

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING
May 9, 2017
VILLAGE OF TERRACE PARK COUNCIL
HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO

Council met on Tuesday, May 9, 2017 at 7:30 p.m. in the Terrace Park Community Building. Mayor Tepe led Council in the Pledge of Allegiance. Members of Council present were Mr. John Gaskey, Mr. Jeff LeMay, Ms. Holly Purcell, Mrs. Pax Lindell, Ms. Judith Lehman and Ms. Regina Sharp. In addition, Mayor Tom Tepe, EMS Chief John Maggard, Fire Chief Luke Frey, Clerk of Council Hester Sullivan, Solicitor Jeff Forbes, Chief Fiscal Officer Jean Marie Nelson and Police Chief Jerry Hayhow were in attendance.

Council Member Purcell motioned to approve Council Minutes from the April 11, 2017 regular Council meeting with one date correction. All voted aye. Minutes approved.

RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL: None

MAYOR'S REPORT: Mayor Tepe noted what a great meeting we had last week with the Hamilton County Health Commission. He thanked Tim Ingram, Health Commissioner; Greg Kesterman, Assistant Health Commissioner; and Chris Griffith, Water Quality Director and all the residents and council members in attendance. The state makes laws and the county must administer these laws. A change they made in 2015 made drywells illegal. Hamilton County was able to buy us some time by negotiating a deadline of 10 years – 2025, so we still have 8 years. Certain modifications will have to be made. If you weren't at the meeting, definitely go to icrctv.com and watch the video. Their presentation addressed the feasibility and possibility of sewers with new and more accurate information than we had in the past. They asked for a plan, but that is down the road a bit. We need to look at all of our options and discuss. We have 600 hundred drywells in Terrace Park, that's half of all the drywells in all of Hamilton County. The Village has a very vested interest in this. We operate the Village on property tax revenue. There is no income tax in Terrace Park. However, if buyers are required to put in new septic systems, they are going to want a discount of \$30,000 which means the house is worth \$30,000 less and that decrease in property taxes means less revenue. We know the septic system situation, the question is, what does this 2025 deadline mean? If you have a drywell, you will need to start saving for a new system. We will look at the feasibility of installing sewers. It will involve a lot of work. What will be the cost? We are the test case for Hamilton County. There is a credit to the homeowner for sewer connection, but there are other costs associated – connection (from the house to the street), decommissioning the drywell, other unknowns. The health commissioner asked that we have a plan together by the end of the year. We told him there is no way that can happen, but we can at least get started. We want to put together a group of people who can give their time and brain power to exploring this issue. If anyone is interested in participating, contact Hester Sullivan in the Village Office 513-831-2138 or Sullivan@terracepark.org. Because we will need a succinct, well-represented, committed group, we will select from volunteers to create this Ad Hoc Committee to be appointed by the Mayor. We are looking out for everyone's best interest. The issues will be well vetted by the committee, by the council, and by the public. There is no decision that will satisfy everyone. Council Member Lehman added that this is a good opportunity to look at all the options out there – the sewer v septic issue has been hanging over our heads for years, now we can finally take time to get the facts and present.

CHIEF FISCAL OFFICER: No report.

SOLICITOR: No report.

EMS CHIEF: No EMS report. From The Association, thank you to Jeff Carle who has transformed the com room at the station to a more comfortable place for “out of towners” to spend their time at the station. This is thanks to donations from our village to Emergency Services (aka The Association) fundraising events like the Pancake Supper and Pedalpalooza. So a big thank you to all for your donations!

FIRE CHIEF: No fire report. Chief Frey was asked about repairs to Rescue 94. He said the parts will be in in about 10 days, and hopefully we will have her back in service in about 2 weeks. We have three vendors looking at building our new engine. The repairs to R94 have bought us several years’ reprieve.

POLICE CHIEF/STREETS AND MAINTENANCE:

- Capital Electric has responded and will be fixing the Light Pole out on US50 that was broken by a fallen tree.
- Attachment A is a map from Duke. Chief was part of a conference call with several Duke engineers. There are two power circuits (aka grids) in Terrace Park. The streets without the red line have been upgraded to the 12K system. The streets (and portions of streets) with the red and green lines are the old 4K system and will be upgraded. Duke said they had two choices as part of the upgrade. 1) they could replace/rebuild the overhead lines on the poles as they are now and continue to do aggressive tree trimming. 2) they will pick up the bill to put the wires underground and for the homeowners in those areas. The ground will be bored and not trenched. They will ask other utilities to join them in this effort. Putting the lines underground will help us save trees. Also they are boring (tunneling underground) rather than digging trenches. The substation by the tunnel will be dismantled and eliminated then they will sell the property (will they possibly donate to the Village?). It was asked if we could get a bid from them to find out how much it would cost to finish the partial streets. They can go ahead without input from us and do the overhead wires. If we decide we are in favor of their putting the lines underground then we will have a say and will need to look at new easements and other issues. There were several questions, including what happens if one neighbor wants buried and one wants overhead still? It was suggested that we have a meeting with Duke Officials about this process, much like the one we just had with Hamilton County Public Health. They will start the upgrade within a year. This will fall under Pax’s committee, but all will pitch in.

BUILDING OFFICIAL: The Building Official’s report was included in Council packets and attached here.

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL OUTSIDE THEIR COMMITTEE: Regina Sharp distributed the attached “EMS Recruiting Project” (Attachment B). She went over some of the goals and efforts they are working on including an event at the pool on June 4th and one in August to be developed. In addition they are working on design for a pamphlet, ads and other publicity pieces and possibly hire a creative agency. We have budgeted \$3000-5000 for this effort. It was suggested that possibly college students studying graphic design might want to do this as an internship. The group will come up with specific needs and skill set and we will advertise for an intern or pro bono help if possible. If you have names, please forward to Council Member Sharp.

PLANNING & ZONING: Council Member Sharp noted nothing to report.

BUILDING AND GROUNDS: Council Member Gaskey had nothing to report.

FINANCE: Council Member LeMay noted that we are starting the budget process. In June it will be presented for public review. In July we will need full council consensus to pass. July is final, final deadline for us. We will hopefully not have to schedule an extra meeting to vote.

RULES & LAWS: Council Member Judith Lehman noted the Rules and Law Committee had met before the meeting to discuss creating the position of Village Administrator. More to come on that.

PUBLIC WORKS: Council Member Lindell had nothing to report.

PUBLIC SAFETY: Council Member Purcell noted that she has enjoyed her 6 ½ years on Council and has decided not to run again. She wanted to let people know in a timely manner so that someone might run. It's a great way to serve the Village. The process is not terribly complicated but you do need to go to the county to get petitions with 50 VALID signatures by the deadline which is 75 days before the election (which would be around August 8).

CONTINUED BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

Council Member Sharpe motioned to adjourn. Voice Vote all voted aye. Meeting Adjourned.

Respectfully submitted:

Hester Old Sullivan
Clerk of Council

Thomas M. Tepe, Jr.
Mayor