ROLL CALL: Beshara, Boester, Domanick, Lyons, Phillipbar and Waszak.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Wheeler, Police Chief Swanson, Fire Chief McLean, Finance Director Turk, Service Director Papp, Planning and Zoning Director Frantz and Law Director Hanna and Alex Cores

Lyons said that since Waszak was not sworn in until after the organizational meeting, Council should have a vote to ratify the actions that it took at that meeting.

MOTION: TO RATIFY COUNCIL’S ACTIONS AT THE JANUARY 2, 2020 ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING.
Moved by Domanick, seconded by Wheeler. YAY: Boester, Domanick, Lyons, Phillipbar and Waszak. NAY: Beshara.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 3, 2019, AND DECEMBER 17, 2019 REGULAR MEETINGS, AS AMENDED.
Moved by Beshara, seconded by Domanick. Upon roll call, motion passes unanimously.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PETITIONS:

Pat Hunt asked for Council’s support for his campaign for Summit County Sheriff.

Heather Radecky asked for a Council contact for her Girl Scout troop’s efforts to help a local family that is facing a medical crisis. Beshara said she would contact Radecky.

The Ohio Department of Liquor Control asked if Council wanted a hearing regarding the transfer of the Doug Out’s liquor license. Chief Swanson and Council agreed that would not be necessary.

MAYOR’S REPORT

Wheeler asked Council for an executive session to discuss the acquisition and sale of property.

He also asked Council to approve his appointments of Tracy Schwozter to a four-year term on the Board of Zoning Appeals; Monica Day to a five-year term on the Planning & Zoning Commission; Don Holahan to another four-year term on the PZC; and Amy Huey to a five-year term on the Parks and Recreation Board.
MOTION: TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF TRACY SCHWOTZER TO A FOUR-YEAR TERM ON THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS.
Moved by Waszak, seconded by Domanick. Upon roll call, motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF MONICA DAY TO A FIVE-YEAR TERM ON THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION.
Moved by Beshara, seconded by Domanick. Upon roll call, motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF DAN HOLAHAN TO A FOUR-YEAR TERM ON THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION.
Moved by Boester, seconded by Domanick. Upon roll call, motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF AMY HUEY TO A FIVE-YEAR TERM ON THE PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD.
Moved by Beshara, seconded by Domanick. Upon roll call, motion passes unanimously.

Dr. Mark Parker of Northeast Ohio Safe Trails and Routes (NEO STARS) is looking for a statement of support for the group’s efforts to maintain safe routes for walkers, bicyclists and emergency vehicles.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:

Chief Swanson – Police

Calls for Service:
926-Village
199-Township

Report:
Most of the equipment has arrived for the Taser program. Officer Rudy Prhne attended a school authorizing him to train our officers in the use of the weapon. I am completing some final revisions on the policy and will send it over the Walter Haverfield prior to implementing the program.

Effective January 1, 2020, we have realigned the unit numbers for the officers. Our unit numbers have remained the same for many years, and did not reflect retirements and promotions of officers. For example, my unit number was 703 and it will now be 700. Assistant Chief Fister’s unit number was 713 and will now be 701 and so forth. This will now remain fluid as officers come and go. These unit numbers are used for radio traffic and to log on to various programs within the department.
Animal Warden Kim Bonker is temporarily out of service. Our officers will do their best to keep up with the call volume and kennel activities.

I am in the planning stages of creating a community questionnaire to rate the service the police department provides. We will be circulating the questionnaire to the village and township residents and use the information to improve on our service. I will provide a template when complete.

Chief McLean – Fire

Report:

- Calls for service for December: Village EMS 44, Village Fire 11, Township EMS 13, Township Fire 11, Mutual Aid 14. **Total: 92.**
- Training hours for December: 46.5 EMS, 95 Fire, 8 SWAT. **Total: 149.5.**
- The department fought a structure fire along with the Bath FD. They subdued the fire quickly in the pool house area.
- The department is considering two builders for the new ambulance.
- New blinds will be installed in the lobby.

Domanick asked the chief about a possible merger with the Bath FD. He said Bath’s new chief was recently sworn in, and the idea will be discussed. Boester said the Beacon Journal recently reported about a possible merger between the Copley and Bath fire departments. McLean noted that they collaborate on the Stony Hill fire station.

**Recreation:** No report.

**Director Papp – Service**

The maple tree at Fairview Cemetery was evaluated by arborists and will be removed by a tree company tomorrow.

**Report:**

1) The Service Department, with the assistance of a contractor, repaired the leak that occurred on the Brecksville Road force main.
2) The Service Department continued leaf clean-up as weather permitted.
3) The Service Department placed approximately 200 tons of salt as part of snow and ice control in December 2019.
4) Continued work on the 2019 Service Department Annual Report
5) Coordinated issues with Everett Pointe subdivision pump station
6) The Service Director finalized the 2020 Capital and Service Department operating budgets
7) The Service Director attended Summit County PIPE (Public Involvement and Public Education) meeting.

Director Frantz – Planning & Zoning

Report:

1) At their upcoming meeting on January 14th, the Planning Commission will review the following cases:

   a. A request from Ohio Hardwood Furniture pursuant to Section 1173.23 of the Planning and Zoning Code to grant a one-year extension of a conditional zoning certificate; and
   b. Referral legislation for an amendment to Section 1103.03 of the Planning and Zoning Code to clarify the definition of the term “accessory use.”

As reminder, Planning Commission recommended approval (12/10/19) of a request to vacate Laddie Road made by adjoining property owner Brian Stulak. Related to this matter, Planning Commission also formally acknowledged their recommendation as fulfillment of necessary review and recommendation of a roadway vacation pursuant to Chapter 9.06 of the Village Charter. The legislation to vacate Laddie Road is on Council’s January 7, 2020 agenda for a first reading.

2) At their upcoming meeting on January 8th, the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) will review:

   a. Conclusions of Law related to their denial of a request for a use variance to operate a car detailing business from the property located at 4920 Brecksville Road.
   b. A request to approve a 1’9” side yard setback variance from Section 1130.07 of the Zoning Code to permit an 18’3” side yard setback instead of a 20’setback as required for the property located at 4044 Appleridge Lane.
**Recommendations/Considerations:** Approval of request to vacate Laddie Road

**Legislation:** Laddie Road vacation & Zoning text referral to Planning and Zoning Commission

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**Director Turk – Finance**

**2019 Year End Financial Close**

The goal is to close out the 2019 financial books by January 10 or earlier and open the 2020 financial books.

**Payroll**

Payroll is processing the 2020 pay raises for the payroll due January 6 and paid out on January 9.

**Income Tax**

December’s income tax collections were down 0.2%, or down by $1,537 compared to December 2018. Year-to-date receipts are also $437,815 lower, or 4% lower than 2018. In 2018, a $203,529 one-time payment was received that was not to recur and we also had a very well-paid individual retire from one of our top twelve companies in 2018. This event also attributed to the majority of the remaining reduction in collections. Net profits and withholding collections are both down for the year while individual collections are up for the year. For 2020, I budgeted $10,647,615, relatively flat with only a $1,537 increase over 2019 collections. A separate memo will be sent out with the final December information.

**Recommendations/Considerations:**

Planning and Zoning is working on an agenda item for the January 7th meeting. If this item is submitted then there will also be a supporting appropriation/transfer agenda item also submitted.

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**Law Director:** Council amended its firearms regulations last year to comply with new state laws. Summit County filed a lawsuit to enjoin the provisions of those laws. Judge McCarty denied the county’s motion for an injunction on Dec. 27.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None.

**CAUCUS**

**COMMENTS FROM FLOOR ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:** None.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**
First Readings:

ORDINANCE 1-2020

AN ORDINANCE VACATING THE UNIMPROVED RIGHT-OF-WAY KNOWN AS LADDIE ROAD

CAUCUS DISCUSSION: Frantz said he has received verbal approval from the adjacent property owners and is awaiting written approval.

RESOLUTION 2-2020

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE FINANCE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH WALTER HAVENFIELD LLP FOR PROFESSIONAL LEGAL SERVICES FOR THE PERIOD FROM FEBRUARY 1, 2020 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2020 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

RESOLUTION 3-2020

A RESOLUTION DECLARING THREE (3) VILLAGE POLICE VEHICLES AS SURPLUS PROPERTY NO LONGER NEEDED FOR PUBLIC USE, AND AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE TO SELL THE VEHICLES BY INTERNET AUCTION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

RESOLUTION 4-2020

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE FINANCE DIRECTOR PURCHASE THREE (3) NEW VEHICLES FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT FROM MONTROSE FORD THROUGH THE STATE OF OHIO PURCHASING PROGRAM, WAIVING COMPETITIVE BIDDING, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

MOTION: TO SUSPEND SECOND AND THIRD READING OF RESOLUTION 4-2020.
Moved by Beshara, seconded by Waszak. Upon roll call, motion passes unanimously.

MOTION: TO ADOPT RESOLUTION 4-2020.
Moved by Beshara, seconded by Domanick. Upon roll call, motion passes unanimously.

ORDINANCE 5-2020

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1103.03 OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING CODE TO AMEND THE DEFINITION OF ACCESSORY BUILDING AND ACCESSORY USE

MOTION: TO REFER ORDINANCE 5-2020 TO THE PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FOR 60 DAYS.
Moved by Beshara, seconded by Waszak. Upon roll call, motion passes unanimously.
MOTION: TO SCHEDULE A PUBLIC HEARING FOR ORDINANCE 5-2020 FOR TUESDAY, FEB. 18 AT 6:30 P.M.
Moved by Beshara, seconded by Domanick. Upon roll call, motion passes unanimously.

Second Readings: None.

Third Readings:

ORDINANCE 16-2016  
Offered by All of Council
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR AND FINANCE DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH RICHFIELD FURNACE RUN ASSOCIATES LLC AND WATER AND SEWER LLC AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

ORDINANCE 17-2016  
Offered by All of Council
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 1128 OF THE VILLAGE OF RICHFIELD’S PLANNING AND ZONING CODE, ENTITLED “RCD SINGLE FAMILY CONSERVATION DISTRICT,” TO FACILITATE R-3 RESIDENTIAL CONSERVATION DEVELOPMENT

ORDINANCE 43-2019 (as amended 11-27-19)  
Offered by All of Council
AN ORDINANCE ENACTING NEW CHAPTER 945, “CEMETERIES” OF THE STREETS, UTILITIES AND PUBLIC SERVICES CODE TO UPDATE RULES, REGULATIONS AND FEES IN THE VILLAGE’S CEMETERIES

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:
Council will have a special meeting to interview the candidates for the Richfield Joint Recreation District board.

Regarding a new Council member, Council has to choose a new member between Jan. 10 and Jan. 30. Beshara said Jeff Stoppenhagen should be the new Council member. He ran well and had the next highest vote total. The other Council members agreed, and he could be appointed on Jan. 15.

NEW BUSINESS: Waszak thanked Ellen Daniels for her years of service on the Park and Recreation board. Domanick noted that she served for 24 years.
Lyons said he would consider the Council committees as well as Waszak’s suggestion to modify the lineup of committees.
COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR: Robert Glover of Mill Street said water meters should allow customers to pay for the services they use, not a pre-determined amount. Papp explained that a flat minimum rate must be collected to ensure the continued operation of the sewer system. Deshara said the village engineer has determined that the current rates are fine.

Bruce Dobbins of St Nicholas Drive commended Council for choosing Stopenhagen. He said sewer meters would raise his rates due to rain water. Papp said that is not a legal connection and must be fixed. Dobbins clarified that he did not set up the rain water connection.

RJRD president Bob Becker expressed his support for Meg Slifcak to be reappointed to the board. She has brought in money and contacts, and donors like consistency of management. Lyons said that on the other hand, a consultant said board members should not serve too long in order to bring in fresh ideas. Beshara said that a consultant also suggested the hiring of a park director.

WORK SESSION: None.

MOTION: TO ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS THE PURCHASE AND SALE OF PROPERTY.

Moved by Beshara, seconded by Domanick. Upon roll call, motion passed unanimously.

Executive session lasted from 7:30 to 7:55 p.m., when Lyons adjourned the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Gorman
Clerk of Council

Mike Lyons
Council President