
MINUTES OF SYMMES TOWNSHIP SPECIAL MEETING

SEPTEMBER 10, 2018

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. Elected officials present were: Mr. Phil Beck, Mr. Kenneth Bryant, and Ms. Jodie Leis.

Also present: Kim Lapensee – Administrator and Kevin McDonough – Law Director.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mr. Bryant made a motion to approve the Agenda. Ms. Leis seconded the motion. Motion passes.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Bryant made a motion to go into Executive Session per ORC Section 121.22(G) (3) to have a conference with the Law Director concerning pending or imminent court action. Mr. Beck seconded the motion and the roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Bryant - ‘aye’; Mr. Beck - ‘aye’; Ms. Leis- ‘aye’.

Mr. Bryant made a motion return from executive session at 5:12 p.m. Mr. Beck seconded the motion. Motion passes.

Mr. Bryant made a motion to add in Hearing of Residents because we have an audience with questions. Mr. Beck seconded the motion and the roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Bryant - ‘aye’; Mr. Beck - ‘aye’; Ms. Leis- ‘aye’.

HEARING OF RESIDENTS

Rita Volz, 8913 Cypresspoint Lane, asked what the Trustees know about the rate increases proposed by GCWW. Mr. Bryant stated that they will discuss that here shortly. She also asked about no outlet signs for her cul-de-sac at Cypresspoint Lane and Nathans Hill. She stated that people drive down her street all the time thinking it outlets onto Mason Road and it doesn’t. She asked that a sign be placed there to let people know it’s a no-outlet roadway. Mrs. Lapensee stated that she would pass that information about the street sign to Mr. Pitman to look at.

Robert and Judy Wilson, 9012 Symmes Knoll Court, stated that she is also interested in the rates for GCWW. She also asked if the property maintenance code passed yet and if not, when will it

be passed. She stated that she has a concern for a home that just sold in her neighborhood to a group for disabled persons. She stated that she knows it is undergoing construction to include 8 bedrooms in the house and the garage is going away to accommodate that. She wondered what it will look like. She also wants them to do a good job maintaining the yard, because the last owner did not. She asked how she could find out who was leasing the property and if the new construction will meet the fire code requirements. She asked if we knew the level of disability of the persons who will be living there.

Mrs. Wilson also stated that there is a site distance problem in Symmes Creek at Symmes Valley and Enyart Road where the stop sign is. She stated that there are pine trees blocking the intersection when you try to turn left. Mrs. Lapensee stated that she will pass this along to Mr. Pitman to look at. She stated that Enyart Road is a county roadway and we would have to involve the County Engineer's Office.

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Bryant made a motion to approve Resolution G2018-66 Resolution Determining to Intervene in Litigation Between the Board of County Commissioners of Hamilton County, Ohio and the City of Cincinnati, Ohio over water rates and dispensing with the second reading. Ms. Leis seconded the motion. Discussion continued. Mr. Beck stated that he will recuse himself from the discussion and he is only present as a resident of the township.

Mr. Bryant stated that there will be a hearing on Wednesday in front of Judge Ruhlmann to hopefully continue the Temporary Restraining Order against the City to stop them from increasing the water rates. He stated that Greater Cincinnati Water Works (GCWW) had a 30-year contract with Hamilton County to purchase water for the entire county and it ran out at the end of 2017. He stated that we have been paying a premium for water in the county for 30 years. He stated that the City of Cincinnati charges their residents 100% of the costs for water, the cities are charged 125% and the townships have been charged 133%. He stated that the City of Cincinnati wants to increase that percentage to 155%. Mr. Bryant stated that there was a task force set up and it was dismantled last year when the City Manager left. He stated that the Mayor lowered the rate to 143% and was just going to move forward with the new rate. He stated that all the townships have banded together and the County has filed a temporary restraining order on our behalf to fight the new rate imposed. Mr. Bryant stated that the Hamilton County Ohio Township Association (HCOTA) had an emergency meeting to discuss the new rates and have asked all the townships to appoint their administrators and 1 board member to the task force (11 invited). He stated that the big question is who owns the water lines in the communities, what does it mean to each community and what happens if we don't buy water from the city. Mr. Bryant stated that in some instances, the water lines travel through the townships before they get to the cities; therefore, we should all get the same rates.

The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Bryant - 'aye'; Mr. Beck - 'abstain'; Ms. Leis- 'aye'.

Mr. Bryant made a motion to approve Resolution G2018-65 Resolution Appointing Members to the Hamilton County Water District Task Force and Dispensing with the second reading. Ms. Leis seconded the motion. Discussion continued.

Mr. Bryant stated that Ms. Leis has volunteered to be a part of this committee along with our Administrator Mrs. Lapensee.

The roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Bryant - 'aye'; Mr. Beck - 'abstain'; Ms. Leis- 'aye'.

OLD BUSINESS

None

Mr. Bryant made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Leis seconded the motion and the roll call vote was as follows: Mr. Bryant - 'aye'; Mr. Beck - 'aye'; Ms. Leis- 'aye'.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Approved:

Kenneth Bryant, Board President

Carol Sims, Fiscal Officer