

The Village of Northfield

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

April 25, 2012

Mayor Jesse Nehez called the meeting to order at 7:35PM following the Pledge of Allegiance.

The roll was called by Finance Director, Monica A. James, with the following Councilpersons present: Beatrice Greenlee, Mary Volny, John Schlueter, John Bolek and Linda Bowen. Karyn Selle was absent. Law Director Brad Bryan, Fire Chief Gary Vojtush and Service, Building and Zoning Superintendent Jason Walters were also present.

Mayor Nehez asked for a motion to approve the April 11, 2012 council meeting minutes. A motion was made by Beatrice Greenlee and seconded by Linda Bowen to accept the minutes as submitted. The motion carried with 5 ayes.

In the business of petitions, memorials and remonstrances, Doris Wolfe of Cranbrook Ave., asked if Council could drive through the wards in the Village to see which properties are unkept. She stated that there are some houses on her street that aren't kept up with things laying around the yard that look unsightly. John Bolek stated that Council just passed some legislation that will give Jason Walters a lot more authority to board up. John Bolek stated that there is a house in his neighborhood that has been vacant for 18 years. Also John Bolek stated that another one of his neighbors has had a broken front window for 35 years. John Bolek stated that at some point we need to board up house and condemn them. John Bolek stated that we have bowed down to the person with this property for 18 years, they have chosen to not live there and the house had a fire, there is no heat, water or electricity in this house. John Bolek stated that wasn't the only property in that town, and you can only do so much to help people. John Bolek stated that we need to be more proactive with the vacant properties, to show the residents we are doing something. Brad Bryan stated that if it is a safety hazard or it is vacant we can go in and board it up, but as far as condemning it, we need approval from Summit County Health Department. Brad Bryan stated that there is no estate file, someone dies, the family doesn't want anything to do with the property and when it is in limbo, we have no one to go to until the bank takes possession, which is what we are doing with the property on Milford. John Bolek stated that Macedonia created a blighted zone by parcel. Jason Walters stated that the blighted zone Macedonia created was right next to the town hall. Brad Bryan stated that Macedonia took that by eminent domain. Jason Walters asked Mrs. Wolfe if they were businesses. Mrs. Wolfe stated that they aren't businesses but they are doing work themselves and keep things laying around. Jason Walters asked if the properties were near around her, and she said yes, take a look around. Jason Walters stated that we cite the people, they don't have the money to pay it and some think that we are picking on them. Brad Bryan stated that we could put them in jail, then the Village is paying for them to be in jail, and those people don't care if they are in jail. Mrs. Wolfe stated if they just pick up the things around the property that would help. Jason Walters stated that the Village doesn't have ordinances stating that they can't have items sitting out on their property, it is a fine line. Jason Walters said that the Village doesn't have an ordinance that says you can't have toys sitting outside. Brad Bryan stated to Mrs. Wolfe to contact Lisa Rodriguez and Jason Walters with the details and they will look into it.

Mayor Nehez reported that the Hard Rock Casino plans are amazing! Mayor Nehez stated that he and Brad Bryan are meeting with Brock Milstein, owner of the Northfield Park next week to iron out some traffic and zoning issues. Mayor Nehez thanked his department heads and administration for their hard work and dedication.

Finance Director Monica James stated that everything is going well. Payroll is completed for the week and she will be processing the vendor payables out by the end of the week. Monica James stated that the Village has received the 1st and 2nd quarter payments from Walton Hills. John Bolek asked when the sewer bills would be sent out. Monica stated that Jay said everything is ready to go, they just need to stuff them and put into the mail, but she would check with Jay Mutter to see what the timeframe was and get back to John Bolek.

John Bolek asked if every dollar spent creating the new Northfield park, 2% needs to be paid by everyone. John Bolek said that we really need to capture the 2% from everything since the budget is so tight.

Brad Bryan had no report. Mayor Nehez asked how things were going with the Chestnut house. Brad stated that he spoke with Rich today and they are working on it. Rich spoke with her surveyor and they are trying to explain to her it is better to keep the house up and raise it, we are trying to convince her to knock down the house that it is not worth raising it. She should be before Planning Commission next month with her plans and we should move forward. Mayor Nehez asked how the house on Milford was coming along. Brad stated that we forward the information to the attorneys that are handling the foreclosure case information, and they said they would help us handle it. Brad stated that most likely nothing will happen until August or September with the Sheriff's sale. Jason Walters stated that it would be cheaper to rebuild that house in the long run. Jason stated that someone is paying the taxes, Lisa Rodriguez stated that the service department has cut the property in the past and it has been

put on taxes. Jason stated that what the County considers liveable is not the same as what he considers liveable.

Fire Chief Gary Vojtush had no report. Mayor Nehez asked how the meeting at Northfield Center went. Chief Vojtush gave them the budget and the call amount, and they stated that they didn't receive it in enough time to review so they will process at the next meeting. John Bolek thanked Chief Vojtush and the fire department for their phenomenal job they did on the squad call, very efficient and quick. Mary Volny asked Chief Vojtush how things have been going with Walton Hills. Chief Vojtush stated that everyone is doing their jobs and he hasn't heard any complaints on training night from the department.

Service, Building and Zoning Superintendent Jason Walters gave his report. (See attached) John Bolek asked if the street price of salt costs \$80, and Jason stated yes and the Village gets it at half the cost. Jason said what a good job the police and fire department did along with his service department at the Sunoco gas spill. Jason said that Joe Zemek did a great job by stepping right in and helping. Mary Volny asked Jason Walters if we had ever inspected the N. Isle Apartments before. Jason Walters stated that we have not inspected before and it is a new ordinance that was put in 2011. Jason stated that he received complaints from tenants in apartments in general, that they needed help and Brad did the legislation and Council passed it. Brad said that before we used to rely on Summit County, so this way Jason can do something. Mary Volny asked who owned it. Jason stated it is Har Mar. Jason Walters stated that in 10 years he has had only one or two complaints on the N. Isle apartments. John Bolek stated that he is amazed at how much glass is broken in the Mixers parking lot. Jason Walters stated that in the inspections he will be doing of all parking lots, it does address debris. Jason stated that he has been deal with some issues with complaints about cameras on Vincent Ave., and it isn't his department, he told them to contact the police department. Jason Walters stated that the police has checked into this and they are not illegal. The resident next door stated that he was moving in 90 days so Jason allowed him to put up a 2ft extension on his fence, but he hasn't moved in a couple years, so Jason told him to remove the extension. Mayor Nehez stated that he received calls from this individual also and Mayor Nehez told this resident that the situation needed to be worked on. Jason Walters also stated that he has received many complaints about the limo parked in the Mixers parking lot, it is not illegal either. John Bolek stated that it is a sign, with the picture of the stripper on it. Jason Walters stated that the Village doesn't have any ordinances that stated you can't park a vehicle in their private parking lot. Linda Bowen stated that unless the vehicle blocks driving view, which it doesn't. Jason Walters stated that he called the owner of Mixers to discuss it. John Schlueter met the owner of Red's Fitness and he was thinking of putting a bike rack out front of his business. Jason Walters stated that as long as he doesn't violate any fire codes or block any walkways. Mary Volny asked if Mr. Shafron had any plans for the damage from the accident that happened in the back of the Plaza. Jason Walters stated that they are working with the insurance company. Mayor Nehez asked what was going on with the pet shop in the Plaza. Jason stated that they are claiming that it is a pet shop. Chief Vojtush stated that it is staying within the same use group. Chief Vojtush said that he is waiting in a plan of what they are going to do, but Chief Vojtush hasn't see any paperwork yet. John Bolek stated that since they got their 10 year extension, we won't see it. Chief Vojtush said yes we will and the pet shop doesn't have an occupancy. Chief Vojtush said that the only way to get a fire inspection is to get an occupancy from the county, and to get that they will have to turn in the plans then. John Bolek asked if that was going to be a dog training facility. Chief Vojtush said yes it is and Mayor Nehez said that it will be called Rewards moving from Northfield Center. Brad Bryan stated that it is the same use classification. Jason Walters said that Steve Chaney said it is the same use, so they have occupancy. Chief Vojtush said that they need to produce the occupancy. Jason said that the pet shops occupancy if there was one done, it was 35-40 years or more, and he doesn't know if they did occupancies then. John Bolek stated that he thinks that they want to say it is the same type, so they don't have to sprinkle it, and Chief Vojtush agreed. John Bolek stated, that if you can purchase a dog license, can you buy leashes and dog food there. John Bolek said that if those answers come back no, then it isn't a pet store. Jason Walters stated that those businesses all fall within the same group dealing with pets. Brad Bryan said if the County comes out and says they don't need to get occupancy then we are going to honor that, but they haven't done that yet.

Beatrice Greenlee of the Planning Commission had no report. Mayor Nehez and Beatrice Greenlee stated that they will have a Planning Commission meeting on May 30th at 7:30pm. Brad Bryan said that we can charge for our percentage of the election, but for the most part it isn't going to matter up to a certain point how many issues we have. We can charge per precinct, maybe \$350-\$500 per precinct, and it is cheaper to do it in November since there is an election already. Mayor Nehez asked how many days notice was needed to go on the ballot. Brad said some items are 60 and some are 90 days, but he will check into this.

Mayor Nehez stated that the Recreation Board met on April 5th, had many good ideas. Mayor Nehez said that they discussed entry signs into the parks, doing mulch and landscaping. Mayor Nehez said that the discussed possibly getting donations and boy scouts involved. Doris Wolfe discussed some children possibly painting rocks for decoration. Jason Walters stated that he understands it, but he doesn't want anyone to think they can paint anything, such as graffiti. Mayor Nehez said that their next meeting is on May 3rd at 7:30pm.

Mayor Nehez stated that the Charter Review Commission met on April 4th. Brad Bryan stated that the committee went through all of the language and he is drafting amendments and the next meeting Julianne Carsone can show the powerpoint presentation to Council at the May 9th meeting with the suggested changes. Council agreed that at 7:00p on May 9th the Charter Review

Committee will do their presentation for discussions. The next meeting Charter Review Committee meeting is on May 2nd at 7:00pm.

Linda Bowen of the Block Watch Committee said that the meeting on April 16th they had about 20 or so residents. Linda Bowen stated that officer Jones did a good job with his powerpoint presentation. The next block watch meeting in May 16 at 6:00pm. John Bolek stated that it is nice that people want to get involved and help even if they don't have individual problems. John Schlueter stated that this makes the residents more aware, and that is good. Mary Volny said that it makes people more aware, and suggests residents to call, like when the rocks were taken on the property behind her house.

Beatrice Greenlee of the Cemetery Board had no report but stated that at their next meeting they will meet at Macedonia to pass the budget.

Linda Bowen, of the Finance Committee had Brad Bryan read 2012-29, an emergency Ordinance approving the payment of bills for the month of April 2012. A motion was made by Linda Bowen and seconded by John Schlueter and carried with 5 ayes. Linda Bowen asked for a motion to be made to accept the Mayor's Court Report for March 2012 as submitted. Linda Bowen made the motion and it was seconded by Beatrice Greenlee and it carried with 5 ayes. Linda Bowen stated that the next Finance meeting will be on May 23rd at 6:30pm.

Karyn Selle, of the Roads and Public Works Committee was absent. John Bolek congratulated Jason and the service department for all of their hard work they do on the streets and the vactoring with the time they are making this year for it.

Mary Volny, of the Health and Welfare Committee said that she has the information for the Vials of Life in electronic format to submit to the News Leader and also to be put on the website and will get that to Lisa Rodriguez. Jason Walters asked Mary Volny if a meeting can be held to discuss medical and dental benefits. Jason stated that what the Village pays for dental and what the employees get is not a lot of bang for the buck. Jason said that we should get a lot more for what we are paying for, and no one is complaining about what they have, he just feels that we should check into it to get better value. John Bolek said that there are very few dental insurances. Brad Bryan said that the amount paid per employee is very high and the coverage is minimal, and there are options out there. Mary Volny said now is a good time to do this.

John Bolek of the Building and Grounds Committee had no report.

John Schlueter, of the Wages and Working Committee had no report.

Beatrice Greenlee of the Fire and Safety Committee had no report.

Mayor Nehez had Brad Bryan read Resolution 2012-30, an emergency Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a memorandum of understanding with Summit County and other communities throughout Summit County for a job creation and retention and tax revenue sharing. Brad Bryan said that by being part of this agreement you receive points for applying for loans for projects. This was put on first reading.

Brad Bryan read Resolution 2012-31 an emergency Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a software maintenance agreement with Joseph Selander DBA Advanced Database Systems. Brad stated that this is for the Village sewer billing. John Bolek said that this is a good option compared to purchasing new software. A motion to suspend the three-reading rule was made by John Bolek and seconded by Beatrice Greenlee. A motion for passage was made by John Bolek and seconded by Linda Bowen, it carried with 5 ayes.

John Bolek made a motion to add Resolution 2012-32 to the agenda and Beatrice Greenlee seconded it. Brad now read Resolution 2012-32. A Resolution confirming the Mayor's appointment of Rita Raimer as a part-time police officer with the Village's police department. A motion to suspend the three-reading rule was made by John Bolek and seconded by Beatrice Greenlee. A motion for passage was made by John Bolek and seconded by Mary Volny, and carried with 5 ayes.

There was no old business.

In the new business, Jason Walters asked if Mayor Nehez and Council would like to make a donation to the GTS Fore MS golf outing on June 9th at Raccoon Hill. Council agreed to do a \$100.00 donation which would sponsor 2 holes and 1 closest to pin. A motion was made by Linda Bowen and seconded by John Schlueter and carried with 5 ayes. John Bolek asked if they would like any golf items donated. Jason said that if anyone would like to join the outing it is \$85 per person and you get lunch, golf scramble and dinner.

Mayor Nehez said that they had some children from the YMCA pulling weeds at the fire department. Mayor Nehez said that the children also received a tour of the fire department. Mayor Nehez said that they will be working with the YMCA in the future to help residents who can garden their yards. Mayor Nehez said that these children did a nice job. John Bolek suggested that maybe in the future a local business such as McDonald's or Wendy's could donate a certificate to these children for their help.

Mayor Nehez also stated that this week is Administrative Assistants week and he thanked Lisa Rodriguez for everything that she does.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:18pm. with a motion by John Bolek and seconded by Beatrice Greenlee and passed with 5 ayes.

Respectfully Submitted by;

Attest:

Lisa M. Rodriguez, Administrative Clerk

President of Council

Clerk of Council