**The Byesville Village Council met in Regular Session on Thursday, March 19, 2020, at 4:30 pm, at Byesville Fire Department.**

**Those in attendance included Mayor Jay Jackson, Village Administrator Brennan Dudley, and Fiscal Officer Angela Grant**

**Mayor Jackson led The Pledge of Allegiance.** **Administrator Dudley offered the prayer.**

**Roll Call: p. – Haren, p. – Port, a. – Kenworthy - p. – Neff – p. – Albright, p. - Warner**

***Clerk:***

Councilman Port made a motion, seconded by Councilman Neff to approve the March 11, 2020, meeting minutes, as presented. Yea (6) – Haren, Port, Kenworthy, Neff, Albright, Warner

***Administrator:***

**Water Operations**

**Routine Maintenance and Operation:** Clean and maintain sediment basins, CIP filter units weekly, back-wash at least one Aeralater per day, maintain chemical levels. Welding on Aerolators as needed.

**Water Improvement Project:** Progressing as scheduled.

**Distribution:** Service calls, shut offs, turn on, OUPS tickets. Meter Reads.

**Personnel:** Assessing resumes/applications for vacant positions. Interviews have been postponed until completion of COVID crises.

**Wastewater Operations**

**Routine Maintenance and Operation:** Pressing and composting as scheduled, routine and preventative maintenance as scheduled.

**Sewer Reline Project Phase II:** Laterals lining is underway. Rain has caused some delays.

**GPS Wastewater line:** Phase I work has commenced. Phase II is still being engineered.

**Street**

**Routine Maintenance and Operation:** Clean catch basins and culverts, repair leak holes, sweep streets, assist distribution crew as needed.

**Glass Ave:** Spoke with plan holders. The lack of bids was due to two main factors. Contractors being too busy with other projects and the project being outside the scope of some plan holders. I am working with the engineer to contact other contractors. Rebid documents are being prepared.

**Dump Trucks:** Waiting on budget entry and assessing purchase options.

**Misc. Work:** Maintain streets, repair, clean, maintain equipment and facilities, patch holes as material is available. Clean and repair culverts and catch basins.

**General Administration**

**Routine Administrative Functions:** Oversee operations at the Street, WTP and WWTP departments, review and sign PO’s and invoices, H.R. functions, payroll preparation, work cooperatively with the Mayor, Fiscal Officer, Income Tax, Utilities Clerk, Park Liaison, Building Inspector, Village Council, Police and Fire to ensure the day-to-day operation of the Village.

**Park:** Village personnel completed the floor for new Pavilion #2.

**Zoning:** Reviewed 5 building permits and 1 application for variance.

**Employee Handbook:** Continuing revisions of the handbook.

**Union Negotiations:** On hold during the COVID-19 crises.

**COVID Crises:** I have been working with the Mayor, Police Chief, Fire Chief, and County Officials to assess the needs and resources of Byesville. I have met with Village personnel to keep them informed of their roles, responsibilities, and expectations throughout this time.

Under the Mayor’s direction we have limited public access to our facilities. We are still conducting business through various electronic means including email and phone. Utility and Tax payments are being processed through the payment drop box and the online payment system. I would remind our residents of the central Village phone number 740-685-0800. Through this one number you can reach any Village office or department.

***Mayor:***

STATE OF THE VILLAGE 2020

**Economic Development**

Creating an attractive business culture has always been top priority. In 2019, our Village transitioned from a few long-time businesses to a resurgence of entrepreneurship. Many property owners took advantage of the Project Phoenix grant and made significant improvements to their properties. The improvements attracted new businesses. I look forward to seeing more businesses open their doors in 2020.

My goals for economic development in 2020 are:

Renew funding for Project Phoenix, extending our private public partnership grants.

Utilize grant Continuing to improve property aesthetics in order to make Byesville attractive to potential business owners and developers.

Creating unique ways to market vacant buildings for opportunity.

We have applied for and are awaiting determination of a $250,000 downtown revitalization grant. Award of this grant would greatly impact our revitalization efforts.

**Beautification**

We will continue to add to our beatification efforts in the Village. We will expand on are landscape efforts and add additional seasonal banners. We will continue to utilize or community partners to help maintain and improve Village aesthetics.

**Safety Services**

In 2019, it was another great year for our Police and Fire as they continue to provide safety and service to our citizens. The Fire Department transitioned Chiefs in 2019. Chief Haren has done a great job with the reimplementation of the First Responder service and a renewed emphasis on applicants and training. The Fire Department responded to 161 fire calls and 186 first responder calls. The Department was awarded an ODNR grant for the purchase of new turnout gear.

In 2020, the addition of emergency medical transport services will help to provide additional essential life services to the residents of Byesville and Jackson Township.

In 2019, the Police personnel responded to 1421 calls. The Police also had the transition of a new full-time officer. Chief May and his officers have done an excellent job protecting our citizens and working within the limitation of available resources.

In 2020, we will continue to utilize the Police presence to detour drug activity while sending a strong message to dealers that Byesville will not tolerate this conduct. Additionally, we will continue to use the department to enforce property code standards.

**Infrastructure**

Byesville is very busy with infrastructure projects.

The Water and Wastewater departments have taken huge strides in the last 6 months. We have several projects that have been years in the making that are moving forward under construction.

The Water Improvement Project commenced in the later months of 2019. The project is currently approximately 50% complete with an expected completion of September 2020. This project will replace the deteriorating filters thus improving water quality and expand our production capabilities.

The ongoing replacement of waterlines has helped to dramatically reduce leaks and water loss. In 2019 we had a mere 11 main line leaks and 6 service line leaks. 2019 saw the replacement of two water lines. Village personnel completed the N 7th Street line project that was left over from 2018 and the complete replacement of Watson Ave. We will continue to assess waterlines for replacement with the oldest and most problematic taking priority.

The Phase II Reline project has commenced and is expected to be complete in the Spring of 2020. This project will greatly reduce the inundation of rainwater in our sewer system thus reducing operational expenses.

The installation of the necessary sewer line to the Guernsey Power Station is underway. The project has been split into two phases to help keep the project moving forward. Phase I which is the Seneca Lane portion is currently under construction. Phase II which is the bulk of the project is currently being engineered. We anticipate engineering and design to be complete by May, and construction to begin by the end of 2020.

The Glass Ave Culvert replacement project will move forward in 2020. The initial bid did not produce a successful award, the Administrator is working with our engineers to revise the documents and reach out to a broader range of contractors. I anticipate the project to be rebid within the next 45 days.

We are currently evaluating streets for resurfacing this year. We will be working with Council to find the best use of the funds.

I appreciate the Administrators leadership and dedication to improving our community. His creativity and planning have been able to secure funding for most of these projects including substantial grants and 0 percent interest loans. These projects will advance our community well into the future.

**The Park**

The park continues to be a center piece for recreation and enjoyment. It brings me great joy to see the generations of young and older alike and the families enjoying this valuable asset of our community. I appreciate Mr. Neff and Mr. Kenworthy’s work and dedication to the Park.

In late 2019, construction began on a new Pavilion replacing the deteriorating Pavilion #2. I anticipate the completion of the new pavilion in early Spring.

The Park held several family-based events in 2019 including the inaugural Newt Oliver Junior High Basketball Summer League, The Back-to-School Bash, and the annual Easter Egg Hunt.

In 2020, plans are underway to install a 9-hole Disc Golf Course. I am looking forward to the potential this coarse creates for bringing people to our community.

The Village has received notice of a grant award from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The grant will fund 80% of the installation of a recreational trail in the Park. Additionally, it will assist with the required ADA alterations.

Finally, we hope to make significant progress on the required ADA modifications. The Administrator is working with Park Liaison Councilman Neff to advance this project.

**The Future**

Byesville is a thriving community with great potential for the future. I will continue to strive to make Byesville the best place to live, work, and raise a family.

I appreciate our citizens and their dedication to progress. I am a firm believer that it takes a Village to progress and our citizens are the greatest resource for success.

As I’ve said many times before, Byesville’s best days are ahead.

As always with Byesville Pride,

Respectfully yours,

Mayor Jay Jackson

Presented March 19, 2020 to the Byesville Village Council

***Park*:**

Presented by Park Liaison Council President Neff.

Thank you to Dave, Mark & Glen for a great job helping with the pavilion. The park and ball fields will be closed until there is resolve to the COVID-19 crisis.

***Zoning:***

***Fire:*** Asst.Chief Bacon informed that they are taking many precautions for COVID-19. They are looking to buy air packs from Cambridge Fire. There are 10 at the cost of $13,000.

***EMS:*** Jeremy Rice reported that they have responded to 135 EMS calls ytd. The ambulance is still being prepared and it was decided to hold off on a tour of the ambulance due to COVID-19. Mr. Rice discussed the many precautions that they have put into place to deal with the pandemic. They have begun planning for 8 hour shifts to be covered at the station, with the member staying at the station that full time. He stated that they were continuing to go on all runs and have a supply of gowns and N95 masks. There will only be one person making patient contact to help reduce exposure.

***Police:***

***Solicitor:***

***Village Services:*** Mr. Albright stated his concern for businesses closing and the possibility of that affecting the taxes brought in by the village. He suggested that spending be curbed and “freeze” raises until it is seen how the closings will impact the budget.

***Finance:*** Mrs. Warner also expressed concern with the businesses closing.

***Legislative*:** Third reading for Ordinance 2020-4 regarding political signs in the Village of Byesville.

Motion to approve: Albright

Motion to Second: Port

Yes (6) Haren, Port, Kenworthy, Neff, Albright, Warner

Ordinance 2020-6 Permanent Appropriations for the Village of Byesville and declaring an emergency.

Motion to suspend rules: Port

Second: Haren

Motion to pass: Neff

Second: Port

Mrs. Warner asked if this was in fact and emergency and it was stated that the permanent budget had to be approved before the last day of March.

Yes (6) Haren, Port, Kenworthy, Neff, Albright, Warner

***Guest:***

***Additional Business:***

**Kenworthy: Mr. Kenworthy discussed that he was provided with copies of the ordinance regarding sewer being available to Jackson Twp. Residents. There is an agreement that includes maintenance of the sewer lines. Mr. Dudley was able to provide a copy that had a map showing the area that is included in the agreement.**

**Neff:**

**Albright:**

**Warner:**

**Haren:**

**Port:**

**Media:**

***Meeting Adjourned:***

Councilman Port made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Councilman Haren

Yea (6) – Haren, Port, Kenworthy, Neff, Albright, Warner

Meeting Adjourned at 5:02 pm.

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**Mayor Jay Jackson**

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**Minutes prepared by Village Fiscal Officer, Angela Grant**