize two other coal plants not connected with First Energy and about \$20 million a year to subsidize a half dozen solar projects. It limits spending and incentives for renewable projects like we are involved in. More information will be coming.

We had a two-year fixed deal with IGS for the natural gas program. If you are currently enrolled in the city natural gas aggregation and you want to stay with that, no action is needed. There are roughly 80 marketers selling natural gas with various terms. Your Dominion Natural gas bill will tell you who your current provider is. Call in if you have any questions.

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Utility bill pay over the phone system is having a few issues as we switched our phone lines to a new provider. You can call our office and we can help you. It should be fixed in the next couple of days. The phone switch will be saving us tens of thousands of dollars a year.

Finance Director Strimlan: The 2018 audit was released by the state auditor's office. The CAFR and audit are available on our website. Feel free to call in if you have questions.

The 2020 budget was filed and approved by the county auditor. The county has forwarded legislation for council approval to authorize them to levy and collect our property tax for us. This legislation is on the agenda for this evening.

Old Business

None

New Business

Lorson moved that Resolution 37-19 be placed on first reading. Corfman seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried. **Resolution 37-19**, A Resolution authorizing the Safety-Service Director to enter into an agreement with the Ohio Director of Transportation for bridge inspection services and declaring an emergency.

Discussion: ODOT will inspect our bridges and provide us a report, free of charge. It used to cost us \$6,000-\$10,000 a year and we save that amount by having ODOT inspect. They provide a very in depth report. Load signs are required and those are at our cost.

Lorson moved that Resolution 38-19 be placed on first reading. Corfman seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried. **Resolution 38-19**, A Resolution authorizing the Safety – Service Director to prepare and submit an application to participate in the Ohio Public Works Commission State Capital Improvement Program for grant or loan funds and/or agreements as required to obtain said funds and declaring an emergency.

Discussion: We have an extensive list of streets that need asphalt overlay. We will not have the money, nearly \$2 million for these projects, but we can have them engineered so depending on the budget, decide which streets we can reach starting with the worse condition streets. Maple Street, we have redone all concrete and have a short portion of asphalt that will need addressed, being a high traffic area with the grocery store. The South Elm is Oak to Schrock that is currently chip and seal. There is deterioration on the drainage sides and we will look at possibly closing in ditch with tile.

Lorson moved that Ordinance D-19 be placed on first reading. Corfman seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried. **Ordinance D-19**, An Ordinance implementing Sections 3735.65 through 3735.70 of the Ohio Revised Code, amending the boundaries of Community Reinvestment Area in the City of Orrville and designating a Housing Officer to administer the program and creating a Community Reinvestment Housing Council and a Tax Incentive Review Council.

Discussion: Kristin Endsley of the Safety Service Department was present to discuss the CRA. It is an amendment to what is currently in place. It is similar to the enterprise zone where it is a tax abatement. Our CRA was certified in 2004 and amended in 2007. Any time we make changes to the CRA, it has to be recertified with council legislation and a new application package compiled. We are not changing the boundaries, the tax incentive review committee, the housing officer Mr. Wheeler, or the housing council; we are looking to amend the terms for

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commercial and industrial property from 12 years to 15 years for new and existing facilities. Since our 2007 amendment, the Ohio Revised Code changed the rules and extended the maximum term for abatements to 15 years. By changing ours we will be in line with the enterprise zone program which has a maximum of 15 years. We are requesting also to increase the maximum percentage from 75% to 100% for existing commercial and industrial facilities. It is our intent to provide this type of incentives specifically for historic downtown buildings. To date we have only offered 50% for typically 10 years. With the magnitude of renovating historical buildings and additional costs those can incur, this would be a significant incentive. The Orrville Historical Museum building has a potential buyer for the property. Wooster and Rittman both have 100%, 15 year commercial and industrial CRA's. This allows us to have the opportunity to offer this, it is not automatic, but will be negotiated on a case-by-case basis. All agreements come before council and the schools would need to approve a 100% abatement. This is abatement on the increase in value created by renovations. The Historical Society is a non-profit and therefore is tax exempt. A new buyer would pay the market value at that time but any additional renovation increase would be negotiated in the abatement.

Lorson moved that Resolution 39-19 be placed on first reading. Aspiras Sr. seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried. **Resolution 39-19**, A Resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor.

Discussion: This is a housekeeping item giving the county authorization to levy and collect our property tax for us. This does not need to be passed tonight but will need to be passed at our next meeting to meet the September 30th deadline.

Good of the Order

Mayor: Pray for the people in the Bahamas and all those affected by hurricane Dorian.

Adjournment

Corfman moved to adjourn the council meeting; Lorson seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried. Council adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Jeanne Gault, Clerk of Council

_____, 2019
Date

Lyle Baker, President of Council