

Millersburg Town Council Meeting

September 9, 2020

The regular monthly meeting of the Millersburg Town Council held on Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 5:00 PM at the Millersburg Town Hall.



In Attendance were:

James Winkler	Council Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dean Smith	Council Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Austin Turner	Council Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Alan Mackowiak	Marshal	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
MacKenzie Taylor	Clerk/Treasurer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Ben Eldridge	Utility Superintendent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Matt King	Maintenance Director	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tonya Jayburg	Park Board President	<input type="checkbox"/>

Convene: 5:00 PM – Jim Winkler called the meeting to order.

A motion was made by Jim Winkler to approve the minutes for Wednesday, August 26, 2020
The motion was seconded by Dean Smith and upon a voice vote was approved unanimously.

I. Water Superintendent

- Ben would like to hold off on the water tower project. Reason being is within the water tower line item \$333.00 is collected a month. If that line item can be increased to \$900.00 a month, then this will help pay off a loan 10-15 years from now. After the new year, Ben will take the Campbell & Fetter loan to help pay for this project. Bids for the water tower will start in November and the project will begin April of next year.
- A resident from the Town asked Ben an estimate of how much this project will cost, Ben replied, "\$120,000-\$130,000."

II. Waste Water Superintendent

- Jim asked Ben how much longer will he be needing summer help? Ben is thinking by the end of September he won't need any.

III. Community Development

- Mid October is when the alley project will begin. The project consists of concrete work down the alley, extend the sidewalk, and put down green space in the back. Ben said 5 Little Stones is applying for a grant through LaGrange County. The grant would be for permanent brick planter boxes. This would be an educational activity for the children throughout the year.
- There is \$6,000 left in the grant line from the park. Ben received this grant a couple of years ago. Ben asked permission to move the \$6,000 from the park grant to Enhancing Millersburg for the alley project. Jim Winkler approved the reappropriations of money.
- Ben had a resident that asked on the Town's Facebook page, whether we could move Council Meetings to Wednesday at 6:00pm due to people working. The Council will think this over within the next couple of weeks and then make a decision.

IV. Maintenance Director

- Avery Ferguson said the Street Department will be getting prepared for leaf pick-up.

V. Marshal

- Doug Miller had a hearing on Friday September 4th at 10:30am, he was not present for the hearing. Doug was found in contempt and orderd to pay the amount of \$1,750.00 and clean up his property within 7 days. Alan has not received anything further from the Court. Carolyn Miller was there on Doug's behalf, Doug is her son. Carolyn claims Doug was not given any notice about this and appeared in person in the Courts two Friday's in a row and they turned him away each time. Carolyn also stated she is aware that her property doesn't look nice, but Doug makes his business by scrapping for money. Jim replied to Carolyn saying that her property is not zoned for a commercial business, they reside in a residential zone.

Millersburg Town Council Meeting

September 9, 2020

- This has been an ongoing issue with Doug for five years. During the five years Doug has made attempts to clean up the property. He will haul his belongings out on trailers, they won't be seen for a while, and then they are brought back onto his property. Carolyn believes he is storing the items at Ryan Stickler's property. Jim made the statement that these issues are not uncommon. Larger cities tend to have a Legal Department that takes care of this kind of stuff. Unfortunately, the Town Council is this Town's Legal Department.
- Joni Miller asked on behalf of Carolyn Miller, who is being charged with the fees? Jim answered that it's Doug who is being charged.
- Dean Smith asked what is the status of the Daycare parking being switched from angle to parallel? Alan replied this is on the agenda for the Street Department, but isn't sure when there will be a time to do that.
- Austin Turner asked Alan if anyone was on Police duty Friday through Sunday? Alan replied there is no Officer on Friday night or Saturday, but Ray comes in for a night shift on Sunday. Austin said he had an incident happen over the weekend. He saw two kids that were trying to break into his garage. Alan recommended calling 911. County has been very helpful with assisting the Town. Jim also witnessed two kids scale his fence around 10:00am.
- Carolyn Miller raised the question as to why someone is not patrolling SR-13? People are driving at dangerous speeds. Jeff Siegle, a County Sheriff, said he spends time on SR13 but notices this is a problem all over Town. Jim said we do make stops, but we only have two full time Police Officer's.

VI. Park

- The Park will be hosting a Community Movie Night on Saturday, October 10th. This will be featured on the Facebook Page and residents are to vote between which four movies should air: Hocus Pocus, Lion King, Invincible, and The Greatest Showman. Interra Credit Union will supply popcorn. –The Eagle Park play fixture is falling apart. Ben has tried to contact three different play equipment stores, but no one wants to claim it. Haley Hurst, a Park Board member, came up with an idea to remove all of the existing equipment and make the area into a natural place scape. To create the natural play scape, all that's needed are big boulders, hills, gravel, trees, and tree stumps. Park Board is hoping this will lead to a Community project. –Ben will be looking into liability insurance about creating an ice rink on the old basketball court.

VII. Clerk/Treasurer

- MacKenzie Taylor announced Ordinance 2020-08 of additional appropriations for the 211 account of Nonreverting Park for the sum of \$5,500.00 Jim made a motion to approve the reappropriations and Dean Smith seconded the motion.

VIII Old Business

- MacKenzie Taylor received two phone calls before the meeting from Delores Thomas and Amanda Cravens. Both were in favor of chickens. Amanda believes this would help promote self efficiency and give children more responsibilities. Their statements were written down by MacKenzie and presented to the Council.
- A final word on whether or not the Town would allow 3 cooped chicken layers was debated. The Meeting room was filled with many residents. Alan handed the Council Members and Clerk Treasurer a copy of an older Town Ordinance that contains information about livestock within the Town.
- Ben was first to speak. He stated, with everything that was presented in tonight's meeting, the noise in the park, the speeding traffic, and junk yards, Alan has enough to police. Ben is not in favor
- Jeff Siegel said he worries about getting calls, while being a County Sheriff, over chickens... County is too busy to be getting calls about chickens. Jeff also is fearful of the rodent problem this could create and other burdens that may prey into the Town. Jeff is not in favor.
- Jim spoke with someone that is affiliated with Goshen's Chicken Ordinance. This person is in charge of enforcing Goshen's Chicken Ordinance. When this started, this was a first come, first serve basis. Everyone that wanted chickens had to have a written statement from the neighbors saying they were okay with this. There could also be no selling of eggs, or using droppings as fertilizer, no breeding, no slaughtering of the chickens, chickens cannot be taken to humane shelters, all need to be in chicken enclosure, with a fence around it, roof, vents, the shelter cannot be in the front yard, needs to be 20ft away from a building, and 15ft away from a property line, and

Millersburg Town Council Meeting September 9, 2020

lastly needs to be odor free, clean, and trash needs to be properly disposed. Jim stated he is not in favor.

- A resident that lives in Town limits and that is a farmer said he is not in favor of this ordinance either. He used the analogy that with any pet, people generally care for them greatly, but after you have it for a while, you get a little lazy and bored with them. He stressed how much work really goes into raising/caring for chickens. He was also concerned with how people would properly dispose of the droppings.
- Joni Miller said she believes the people that want the chickens and this ordinance bad enough will properly care for them. Joni said she was neutral for either side.
- Austin Turner said he was not in favor
- A young mother and her daughter were both in favor for a chicken ordinance. The young mother believed this would help promote responsibilities for her daughter. Her daughter stressed how badly she wanted to do 4-H with chickens. The Council suggested lining the little girl up with someone in Poultry Club so she'd be able to do 4-H the following year.
- Dean Smith was not in favor.
- All three Council members voted no. Jim asked if there were any other after thoughts? There was no response.
- Greg Hughes attended the meeting again asking for help from the Council and Police Department to do something about the "kids" at the basketball courts. He said the music has been better and played lower, but the language and profanity is still just as bad. Greg said, he was only outside for ten minutes last night and had to bring his son in because of the foul language. It's the same group of "kids" and it's every night around 4pm-5pm. Greg believes the kids are some high schoolers and some kids that just got out of high school. He constantly hears the name, "Conner." After Greg calls the Police and County comes out, the "kids" taunt him and his wife.
- In Jeff Siegle's opinion he thinks a trespass warning needs to be issued. He stated the park is not a right it's a privilege. The way this would work, is for a trespass warning to be issued, meet with their parents, and if the kids cannot stop the foul language this will come across to the court. Jeff also mentioned how he has resident's show up on his doorstep to complain about things happening in the Town. Jim thinks this is what needs to be done to get the "kids" away from the park or to stop using the foul language. Alan said, once the warning is issued and names are collected this could take an entire month to complete.
- Dean asked how many warnings it would take to get these "kids" out of the park? Jeff said it would only take one warning.

IX. New Business

Rick Pharis has the Reith Riley Contract to be signed for the paving of roads in Town. He said the insurance and bonds are all there to get started on this project.

Jim Winkler made a motion to pay bills. The motion was seconded by Austin Turner and upon a voice vote was approved unanimously.

Jim Winkler made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Austin Turner and upon a voice vote was approved unanimously.

Adjourn: 7:00

Attest:


Mackenzie Taylor Clerk Treasurer


James Winkler Council President

