

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

January 26, 2016

Mayor Francis called the meeting to order.

Present were: Mayor Francis; *Councilmembers:* Sarah Copp, Anthony Miller, Scott Fogle, Don Dohrman, and Karen Grudich. *Also present were:* Manager Kline, Ben Herron, and Clerk Cantrell. *Absent:* None.

GENERAL UPDATES

Mayor Francis explained the process of interviewing potential Councilmembers. He stated the new Councilmember would be appointed at the February 9, 2016, Council Meeting.

Manager Kline read a note from Cindy and Tim Fairchild expressing thanks for having been awarded the Christmas Pride Award for the second year in a row.

Manager Kline gave each Councilmember information regarding training the Ohio Municipal League offers to newly elected Councilmembers for their review.

Manager Kline gave each Councilmember a copy of the 2016 Final Budget for their review. He stated the Municipality is being more aggressive on tax collections. Manager Kline stated there were eighty-five (85) court cases with fifty-two (52) of them being completely settled and nine (9) cases resulting in payment plans and twenty-four (24) pending. He stated the twenty-four (24) that are pending have been ruled on but no payment plan has been set yet. Manager Kline stated to this point twenty-one thousand eight hundred twenty-nine dollars and eighty-nine cents (\$21,829.89) has been collected. Mayor Francis stated if the court has ruled on the tax delinquency the information can be sent to the Ohio Attorney General's Office and can be placed for the amounts due to come out of any state tax return the individuals might have due them. The delinquent local income tax would be deducted from the state tax refund(s) until the Municipality is paid in full. Mayor Francis stated if the individual does not have enough of a state refund to cover the local income taxes owed the information can be given to

the federal government and can then be taken from any federal tax refund(s) the individuals might have due them.

Manager Kline stated planning has started for the Municipal Park playground. He stated options would be given to the Park Board that would be centered around the budget for the Park Department. He stated then the Park Board could choose the items they want to complete as long as it is within the Park Board Budget.

Manager Kline stated he and Tom Beck are struggling with the video being prepared regarding the low-head dam. He stated the script is being written for a voice over. Scott Fogle recommended Manager Kline contact Don Widener to see if he would be interested in doing the voice part of the video. Mr. Widener is kind of a historian and has the type of voice that would be good for this type of video. Mr. Widener is a writer by trade and a past English teach at Milton-Union High School.

Ben Herron stated the sludge hauling bids would be opened on February 17, 2016, at 11:00 a.m.

Ben Herron stated he is working on getting the paving program ready for bids. He stated a block of Winding Way would need to be included in the program this year. Mr. Herron stated the information would be sent to Choice One Engineering for estimates as to what the project will cost.

Ben Herron stated the new truck chassis has been ordered and the bill date would be March 2, 2016. He stated it will take about a month before the truck will be ready to place in service.

Ben Herron explained the process used in order to use Beet Heat for deicing of the roads in inclement weather. He stated with the two (2) events the Municipality has already had to deal with the Municipality has saved thirty (30%) percent in salt. Mr. Herron stated if the winter stays mild and he does not have to have more salt, he would like to switch monies in some line items so he could purchase a storage tank for the Beet Heat.

Manager Kline stated the only legislation he would have for the February 9, 2016, Council Meeting is the Law Director's contract. He stated the campground Mr. Allen wanted to develop has been denied.

A lengthy discussion took place regarding the old theater building downtown deteriorating and bricks falling off the building. Scott Fogle asked if the building needed to be cordoned off. Manager Kline stated no because the bricks are only falling on the building next to the theater that is owned by Bill Netzley not on the sidewalk or street. He stated the Miami County Building Inspector is working on having the building condemned. Manager Kline stated once it is condemned Miami County will help the Municipality of West Milton get funds to tear the building down. Mayor Francis stated once Miami County condemns the building the Municipality can put up hazard signs around the old theater building.

Karen Grudich stated Milton-Union High School is interested in having the high school students do a Community Project. She stated they want it to be a meaningful project. Sarah Copp stated she gets a lot of complaints about homes that are going downhill. She stated maybe the high school students could help some of the individuals needing repairs as their project. It was discussed, that if the students were made available to help with needed repairs for homes that are starting to deteriorate, how to get the word out and who might head up the program.

Scott Fogle referenced an article from the *Cities and Villages* magazine Councilmembers receive each month regarding what downtowns can learn from a Farmers Market. He stated he thinks West Milton should try to have a farmers market. It was the consensus of Council that they would like to see West Milton have a Farmers Market. Manager Kline will look into this item of business.

Manager Kline stated Jolene Sell is closing the Brick House restaurant as of Saturday, January 30, 2016.

Manager Kline stated the next joint meeting with the Milton-Union School Board and the Union Township Trustees would be held on Thursday, January 11, 2016, at 6:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building.

Robert Bowman of 25 Canyon Court, West Milton, OH, asked about trash pickup being mandatory participation. Manager Kline stated it has been in the Ordinance since 1991 that trash pickup for the Municipality of West Milton is mandatory; but that it just was not enforced. Manager Kline stated the Municipality of West Milton has always bid out the trash collection and the company that was awarded the contract always billed for the trash collection. He stated with the Municipality of West Milton doing the billing for the trash collection now it would save the citizens of West Milton approximately four thousand (\$4,000.00) dollars. Manager Kline stated in the past the companies collecting the trash for the Municipality of West Milton did not bill for residents that did not have trash out for collection. But the Municipality is required by contract with Waste Management to pay for a certain number of residents having trash collection. He stated he is not sure if exceptions can be made based upon the contract the Municipality has with Waste Management. Manager Kline stated if a house is vacant or if a resident is a snowbird if they let the Municipality of West Milton know the charge can be stopped until the house is occupied again and the snowbirds return home. It was the consensus of Council to discuss this item of business at the February 23, 2016, Council Workshop Meeting and that Waste Management should be a part of the discussion before any action can be taken regarding making exceptions for trash pickup and billing.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Anthony Miller made a motion seconded by Scott Fogle to go into an Executive Session to consider the appointment, employment of a public official. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously. *Abstain:* None. *Absent:* None.

Council adjourned into Executive Session at 8:20 p.m.

Anthony Miller made a motion, seconded by Scott Fogle to reconvene out of Executive Session. After a roll call vote, the motion passed unanimously. *Abstain:* None. *Absent:* None.

Council came back into session at 9:54 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Don Dohrman made a motion, seconded by Anthony Miller to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 9:55 p.m.

Linda L. Cantrell CAP-OM
Clerk of Council

Fred Francis
Mayor