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RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

7TH REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

APRIL 9, 2024

The 7th Regular Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Timothy N, Tarbet after the Lord's Prayer & The Pledge of Allegiance were said.

All Council Members present.

Guests: Marvin & Jennifer Jackson, Heather Kinsey, Joe Plott, Laura & Jon Cross, Amanda & Tiffany Snay, Brian Stoudt, Jim Crouse, Bill Pilati, Becky & Aaron Stoller, Ashley & Devin Kramer.

Tiffany Snay, owner of Minerva Perk addressed Council regarding the rendering of the proposed closure of High St. Pocket Park. Rather than get our information from social media we figured we come here and ask what the stages are. If we are in the question answer stage, or suggestions, where is that and what does that look like for the future of that street? Mr. Gunderson stated we are at the stage for the Pocket Park is that is simply a working draft for the rendering. The whole point of that was, there has been tons of ideas thrown around as to what would look good in the downtown Pocket Park. Nothing has been concrete. No decision has been made, it is only a working draft so we can get together with community input sessions and ask what would you like to see, questions concerns, we can address it then. All that was, was something you could visualize and serve as a working draft so then we could work from there and establish what's going to be offered, funding and the time line looks like. Mr. Gunderson repeated nothing is concrete, yes, we like the idea, but there's are also a lot of things to discuss and that's why we want those input sessions, like the community building so we can hear everyone's thoughts are. There have been things thrown around on line and they are definitely valid points and discussions we can have. Right now, it is very preliminary, it's a great idea, but we are still 3000 feet up. Councilman Boldizar stated this is something that from a councils standpoint is not new. This has been discussed for years, because it sits in the middle of our town, a cool place to have outdoor seating, a cool place to have a stage, a cool place to have bench seating that is portable and events. In visions that we have talked about for the last 4 or 5 years. We talked possible of getting an ice skate rink in the winter. I know there were a lot of questions about the Post Office and questions about your business and different things like that. Um.... So that is why we wanted those public input parts, but we really believe that could drive business in town for having different things, and events, but everyday options. I can foresee tables out there in the spring summer and fall where people can come to any of your local businesses that are here and be able to take their sundae or cookie or coffee and have a seat in the middle of town. Um... during events, having concerts, having different things going on. So those are all things we have been thinking about for years and years, we finally got it to a rendering and it got people talking and good that is what we want! But we are in the very infant stage of that, but I think it would be great for our village and that is my opinion. Tiffany stated I can see that point, but off the record speaking with Tim, it has been chattering for quite some years, but obviously our concern is we purchased the building that was vacated with understanding there was not a drive through. So, we were already in a disadvantage, but you can go to McDonalds and get convenience, but we give you an experience. It's a pretty hard sell already, if you just can't roll up and go in. A lot of our customers call ahead and run in, they are not going to do that if they have to park at Chase or on the Brick Street. Obviously with other options, we feel if we do not have some sort of relatively close parking that could be a concern, and the events, you are right when the street is temporarily closed, we do get good foot traffic. We are more worried about Monday - Friday 7-5. I can see the events, people hanging out, but just on the record I wanted to let it be known if you guys are going to do that I would like to know when the input sessions are. That is our feelings on it we have always been pretty supportive of anything within the community, if it could better all of the businesses, I feel like not just one business needs to thrive. It's better for the community if every business is thriving. I feel if we do not have some sort of parking, business may be vacant again. Mayor Tarbet asked Tiffany stated if we were to tell you hypothetically that within 6 months, we are going to do that.....would you be on board or would you not be sure you would want that to happen? Tiffany responded we would be on board if we have some sort of parking for the customers. I guess you would have to give us more information, I am on board with the pocket park. Obviously that will look more estically pleasing to the eye than barricades. I get it from that standpoint, but like I said we are concerned with customers have messaged us and stopped in. They are really concerned with if we cant pull up, where are we going to park? I can't give them those answers, doesn't sound like you guys have deffenitive answers either. I would say if you are going to close it down permanently, we would not be on board with that, because it would drive out our customer base. Which would force them to go to a corporate arena verses a small business. Mayor Tarbet stated that is the kind of stuff we need to hear! We don't want to harm anybody for sure. Councilman Boldizar stated we are definitely not looking to run out business, and I understand 100% where you are coming from. The piece I am thinking about is 1. We want more people to come to Minerva. I think the more people that come to Minerva the better for business, but I understand your parking piece, being able to park in those couple spots in front of your business to run in and grab a coffee. I understand that. In my mind I think the big picture is, I think it is going to be very helpful to your business. Tiffany stated long term it

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may, but weathering the storm, I feel pretty much everyone in this room is blue collar and putting 20 plus years and everything you have you purchase a building and in business for two years and so its one thing if it was playing money, but I might roll the dice, but that's our opinion of it, and we are certainly not opposed to it. Mayor Tarbet stated part of it is if your cliental would shift to other times there is always something going on in town. Amanda Sinay stated our busy time is 7am -10 am. The pocket park is not going to be utilized at that time! Mayor Tarbet stated ok, but you don't think with all this other stuff going on your business wouldn't shift to other hours. Mayor Tarbets asked your business is 7am -10am. Yes, that is correct stated Amanda. Amanda stated customers are not going to walk in in the morning.

Heather Kinsey stated she saw in the previous minutes March 28. Is this the Zanesville Grant. Mr. Gunderson responded those are two separate projects. So, what is this one is it a grant or where is this money coming from? Have you gotten a Grant for this project? Mr. Gunderson stated no, as of right now it is simply just, we have not allocated, we have not funded this project, we are simply in the design phase and then we will establish funding thereafter. Heather stated I looked back and counted on the Minerva Ohio FB Page there were only 5 DORA Events that I saw advertised. So that was only five events that had that road closure during the night. Three events were Market was closed. So, I guess my questions is so yes you are looking to expand and make it great, but I only saw five days a week you would need DORA. This what I read on FB that you want the pocket park, and they would have their DORA Area. Also, I saw there were two events, because you wanted a stage that were at the Municipal Park, they had their Oktober Fest that had the beer garden, I also saw one event was a concert, so my question is why do you need a stage there, if we could clearly have the beer garden at the Municipal Park. I just don't understand why we have to hurt local businesses. I know that you bought the Chase Bank Building, it was my understanding that so you could break it into pieces and bring in more business. I remember when I was a kid it was such a big deal to get the gazebo down there and nobody went. I don't understand how we are doing this and you can't guarantee people will go, you cant. I saw also that you were making updates to Brock Park, cameras that's awesome too! That's part of Municipal Park, why can't we just update all of that and not try to hurt this. Councilman Boldizar state I don't think I hope no one is thinking we are trying to run out small business. I think that is the total opposite of what we are trying to do. I mean when it comes to our downtown, we are trying to help our businesses by creating a that's not a beer garden, that's not what that is intended for. It is intended for outdoor seating, so people will go to these businesses and sit and enjoy it. Hopefully more people from outside of Minerva, because we know our community is not going to be able to support everything that is going on. So, what we want to do is attract people outside of Minerva to come and enjoy the events. As far as the DORA events you are right, we started those DORA Events as events. People would come in and say we would like to apply for a DORA. Now we are looking to start the DORA every weekend, Friday, Saturday & Sunday open so it is not an event only event. Just to drive people into Minerva to spend their money in our local businesses to create that tax revenue back to us so we can do new projects. I guess that's the vision through all of this. Mr. Gunderson stated it is great to have the beer garden in the park, but we can't have that year-round due to that being outside our territory. We have DORA District, so when we have events that require alcohol in the park that requires a separate permit, so its not that easy to shift it to the park. By offering stuff in the downtown, we had second Friday's last year. May - December. We had 5 months three car shows Jazz Festival and several others. Sometimes we pass that as a lump. Heather stated I do understand that, but those events were like the car show that's the whole street shut off. So, you are saying you can't have so many per year, but like the car show thing and the second Fridays 12 a year, so you cant have a few over there? I guess it's not making sense to me to have. And for you to say its not a DORA thing, that's what I read in the posting that it would be a DORA area. Councilman Boldizar stated not just a DORA. That's what I read stated Heather that is was for DORA. Councilman Boldizar stated it's a spot for people to sit down. I guess my problem is that it was stated as DORA stated Heather. It appeared to be geared toward other businesses not everybody. Councilman Boldizar stated as I said when I look at that thing, I look at people being able to go to the Ice Cream Store, Clever Cookie Place, the coffee, Walkers, Kishmans, take that food and drink and sit and enjoy it in our downtown. Heather asked if there would be more advertising, how is this going to bring more people in? Mr. Gunderson stated there are multiple components to this. I know you have done your research, but I would encourage you to reach out to the businesses are in the downtown, during the events what are your sales look like that. Heather stated that is a day that is everybody, I would say those few weeks get them through the winter. Car Show Days get them through the winter. I just feel maybe we need to advertise more, because it is a great town, I think it is a great town I wish more people would come, I wish we had small businesses. Just putting in a park, there has to be more. Mr. Gunderson stated the village has engaged with a Marketing Company to help with that. As of today, we have started working with Visit Canton to say hey some of these other like Umbrella Alley in Louisville, Columbiana Cty has two pocket parks. We will have the statistics and facts as to how this will impact the village. The Mayor & I attended the Stark County Regional Planning Commission and Visit Canton was the speaker and spoke on tourism. If we can attract the tourism, these are the results we hope to attract. Mayor Tarbet referenced Visit Canton, they have become very connected to the village, they like what we are doing, they like the events we are doing they are helping us promote all over the State of Ohio. They offer grant money. They see we are trying. Mayor Tarbet stated the events in the park are growing. We have discussed how to get people to come here and the pocket park is the place that keeps them here then. So, they come in and they go to a concert

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or comedy thing at the Roxy they come out of the Roxy and if nothing is going on they go home. If there are some other things going on around that, now they are staying. 1200 wristbands were paid for at the Exotic Car Show, now we want them to stay a little longer! That's the idea behind the Pocket Park. This is to help the businesses and I hope we see that success. I hear what you are saying too! Marketing is a huge piece. Communication is a huge piece. Mayor Tarbet stated this is about the people outside of town, they want them to benefit as well. Councilman Boldizar stated he saw a stat the other day since COVID 18% more people are working from home than before. Maybe these apartments along the street are filled with working from home people and they would be able to go down get food and have a place to sit outside and eat. We have the high-speed internet that will attract the younger people for their work at home, but throughout all the talk we had, I just believe this is something that will really benefit our village. I hope that people keep giving us input and keep our village moving forward. Heather stated I disagree but, it is what it is.

Tiffany stated to add to Benjamin's point, Umbrella Alley and also in Oakwood Square I have seen similar renditions, the only thing I see different is the beer garden they have outside of Unhitched, they did shut the street down, but none of those locations took away parking from a business. We definitely do thrive on those events and so that is a good point, people do go to pocket parks they do congregate, but none of those shut down the street to achieve that. I guess truly not apples to apples in my opinion. Mr. Gunderson stated through my conversation today they actually had a similar situation, the owner of the buildings was on board with the amphitheater and the businesses had the same concerns. Where are our customers going to park? You have identified a problem help us find a solution. We have a solution but it does not work from your side.

Joe Plott asked what the plans were for the Chase Building. Councilman Boldizar stated I will speak first. That has been my baby for a long time, and that is something I wanted from the day it went up for sale. The reason I wanted us to be able to control what goes in there, because it sits in the middle of town and has parking. The bones of that building are structurally is great. I say Mason wanted something that incorporate the High St. area ummmm still have the parking. I think we have had several businesses go through. Looking at different options, if you ask everyone sitting up here, we will all have a different opinion of a perfect world of what it would be. We hope to add to what we have downtown. Mr. Gunderson stated to say we have a plan as to who exactly we want to go into that building, I would say we don't have that. We have had everything from a laundromat, hobby shop, and soda shop. Nothing has submitted. We want something to be beneficial for the town, but.... Councilman Boldizar stated we don't want to take away from other businesses so it's kind of a fine line, competition is good. We definitely don't want a coffee shop moving in there.... right? But if we didn't control that it could have very well been that. I still believe it was a good purchase and I know there are some people that don't agree, but I just hope the right business is going to come. Joe Plott stated it was probably a sizable purchase and we know it's not going to become another bank. Spending that money, I get what you are saying, structurally its fine, but this is Minerva. Councilman Boldizar stated it is a big risk! Nobody is beating the doors down to bring business to Minerva. Councilman Boldizar again in my mind that Park could then attract a business that could say, so right outside of my business we have this beautiful place where people can go out and sit and do different things. It is a risk and some of us get beat up over this. People want to throw that out there, the village bought this building, but my water stinks this or that.... And again, for me when I think about it, I want more people to come to Minerva to spend money in your businesses for tax dollars to go up so we can fund other projects. I ideally, I think that is what we want to do. Understand it is very easy for someone to say bank you bought it, u you made that decision and it is still empty, what are you doing we have contacted several businesses. Hopefully that purchase doesn't eventually smack us in the face. I still believe it was a good purchase and I am looking forward to something going in there soon. Mason, I have a question. I have heard you say over and over, we do not have a sales tax, so how is going to drive up revenue? I just want people! I want people to come to Minerva stated Mason. But that won't drive revenue, right? If these 2 people running the coffee shop, whether its 7 in the morning or 3 in the afternoon, so its not going to raise a whole lot of income tax right, so that that is the only way we receive money is income tax right, we do not get a sales tax like canton does, so we are limited as to how that money comes in. Councilman Boldizar stated this is my thought on this. Again, maybe I live in a dream world, I want people to love Minerva as much as I do!! I want people to come to Minerva and fall in love with Minerva and whether that means living in these apartments up here, I keep seeing all of these young people living in these apartments and they are getting fixed up and spending money downtown, sending their kids to Minerva and you know our class sizes in Minerva went from 220 to 120 and I know that is everywhere! I just want people to fall in love with Minerva. Aaron stated I get your apartment thing, but we don't have parking. The cities like Columbus they have a parking deck to park the cars. We lack that here and we just gained parking spaces down here and we if we do this, we loose what we gained right? So, from that standpoint the biggest complaint from the business owners in this council. Every time a complaint comes from a business owner is no parking! Unless you install a 3-story parking deck you will be able to create more parking. That will take away the look from downtown. Councilman Boldizar stated I really believe again, the main street is underutilized, I feel there are options, but we have to get to the point of getting people to want to come before you start to look at that option. Maybe I am looking at it backwards. But to your point say its big city whatever you want to call it, the younger generations want accessibility so if we are offering businesses and places to shop on the downtown street if we got spaces for them to work, the need for that parking is not always there. There are likely going to have a car,

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but not moving in and out, like what our current traffic is. What I think Mason is hinting at what we have not gotten too is. The more that we can attract whether business or people here it compounds, they are saying hey I like this place I want to be here more and then attract them to move here. It's a process, we have got to have those options we have got to attract the people here, there are multiple pieces to this component stated Mr. Gunderson. In this rendering which you currently have, what kind of stage would you have? Mayor Tarbet stated more a band shell. What type of seating capacity would there be asked Joe Plott. Even if a grant is received it is still my federal taxes coming back to me and the city. It sounds like free money, but it is not free money. We want to make sure we get the most bang for our buck! It would be great if it didn't hurt the other businesses, but the bank is going to take a serious renovation, the vault all those types of things it was a big capital investment to change things. Councilman Boldizar stated again I think we are in the early phases of that. I know I have been doing a lot of talking, but I guess that is something I am really passionate about. I know when I ran for council one of the things, I ran on was economic development trying to create opportunities in our downtown area. This is my vision and I really love Minerva; I really do! I just want in my mind what is best for our village. Joe Plott you would have to move the drop mail boxes at the Post Office, how will that play out. Will you change the street to a one way? What are we looking at? Councilman Boldizar stated they do not have to be in front of the Post Office. So, we can find a different place for them, it is not a requirement to be there. Heather asked if the Post Office was contacted? Mayor Tarbet stated yes, we have talked to the Post Office. Mayor Tarbet stated this is what helps, this more information than we had before.

Motion to approve the Minutes of the 6th Regular Council Meeting held March 26, 2024 was made by Councilman Boldizar seconded by Councilman Kishman. All voted yea.

Motion to approve the financial statement for the month of March was made by Councilman Meadows seconded by Councilwoman Jordan. All voted yea.

Motion to approve bills totaling \$181,354.22 for the month of March was made by Councilwoman Jordan seconded by Councilman Kishman. All voted yea.

Administrator: Mr. Gunderson reported the quarterly news letter will be sent out hopefully next week. It will be on FB and hard copies for the local business.

Service Director: Street Dept.: Cleaned Ridgeleigh Dr. following water main break. Filling pot holes with cold patch. Checking storm sewers.

Water Dept.: Water main break Ridgeleigh Dr. 4th cast. Assisted by Park Dept. and Cosner Run Excavating due to depth. Installed 6" valve on Squires Lane. Assisted by Park Dept. and Ft. Steuben Maintenance.

Wastewater Dept.: Installed #1 RAS pump following repairs, assisted by street department.

Park Dept.: Vehicle struck and damaged uptown trash can, report filed. Jacobsen mower Serviced. Mowing season has begun.

Zoning: Nuisance: See activity and summary report.

Permits: See Permit Report. 40 YTD

Law Director: Atty. Battista stated Ordinance No. 22-24 will not be read in its entirety only the change.

Mayor: No report

Old/New Business

Ordinance No. 16-24 An Ordinance approving the Application for Lot Split/Combination of Four & One Group, LLC. Third reading

Motion to hear third and final reading of Ordinance No. 16-24 and for passage was made by Councilman Kishman seconded by Councilman Meadows.

Project of Apartment on Line St. Planning Commission recommended approval. All voted yea.

Ordinance No. 18-24 an Ordinance authorizing changes to the Intersection of Line Street and SR 183 to Move back the "Stop Line" and Prohibit "Turn Right on Red". Second reading

Motion to hear second reading of Ordinance No. 18-24 was made by Councilman Boldizar seconded by Councilman Kishman.

The purpose is too eliminate some of the traffic issues on Line St & 183.

All voted yea.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of _____

Meeting _____

GOVERNMENT FORMS & SUPPLIES 844-224-3338 FORM NO. 10148

Held _____

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Motion to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 18-24 was made by Councilman Meadows seconded by Councilwoman Jordan. All voted yea.

Ordinance No. 19-24 an Ordinance Approving an Ingress/Egress Easement from James L Hull Trust and the Anne E. Hull Trust to the Village of Minerva for the South Water Tank. Second reading.

Motion to hear second reading of Ordinance No. 19-24 was made by Councilman Boldizar seconded by Councilman Kishman. All voted yea.

Motion to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 19-24 was made by Councilwoman Jordan seconded by Councilman Kishman.

Easement needing redone to access the South water tower. Divert traffic (re-rerouting)

All voted yea.

Ordinance No. 20-24 An Ordinance Approving the Delinquent Debt Collection Agreement between the Ohio Attorney General and the Village of Minerva. Second reading

Motion to hear second reading of Ordinance No. 20-24 was made by Councilman Meadows seconded by Councilman Kishman.

Engage with Ohio Attorney General to capture delinquent debt related to the Police Department.

All voted yea.

Motion to approve second reading of Ordinance No. 20-24 was made by Councilwoman Jordan seconded by Councilman Boldizar. All voted yea.

Ordinance No. 21-24 an Ordinance establishing the Position of Part-Time Parks Department Laborer and approving the Job Description Thereof. First reading

Motion to hear first reading of Ordinance No. 21-24 was made by Councilman Kishman seconded by Councilman Meadows.

Creating a part time park position. Seasonal employee issue.

All voted yea.

Motion to approve first reading of Ordinance No. 21-24 was made by Councilman Kishman seconded by Councilwoman Jordan. All voted yea.

Motion to waive second & third readings by title only and for passage of Ordinance No. 21-24 was made by Councilman Boldizar seconded by Councilman Kishman. All voted yea.

Ordinance No. 22-24 An Ordinance amending Section 2 of Ordinance No. 17-24 to establish compensation rates for full-time and part-time employees of the Village of Minerva. First reading

Motion to hear first reading of Ordinance No. 22-24 was made by Councilman Meadows seconded by Councilman Kishman.

Establishing rate for newly created part time position of park department laborer.

All voted yea.

Motion to approve first reading of Ordinance No. 22-24 was made Councilwoman Jordan seconded by Councilman Kishman. All voted yea.

Motion to waive second & third readings by title only and for passage of Ordinance No. 22-24 was made by Councilman Meadows seconded by Councilman Boldizar. All voted yea.

Motion is in order to accept a donation of \$500 from Royce Publications Inc. for the Police Department Calendar Program was made by Councilman Meadows seconded by Councilman Kishman. All voted yea.

Motion to allow Village Administrator, Benjamin W. Gunderson, to pay NECO in an amount not to exceed \$273,977.84 for services completed related to the Water Meter Replacement Project was made by Councilman Boldizar seconded by Councilman Kishman. Mr. Gunderson stated this is to pay NECO to pay for the water meters not the entire project just the meters. Atty. Battista stated the project was bid out and has been approved by ordinance prior to tonight. All voted yea.

Motion to discontinue the use of the curfew siren, that is our 10 o'clock curfew siren, due to non-functioning, things older than me, that don't work anymore was made by Councilwoman Jordan seconded by Councilman Kishman. Mayor Tarbet asked everyone if they new about the curfew siren. Yes, its been forever. Mr. Joe Plott

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Meeting

GOVERNMENT FORMS & SUPPLIES 844-224-8338 FORM NO. 10148

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asked if the ordinance is still in effective for minors after 10. Mayor Tarbet stated yes, it is still in effect. All voted yea.

Marvin Jackson stated parking has come up a lot today, I think it would be helpful if signs were posted in the lots indicating municipal parking.

Motion to enter into Executive Session @ 8:35 PM to discuss an employee issue, potential discipline of a public employee and asked to stay are council members only was made by Councilman Meadows seconded by Councilman Boldizar. All voted yea.

Motion to reconvene to Regular Session @ 9:05 PM with no action being taken was made by Councilman Kishman seconded by Councilman Meadows. All voted yea.

Motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Boldizar seconded by Councilman Kishman. All voted yea.

All

A Public Strategic Planning Meeting will be held April 22, 2024 @ 6 PM.

The next Regular Council Meeting will be April 23, 2024.

Attest:

Brenda Albaugh Clerk of Council

Timothy N. Tarbet Mayor