

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

VILLAGE OF DEGRAFF COUNCIL

SPECIAL SESSION

April 11, 2023

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The Legislative body of the Village of DeGraff convened in special session from 6:00 P.M. to 7:09 P.M. 107 S. Main St., DeGraff, OH 43318.

Mayor Orsborne called the meeting to order at 6:00 P.M. with the following Council Members and staff Present:

Mayor Stephanie Orsborne – Present
Mike Dodds, Council Member – Present
Mike Ropp, Council Member – Present
Tom Rowley, Council Member – Present
Nancy Hall, Council Member – Present
Sandra Short, President Pro Tempore – Present
Tonya Castallante, Council Member – Absent

Staff Present: Kassandra Staley, Fiscal Officer

Mayor Orsborne reminded council and visitors the only items that can be discussed is the CBDG grant opportunity and the Firehouse.

Mr. Ropp made the motion to excuse Ms. Castallante due to work, seconded by Ms. Short. Roll Call – All Ayes. MOTION

Ms. Hannah from CDC of Ohio went over what the Community had requested on their surveys. A breakdown is attached to these minutes. The grant does need to align with survey requests. Ms. Hannah went through the lines and tried to give some examples of possible projects along the way.

- Sidewalks could be a school or park route.
- Park upgrades could be repaving the walking track
- Fire safety could include fire hydrants
- Projects for street lighting have fallen through in other communities.

Ms. Hannah in addition took notes on some areas the Village is already fixing some of the survey requests.

In May Ms. Hannah will be pushing volunteer forms. So far, the Village has had a good return on surveys, but if we can get more that can help the application. It probably won't change the trajectory. Ms. Short asked if we can send in the water bill again. Then it was suggested to have people fill them out when they come in to pay their bill.

On Thursday at 11 am there is a meeting with Mr. McAlexander and the engineers to get some cost estimates. Hopefully, at the May 2nd meeting will have a full cost estimate for projects. The application will be submitted in mid-June. This is the Villages last year before a new LMI survey will need to be completed.

Mr. Rowley asked if it would be possible to fix the fire house with the grant funds. Mayor Orsborne explained that is only fixing one issue with the building and not sure if good idea to put good money in a failing building.

Ms. Hannah explained how the Village can pay for engineering fees. They can pay them out of their funds, which would allow the project to start once awarded. They can pay for them out of grant funds, a little longer process since the commissioners would need an environmental study and to procure an engineer. Another option is applying for commissioner allocation funds. There is no more match requirement for the funds. Engineering is estimated at \$100,000.

Fire House Discussion:

Ms. Walls asked council is the levy passes in May is council going to renew the property tax levy in November. Mayor Orsborne stated she is not sure, it is a possibility it would come off. Looking at raising fire contracts for fire services.

Mayor Orsborne went over what some other Villages contract for fire services and they go as high as \$130,000 annually. Some of the communities have property tax levies on to cover the fire services cost. Our current contracts do allow a way for the Village to get out.

Ms. Walls explained there is a lot of misinformation out there. Mayor Orsborne explained Mr. Stephens from the Examiner walked though the building with Mr. McAlexander, took pictures, and is going to do a write up in the Examiner on the fire levy. Mr. Stephens said the Village could share the Examiner article on their Facebook page.

The discussion went to a fire district and it would not be feasible. It would have to be a 4.55 mill levy and only include Pleasant Township. It still could be volunteer, but they couldn't contract services. Ms. Walls suggested having a meeting with the fire department. Mayor Orsborne explained they have been trying.

Mayor Orsborne just said we need to be just putting the facts out there and letting the people decide.

Ms. Short made the motion to adjourn at 7:09 PM, seconded by Mr. Rowley. Roll Call – All Ayes.

MOTION

Mayor Stephanie Orsborne

Sandra Short, Council Pro Tempore

Kassandra 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.