

VILLAGE OF MORRICE
JOINT MEETING OF
COUNCIL AND ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
PERRY TOWNSHIP HALL

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

6:00 p.m.

(Approved 06/08/21)

Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by President Harold Dickerson.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council Members Present: Harold Dickerson, Phyllis Dickerson, Todd Scott, Belinda Markell, Robert Peterson, and Philip Hruska.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Attorney: John Gormley, Police Chief: Matt Balsley, Treasurer: Brian Swett, and Clerk: Karen McGuire.

Additions / Deletions to Agenda: None.

Guest Comments on the Agenda: None.

MOTION by H. Dickerson, seconded by P. Dickerson to approve the agenda. All ayes. Motion carried.

MOTION by H. Dickerson, seconded by T. Scott to approve the May 11, 2021 minutes as presented. All ayes. Motion carried.

Special Guests: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

9.1 Personnel / Police / Transfer Station / Insurance / Retirement

T. Scott reported that the corner of Britton and Morrice Roads needs to have more of a police presence. The speed and noise are out of hand, especially on Saturdays and Sundays.

He is still trying to get the cement pad at the Transfer Station sealed but right now they are scheduling about a month out.

9.2 DPW / Municipal Buildings / Park

No Report.

9.3 Streets / Sidewalks / Newsletter / Web Site

No Report.

9.4 Sewer / Codes

No Report.

9.5 Zoning / Ordinances / Annex / 425 / DDA

No Report.

9.6 SSES

P. Dickerson gave the March run report.

9.7 Homecoming

No Report.

9.8 Budget

No Report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

10.1 ORV Ordinance

J. Gormley presented an Ordinance draft for approval. Chief Balsley found a typo at item O – it should read “accompanied” rather than “accompanying.” And he questioned the age 16 years vs. 18 years in some items. J. Gormley will research and correct if necessary and correct the typo. T. Scott mentioned that the Village is short on police to enforce this ordinance and the noise is incredible. He believes that if we open it up there will be more problems and that we should leave it the way it is. R. Peterson replied that this is for people who want to ride legally and that we will not get away from the noise one way or the other. There was discussion.

MOTION by P. Dickerson, seconded by B. Markell to approve the Ordinance, as presented, with corrections to be made.

Roll Call: Ayes: R. Peterson, T. Scott, B. Markell, P. Hruska, P. Dickerson, H. Dickerson. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried

10.2 Main Street Lots – Property Line Adjustment

J. Gormley presented a Resolution to approve the lot line adjustment subject to three conditions: provide a copy of the fully recorded deed transferring the 4-foot parcel of real property to Lot 22 from Lot 23, provide resulting new legal descriptions for both Lot 22 and Lot 23 to the Village Clerk, and buyer of Lots 23, 24, and 25 close on the purchase of the real estate from the Village. After discussion it was decided that lighting for the stairs will be Lot 22’s responsibility. Closing will take place May 27th at 8:00 a.m. at 208 N. Washington in Owosso.

MOTION by H. Dickerson, seconded by P. Hruska, acting as the Morrice Zoning Board of Appeals, to approve the Resolution, as presented

Roll Call: Ayes: P. Dickerson, B. Markell, T. Scott, P. Hruska, R. Peterson, H. Dickerson. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried

10.3 Police Officer

Chief Balsley reported that he has only received one application.

10.4 Amend Lagoon Property Rental Contract

J. Gormley presented a Resolution to amend the lagoon contract so that the farmer is allowed to till the soil. He only wants to turn the top layer of soil over, less than 12 inches, before planting.

MOTION by P. Hruska, seconded by T. Scott to approve the Resolution, as presented

Roll Call: Ayes: B. Markell, P. Dickerson, T. Scott, P. Hruska, R. Peterson, H. Dickerson. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried

10.5 Sale of Roto-Mill

There was discussion. P. Hruska objected to selling the roto-mill until Village properties are all properly maintained. T. Scott and B. Markell agreed. No action was taken.

10.6 Consider Planning Commission Recommendation – Zoning Text Amendment

There was discussion regarding Use by Right vs. Special Use. With Special Use the Council has more control over the property use than with Use by Right. With either use the property owner still must follow the Zoning Ordinance procedure of presenting a site plan and a building plan for approval before moving forward.

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10.7 Bank

Still no official word from the bank regarding the branch closure. B. Swett will contact the bank for more information before the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

11.1 DPW Employee – 90-Day Review

P. Dickerson reported that the Personnel Committee held A. Wiseley’s 90-day review. They also talked to R. Tribley who reports that A. Wiseley is doing well. He likes the job. The Committee recommends that A. Wiseley receive a \$1.00/ hour increase in pay beginning June 1, as previously discussed.

MOTION by P. Dickerson, second by T. Scott to move A. Wiseley’s rate of pay to \$17.00/ hour beginning June 1, 2021.

Roll Call: Ayes: P. Dickerson, B. Markell, T. Scott, P. Hruska, R. Peterson, H. Dickerson. Nays: None. Absent: None. Motion carried.

Announcements / Correspondence: None.

Guest Comments:

P. Dickerson announced that Bill Colby, who served on both the SCOA and the SSEA Boards, has passed away. His funeral will be Friday.

Beth Andrus mentioned that the southeast corner of Third and Morrice has large trees blocking the view for semi drivers. She wondered if the Village would trim them.

P. Hruska reported that there are 3 big potholes on Third Street just before you get to Morrice Meadows. He asked that the DPW fill them.

Glen Gutting talked about the length of time zoning takes. J. Gormley explained that there is a process, including many state rules, that must be followed. It is a lengthy process but is not unique to the Village. All municipalities have to follow the state laws. The Covid-19 pandemic did add considerable time to the process this past year. He also asked if the speed at the corner of Britton and Morrice Roads could be reduced to 25 mph. J. Gormley explained that the Police Department would have to do a traffic study and then make a traffic control order recommendation to the Board.

MOTION by H. Dickerson, seconded by P. Hruska to adjourn the meeting. All ayes. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.

Harold Dickerson, Village President
Karen McGuire, Clerk