

**Council for the Village of Yellow Springs
Regular Session Minutes**

Virtual Meeting @ 6:00 P.M.

Monday, January 4, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

President of Council Brian Housh called the virtual meeting to order at 6:00pm.

ROLL CALL

Present via Zoom were President Housh and Council members Marianne MacQueen, Lisa Kreeger, Laura Curliss and Kevin Stokes. Also present via Zoom were Village Manager Josue Salmeron, Chief Carlson, Public Works Director Johnnie Burns and Solicitor Breanne Parcels.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:01pm, Kreeger MOVED and Stokes SECONDED a MOTION TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss the evaluation and compensation of public employees pursuant to ORC 121.22(G)(1). The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A ROLL CALL VOTE.

At 7:00 pm, Curliss MOVED and Kreeger SECONDED a MOTION TO CONCLUDE THE EXECUTIVE SESSION. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A ROLL CALL VOTE.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Kreeger gave a shout out to the City Council and the residents of Washington, D.C., and gave her well wishes during this very difficult time in our history.

Curliss announced that The 365 Project is hosting a march that will begin at 9:30 am Monday, Jan 18, at the corner of Corry Street and Xenia Avenue. The group will begin their march at 9:45 and will be complete by 10:30, allowing people time to return home and join the virtual MLK celebration that will be hosted via Zoom. Persons interested in participating in the march are encouraged to dress warmly, and those who wish to attend the virtual celebration must register, and can contact Kevin McGruder of The 365 Project or go to Antioch College's website to do so.

Housh announced that the first 2021 Council Retreat is scheduled for Wednesday, January 20, from 5-8:00 pm. Housh also highlighted that the Justice System Collaborative Committee meeting schedule will be changing to be once a month on the Tuesday between Council meetings, from 4-5:30pm. The next JSCC meeting will be January 12. Housh also announced that rapid testing for COVID-19 is available to residents and those who work in the Village.

Kreeger added clarification in regards to eligibility for free testing. Any individual working in the village as front-line service provider, and any residents who are front-line service providers out of town, are eligible. She thanked the Village of Yellow Springs, Miami Township Fire and Rescue and the Yellow Springs Community Foundation for their collaborative efforts to make these tests available. She further stressed that getting tested regularly is very important for front-line service providers who do not have access to regular testing. She also encouraged those who can afford to pay and have access to paid testing elsewhere to choose that over the free option, as funds are limited for this initiative. The testing is by appointment only and can be arranged on wellnessflowllc.com.

Salmeron added that testing will be conducted Tuesdays and Saturdays from 8:30-10:30am only, and to expect the appointment to take 30 minutes. When scheduling appointments he stressed the need to select the correct location of 101 E. Herman Street, as the website is used to schedule for more than one location. Additionally appointments can be scheduled with the Acuity App, and he encouraged anyone having difficulty scheduling an appointment to reach out to the Village, or the YSCF for assistance. He added that proof of ID and proof of employment or residency documentation for the Village or Miami Township will be required.

Housh asked about any other COVID-19 related updates, Salmeron added he expects to see an impact on the COVID-19 cases post-Christmas and New Year's. He stated that Public Safety Personnel have begun receiving vaccines, and the stocking of hand sanitizing stations and other efforts to support mitigating the spread of COVID-19 are expected to continue. He added that the Virtual Town Hall meetings will be resuming weekly beginning Wednesday January 6 at 7:00 pm.

Carlson announced that the Police Department has received complaints regarding members of the community with vocal "anti-mask" attitudes, and they plan to intervene and to attempt mediation. He encouraged individuals to not engage directly with such persons and to contact the Police Department instead with any concerns. "A few of them are looking for a fight," he cautioned.

Florence Randolph expressed gratitude to all those who donated to help 28 families with food and gifts during the holiday season. She stated she has 12 additional rent assistance applications on her desk, and stated they've helped over 80 families with utilities and rent assistance, through the generous donations from the YSCF and the Miami Township Board of Trustees.

Salmeron highlighted the new stimulus bill extended the deadline for allocating CARES Act funds that had been unutilized. He hopes to use this as an opportunity to provide more utility bill assistance. He encouraged those in need of assistance to contact CAP and Randolph.

Housh added that the passage of another stimulus bill could see more funding going to the State of Ohio, which in turn could result in more funding coming to the Village.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Minutes of December 21, 2020 Regular Session

Curliss MOVED and MacQueen SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE the minutes as presented. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A ROLL CALL VOTE.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

Housh requested removal of Ordinance 2021-02 "Revising Off-Street Parking and Loading Requirements in the Downtown Business District as Set Forth in Section 1264.02 of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Yellow Springs, Ohio" from the agenda, to be tabled until the next Council meeting. He stated as the village is "inundated with parking issues" the legislation may need to be broader than originally considered.

MacQueen stated it appears some attachments to that legislation were missing, and she supports tabling it until the next meeting.

Housh adds he does not see the legislation as an urgent item, but does feel it needs to be addressed. In reference to the attachments, and stated he appreciated the references provided in Swinger's staff report that was included. However, he stated he wants everyone to be cautious when assessing the parking needs of Yellow Springs, as the Village does not face the same challenges as other larger municipalities. He asks when this legislation is brought back, that the differences that set the village apart from other communities should be thoroughly considered.

Kreeger added there will be a nomination for Planning Commission under new business.

PETITIONS/COMMUNICATIONS

There were no petitions or communications.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/LEGISLATION

First reading of Ordinance 2021-01 Approving the Council Rules and Procedures for 2021. MacQueen MOVED and Stokes SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

Housh asked Parcels to highlight the differences in these rules and procedures.

Parcels stated there has been discussion surrounding rules and procedures with respect to how Council has had to adjust to moving to the Zoom platform, and how to carry on public service functions virtually, and rules for decorum and how to interact with the members of the public in light of the heightened stress of a pandemic. She noted the information provided for discussion includes legislation from other communities for comparative purposes for Council rules of conduct during meetings and outside of meetings. She also noted that when Council adopted a set of guidelines for Board and Commission members in 2018, Council members at that time discussed whether they should impose rules for Boards and Commission members if they themselves were not committing to abide by the same rules. Parcels also noted that the rules should reflect the Village Values as adopted by Council.

Housh added that the proposed changes to the Rules highlight Village values and commitments to being a model employer, being a welcoming community, and being anti-racist. He highlighted that one significant difference is bringing this as an ordinance as opposed to a resolution, as a more permanent commitment to Village values.

MacQueen asked about the references to section 607 and 608 of the Village Personnel Policy Manual, which were not included with the ordinance. She wanted to know what these policies were, but could only locate a copy of the manual from 2014 and wasn't clear if it's been updated since then. Salmeron stated that he will provide those sections for the next Council packet.

Kreeger added that it is important to promote the Village values, and to standardize the code of conduct and decorum, regardless if one is an elected official or an employee or a member of a Board or Commission. She expressed support for changes related to those topics, and added that research and experience shows that it can be difficult for one to remember where they are when in a virtual meeting, due to the nature of being at home and not side by side in Council Chambers or sitting at a podium. She states her intent to stay focused and respectful, and to encourage the same among the boards and commissions she attends.

Megan Bachman asked if a version highlighting the changes made will be made available, as the version provided does not have the changes bolded and underlined. She also questioned whether the rules would permit Council members and board and commission member to write letters to the editor for publication in the Yellow Springs News. She stated that citizens want to hear from community members, especially members that are in positions of power for the Village Government, about their positions on certain issues.

Housh stated they will make sure to highlight the changes in the version provided in the next packet for the second reading. He stated the primary change is the section referencing the Village Values, but that there are others.

Housh called for a vote on the first reading which PASSED 5-0 ON A ROLL CALL VOTE.

Council Member Curliss expressed concern about the changes and requested that the matter be tabled to give Council time to discuss the changes at the retreat on January 20 before a second reading. "This has come out of nowhere as far as I'm concerned," she said. Housh agreed to move the legislation to the February 1 meeting for a second reading.

Reading of Resolution 2021-01 Authorizing the Sale During Calendar Year 2021 of Municipally Owned Personal Property which is Not Needed for Public Use, or Which is Obsolete or Unfit for the Use for which It was Acquired, by Internet Auction, Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 721.15(D). Stokes MOVED and MacQueen SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

Salmeron stated this is a house keeping item, as every year the Village sells property that has aged out of operation or is no longer in use but still has useful life or some economic value that could be recaptured. He stated this resolution would provide staff the authorization to sell said surplus property.

Stokes asked if there is any specific property or equipment that staff has in mind to auction this year. Salmeron stated there is a water department vehicle that needs replacement, as well as a police cruiser. He said staff always looks at a way to repurpose any aged equipment or vehicles before attempting to sell, but if no useful purpose is found they move to auction. He gives the example of a retired police cruiser that is still a part of the fleet and is used as general purpose vehicle.

Housh CALLED THE VOTE. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A ROLL CALL VOTE.

Reading of Resolution 2021-02 Approving a Salary Adjustment for the Village Manager. MacQueen MOVED and Stokes SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

MacQueen stated she and Housh both interviewed Salmeron for his annual review. Salmeron gave a written summary of his achievements in 2020. McQueen said based on the discussion and evaluation, she, Housh, and the rest of Council have been, and continue to be, very pleased with his performance as Village Manager. She added that given the events of the COVID-19 pandemic, that Salmeron filled a large void for leadership, not only for Village government but for the Village as a whole. In discussing goals for 2021, some were a continuation of the 2020 goals, and some still need to be defined. She highlighted the municipal broadband project, which was successfully launched in the downtown area to provide free public Wi-Fi. "He really stepped up in getting that extended and creating social equity for people who wouldn't have it otherwise," she said. Council feels very fortunate to have Salmeron leading the Village team, she added.

"My sense is that we have been so fortunate to have Josue Salmeron at the helm during COVID19," Housh agreed, noting that Salmeron also brought in over \$2 million in grant funds. He proposed that Salmeron be awarded a 3.5% merit increase to his salary and a 1.5% increase for cost of living adjustment (COLA).

Stokes echoed the positive comments of MacQueen and Housh, and praised Salmeron for his leadership, calm demeanor and service-minded attitude, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Salmeron thanked Council for their praise and stated it has been an honor and pleasure to serve the community.

Kreeger recognized Salmeron for his ability to work at a "large strategic level while still

keeping track of smaller projects,” like the Arts and Culture Commission, and keeping all these projects going. She further recognized him for his accuracy when reporting information and data, and appreciation for the work he has done and his leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Curliss also recognized and expressed appreciation for Salmeron’s performance through 2020.

Housh called for a MOTION TO AMEND the draft legislation (which had a placeholder for percentages) to reflect a 1.5% COLA increase and a 3.5% merit bonus increase to Salmeron’s salary. MacQueen MOVED, Stokes SECONDED. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A ROLL CALL VOTE.

Housh called for a MOTION to APPROVE the resolution as amended. Stokes MOVED, MacQueen SECONDED. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A ROLL CALL VOTE.

Reading of Resolution 2021-03 Approving a Salary Adjustment for the Clerk of Council. Curliss MOVED and Kreeger SECONDED a MOTION TO APPROVE.

Kreeger stated she and Housh partnered to review Judy Kintner’s self-evaluation for 2020. Kreeger stated they are still refining her 2021 goals, and are making an effort to select goals that are easy to measure, and to avoid goals that are either on-going, or cannot be reasonably completed in one year. Kreeger commented that for the performance evaluation, Kintner’s answers were both humble and modest. She stated that Kintner has been a stabilizing force during difficult times, through the transition to virtual meetings, and assisting Council in finding the best ways to continue to conduct business in these conditions and this setting. Kreeger acknowledged and expressed appreciation Kintner’s hard work and ability to balance her work and home life while maintaining a calm and collected demeanor amid a global pandemic.

Housh noted that Kintner was absent from the meeting tonight due to an accident, a rarity. “She doesn’t realize what all she does, but we all do,” he said, acknowledging her hard work keeping everyone updated on Sunshine Law and goal-focused. She has served as Clerk for ten years, and Housh hopes she serves ten more, he said. Housh stated she will receive a 2.6% pay increase for longevity per her contract, which will begin mid-2021, and recommended a 1% merit increase along with a 1.5% cost of living adjustment.

Housh called for a MOTION TO AMEND the draft legislation (which had a placeholder for percentages) to reflect a 1.5% COLA increase and 1% merit bonus to the Clerk’s salary. Curliss MOVED, MacQueen SECONDED. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A ROLL CALL VOTE.

Housh called for a MOTION to APPROVE the resolution as amended. Curliss MOVED, MacQueen SECONDED. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A ROLL CALL VOTE.

Reading of Resolution 2021-04 Approving the Amended Solid Waste Management Plan of the Greene County Solid Waste Management District. Kreeger MOVED and Curliss SECONDED.

Salmeron explained that Greene County has adopted a solid waste management plan based on their strategic planning of their regular operations. The plan was distributed to Council, as this like other similar processes in the County, required input, approval and adoption from communities around the county. Salmeron stated several members of the community were a part of the development of this plan, including Matthew Lawson, a member of the Environmental Commission, who sat on the committee that finalized the plan. Salmeron is pleased with what has been presented, particularly with the considerations of the limitations of the county, such as the financial constraints, and the technology and values of the county when it comes to implementing solid waste management. Salmeron believes this plan is as good as we can get, within the constraints, and our community had a seat at the table for its development. Salmeron stated he is prepared to come back with a more in-depth presentation as a part of the mitigation plan that was approved by council.

MacQueen stated she spoke with Matthew Lawson and quoted him as stating that while we are not “leaders of the pack” in terms of solid waste management, environmentally speaking, he was very impressed with the work that was done on the plan. Lawson advised McQueen the District plans to hire a full-time educator who could contribute input to the Environmental Commission, visit our schools and generally help educate our community on the subject, as well as on what resources are available.

“Education is key to understanding the impact we have,” agreed Salmeron, noting recycling has been a topic for years and each year more reports come from around the country and around the world on how effective recycling has become. He stressed the most impactful thing we can do is reduce our waste, and public education helps to change consumption habits. Salmeron is impressed that they will be reaching out to schools, and start shaping future generations to be conscious of their consumption.

Housh CALLED THE VOTE. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 ON A ROLL CALL VOTE.

CITIZEN CONCERNS

There were no Citizen Concerns.

SPECIAL REPORTS

Presentation on Hazard Mitigation

Salmeron provided background, noting Council previously voted to adopt the Greene County Hazard Mitigation Plan, which is an important process in the county's emergency management agency and its strategies to both identify risk, manage risk, insure against risk, and leverage resources at the state and federal level. Mitigation is the effort to reduce loss of life and property by lessening the impact of disasters. In order for mitigation to be effective, we need to take action now, before the next disaster, to reduce human and financial consequences later, he said. The plan presentation is available from the Village Manager. Salmeron reviewed the benefits of hazard mitigation planning including increased awareness of hazards, risk and vulnerabilities; identifying actions for risk reduction; focusing resources on the greatest risks; communicating priorities to state and federal officials; and increasing overall awareness of hazards and risks. He noted top priorities for the Village are key infrastructure items; stormwater, sewer, water and electric systems to deliver essential services.

Curliss congratulated the Planning Commission, Tom Dietrich and Nadia Malarkey of the Environmental Commission, and Denise Swinger, for their work on developing stormwater management regulations and revising the Planning and Zoning code to add requirements for more robust stormwater management for all new structures and development onsite. She asked if downspouts that are connected into the sanitary sewer rather than a storm sewer remain a problem to the extent the Village should create an incentive program for home owners to disconnect these spouts.

Salmeron stated downspouts remain a problem for I&I in addition to sump pumps, as both elements were identified in 2012 with an assessment of the sanitary sewer system but little has been done to address it since then. Salmeron said Johnnie Burns, Brad Ault and Tanner Bussey have created a list of top priority issues as "low-hanging fruit" that could be corrected to reduce the strain on the sanitary sewer system and focused on those items. Salmeron stated that he had presented to Council two items that would enable legislation to have a greater impact on stormwater infiltration and recalled that during Curliss's tenure as Village Manager, she had drafted letters and memos to citizens and Council regarding the impact of sump pumps on the sanitary system as well. Getting sump pump and downspout tie-ins removed across the Village would have an "exponential" impact on the sanitary sewer system, he said, but over the course of 2020, Village crews also were able to continue to reduce stormwater infiltration through other initiatives. He agreed the legislative updates to the Planning and Zoning code also contribute positively to the effort. Curliss added that perhaps during the Council retreat on the 20th there can be a discussion on creating an incentive program, with goals to reduce the sump-pump and downspout tie-ins.

2020 Year in Review

Salmeron gave the summary of major accomplishments of the Village administration in 2020. The full report was in the packet and the presentation is also available upon request. He stated this has been the direct product of collaboration and teamwork, and thanked staff for going above and beyond the call of duty. He adds that he could not ask for a more "devoted and creative" team, and this is a recognition of all that hard work and commitment.

Accomplishment Highlights with respect to Village Values

Housh quoted MacQueen stating "I am particularly impressed and proud of our Village Team members who were able to accomplish so much during this pandemic." He stated they would have been content maintaining through COVID-19, and is very happy to see that things continued to get done and move forward. He stressed the next benchmark is comparing accomplishments to the Village values.

Village Value #1 – Deepen decision-making process with active citizen participation and effective representative governance.

Model Pandemic Response

Village Government quickly responded in caring for our community during the COVID-19 crisis. The response began early and was well-coordinated. Collaborations with the YSCF and other organizations were very democratic – everyone who had something to contribute, did so. It was egalitarian rather than top-down. Highlights:

- Distribution of hand sanitizers and signage.
- Mask ambassadors – Thousands of facial coverings distributed.
- Community Broadband to promote equal access.
- Weekly town halls and increased outreach as well as virtual regular Council meetings.

Housh highlighted the Village's ability to secure funding for activities related to the COVID-19 pandemic response, and the efforts of the peace officers in continuing these efforts. Few municipalities were as committed to the safety protocols like the Village was during this crisis.

Village Value #2 – Be a model employer actively practicing diversity hiring and provider of services within a responsible and sustainable fiscal framework.

Housh stated a major topic during JSCC is addressing how we improve our diversity hiring practices, and making sure we are looking at our vendor selections with care.

Continuous Utility Service Improvements

Electric study: this is a critical piece to ensuring that our electric grid offers safe and reliable service to our community.

Sewer system: the study, the funding and the work to reline and repair our sewer system is critical, even if not necessarily noticed by community members.

Stormwater Management Study and Zoning Updates: the study, the consideration of creating another utility line item, the repair work, and the Planning Commission review and changes to our storm-water management requirements are all critical, especially given climate change.

Village Value #3 – Be a welcoming community of opportunity for all persons regardless of race, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, ethnicity, economic status, mental/physical ability or religious affiliation.

Housh highlighted the ACC and the work they have done, with the Black Lives Matter art installation on the hardware store building on Short Street, and many more things that are happening in the Village, with Black Lives Matter and diversity at the forefront. Public art represents where our community is oriented.

Yellow Springs was the first municipality in the Miami Valley to declare Racism as a Public Health Crisis. Housh states that the resolution has been a guiding point for a lot of the work Council and staff have done, and it will be one of the primary goals for Village Government in 2021.

Village Value #4 – Pursue a strong economy that provides diverse employment, creates a stable tax base and supports the values of the community, particularly affordability.

Housh stated that in general Yellow Springs has continued to be a thriving healthy environment for people to come to live, work and play. In the short term, we have been supporting local businesses, not only with CARES act funds, and more. We want to ensure that our economy is resilient, and ready for growth moving forward. Cresco has been a success story in the Village, with a recent expansion creating forty plus new jobs, and the Village government understands that there are more businesses that wish to come here because of the values that we espouse.

Village Value #5 – Seek, in all decisions and actions, to reduce the community's carbon footprint, encourage sound ecological practices and provide careful, creative and cooperative stewardship of land resources.

Housh highlighted our energy portfolio being 78-85%, and that there are projects coming soon around how we can build out our solar portfolio. The Village is committed to renewable energy, for the sake of environmental sustainability and economic sustainability as well, with special thanks to our Environmental Commission.

NWF Community Habitat certification: the collaborative team from the Environmental Commission, Tecumseh Land Trust, Community Solutions, and Glen Helen Association achieved the Community Wildlife Habitat certification from the National Wildlife Federation.

Vernay Progress: while delayed by the pandemic, important steps have been made, including plans for the soil removable, water line protection plan, source water protection evaluation, and upgrades to the ground water remediation plan. Additionally, the Village government took an important step in the right direction of meeting directly with the CEO of Vernay to rebuild that frayed relationship.

Agraria Collaborations and TLT Partnerships.

Village Value #6 – Intentionally promote anti-racism, inclusion, equity and accessibility through all policies, procedures and processes.

Racism is a Public Health Crisis

Black Lives Matter: Yellow Springs responded to the national recognition of systemic racism:

The Justice System Collaborative Committee, formed as part of the Villages 2020 goals, engaged YSPD, which has provided support for the BLM marches that occurred during the summer and fall. During this time when police nationally have been criticized, our department and Chief Carlson have continued to provide caring service to our community.

Housh added that Council decriminalized possession of marijuana this year, and are looking at decriminalizing and minimizing other types of Police stops that are deemed unnecessary in the near future. He further highlighted that there are more things on the horizon for the Police department and the peace officers.

Protest banner display was a collaborative effort of Village artist Migiwa Orimo, local youth, the Arts and Culture Commission and the Village Crew. Housh adds that initiatives like this serve to make it clear that we are taking a stand regionally, and nationally against racism.

Wastewater Updates

Salmeron provided an update on the wastewater treatment system report he provided last year for 2019. He shared a notice from the Ohio EPA he received in 2019 regarding a 500 unit development, warning that with the Village's treatment plan average daily flow rate of 550,000 gpd, and the projected 50,000 gpd the development would add, and with past effluent violations and bypasses from the sewage collection and treatment system, that the Village may not have the necessary capacity to handle the new development. Staff investigated in 2019 and found that the daily average was 657,392 gallons per day, and the WWTP's capacity is 600,000 gpd, which indicates that the plant was already exceeding capacity.

In 2020, through several sewer and sanitary sewer improvement projects, the wastewater processed decreased by over sixty percent, after setting a goal to reduce infiltration and inflow by 10% in 2020. In 2018, the water reclaimed exceeded the water produced by 233%, in 2019 that figure decreased to 188%, and in 2020 that figure decreased again to 125%.

Reviewing and comparing wastewater reclamation averages, in 2018 the daily average was 626,523 gallons, exceeding our capacity by 26,523. In 2019 we exceeded our capacity by 51,071 gpd, and in 2020 the total reclaimed average per day was 493,101, which is within our treatment plants capacity.

Salmeron clarified in the EPA's letter that they had made an error, the 500 unit development they cited was actually a 50+ unit senior living apartment complex proposed by Home, Inc. Since the improvements to the system however, the Village could now withstand such a large development being added. Salmeron stated this improvement speaks volumes to the Village team's hard work, ingenuity and creativity in getting the work done.

Salmeron moved on to another issue identified in the water produced. Staff has observed a significant difference between water treated and pumped from the plant, and how much water is metered and billed. In 2018 the water loss was 32%, in 2019 36%, and in 2020 it hit an all-time high of 46%. Staff looks to address this in 2021 and identify where this water is going.

Housh further highlighted from Village Value #5 in his year in review presentation the National Wildlife Federation Community Habitat Certification, it will not only help the Village remain environmentally resilient but also is a major attraction to the community. Housh gave kudos to the Environmental Commission, MacQueen and others who have championed that project.

Stokes complimented the grouping of accomplishments for the year in review by Village Values, as it makes it clear how each achievement ties into each value, and gives much needed context to the accomplishments as well. He asks regarding the relining of 3,900 feet of sanitary sewer, if that is the extent of what needs relined or if more is planned to be done.

Salmeron stated there is a lot more sewer relining that needs to be done, and that what was relined was both top priority and fit within the budget for 2020. There is a map of sewer lines and their condition, and any damages identified. Salmeron and Burns plan to bring to Council a long term plan outlining the costs, time and details of rehabilitating the entire sanitary sewer system. After a discussion with Burns earlier in the day, the estimated total cost to reline throughout the Village is \$4 million dollars. Due to budgetary constraints, they plan to continue relining critical sewers and prioritizing, and have more video recording and inspections to do in the coming year as well.

Stokes commends the team for all they've accomplished this far.

Curliss asks about the water loss numbers, asking if there is a correlation between the higher amount of water being produced and an increase in the water lost. Salmeron stated that there is an automated process where when the water levels in the water towers dips below a certain point, a signal is sent to the plant that more water is needed. He stated this system is triggering to produce more water. Curliss stated the answer can be provided later, she had observed that correlation and production overall seems to be up with the new plant.

Salmeron added that consumption has also increased, with ten million more gallons being produced and billed for since 2018. He added that if there is a constant flow in the form of a leak somewhere in the system, that it would also contribute to more water produced than billed.

Burns added that we do not have any actual water production numbers prior to 2018 as the old plant did not have a working water meter. They are proactively searching for the sources of leaks and have added five more meters to places which did not have meters before, such as the Miami Township Fire and Rescue building. Prior to metering the fire department, the Village could not seek any reimbursement or write-off the water provided to other public entities because they did not know how much water was consumed. Antioch, Friends Care and Cresco also have received meters and deduct meters for any water activities that don't go into the sewer system. Fire protection line testing could also be driving the water loss up, as Burns stated that Cresco had to undergo five tests before opening.

MacQueen asked if the higher production of water puts any additional pressure on the water mains and lines themselves, possibly pushing water out of the system faster.

Burns stated the water pressure does not change with more water produced. He added that 69 million gallons lost in 2019 is the equivalent of 69 water towers worth of water missing in the Village, and does not rule out the possibility of meter errors. He stated we had some fires and some water main breaks as well that could be contributing, and more research will be conducted to identify the problems in 2021. Gina Hayes with the Ohio EPA is also working with the Village staff on identifying the issue.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Meaningful Action re: Anti-Racism and Justice

Housh did not have any further updates to report, as the JSCC has not met since the last Council meeting. He stated the new meeting schedule will be once a month on the second Tuesday between the two regular Council meetings, from 4-5:30pm. The new schedule will start January 12th.

2021 Goals Update

Housh provided a preview look at the draft Council Goals for 2021. More in depth discussion surrounding goals will take place at the 2021 Council Retreat scheduled for January 20. Housh said he has reduced the goals to one page, and has limited the total goals to three for each category. He received feedback from Council on the goals, as not everything is on it and it is not intended to pigeon-hole Council. Kreeger said she appreciates the distillation, and has been advocating for tightening down the goals, and identifying the absolute imperative goals that must be achieved in 2021, and to have a secondary aspirational goal list. Curliss and Stokes voiced their agreement.

NEW BUSINESS

Solar Power Purchase Agreement from AMP

Salmeron previously reported to Council that in 2021 the Village's contract with Blue Creek/EDI Landfill is expiring, and the contract needs replaced with a new energy source for 1.8 megawatts of energy. He plans to pursue multiple options so that the best one may be selected, with an emphasis on expanding our green energy portfolio. One option is to join the AMP Partnership to negotiate a group purchase agreement with an energy producer to purchase more solar power for the Village. Salmeron states AMP is working on a utility grade solar production, and seeks non-binding interest from AMP partners, so they know how much production the membership is looking to buy, to negotiate pricing. He states this project is not associated with the solar projects being built in the township on farm land in Greene County.

Curliss expressed concern about the solar projects being built on prime farmland, and agrees that we should be at the table for the negotiation, but hopes that we are offered a choice of the solar project we support, and avoid supporting projects that would be damaging to farmlands.

Salmeron stated due to how small of a community we are, there are limitations on what the Village can do. He gives the example of Sutton farm, which the Village owns and while it is fertile land, the Village lacks the means to farm it and due to pesticide use restrictions commercial farming potential is limited. A new possible use for that land would be to install solar on it. Salmeron hopes that market forces will help drive utility-scale solar projects away from the use of more expensive fertile farmland. Salmeron stated they can ask this of AMP as well during negotiations. He also anticipates a

good rate on the production side, but transmission costs will increase the further away it has to travel.

Housh asked for clarification on what Salmeron needs, Salmeron stated he would need authorization from Council to submit a letter to AMP to enter the partnership, and stated it is non-binding. Housh called for a ROLL CALL vote to authorize the Village Manager to enter into a non-binding partnership with AMP Ohio for the purpose of securing 1.8 megawatts of renewable energy for the year of 2021-2022. PASSED on a 5-0 ROLL CALL VOTE.

Council Retreat Agenda

Curliss states that Council should discuss the new Council Rules before the second reading of Ordinance 2021-01. Curliss adds that she wishes to have expanded discussion about changing the way Council does business through the use of committees, and committee structures.

MacQueen would like to make sure the meeting starts off with discussion around prioritizing key critical topics to discuss through the meeting, similar to the prioritization of the goals.

Nominations for Planning Commission

Curliss nominated Sarah Sinclair-Amend for the regular Planning Commission member position, and nominated Matthew Kirk for the alternate position. Kreeger SECONDED.

MacQueen asks if these two candidates were interviewed by two Council members, Curliss and Kreeger confirmed they conducted the interviews.

The nominations were APPROVED on a 5-0 ROLL CALL VOTE.

MANAGER'S REPORT

Salmeron summarized that they are in process of closing out the 2020 budget and are opening the 2021 budget approved by Council. He previously announced that public Wi-Fi is now moving into the next phase, expanding out to high density high priority locations such as the Hawthorne Apartments on West North College, and Corry Street Apartment complexes. The work has already begun, with the fiber optic cable installed already.

A meeting with Vernay has been scheduled for some time in February, and Salmeron will provide more details when they become available. He also stated two members of staff have transitioned from employment at the Village.

Part-time dispatcher Danielle Franklin has left for a full time opportunity. Part-time utility clerk Deborah Kelley has also transitioned out, and staff will be re-evaluating that position and the associated duties to make a determination at a later time if they need to make another hire. Nicole Trexler has been offered a part-time dispatcher position to replace Franklin.

Recycling mailers went out to residents, notifying of a recent change to the recycling program where number 5 plastics are now accepted.

Progress is being made toward replacing the contract providing 1.8 megawatts of electricity to the Village for 2021 and 2022, staff has met with AMP Ohio, and continue to explore Village owned solar power production. The target date to provide Council with a feasibility study will be sometime in March to go over all options available. Staff also met with the AMP Financing Team to review financing options, and the next step will be to meet with the Port Authority to review financing options. The AMP Financing uses a revenue bond financing model.

Health Insurance – The Village has changed brokers, and will be going to market in January. A survey tool is currently in the works to survey staff on their healthcare needs.

The audit reports have been completed by the State of Ohio Auditor, and the report has been circulated to Council members.

Staff is entering the end of year reporting and procedures, which includes W-2s and 1099s being generated.

BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS

There were no reports.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Salmeron stated the school district has reached out and requested a joint meeting regarding the

purchase of the property for the Agraria trail given that each body must act in a public meeting, and asked if Council would like to plan a joint meeting as that would allow the two bodies to convene and have two-way dialogue, rather than one body having questions that would then need to be answered by the other body the next time they convene. By having a joint meeting, the two bodies can have a fruitful conversation in real time and make decisions together.

Solicitor Parcels added that if one body revises the contract for the real estate purchase, then it would have to be brought back to the other body to make the same revisions, so for convenience it would be easier to conduct a joint open meeting to allow the two-way dialogue. Housh asked about the timetable for the purchase and Salmeron said the urgency is relative, as there was a lot of enthusiasm early on to get Council's commitment and the allocation of funds for the project but ultimately it may depend on Agraria's grant deadlines, so he will reach out to Agraria. He noted the administrative processes will take considerable time, in terms of the real estate closing process. Housh asked to move the conversation for scheduling this meeting offline, and continue building out the agenda for the January 19 meeting.

Housh asked if Stokes would be interested in preparing the resolution declaring Juneteenth a holiday in the Village of Yellow Springs. Stokes agreed.

Salmeron asked when administration could expect the parking minimums recommended text amendment from Planning Commission to come back to Council. Housh stated the January 19 meeting would be acceptable, but stated that this amendment is more than a housekeeping item and that there needs to be more discussion at agenda planning before these types of amendments should be brought.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:46pm, Curliss MOVED to adjourn and Stokes SECONDED. The MOTION PASSED 5-0 on a voice vote.

Brian Housh, Council President

Passed: 1/19/2021

Attest: Raven Behrens, Deputy Clerk of Council