

Village of Misenheimer
Council Meeting - Community Building
April 10, 2017

Council Present: Michael “Frizbee” Herron, Mayor **Staff:** Anita Blair, Administrator/Clerk
Jeff Watson, Mayor Pro Tem Erik McGinnis, Chief of Police
Micah Edquist, Finance Officer **Visitors:** Shannon Beamon, SNAP
Peter Edquist - arrived at #7 Sarah Lee, Ester House Volunteer
Mike Riemann, Carolina Thread Trail
Donnie & Sherry Day, Village Residents

Council Member Absent: Mike Burrage

1. Call to Order: Mayor Herron called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

2. Moment of Silence: Mayor Herron requested that a moment of silence be observed.

3. Ethics Statement: Blair read the Ethics Statement asking if any Council members present may have any potential conflict(s) of interest or any known or perceived conflict(s) of interest related to the meeting Agenda presented. None were noted.

4. Introduction of Staff & Visitors: Visitors as noted above were welcomed to the meeting.

5. Approval of 04/10/17 Council Meeting Agenda: Watson made a Motion to approve the Agenda as presented. M. Edquist seconded the Motion and it was approved by a 3/0 vote.

6. Approval of 03/13/17 Council Minutes: M. Edquist made a Motion to approve the 03/13/17 Council Minutes as presented. Watson seconded the Motion and it was approved 3/0.

7. Public Comment Period: Donnie and Sherry Day reported that the neighbor’s animals were still getting into their yard. Chief McGinnis reported that an officer had inspected the fence in question and it appeared that the animals were well contained in an electric fence. The Days reported that things were better for a time, but it appears the electric fence is turned off at times. The criminal case that was filed has been dismissed due to evidence that Mr. Martelis has complied. Mr. and Mrs. Day inquired if Council had considered any further zoning restrictions in this matter. Mayor Herron explained that we have our own Zoning Ordinances and that we do not follow the County’s Ordinances. Erik McGinnis, Zoning Officer, explained that if we did put in a new ordinance that Mr. Martelis would be grandfathered with his current animals. McGinnis explained that the criminal route was taken first because of expediency. The only recourse with zoning laws are civil penalties that are often hard to collect requiring a lengthy process that eventually leads to a property lien. Zoning Officer McGinnis will check on the property setbacks. The criminal case was dismissed with Prayer for Judgement. If animals keep getting out, Mr. Martelis will be charged again.

Shannon Beamon arrived at this time.

Mr. and Mrs. Day also inquired about road maintenance on various roads. Mayor Herron explained that Powell Bill money can be used to maintain only roads that the Village owns and there are many stipulations regarding Powell Bill fund expenditures. If the Village starts maintaining all non-state maintained roads with fund balance, the funds would be depleted quickly. M. Edquist commented that we don’t want to set a precedent that we cannot maintain.

Peter Edquist arrived at this time.

8. Ester House of Stanly County Presentation and Proclamation Review & Approval: Sarah Lee, volunteer for the Ester House presented statistics regarding sexual assaults and their victims. She asked that we observe “Sexual Assault Awareness Month’ by placing the wreath provided by the Ester House at the Village Office as well as approving the “Sexual Assault Awareness Month April 2017 Proclamation.”

P. Edquist moved to approve the Proclamation. Watson seconded the Motion and it was approved 4/0.

9. Carolina Thread Trail Update: Mike Riemann reported that the final report was filed on the Construction Grant. An extension has been filed on the Acquisition Grant. He reported that progress is still being made. The goal is to have 9.5 miles of trail with 5 contiguous miles. Another 2.5 miles has been committed. The trail has a lot of activity and the condition is well defined.

Conversation has taken place with Tarheel Challenge Academy regarding maintenance of the trail. The “Friends of the North Stanly Trails and Parks, Inc.,” a 501 (c) tax exempt organization, will be managing the trail beginning January, 2018 and will maintain the trail thereafter. The “Friends” will consist of six Board members along with one member appointed by each of the three towns, Misenheimer, New London and Richfield.

Mr. Riemann reported that he had contacted the Norfolk Southern Railroad Office in Atlanta regarding submission of plans for the crossing at the antique store. He asked Council if the Village would consider allowing trail users to cross the railroad on the road and go down Lion’s Club Road. He noted that he would like for Council to again consider using the unspent Powell Bill money that had previously been committed to this project. Council concluded that a natural walkway would be the best option due to railroad restrictions regarding sidewalks as well as future sewer line placement. Mr. Riemann noted that any easements obtained would be owned by the Village.

Mr. Riemann also stated that if future plans called for a sidewalk that he would not be in opposition to laying side walk over the natural trail on Lion’s Club Road.

P. Edquist commented that possibly another route should be considered that may ultimately end at the same targeted location.

10. Review Unaudited Financial Status at 03/13/17: M. Edquist reported the bank statement balances as of 03/31/17 were as follows:

- General Fund \$ 551,389
- Powell Bill Fund \$ 62,370
- Carolina Thread Trail \$ 8,128 (Grant #2) Trail Acquisition Grant (Village, Richfield & New London)
- Carolina Thread Trail \$ 0 (Grant #3) Trail Construction Grant (Village & Richfield)

A detailed analysis was presented to Council per our auditor’s suggestion to do so on a quarterly basis.

11. FY 17/18 Budget Discussion & Draft Presentation: M. Edquist reported that he, Mayor Herron, Chief McGinnis, and Administrator Blair met regarding the budget. Per Council’s request, \$50,000 was budgeted for Gladstone. He reported a conservative approach was made in regard to revenues. Increases were made regarding employee pay to preserve the future by investing in the dedicated and quality employees already in place. M. Edquist went through the main line items in the proposed budget. He again opened up the conversation for additional budget requests. P. Edquist reiterated that we should consider putting more money toward sidewalks, and lay out a scope of work for Gladstone. He also expressed the desire to make Gladstone functional with a possible sidewalk included to be ready for the 15-year anniversary in 2018.

Regarding Gladstone, M. Edquist noted that the last restoration contractor was no longer available. M. Edquist recommended that we should solicit quotes for the restoration and that we should oversee the work ourselves to insure the level of quality. He noted that he did not want involvement with Gladstone renovations from a contractor perspective unless his work is donated. P. Edquist recommended that we should put numbers with the prioritized items and financially commit to our goal.

Gladstone priorities discussed were the roof, ceiling, and exterior. M. Edquist expressed the he felt \$50,000 could accomplish those three items. Additional needs are interior bead board walls, electricity, septic, and buffering - shrubs or fencing.

12. Police Report – March, 2017: Chief McGinnis reported that traffic has increased. There were two car break-ins with one laptop being stolen out of the car. There were three arrests pertaining to traffic stops.

13. Pfeiffer Place Update: Zoning Officer McGinnis reported that Mr. Henderson did not show up for the Public Nuisance hearing. The “Order of Abatement” was mailed by certified mail on April 10, 2017. The owner has ten working days to respond to the Abatement Order. Technically the date mailed is the start of the 10-day period. If there is no response, McGinnis will move forward with action to clean up the property. He will issue the first citation.

14. Livestock Complaint Update: No further discussion took place due to the discussion during the Public Comment Period.

15. Zoning – Sign Ordinance Review: The Planning Board made two recommendations to Council. The first was to approve the definition of a “governmental sign” as any sign erected by the Village, the County of Stanly, the State of North Carolina, or the US Government that warns, directs, regulates, or informs the public, or identifies a place or thing and to allow “governmental signs” in all zoning districts. The second recommendation was to allow a maximum of one “freestanding (pole) sign” in district M-1, no greater than 5’ tall, and 18 square feet in area.

P. Edquist questioned the Zoning Map and felt that it may be incorrect. M. Edquist commented that we may best serve future business interest if we were a little less restrictive on the signs.

P. Edquist moved to forestall any action on the potential sign changes regarding free standing (pole) signs until a Council member investigates zoning on all properties with the County. Watson seconded the Motion and it passed 3/0. M. Edquist recused himself from the vote due to a potential conflict of interest.

M. Edquist moved to accept the recommendation from the Planning Board to define and allow “governmental signs” as recommended above. Watson seconded the Motion and it was approved 4/0.

16. Planning Board & Board of Adjustment Term Expirations: Term expirations were reviewed. Watson accepted to continue additional 3-year terms on both Boards. Blair will contact Ahren Burrage to determine if he will be able to fulfill his remaining two years. She will also contact Lane Peeler to determine if he is willing to serve another 3-year term on the Board of Adjustment. Council members were asked for additional input on possible members.

17. Historic Gladstone – Survey/New Deed Update: Blair reported that the recombination survey was complete and the deed preparation was in process.

18. Other Business – Blair solicited newsletter articles.

19. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 8:25 pm.

The next Council Meeting is scheduled for Monday, May 8, 2017 at 6PM at the Community Building.

Mayor Michael “Frizbee” Herron

Date

Anita Blair, Administrator/Clerk

Date