

MINUTES OF MEETING
April 13, 2021
VILLAGE OF TERRACE PARK COUNCIL
HAMILTON COUNTY, OHIO

Council met on Tuesday April 13, 2020 at 7:30 p.m. via zoom and in person. Mayor Tepe led Council in the Pledge of Allegiance. Members of Council present were Mr. John Gaskey, Ms. Judith Lehman, Ms. Lauren Ingebritson, Mr. Jeff LeMay, Mr. Pax Lindell and Ms. Regina Sharp. In addition, Mayor Tom Tepe, Village Administrator and Police Chief Gerald Hayhow, EMS Chief John Maggard, Fire Chief Steve Dronsfield, Chief Fiscal Officer and Clerk of Council, Katie Lyons. The Mayor asked if anyone had any corrections, additions or deletions to the March 10, 2021 Minutes. Council Member Gaskey motioned to approve the Council Minutes from the March 10, 2021 council meeting. Voice vote, all voted aye. Minutes approved.

RESIDENTS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL The Mayor asked if there were any residents to address council. Seeing none he moved on.

MAYOR'S REPORT: The Mayor stated that things are getting more normal with vaccinations, let's assume going forward, and as long as everyone is comfortable we can get back our normal in person meetings. He then asked for thoughts, feedback? Let's move forward in person.

The Mayor then read our annual **Arbor Day Proclamation** (attached).

The Mayor then went on to say he had a sewer update, non-update. Hamilton County administrator contacted Chief Hayhow a week ago, Hayhow explained he talked about alternative funding and federal grants, and said he would look into it and let him know. Tepe relayed that to Karen Ball, the liaison with MSD. She confirmed that she would have an update soon because the county Commissioners met in executive session. We don't know what came out of it, however, Tepe is hopeful to get info this week. Update we don't know if, when, sewers will even happen.

Two main topics concerning sewers:

1. The 2025 deadline for non-compliant septic's is quickly approaching.
2. The second issue is, is the county interpreting state rules and state laws, when they have a requirement adding space to home, them requiring a functional septic deemed non-compliant.

Mayor Tepe stated that is our duty to our residents to explore all options. Let's assume sewers are not going to happen, are we doing everything to the best of our ability to protect our residents? Mayor Tepe has identified an attorney that lives here, and does this every day. He is a law partner of resident Bill Hayes, and feels this is a duty and believes that the county is not interpreting state law accurately. We do have proposal from Frost, Brown and Todd LLC., to explore the second issue. Mayor Tepe would like to have Jeff LeMay and the Finance Committee look at the contract, talk about the scope of the contract and make modifications as needed. The attorneys with FBT have agreed to work at reduced rates, and offered to come to the committee meeting to answer any questions.

To summarize: there is a very specific statute that a system that was lawful prior to it becoming non-conforming, a system that is not a nuisance may remain. So, if you are adding on to your house and it does not increase the fluid output, then why is a new septic required?

Mayor Tepe stated that it is such a big issue, such a big impact for 2/3 of the residents of Terrace Park. We owe it to our residents to explore this option.

- Council Member Ingebritson, questioned, Is the argument they propose to make, those that we as the village want to make? Tepe explained the scope can/will change as we direct them to.
- Council Member Gaskey questioned- lot of other municipalities with the same issue, would we explore combining the argument with them? Mayor Tepe responded that if we can't get the relief we are looking for, we can go with the bigger scope. Right now, we want them to look out for Terrace Park.

Mayor Tepe stated that the Finance Committee needs to figure out the budget so we can be prepared if we move forward.

On another note, Mayor Tepe reminded residents that fences and structures outside require a permit. Please check with the Village Office prior to doing any projects. It is much cheaper to get the permit before then to deal with it after. Many times, there is nothing required.

Council Member LeMay questioned the use of federal funds made to municipalities? Mayor Tepe asked if anyone has officially heard if we are getting money from county, state or government. He assured that we will have full set of rules, and it will be a very long discussion of how we put the money to work. Mayor Tepe reminded that we have not been officially contacted that we are actually receiving the money. He explained that the committee that will be responsible for this, will be based on the rules set forth on the money received. Solicitor Jeff Forbes confirmed that no other municipalities have been formally notified. Hayhow has attended one webinar and confirmed that they are still working on the final guidance to what the money can be used for.

Chief Fiscal Officer: No Report.

Solicitor: Reminder that special council for representation is very common, for special topics. State of Law of video/remote conferences ends July 1, 2021. Again, the law may change, but as of now in person council meetings must resume in person.

Clerk of Council: No Report.

EMS CHIEF: Four new people being sworn in. Kristen Crowley, Chandi Findley, Chad Eckert, Mike Kaplan. Chief Maggard stated that they have gotten most of the bugs out with Scarlet Oaks. Chief Maggard mentioned that Cincinnati State was going to work on a counter offer.

FIRE CHIEF: Chief Dronsfield stated that he would like to make a Public Service Announcement that open burns are not allowed in Hamilton County and only seasoned wood should be used in fire pits. Now that the season is coming to end, check your fireplaces to get them cleaned.

POLICE CHIEF/VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR: Chief Hayhow was speaking to Scarlet Oaks, they are going to put on an EMS class on this summer in our facility. The Chief then went on the announce:

- On April 30th Elm Road will be closed at the tunnel for repairs to be made to the blacktop from the January truck fire. Road closure information will be relayed via our website and the Code Red system. There will also be road closed signs posted the day of, at both Wooster and Princeton. The repair date is subject to change due to weather.
- On April 23rd from 2PM to 4PM, the Hamilton County Health Department. will be here to host a Covid vaccine clinic in the community building, with the second dose administered on May 14th. The vaccine will be by appointment only and will be on a first come first serve basis. I have planned with the health dept. to allow Terrace Park residents an opportunity to make appointments prior to the event going public. They will be sending me information on how to make an appointment and as soon as I receive the details, we will send it via the Code Red Alert System. No appointments can be made through the village office. Make sure you are signed up for our Code Red System and if you have not please go to our website terracepark.org and click on the link. The health department believes they will be able to vaccinate 100 to 200 people in that time frame.
- I have agreed to allow the Hamilton County Board of Elections to use the log cabin on May 4th for a small Columbia Township precinct. This precinct formally voted at St. Thomas, but due to Covid they were unable to return. The board of elections officials told me there are only 21 eligible voters in the precinct. So, on May 4th when you go by the log cabin remember this is for a few Columbia Township residents and Terrace Park has NO issues on the May ballot.

Lastly, I am still waiting on the street repair proposal from Strawser Construction... I should have something for next council.

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL OUTSIDE THEIR COMMITTEE:

Planning & Zoning –No Report

Buildings & Grounds –Council Member Sharp would like to reiterate kudos and thanks to Mark Castator for all he has done for our trees.

Finance – Council Member Lemay explained, this next step is to confirm the Resolution to put the Levy on the ballot.

Council Member Lemay introduced and advanced to the third reading **RESOLUTION 4-1,2021**

DECLARING IT NECESSARY TO PROCEED WITH A RENEWAL TAX LEVY IN EXCESS OF THE TEN MILL LIMITATION AND SUBMITTING SUCH LEVY TO THE ELECTORS (5.58 MILL RENEWAL) Lindell seconded.

Gaskey, Lehman, LeMay, Ingebritson and Sharp voted aye. Lemay then moved to adopt the resolution as an emergency. Gaskey seconded. Gaskey, Lehman, LeMay, Ingebritson and Sharp voted aye. Resolution passed as an emergency.

This Levy will not raise your taxes and constitutes 60% of the budget.

Council member LeMay stated that compared to last year end of April 2020, we are down \$108,000 in revenue. Chief Fiscal Officer Katie Lyons explained that all our money for April has not been deposited and that Mr. LeMay is comparing April 30, 2020 to April 9, 2021. We have a few more weeks were we are still receiving money. CFO Lyons went on to explain that we are getting in approximately \$90,000 more in revenue during the month of April. CFO Lyons suggested that we wait until the May Council meeting to compare the revenue of this year thru April, Council Member LeMay agreed.

Rules & Law –No Report

Public Works – Council member Lindell explained our annual rite of passage fixing sidewalks. We replace about 100 squares a year, 20 on Cambridge, short Yale, along with some other area in sections of 3-4 squares. We work through a list, rating safety issues and cracks.

Council Member Lindell introduced and advanced to the third **RESOLUTION 4 -2, 2021 AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH HENDY, INC. FOR THE 2021 SIDEWALK PROJECT AT A COST NOT TO EXCEED \$20,000 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY** Ingebritson seconded. Gaskey, Lehman, LeMay, Ingebritson and Sharp voted aye. Lemay then moved to adopt the resolution as an emergency. Sharp seconded. Gaskey, Lehman, LeMay, Ingebritson and Sharp voted aye. Resolution passed as an emergency.

Public Safety – No Report.

CONTINUED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Adjournment: Council Member Sharp motioned to adjourn. Voice Vote all voted “aye.”

Respectfully submitted:

Katherine Lyons
Clerk of Council

Thomas M. Tepe, Jr.
Mayor