

Mayor Subler called the Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Roll call found the following Council Members present: Mr. Paulus, Mr. Berger, Mr. Dammeyer, Mr. Beasley, Mr. Griesdorn, and Mr. Steinbrunner. Also present was Village Administrator Hale, Fiscal Officer Ording, and Attorney Matthew Pierron.

Mr. Berger made a motion to approve the consent agenda which included the following items:

- Approval of Agenda
- Approval of Minutes from the May 27, 2020 Regular Meeting
- Approval of List of Expenditures for June 3, 2020

Mr. Dammeyer seconded the motion. Vote: all yeas. Motion carried.

Under old business, Council members continued discussion of the swimming pool 2020 season. At the May 13<sup>th</sup> Regular Council meeting, it was stated that swimming pools remained on the list of businesses still closed by the State due to COVID-19. With the Stay-Safe Ohio restrictions in place by the Governor and Ohio Health Department until May 29<sup>th</sup>, Council recommended to wait until the first meeting in June to discuss the status of opening the pool for the 2020 season. Since the May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting, the Governor had announced that pools could open if they followed the mandatory CDC guidelines. Council members were provided with the Responsible Restart Ohio pool guidelines prior to the meeting. Village Administrator Hale first spoke and stated that his job as Village Administrator is to research a situation and consider the positive and negative repercussions along with the practicality of making sure the Village maintains compliance with rules and regulations. His job is not to distinguish which rules we need to follow and which rules not to follow. He went on to say that he knows of pools in the area that have opened and pools that are closed for the season. Fort Recovery, St. Henry, and Coldwater pools fall under the Mercer County Health Department. He believes that the Mercer County pools opened under a set of rules that has since been curtailed, scaling back significantly the number of swimmers they originally thought would be allowed in the pool at one time. In his visit to Fort Recovery on their opening day, he asked the lifeguards if they had any issues. They stated they did have a problem with two women that were upset that they couldn't slide their lounge chairs together. A visit to another pool showed lack of social distancing and rules not being enforced. Village Administrator Hale highlighted some of the 3-page guidelines set forth by the State. To keep with social distancing, there could only be 39 swimmers in the pool at one time. This number is determined by the Health Department using the footage of the swimming area. Barriers, such as ropes, would need to be installed in the pool keep safe distancing. Areas on the pool deck would need six-foot marked spaces to help with safe distancing. Patrons would need to enter the pool separately from people leaving. The restrooms, showers, and changing rooms would need to be monitored for the number of people allowed in at one time and the restrooms/showers would need to be cleaned and disinfected every two hours. Other mandatory rules state there is to be no gathering in groups of different households. Masks need to be worn by all employees, except while in the lifeguard chair. If the concession stand were to be opened, the staff would have to adhere to all rules set forth for restaurants. He explained that these were just a few of the rules that would need to be followed. The Village has approximately nine applicants for lifeguard positions. Some do not have the CPR credentials. Unfortunately, there is no where for them to get training. The YMCA has said it is not considering opening their pool until July 1<sup>st</sup>. With all of the rules in monitoring social distancing, cleaning, ect., the concern is that there would need to be more staffing. Lastly, he stated that he understands there are many opinions and beliefs about the virus and rules being set by the State. He has received calls and emails from people on both sides. The Governors announcement that pools can open does not mean pools can operate as usual. The Village pool is governed by the Darke County Health Department. If the pool were to open and the rules weren't enforced, the pool could potentially be shut down.

Mayor Subler expressed his concerns for the safety and health of the pool attendees and employees. He explained that the virus is still out there. New cases are still being reported in the county. The rules set for operating the pools are there to protect from the spread of the virus. He expressed his concern for safety. Teenage lifeguards will be put into an environment of enforcing social distancing, monitoring gatherings of non-family members, and making sure restrooms and highly touched areas are disinfected and cleaned every two hours. This needs to be done all while doing their job which is to monitor swimmers and be ready for emergency services. This is a lot of responsibility to ask of a teenager. Would the lifeguards be put into situations where they were challenged and not obeyed?

Councils members each expressed their thoughts and concerns. Mr. Dammeyer suggested that maybe the pool could have volunteers come in to help enforce the guidelines of social distancing. Another thought was to open the pool for parties only. It was discussed that volunteers would not be reliable due to the hours of operation and no pay. Pool parties would need to have life guards and would still be limited to numbers allowed in the pool.

Visitors in attendance, Jennifer Timmerman, Jodie Beasley, and Jill Steinbrunner each spoke and gave their opinions, pros, and cons of opening the pool. After much review and deliberation, Mr. Paulus made a motion to keep the pool closed for the 2020 season for the safety of patrons and liability of the Village, seconded by Mr. Berger. Vote: all yeas except Mr. Dammeyer voting nay. With a vote of 5 to 1, motion carried.

Moving on to new business was consideration of Ordinance No. 20-28, an ordinance creating the Versailles Downtown Redevelopment District (DRD) within the Municipality; declaring the improvements to real property within the Downtown Redevelopment District to be a public purpose; exempting fifty percent (50%) of the value of such improvements from real property taxation for a period of up to a maximum of thirty years; requiring the owners of parcels for which improvements are declared to be a public purpose to make annual service payments in lieu of taxes during the period of exemption; establishing a Municipal Downtown Redevelopment District Fund for the deposit of such service payments; and approving related matters; and declaring an emergency. Fiscal Officer Ording stated that a separate fund would need to be established for payments received through the Darke County Auditor. The Fiscal Officer would be required to receipt such payments to the DRD Fund, while any expenses to the fund would be authorized by a committee of school and village officials. Ordinance No. 20-28 was read by title only, a first time by Attorney Pierron. Mr. Paulus made a motion to read Ordinance No. 20-28 a second and third time, by title only, and declared an emergency, seconded by Mr. Berger. Vote: all yeas. Motion carried. Ordinance No. 20-28 was read a second and third time by title only. Mr. Paulus made a motion to accept Ordinance No. 20-28 as read, seconded by Mr. Berger. Vote: all yeas. Motion carried.

Village Administrator Hale distributed his Administrator's Report to members and reported on the following items: We are currently down three EMS runs for the year as compared to 2019. As part of the Inn renovation project the electrical lines at the rear of the building will need to be relocated. This will necessitate the need to remove the trees in the parking lot behind the Inn and the hardware store. All playground equipment and picnic tables have been power washed by Dabe Pressure Cleaning, however, we are being told public playgrounds are not yet open to the public. Street personnel continue mulching, bush trimming, etc. at various Village facilities. In areas where there is adequate mulch, we will be working the mulch up and using mulch dye as we did last year to help control costs as well as not building up too much mulch around trees. Kyle Francis will be placing orders today for the N. Center St. crosswalk flashers and necessary signage for the new pedestrian crosswalk on N. Center Street. Street personnel will be working on cutting curbs and preparing to install the new curb ramps over the next week or so in advance of the paving project as the curbs at a minimum need cut and re-poured prior to paving. We have received confirmation from Vectren that they are in agreement with our current Street Opening permit policy and fees.

Fiscal Officer Ording reported that the auditor was in the office Tuesday and Wednesday for the 2018 – 2019 years.

Committee and Board reports were as follows:

- Finance & Audit – a meeting was scheduled for June 24, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. to review the 2021 Tax Budget.
- Board of Zoning Appeals – met June 1<sup>st</sup> for a variance request at 510 E Main St.
- Planning Commission – met June 1<sup>st</sup> for the Stoneridge development
- Cemetery Board – meeting June 16, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at Greenlawn Cemetery.

The Finance & Audit Committee meeting and Regular Council Meeting scheduled for June 24, 2020 will be held at the EMS facility.

With no further business to conduct Mr. Dammeyer made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Mr. Beasley seconded the motion. Vote: all yeas. Motion carried.

Mayor Subler adjourned the meeting at 9:16 p.m.

---

Jeffrey A. Subler, Mayor

---

Kathy Ording, Fiscal Officer