

# **RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS VILLAGE OF DEGRAFF COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION**

March 3, 2020

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The Legislative body of the Village of DeGraff convened in regular session from 7:00 P.M. to 8:56 P.M. in the Village Office at 107 S. Main St. DeGraff, OH 43318-0309.

Mayor Stephanie Orsborne called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. with the following Council Members and staff Present:

Mayor Stephanie Orsborne – Present  
Sandra Short, Council Member – Present  
Sharon Carman, Council Member – Absent  
Ruth Kueterman, Council Member – Present  
Mike Dodds, Council Member – Present  
Tim Baker, President Pro Tempore - Present

Staff Present: Kassie Staley, Fiscal Officer; Amy Estep, Utility Clerk; Merle Orsborne, Zoning Officer; Ken McAlexander, Village Administrator

Mr. Dodds made the motion to accept the February 18, 2020 minutes as written and submitted, seconded by Mr. Baker. Roll Call – All Ayes.

**MOTION**

Mr. Baker made the motion to appoint Mr. Mike Ropp to fill the vacant council, seconded by Mr. Dodds. Roll Call – All Ayes.

**MOTION**

Mayor Orsborne took a few minutes and swore in new council member Mike Ropp. A warm welcome aboard was given.

Mr. Zeb Wagner was present to introduce himself. He is possibly interested in becoming the solicitor for the Village of DeGraff. He has an extensive background in law and government. He was present to observe and will get the council an agreement to look over.

Mr. Orsborne was present to give a zoning report. He has finished two permits and is working on a third. The third needs some more investigating. People have been asking about purchasing the house on the hill by the railroad tracks, it has been abandoned for some time now. Mr. Orsborne has learned there is medical liens on the property. Mr. Orsborne will be back out with red tags to a couple of properties he has seen.

Mr. McAlexander presented his report. He has spoken with Poggemeyer for Plan B project for the water treatment plant. Plan B could be as much as \$900,000. Mr. McAlexander has a plan C, and he explained what that was. A company called Artesian has come up with a plan. They would buy our raw water, build the new plant, and then we would buy the water back from them once the project was completed. Mr. McAlexander says he is comfortable with either plan. He would like a lawyer's advice on Plan C, before they went that route. Plan C would have a 3-month turnaround and cost about 1.25 million. Discussion was tabled until more

information could be found out. Some council members had some questions they would like answered before making a decision.

Also, discussed was the Village electric aggregation. We are currently with IGS at .515 KW hours. If we renewed we would save \$3821.00. Denergy has been sending out notices to residents about energy savings. The discussion to renew was tabled until Mr. McAlexander can get quotes from Denergy and DP&L.

There is a cistern on 508, estimate of \$5000 to fix. This quote would make sure the lid would not come off and include the shoot and all.

Mr. Baker made the motion to fix the cistern for \$5000, seconded by Mr. Dodds.

Roll Call – All Ayes.

**MOTION**

The annual flow rates are available for review.

Discussion moved to infiltration in at our wastewater plant. Sump pumps are an issue and we are looking at alternative measures for those residents. Mr. McAlexander has jetted some lines, so he believes Elbow St. should not flood anymore.

Ms. Orsborne has had some complaints on the potholes. Mr. McAlexander explained Quality Paving was coming to look at and give a quote. 508 is supposed to be repaired next year, but will need some spot repairs before then. 235 we are still waiting on ODOT for an answer.

Mr. Dodds reported for safety committee. The committee is still looking into an EMS district. If we joined Indian Lake or Macochee we would only have to do a resolution for the levy on the residents. Mayor Orsborne would like the residents' opinion on this before proceeding. Mr. Dodds will look into possibly setting up a community meeting.

Ms. Staley Reported for Finance. The committee had discussed if we wanted to use RITA to go after the citizens who have not paid their Village taxes. RITA would recoup the money for an 18% charge.

Mr. Baker made the motion to allow RITA to do the collection fees, seconded by

Ms. Short. Roll Call – All Ayes.

**MOTION**

Ms. Staley also mentioned they discussed updating the Village handbook to include some suggestions from our insurance company and some issues we have had with wording for employees. Ms. Staley would like to attend the three-day Local Government Officials conference in Columbus, Ohio and would like permission from council to stay in a hotel those days.

Ms. Short made the motion to allow Ms. Staley to attend the conference and the Village pay for a hotel room, seconded by Mr. Baker. Roll Call – All Ayes.

**MOTION**

Ms. Staley, also, went over the account balances. I have attached this sheet to the minutes.

Mr. Dodds presented for the Cemetery Board. They have had a few burials and they are opening the bid to purchase a mini excavator.

Mr. McAlexander presented for the Joint Sewer Board. There was no violations on the previous month. The new employee, Joel Jacob, has started at the wastewater plant. There is still lots of work that needs to be done. Both samplers are on site, but not installed. The operator would like a company vehicle at the wastewater plant to be able to pick up materials. Currently we have been paying mileage, but we have been informed this could cause legal issues. The operator is also looking to change from land application to waste disposal. They would like to rectify some issues and just go to landfill. They are also working on the annual sludge report.

Mr. Orsborne spoke about the Library. Friends of DeGraff are working on a grant to help fix the library wall. The interior wall is as bad as the exterior wall. The water is coming from the flashing, as the metal signs are an inch taller than the marquee sign. This allows the water to run behind it and down the wall. It is hard to get an accurate estimate until the wall is torn down.

Ordinance 20-03: An Ordinance establishing the amount of compensation to be paid to officers of the Village of DeGraff, Logan County, Ohio within the calendar year of 2020, repealing any Ordinance in conflict therein.

Ms. Short made the motion to adopt Ordinance 20-03 on the third reading, seconded by Mr. Baker. Roll Call – All Ayes. **MOTION**

In Old Business, Ms. Staley asked how we would pay the police officers. Would we pay them hourly up to the twelfth, since hourly starts on the 13<sup>th</sup>? How would council like the Fiscal Officer to proceed?

Ms. Short made the motion to pay the police officers there salary until the twelfth, and the begin hourly on the thirteenth, seconded by Ms. Kueterman. Roll Call – All Ayes. **MOTION**

In new business, Mayor Orsborne made a statement about some things that have happened in the Village. I have attached this to the minutes.

Ms. Short made a motion to pay bills, seconded by Mr. Baker. Roll Call – All Ayes. **MOTION**

  
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Mayor Stephanie Orsborne

  
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Tim Baker, Council President

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Kassie Staley, Fiscal Officer

All formal actions of the VILLAGE OF DEGRAFF COUNCIL concerning and relating to the adoption of Ordinances, Resolutions and/or motions passed at this meeting were adopted in a meeting open to the public, in compliance with the law, including section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.

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