

The Village of Northfield

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

March 23, 2011

Council President, Beatrice Greenlee called the meeting to order at 7:32PM following the Pledge of Allegiance. The roll was called by Robert Riedel with the following present: Mrs. Greenlee, Mrs. Selle, Mr. Nehez, Mr. Bolek and Mrs. Bowen. Mr. Noack was absent. Law Director Brad Bryan, Police Chief Wentz and Service and Building Superintendent Jason Walters were present.

A motion to approve the minutes of the March 9, 2011 Regular Council meeting. The motion for passage was made by Mrs. Selle and seconded by Mr. Bolek. The motion carried with 5 ayes.

In the business of petitions, memorials and remonstrance, resident Pam Pritchard of 91 Beech Ave., said that when she goes for her daily walk on Rosewood, down past the hill, where there is empty land, there is a lot of garbage on it. Ms. Pritchard said that last year she told the police about it, but the garbage is still there. She said that on Beech Ave. by the fence, there are beer cans sitting there and have been since the snow melted. Mr. Nehez asked if it was on Beech Ave? Mr. Walters said where the service department is? She said yes, behind by the fence, there are five beer cans sitting there. Ms. Pritchard said that no one in this town cares about their yards. Mr. Bryan said that we will check into it with the Ordinance that is in place. Ms. Pritchard said, start charging the residents for picking up that garbage.

Nicole Occhionero, a first grade teacher from Ledgeview Elementary, spoke regarding the May campaign for the school levy. Ms. Occhionero stated that the proposed 6.5 mil. levy is desperately needed, and the monies will support the \$40 million budget. She said that the last levy was passed in 2004, which was expected to last three years. They extended the levy to last six years, which speaks plenty about our fiscal management abilities. Ms. Occhionero said that you will be hard pressed to find someone to take a one year salary and and make it last two years. She said there has been a lot of talk on where and how they are spending the money. Nordonia City Schools made the 2004 levy money extend to 2010. She said that the fact of the matter is, they can't close a branch, or lower production. She said that their business is kids. 85% of the schools budget is for people, they are in the people business. Ms. Occhionero said that without this levy, she is concerned about her home, her job and the five communities as a whole. Everyone is committed to continuing the Excellence With Distinction status, but that status might go down without the levy. She asked for everyones support in the levy.

Finance Director, Robert Riedel said that they had budget hearing tonight which went well. He stated that as soon as he has made the corrections. Council will need another meeting by the end of the month, to pass the budget ,which is required by the state. Mr. Bolek asked if they were going to have a hearing on the administrative budget? Mr. Riedel said we can if you want to. Mr. Bolek said that we still need to cut \$130,000 and we are still a long way away. Mr. Riedel said that it is up to Council. Mr. Riedel said that he needs the corrections by Monday. Mrs. Greenlee asked if everyone could meet on the budget after this meeting. Council agreed. Mr. Riedel asked for a motion to be made to accept the Mayor's Court Report for February 2011 as submitted. The motion was made by Mrs. Bowen and seconded by Mr. Bolek and carried with 5 aye votes. Mrs. Selle asked if they needed to choose a date for approval? Mr. Riedel said that it should probably be on the 30th so he can fax it on the 31st. Mr. Bryan said that there will be a special meeting at 7:30pm for the purpose of the budget.

Law Director Brad Bryan had no report.

Police Chief Mark Wentz gave his report. (See attached) Mr. Nehez said that Chief Wentz's report was nicely done. Mrs. Greenlee asked if a motion needed to be made to sell the old cruiser? Mrs. Greenlee made the motion and Mrs. Bowen seconded the motion to sell the 2003 Ford police cruiser for \$500.00.

Service and Building Department Superintendent Jason Walters gave his report. (See attached). Mr. Nehez asked if it would be more feasible for Reilly Sweeping to do Rte 8 sidewalks? Mr. Walters said that he has check into this before and none of the companies offer this. Mr. Walters said that he can check into renting a machine, but in the long run, it is better to purchase. Mr. Riedel asked if the Rte 8 sidewalks are our responsibility. Mr. Riedel asked if we billed the property owners for those sidewalk repairs. Mr. Bolek said that Mr. Wasosky said that the street popped the curb which popped the sidewalk. We used the permissive tax. Mr. Bolek said that we could go back to the property owner and assess them for that. Mr. Walters said that the ordinance states, that the sidewalks are up to each property owner. Mr. Walters said in the 16 years that he has been here, he has never won that battle, they have always swept the sidewalks. Mr. Nehez asked if the sweeping company could sweep or blow it into the street, and then use their street machine on Rte 8? Mr. Walters said the problem is that that Rte 8 is state highway. Mr. Riedel said why don't we just write a letter to the property owners to clean their own sidewalks. Mr. Walters said he has in the past. Mr. Riedel said to enforce our laws that we have. Mr. Nehez asked Mr. Walters if he would have to train the one summer

part time helper? Mr. Walters said the only thing he wants them for is to cut grass, and will have C.J or John train them. Mr. Walters said that the grass cutting and park work should not be done by Roger, Sam or Chris. There are about 23 weeks of work in the park. Mr. Bolek asked if Mr. Walters could give preference to the applicants who live in the Village. Mr. Walters said yes, but find a good kid in this town that wants to work and he will take him. Mr. Bolek said even adults. Mr. Walters said that they do have some adults on the applications, but they want full time, and this is a limited from June through August. Jason said we need to get this done, whether it is interviewing or advertising. Mr. Bryan said the problem is that Mr. Walters doesn't have time to interview. Mr. Riedel said to have his committee do it. Mr. Walters stated what Mr. Bolek said at the last meeting regarding the service/building department, that "things don't get done while Jason is out". Mr. Walters said that things do get done, and he is in contact with Chris even though he is out of town. Mr. Walters stated when people come in to apply for a building permit, they get done the same day. He stated that he doesn't know of another town that gets them done same day. Some permits that require plans do take time. Mr. Walters said that when he built his barn in Macedonia, it took 9 weeks to get his permit. Mr. Walters said that if Mr. Bolek feels that his department isn't running well, he should have contacted him directly to discuss it. He was back on Monday and only gone four days. Mr. Walters asked Mr. Bolek if there was something more that he wanted to talk about. Mr. Bolek said he would talk with Mr. Walters later. Mr. Nehez said that the On The Go Gas sign is still up. Mr. Walters asked if anyone can help him find the owner? Mr. Riedel asked if they had a property owner name. Mr. Walters said yes, but his address has changed. Chief Wentz said that the police still have the cooler in the garage, but have no contact person. Mr. Bolek said to put the cooler in the auction also. Mr. Bryan said that you can send them a letter, do the work, then bill them. Mr. Riedel asked if we could put it on the property taxes? Mr. Bryan said yes we could cite for a violation, if it is a danger, then we can do something, but will we get the money? Mr. Walters said that the property has been empty for about a month. They have been gone for two weeks, closed, then open, and then closed again. Mr. Bolek asked Mr. Walters how is it that the Gabriel Plaza building has the new signs up, but they can't seem to take down the poles from the old one by Handel's up front. Mr. Walters said that they got a permit for their leasing information. Mr. Bolek said, so that is a permanent sign now? Mr. Walters said that never was a temporary sign, temporary signs are for 30 days. Mr. Walters said that he did put in the permit, that in the near future, to make it a more attractive sign. He told Mr. Bolek that they are within their rights and there are only so many things that you can say no to. Mr. Walters said that he has been on him about the poles and they got the permit for leasing signs. Mr. Bolek said that the cell phone place is gone, they couldn't make a go of it. Mr. Nehez said that Bilt Rite Fabrics is leaving also. Mr. Nehez said that Mr. Walters report was very thorough.

Mrs. Greenlee of the Planning Commission said that she has received two applications for the open planning commission seat and said they will discuss them at a work session.

Mrs. Bowen of the Finance committee had Mr. Bryan read Ordinance 2011-28, an emergency Ordinance approving the payment of bills for the month of March 2011. Motion made by Mrs. Bowen and seconded by Mrs. Greenlee and carried with 5 ayes.

Mrs. Selle of the Roads and Public Works Committee asked Mr. Walters if the Village sign was repaired. Mr. Walters said yes, but he wants to move it a bit and put on two posts so it doesn't get hit again.

Mr. Bolek of the Health and Welfare Committee had no report.

Mr. Nehez of the Building and Grounds Committee had no report, but would like to add some information regarding building codes to the next work session.

Mr. Noack of Wages and Working was absent.

Mrs. Greenlee of the Fire and Safety committee had no report.

Mr. Bryan read Ordinance 2011-29, an emergency Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Oriana House, Inc. for the provision of community correctional services. A motion to suspend the three-reading rule was made by Mr. Bolek and seconded by Mrs. Selle. A motion for passage was made by Mr. Bolek and seconded by Mrs. Selle. Carried with 5 ayes.

There was no old business.

In the new business, Chief Wentz said that La Ray Studio of Dance is moving into Northfield Village in the second white building on Meadow Lane after 35 years of being in Bedford. They signed the letter of intent with management. Mr. Bolek said that he has heard that Bilt Rite fabric is moving back to Cleveland. Mr. Bryan said that he will be out of town for a week starting tomorrow, but can be reached by cell phone. Mrs. Greenlee reminded Council of the 7:30pm meeting next Wednesday on March 30th to pass the budget.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30PM following a motion by Mrs. Greenlee and seconded by Mrs. Bowen. The motion carried with 5 ayes.

Respectfully Submitted by; _____
Lisa M. Rodriguez, Administrative Clerk

Attest:

President of Council Clerk of Council