

## TONTOGANY VILLAGE COUNCIL

### MEETING MINUTES FROM: July 3, 2017

Council called to order in regular session at 6:00 p.m. with Mayor Todd Buehrer presiding. Roll call of members: Brenda Mackey, here; John Heckerman, here; Connie Mehring, here; Jamin Roe, here; Jason Benedict, here; James Head, here. Also present was Village Administrator/Zoning Inspector/Meter Reader Chad Johnson and Fiscal Officer/Utilities Clerk Ryan Harnishfeger. At 6:03 p.m., Mayor Buehrer was called away to help investigate suspicious activity, so President of Council John Heckerman presided over the remainder of the meeting. Minutes from the June 19 meeting were approved as submitted.

**FINANCE and CLAIMS:** A spreadsheet of the current invoices was reviewed and approved by members. Councilman Roe made a motion that these bills be allowed and orders drawn for same. Councilwoman Mehring seconded this motion. All were in favor, except that Councilman Heckerman abstained from voting on approval of Josh Heckerman's \$1,040.00 invoice for mowing services; motion carried. Councilman Heckerman commented that he transported Liz Heckerman to Centennial Park to work there and he noticed that she did an exceptional job on trimming branches, spraying, and other landscaping work. While at the park, he also noticed that the last tree on the Crom Street side of the park, a crabapple tree, is half dead, with moss growing all over the dead part. Councilman Roe responded that Envirocare (who treats our trees) billed us for their Early Summer Visit on June 20<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Roe said he will call them, find out what they did, and ask them their opinion about what is going on with our trees. Perhaps we need a different kind of tree that can handle the type of ground at the park better. Copies of the June Bank Reconciliation, Fund Status, Appropriation Status, and Revenue Status reports were given to Mayor Buehrer and the Finance Committee to review.

**ZONING:** Zoning Inspector/Village Administrator Johnson reported that he officially retired as the superintendent of the Bowling Green water treatment plant on June 9, 2017. He then took a position at the Lorain water plant on June 12, 2017. He formerly also worked at the Northwest Community Corrections Center in Bowling Green three nights a week, which was an additional 24 hours on his schedule. When he retired from the water plant, he also retired from the corrections center, freeing up a lot of his time. He is now home by about 5:00 pm every day, so he is available every evening if the village needs anything done.

Councilwoman Mackey reported that Jerry Asmus has been asking when he is going to find out anything about the status of his application for amended zoning to be able to build a multi-family unit on Wall Street. At the last council meeting she had asked Mayor Buehrer when a meeting was going to be set up for the planning commission to make their recommendation on this matter. The mayor had responded that he and Zoning Inspector Johnson still need to meet and talk with Village Solicitor Paul Skaff to discuss Mr. Skaff's reservations about the current zoning code and how the village should proceed, but they have had scheduling problems. Councilwoman Mackey concluded that the process seems to be dragging along and we need to get moving on it. Zoning Inspector Johnson proposed that we just invite Solicitor Skaff to a council meeting to discuss his concerns. Members thought that might be a good solution; Councilwoman Mackey suggested that Zoning Inspector Johnson speak to Mayor Buehrer about doing it that way.

Councilman Heckerman reported that, when he was at Centennial Park, he noticed a GMC Jimmy vehicle and mattresses left behind by a former tenant at the duplex apartments across from the park on Crom Street. Mr. Heckerman said he did not know what condition the vehicle is in or if it is properly plated, but new tenants have been there for about three weeks and the owner needs to be notified to get rid of the vehicle and mattresses left by the former tenant. Zoning Inspector Johnson said he would remove the mattresses and he would try to get contact information for getting the vehicle removed.

Councilwoman Mackey asked Zoning Inspector Johnson what he found out about the truck full of trash at the rental house on the corner of Crom Street and the alley by the park, and if the plates are

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current. Mr. Johnson answered that the plates are not current, and he thought Mayor Buehrer had intended to talk to the renters there about trash problems. Mr. Johnson said he would give the renters a violation notice about the expired plates on the truck. Council members suggested that he also let the owner know about the continuing problems there with the truck and trash. Mr. Johnson said he would talk to the renters first.

**UTILITIES:** Councilman Heckerman reported that he had the bad lights fixed in town, including everything that was wrong with the light on Hannah Road.

**STREETS and ALLEYS:** Nothing to report.

**SIDEWALKS and TREES:** Councilwoman Mackey advised that we need to find out what kind of trees will survive in the bad ground at Centennial Park. Councilman Heckerman commented that apple trees were doing good and then suddenly half of them died. Councilman Roe said he will talk with Envirocare about this issue.

**DRAINS and SEWERS:** Councilman Roe reported that he spoke with Chad Hartman about how the expanded culvert in Harley Woods is working. Mr. Hartman said he can sleep through the night when it rains now, whereas he used to get up every hour during heavy rains to make sure the culvert was still working so his house didn't flood.


**CITY HALL and PARKS:** Councilman Head reported that he was not able to get a warranty replacement for the broken basketball backboard. The last one we purchased cost \$633.00. Members discussed possible options for replacing the backboard, including making one out of marine plywood, or buying a steel backboard that can't be broken. Councilman Head also reported that he was looking into pricing for drainage for the volleyball court at the park, which would be part of our park grant request.

Councilman Roe reported that he talked with the lady about the horseshoe pits. He asked her to send him a design that her boys wanted to do. She sent him information about various designs, but he finally settled on one with her. He estimated that the materials to build the pits would be about \$100.00. He asked members if it would be okay for him to just buy the materials and then turn in the receipts to get reimbursed by the village. Members agreed and voiced no objections to him doing so.

With nothing further to discuss, President of Council Heckerman declared the meeting adjourned at 6:41 p.m.



Todd Buehrer, Mayor



Ryan Harnishfeger, Fiscal Officer