

## Regular/Public

July 20, 2020

Council President Paul Vance called the July 20, 2020, ZOOM meeting to order.

Pastor Paul Simonsen led the prayer. The pledge was recited.

Roll call; all were present. Handwerk, Aspiras, Lorson, Mosley, Foy, Widmer and Wilson.

Council minutes of regular meeting held July 6, 2020, were presented for approval. Lorson moved to approve those minutes; Mosley seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried.

### **Standing Committee Reports**

Parks and Recreation – Handwerk: No report. A quarterly park newsletter is in the works on programs and projects.

Utilities – Foy: No report. Thanked everyone for the welcome extended to her.

Ordinance and Personnel – Lorson: No report. A past ordinance, Ordinance E-18, salaries of the mayor and council members, voted in a large increase due to it not having been incrementally increased over the years. It was suggested the Ordinance and Personnel chair would bring it to the minds of fellow council members yearly if anyone would like to look at increases we can call a committee meeting. Mayor: The Mayor's salary had not changed for 12 years. Vance: The mayor's salary requires someone to not be the primary wage earner in the home or someone to be retired at that salary level. The amount of time and effort our mayor puts into his job, it is worthy of review. Any increase would take effect at the new term.

Transportation – Mosley: No report. Chip and seal was completed on West Sassafras, West Fike, Sterling, Wabash, South Linden, Olive, Lenore and Paradise Road. West Chestnut has a Dominion project to be completed before we come in so that street may be done last. Met with administration to discuss the community meeting and how to move forward.

Health and Safety – Aspiras: No report. The trash and recycling contract is coming due. We will meet to discuss this on Monday, July 27.

**Special Committee Reports** - None

### **Administrative Reports**

Mayor Handwerk: The U.S. Census coordinator Jamie Johnson notified us that they will be starting the door-to-door campaign for those that have not responded. They will have proper identification. The COVID virus hasn't touched many people we know, up until today. There was only one. Today we learned of five more, three from one family and two that are not in the same family. We hope we are not experiencing an uptick in our Orrville area. It is something to take serious. Please do what you can to stay safe. The Board of Health will be contacted tomorrow to see if more testing can be done.

Safety Service Director Wheeler: Service Department will be doing basin work this week. Mosquito spraying will be done mornings at 4:30 and see if it is as effective. There were complaints on evening spraying while people are still out and about.

Utility Director Brediger: Last week and the beginning of this week the power plant was up and running to deal with transmission peaks. We have operated at all peak times and tracking to be at full operation during the top five peaks so far in 2020. This allows us to receive the maximum amount of credits from transmission owners and operators. Natural gas aggregation program is in final stages and the rates should be roughly 10% lower during the next period October and for two years.

Finance Director Strimlan: Revenue update. Halfway through the year, total income tax receipts compared to 2019, are down approximately 10%. The largest contributor to the decline is in the

## Regular/Public

July 20, 2020

form of business estimated tax payments. Withholding is up slightly. The majority of businesses are showing a decline in reported employee wages. Just a few of our companies are doing well enough to offset the losses of the majority of other businesses. Individual tax receipts are down most likely due to the extended tax filing deadline. That revenue should get recorded in July and August. Despite the 10% overall reduction in revenues, due to our conservative approach to budgeting, if that trend continues, we should still reach our budgeted revenue goal for the general fund and the capital fund. We are monitoring the situation closely. Significant changes will be reported to you. The utility disconnection process so far in July, we had two scheduled. We have just a few that remain disconnected and we assume they moved from the service address. The total of those accounts is less than \$1,000. It is good news that customers were able to recover from the last few months and we were able to keep electricity turned on. Two more disconnects are scheduled the 22<sup>nd</sup> and the 29<sup>th</sup>. There are 15 customers on the utility relief program.

Council President Vance: We talked about engaging with citizens looking at racism. Mr. Mosely hosted a meeting for about 30 interested citizens. Those citizens are interested in additional meetings. Mr. Mosley will have those minutes sent out. The next meeting may be in September. We are looking to stay in touch with this process and listen to citizens. We will have a workshop next Monday, July 27, to evaluate our response and interest in level of involvement. Working with Mr. Mosely we wanted to see how council would like to join in on the process, a citizen driven process to talk about what the citizens want to discuss. We will also discuss our vision for the rest of this year and an eye toward next year. Utility board will not be meeting that Monday. Meeting time was discussed, July 27, 6:00 pm for the Zoom Health and Safety Committee followed by the council workshop.

### **Old Business**

Resolution 24-20 Lorson moved that it be placed on third reading. Mosley seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried. **Resolution 24-20**, A Resolution approving the budget for the City of Orrville, Ohio, for the calendar year 2021, and declaring an emergency.

Discussion: Reminder that declaring an emergency means the 30 day waiting period after it is passed is suspended and it goes into effect immediately. This is the same as the 2020 budget but will be modified in March for the final appropriations which is the legislation that gives the authority to expend funds.

Lorson moved that Resolution 24-20 be adopted as read. Wilson seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried.

### **New Business**

None

### **Good of the Order:**

Lorson: Twelve years ago I was part of a citizen effort for a skate park and a small amount of money was donated. For the kids we are targeting, to give them something to do, this is a great thing for them. They work on skills, be physical, workout frustrations, work on problem solving, I see mentoring at skate parks all sorts of things like that. I want to raise the consciousness of council and reignite this idea. I want to put up my August council salary, \$416 after taxes, as a matching grant and challenge others, not necessarily council but citizens, to reignite this.

Vance: The last grant was between the dog park and a skate park and it was thought that with the grantor the skate park probably would not win. It's a competitive grant and a dog park was more envouge and have a higher chance of success. It takes someone like you to keep our focus on this and when you step up and put your money where your mouth it, it means a lot. I'd be happy to join you in that.

Lorson: I didn't mean to step on CJ's (Councilman Handwerk) toes as it's a park and recs thing. I hope to meet with you. Hopefully we can put it on the list of things to consider and do. Because I have skin in the game, I'm not going to let it drop.

Vance: Do we have a method to accept donations?

Regular/Public

July 20, 2020

Strimlan: Make a memo in the donation that it's for the skate park.

Mosley: I met this morning with Mayor, Vance, Kirkbride met to talk about the community meeting. How to build off that going forward. I want to tell council that I lack the communication with what I have going on. I own that. If there's anything I have going on, I'm highly engaged and don't plan to slow down any time soon. However, I do need to work on communicating with my colleagues in council. I'm always a phone call or email away if you have questions, reach out. I don't do it for me, for my recognition, its for the interest of the community. I love constructive criticism.

Vance: I know your colleagues feel the same way, are eager to work together and move our community forward. We look forward to working with you and all of you together and especially at our workshop on Monday.

Mosley: Commits his August salary to the skatepark.

Widmer: Joins Mr. Lorson as well.

**Adjournment**

Lorson moved to adjourn the council meeting; Widmer seconded. Roll call vote; all yeas; motion carried.

Vance: Council will be in recess for August although we have a couple meetings we are working on. Regular council meetings will not take place in August. Our next meeting is Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

Council adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

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Jeanne Gault, Clerk of Council

\_\_\_\_\_, 2020  
Date

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Paul Vance, President of Council