

COUNCIL MEETING

September 4, 2024

The Council met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. with Mayor Rick presiding.

Ms. Miller asked everyone to join her in a moment of reflection for their own intentions. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited by all.

The Council Meeting was held in the Council Chambers. The meeting was open to the public and was live-streamed on Facebook.

Roll Call: Council Members Present: Mr. Yoho, Mr. McDowall, Ms. Van Dike, Mr. Raddish, Mr. Tonsic, Ms. Miller, and Mr. Bauer.

Others Present: Mayor Rick, Council Clerk Rachel Osborne, Clerk-Treasurer Scott Varney, Law Director Jason Dodson, and Village Engineer Matthew Glass.

Motion by Mr. Raddish second by Ms. Miller for the approval of the agenda as presented. Vote. Unanimous ayes. Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE ON PENDING LEGISLATION – No comments.

COMMITTEE REPORTS –

UTILITIES – Mr. Bauer has no report.

SAFETY – Mr. Yoho has no report.

PARKS – Mr. McDowall has no report.

PLANNING AND ZONING – Ms. Miller has no report.

FINANCE/AUDIT – Ms. Van Dike reported she has one piece of legislation to read.

STREETS – Mr. Tonsic has no report.

Council President Mr. Raddish announced the September Work Session will be held Wednesday, September 25, 2024, at 5:30 p.m. with all committees reporting.

OLD BUSINESS – None.

NEW BUSINESS –

Ms. Van Dike presented Ordinance 2024-59 sponsored by Finance Committee as follows:

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING SECTION 38.15 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF MOGADORE, ENTITLED “SALE OR DISPOSAL OF PERSONAL PROPERTY WITH A VALUE OF \$1,000 OR LESS” TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO SELL OR DISPOSE OF ANY PERSONAL PROPERTY NO LONGER NEEDED FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Van Dike made a motion to suspend the rules requiring three readings; Mr. Bauer seconded the motion. Vote. Unanimous ayes. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ms. Van Dike to adopt Ordinance 202-59, a second was made by Mr. Tonsic. Vote. Unanimous ayes. Motion carried.

COMMENTS from the Public: Cheryl Murphy, 4051 Etter Road, addresses the condition of Etter Road and states it's a hazard, the worst road in town.

Mayor Rick, at the next council meeting there will be legislation for Etter and Lincoln Road to apply for a grant. Work would be done in the next year and a half to two years.

Carl Housley, 67 First Avenue, thanked Chief Cain for the quick response to the inquiries he made at the second council meeting in August. Housley made comments on those responses provided by the Chief.

June Long, 4061 Etter Road, stated one of her trees had been cut down and asked the Law Director if she is liable if someone were to hurt themselves on the stump that was left. Long mentioned she received a phone call the day before from a council member stating the tree would be cut down.

Mayor Rick stated the Village did not cut down her tree.

Mr. Dodson told Ms. Long he could not say since he did not know who cut down the tree on her property. Dodson told Ms. Long he would follow up with her after the meeting.

Edward Plotts, 45 Meadowridge Road, starts with an old football chant. Plotts asks, home of the wildcats, or a cold-hearted community known for killing cats. Plotts states since the last meeting he has met several incredibly kind, compassionate, knowledgeable, and dedicated people who are willing to invest their time to help bring down the number of community cats in a humane way. Plotts encourages council members to work with these kind, compassionate, knowledgeable, and dedicated individuals and organizations to use the resident's tax dollars effectively, not in the way to exterminate the Mogadore community cats.

Danny Mack, 111 N Cleveland Avenue, said the temporary solar speed limit sign that was put across North Cleveland Avenue has helped reduce speeding. Mack asked if they could get a permanent solar speed limit sign.

Mayor Rick will talk with the Police Chief to look at this.

Jill Kirsch, 948 Pontius Street NW, would like council members to take notice of the support and attention the community cats have garnered. A GoFundMe account was set up and raised almost \$1,000.00 in one day, and \$1,400.00 so far. Kirsch speaks on behalf of Lisa Toth of One Of A Kind to clarify the comment made that they would take all cats from Mogadore. This was not meant to indicate they would take any and all cats from Mogadore, Lisa had no idea what was going on in Mogadore and the legislation that was passed. Kirsch encouraged council members to accept the help that has been offered and to retract the feeding ban and trapping ordinance immediately. Kirsch reminds the council members of the offer made by Altacare that would send a van to Mogadore once a month or twice if needed, to get the cats and provide spay/neuter, rabies vaccine, flea treatment, and ear tip, for the same \$25 the Village is spending to kill these cats.

Cindy Broth, 72 Greencrest Terrace, Akron, told the council she volunteers with several rescues in the area and wants to collaborate with a TNR program to help the community cats. Cindy states they would rather see them adopted out and helped than have them put down for no reason. Cindy asked the council members to rescind the feeding ban and the legislation that was passed with Summit County Animal Control.

Nita Nichols, 554 Perry Road, Tallmadge, is a part of T-Mac TNR in Tallmadge. She tells council members her concerns regarding the feeding ban for feral cats. Nichols shares stories of her experience with feral cats. Nichols asked if there was a safe, clean, hidden spot where residents could feed the cats until the council figured out how to handle the problem. A place where the cats are safe and residents would not be fined for helping the cats.

Mayor Rick stated he could not speak for other people's properties, and he could not authorize to do so.

Nichols asked if the people would be fined for helping the cats by feeding and providing water.

Mayor Rick stated legislation was passed banning the feeding of cats.

Joe Bronny, Suffield Township, said he called about the cats, and it is very inhumane what the village is doing. Bronny asked if the council did any kind of research on feral cats. Bronny stated Mr. Raddish threatened him to have him arrested for saying he would organize a boycott.

Joan Bauer, 3708 Louise Street, asked what it's going to take to rescind the legislation that was passed, and what are your plans on a conversation that needs to be had on moving forward with the effects of the residents that are trying to help.

Mayor Rick said it is up to the council members if they want to rescind legislation.

Bauer asked when that would be done, in another meeting, in a side conversation, emergency meeting, and what is the progress. Bauer stated many have presented other options and solutions, when will a decision be made?

Van Dike stated the council talks about things that have come up at their monthly work sessions. They determine what legislation needs to be brought forward from there.

Bauer said she wants to see more effort from the council members to support them on what they are asking for.

Cassandra from Canton, is with Altra Cat, tells the council they are working with the City of Canton right now on TNR and how they have introduced TNR to the community and educated their residents. Cassandra said it is funded in part by the city and part by Alra Clinic. She encourages the council members to reach out to them.

Holly Spohn, 3730 Orchard Street, suggests trap neuter and take instead of trap neuter and return.

LeeAnn Kalkhoff, Suffield Township, tells the council these people here today are amazing and they are trying to do everything they can to help the community cats and asks the council to pass something as quickly as they did for the emergency legislation banning the feeding of cats.

COMMENTS from Council: Mr. Bauer stated cats are an invasive species and why he is not in favor of TNR.

Mr. Tonsic stated his opinion on why he feels TNR is not going to help the Village.

Ms. Van Dike thanked the audience for attending and sharing their comments with the council.

Mr. Raddish stated no one is stopping anyone from coming into the Village and taking the cats away. Raddish stated he has trapped twenty-two cats and got them all fixed and has kept seven of them.

COMMENTS from the Assistant Law Director: No Comments.

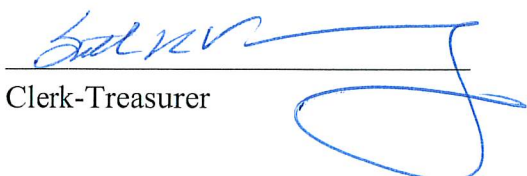
COMMENTS from the Village Engineer: No Comments.

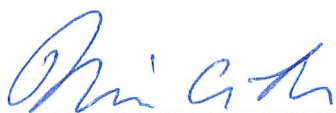
COMMENTS from the Clerk-Treasurer: No Comments.

COMMENTS from the Mayor: Mayor Rick thanked everyone for attending. Mayor Rick sees both sides to the cat problem in the village. Mayor Rick stated he has received the same number of calls from residents who do not want the feral cats to be returned to the village.

Meeting adjourned at 6:11 p.m.

Attest:


Clerk-Treasurer


Mayor

9-18-24
Date