

VILLAGE OF MINSTER, OHIO
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, September 6, 2016

Council Meeting: Council convened at 6:30 p.m., in Council Chambers with six council members present: Rick Schwartz, Tom Herkenhoff, Craig Oldiges, Curt Albers, Nicole Clune, and Paul Enneking. Also present were Dennis Kitzmiller (Mayor), Don Harrod (Administrator), Jim Hearn (Village Solicitor), and John Stechsulte (Fiscal Officer), Mayor Dennis Kitzmiller called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Attendance: Eric Adams (Evening Leader), Jared Mauch (Daily Standard), and David Friend (Police Chief).

Approval of Minutes: T. Herkenhoff and C. Albers motioned to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of August 16, 2016. Motion passed on five aye votes and one abstention by Rick Schwartz.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:

Local Government Innovation Fund Program: Council has been discussing the need to ensure a reliable cost effective emergency medical service provider. The Minster Area Life Squad continues to provide this service to the residents of Minster and have always done a great service to the community. However, should the need ever arise; a back-up plan needs to be in place for emergency medical services. This resolution would allow Minster, New Bremen, and Ft. Loramie to apply for a grant to conduct a feasibility study to determine if there is a way to provide consolidated medical services to the surrounding communities and townships. The Safety Committee has met with the three emergency squads as well as members of village councils and township trustees and believes the feasibility study is a good opportunity to study and understand the issue. R. Schwartz and P. Enneking motioned for the 3rd reading to pass and adopt **Resolution 16-08-01** authorizing the Village of Minster to file an application to the Local Government Innovation Fund Program. Motion passed on six aye votes. The grant would be for \$40,000.00 (10% matching) and would be filed in conjunction with the Village of New Bremen and the Ft. Loramie Rescue Squad and the various townships in the area in order to conduct a consolidation study for emergency medical services. This is not saying that consolidation will happen or that it needs to happen now. The study would provide the communities with a template if and when consolidation was needed.

Utility Deposit: In an effort to reduce unpaid utilities, the Utilities committee is recommending charging a deposit for commercial or industrial operations that rent a building in the village. The deposit would be as follows:

- 1) Residential utility service \$300.00
- 2) Commercial / Industrial utility service \$500.00

C. Oldiges and N. Clune motioned for the 2nd reading of **Ordinance 16-08-01** establishing deposit requirements for consumers of the village's utilities. Motion passed on six aye votes.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: The Branding Committee met to discuss future plans. They may look at doing another questionnaire / survey of the residents to gauge the wants and needs of the community. In addition they discussed the possibility of looking for an intern from a local college to participate in the committee.

OLD BUSINESS:

Renewal of Efficiency Smart Program: The contract for the village's energy efficiency program, Efficiency Smart, will expire at the end of the year and automatically renew after October 1, 2016 if we do not contact American Municipal Power, Inc. The Utility Committee met to discuss the program and is recommending renewal of the program at the same level. The current level is the High Performance Comprehensive. This program is a comprehensive program that provides rebates and incentives to all customer classes. It also guarantees that there will be an annual 0.5% load reduction. The cost for this program is \$1.40 per Mwh of the village's load. Also, Amp is offering an enhanced plan that guarantees a 1.0% reduction and a basic plan that only provides a 0.25% reduction. Our current utilization of the efficiency smart program has been very good. Over the past three years, 17 commercial or industrial companies here in Minster have taken advantage of the program and a total of 243 residents have been served by the program. The 3 year goal (0.5% or 1,873 Mwh) reduction has been met each of the last two three year term cycles. This year the actual Mwh saved as of July 1, 2016 was 3,604 Mwh. After some discussion of the overall program and the other options, R. Schwartz and T. Herkenhoff motioned to renew the program at the current level. Motion passed on six aye votes.

NEW BUSINESS:

Purchases over \$3,000 Dollars: Council reviewed a list of invoices which were over \$3,000. Council has authorized the Administrator to purchase items under \$25,000, however, per the State Auditor; the purchases over \$3,000 and under \$25,000 require Council approval. C. Oldiges and C. Albers motioned to approve the invoices over \$3,000. Motion passed on six aye votes.

Approve Eiting Real Estate Invoice: An invoice was received from Eiting Real Estate for the work on the recent transfer and exchange of property for industrial growth. The invoice was for \$55,480.00 which is 3% of the total value of the three properties involved. N. Clune and R. Schwartz motioned to approve the payment to Eiting Real Estate. Motion passed on six aye votes.

ADMINISTRATOR REPORT:

- The Minster Pool is now closed for the season. The last day of operation was Thursday, September 1st. The parks department will now begin to prepare the pool for the winter.
- The Community Solar survey conducted by SEPA resulted in 56 individuals responding to the survey. Of those respondents, 94% of the survey participants expressed interest in community solar. Of those 27% were very interested and 67% were interested but wanted more information. I have a conference call with SEPA to go over the results of the survey and to determine what our next steps are.
- Last meeting, I reported that the waste water department has been operating the new sludge processing and the results seem to be very favorable. For example, the week of June 14th to the 21st saw the department process 97,000 gallons of sludge. Hauling this sludge out as liquid would have cost the village \$9,700.00, however with the new process the actual sludge hauled after drying was 13.17 tons. With chemical costs and dumping of the 13.17 tons of sludge, the cost to the village was \$1,211.88. Resulting in a savings for the week of

\$8,488.12. The following week the village saw a savings of \$6,134.08 in reduce sludge hauling costs. We will continue to verify more numbers and report them at a later date.

Invoices: T. Herkenhoff and P. Enneking motioned to approve the invoices totaling \$973,263.87. Motion passed on five aye votes and one abstention by Curt Albers.

COMMENTS & CORRESPONDENCE:

P. Enneking and C. Oldiges motioned to enter into executive session at 6:52 p.m. to discuss the purchase of land with no action anticipated. Motion passed on six aye votes. R. Schwartz and N. Clune motioned to return to regular session at 8:00 p.m. Motion passed on six aye votes

Sign Acknowledging Women's Baseball: Received a request to erect signs to acknowledge Katie Horstman and Mary Frowning for their participation in the All-American Girls Professional Baseball League. This league was founded by Philip K. Wrigley in 1943. Additionally Council discussed the possibility of erecting new "Welcome to Minster" signs.

House Bill #5: Was informed that Ohio House Bill #5 was passed that requires all residents to file municipal income tax returns. Currently individuals do not have to file income tax returns in all situations.

Water Well: Rosie Wiss asked to meet with some council members to discuss her water well. She is claiming that her well ran dry and required repair and is asking if the new wells at the Luedeke Farm are responsible. We believe our wells are from a different aquifer and all tests prior suggested they had no impact on the surrounding wells. We will meet with her on Friday, September 9, 2016.

T. Herkenhoff and P. Enneking motioned to adjourn at 8:14 p.m. Motion passed on six aye votes.

Dennis Kitzmiller, Mayor

John Stechschulte, Clerk

Recorded & typed by John Stechschulte