

Hiram Village Remote Video Conference Council Meeting

Rosser Municipal Building
11617 Garfield Road, Hiram, Ohio 44234

August 11, 2020

The following Members of Council were present online: Mr. Dempsey, Mr. Greenwood, Mr. Smith, Mr. Spencer and Mr. Szell. The following were also present: Mayor Lou Bertrand, Village Solicitor Tom Reitz, Fiscal Officer Susan Skrovan, Police Chief Brian Gregory, Fire Chief Bill Byers, Asst. Fire Chief Jason Groselle, Village Administrator James McGee and Asst. VA Steven Schuller.

The following persons were present online: Ed Frato-Sweeney, Debra Blake; Hiram Township Trustee, Stacy Turner; reporter with The Weekly Villager, Ann Patella, Jacqueline Gillon with Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Chris McCreight; Pastor of Hiram Christian Church, Chad Delaney; Pastor of Mantua Center Christian Church and Elaine.

Mayor Bertrand called the regular meeting to order at 7:02 pm. The Mayor asked that all cell phones be silenced. There was a moment of silence followed by the pledge to the flag.

Mayor asked for a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of 7/14/2020. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

Mayor asked for a motion to approve the special workshop minutes of 7/8/2020. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Greenwood and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

Mayor asked for a motion to approve the proposed amended agenda. A motion to approve the proposed agenda as amended was made by Mr. Szell and seconded by Mr. Spencer. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

GUEST AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Jacqueline Gillon spoke on the Resolution 2020-21 before Council this evening. Ms. Gillon spoke on the issue of living with racism and its effects on a person's health both physical, psychological and their financial wellbeing. Dave Smith replied that he wholeheartedly supports this legislation! Chris McCreight, minister of Hiram Christian Church and a resident, also supports this resolution. Chad Delaney, pastor of Mantua Center Christian Church, was also present in support of this legislation; he is a Hiram Village resident. Ann Patella, former clerk and a citizen, supports this very important resolution! Chris Szell said he introduced this legislation. Chris spoke on why he felt the need to act on this important issue and to make a statement! He would like to see this pass on first reading.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

***Police Chief Brian Gregory provided their monthly report.** Chief Gregory reported 297 traffic offenses for July. Traffic citations are rebounding.

He has no community events scheduled for this year other than the Shop with a Cop, which his officers will do the actual shopping for families this year.

Chief Gregory reported one officer resigned on Friday. He has a new officer being trained right now.

***Fire Chief Bill Byers provided their monthly report for tonight.** His report was also emailed to everyone. His department had 55 calls for July with a response time averaging 5:00 minutes, 24 seconds.

His department has been awarded a grant from the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation for \$5,284.77, legislation is before Council tonight. They will have a local match, roughly \$1,000 to \$1,100. Susan said the check has been received today. This grant will be used for improved protective hoods and gloves.

***Village Administrator James McGee presented the monthly water/sewer report.**

James provided an update on the sidewalks; Alba Contractors are to resume finishing the sidewalks on August 24.

His department will be working with our engineers, CT Consultants, for round 35 of the Ohio Public Works Commission project funding.

His department has also been patching and crack sealing roads.

Regarding the brush pile that was set on fire, James is looking into prices to either grind the brush, purchasing a chipper or contract the work out.

James will be installing new signs at Fairview Cemetery with the Hiram Community Trust grant.

The water tower project is awaiting EPA approval.

James spoke on the water main project.

Council needs to accept the Kimble contract tonight; it must be back to them by September 1.

Reverse 911 system; the cost is \$3,500 per year with a \$500.00 set up charge. Steven Schuller spoke with Ed Frato-Sweeney on what Hiram College is currently using. We really cannot be connected to their system.

Brian Gregory thanked the road crew for the beautiful landscaping work around the Village Hall!

HIRAM MAYOR LOU BERTRAND'S AUGUST 11, 2020 REPORT TO COUNCIL

CORONAVIRUS aka COVID-19 PANDEMIC:

In Ohio, 3,673 people have died of the novel coronavirus and at least 101,731 have been infected, 11,629 hospitalizations according to the Ohio Dept. of Health reports Monday, August 10, 2020. Further PORTAGE COUNTY, Ohio: 765 reported cases, 95 hospitalizations and 61 DEATHS.

FROM THE CDC:

Based on death certificate data, COVID-19 Cases: 5,140,713, Deaths: 163,432 as of August 10, 2020.

WORLD WIDE STATISTICS:

CASES: 20,100,256 RECOVERED: 12,400,000 DEATHS: 742,728

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:

Economic Development Committee met Tuesday, July 21, 2020 beginning at 6 p.m. consisting of volunteer initial members: Tom Bollenbacher, Rob Dempsey, Paul Spencer, *Anne Haynam did not attend*, Nancy Rubin, CFO of Hiram College and Mayor Bertrand. The thesis and aim of the Committee is Can Hiram Village make significant progress creating new businesses and additional income streams. A third meeting is scheduled, Tuesday, August 18, 2020 beginning at 5:30 p.m.

PLANNING & ZONING:

The Commission met on Tuesday, August 4, 2020 and discussed the proposal by HIRAM FARM to allow a CONDITIONAL USE to permit offices to operate in the residential property now owned by Bricker-Thompson at 11551 Garfield Road directly north of the property presently housing Hiram Farm's business offices. A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT will be issued based upon inspection of the Fire Chief as to access for parking and Fire protection issued.

BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION:

A 7:00 p.m. meeting was held on THURSDAY, July 16, 2020 in the Service Garage. The HIRAM VILLAGE ORDINANCE SECTION 143.01 *et seq.* enacted in 1989 and amended in 1993 and 2013 needs to be further amended to simplify the convoluted structure and streamlined for the 21st Century.

MAYORS/MANAGERS LIST-SERVE-ZOOM MEETINGS:

Your Mayor has joined a large group of Village Mayors/City Managers in Ohio that have Colleges/Universities within their boundaries. There are approximately thirty-four (34) eligible municipalities in this group.

Submitted by:

MAYOR LOU BERTRAND

***The Fiscal Officer Susan Skrovan presented the monthly financial reports for July.**

The following reports were provided to Council for this meeting:

The July Bank Reconciliation has not, at this time, been balanced with the UAN system due to a payment adjustment to be made involving the new fund number established for the ESID. Once complete, it will be emailed for review before signing by Mayor & Council.

Cash Summary by Fund as of July 31, 2020 was provided in Council packets.

The list of bills as of August 7, 2020 was provided in Council packets.

Council Regular meeting minutes for July 14, 2020 were provided in Council packets.

Council Special 2021 Budget Workshop minutes for July 8, 2020 were provided in Council packets.

R.I.T.A. income tax receipts YTD report was provided in Council packets.

The Comparison of Budgeted and Appropriated YTD report was provided in Council packets.

A motion to approve the Fiscal Officer's report for June was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Dempsey. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

A motion to approve the bills list was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Smith. The result of the voice vote was 4-0-1 in favor with an abstention from Mr. Szell who did not receive a second page.

HIRAM TOWNSHIP REPORT

Debra Blake; Hiram Township Trustee, reported that the township is doing great! She thanked the Police Department for their surveillance work. She received two phone calls regarding the reduction of speeders on Vaughn Road.

All permits and bids have been completed on their new township garage. The project came in under budget and should be finished by September 2021!

The Mayor brought up his concern over the intersection of Pioneer and S.R. 700 in Hiram Township. It really should be a 4-way stop! Debra said she has been working on this intersection with ODOT and Portage County.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCES

2020-15: AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE RECODIFICATION, EDITING AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PART OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF HIRAM, OHIO. SECOND READING.

2020-16: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL FUND (1000) FIRE DEPARTMENT (120) FOR THE OHIO BUREAU OF WORKERS' COMPENSATION'S SAFETY INTERVENTION GRANT PROGRAM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Smith. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Dempsey. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

2020-17: AN ORDINANCE REQUIRING FACIAL COVERINGS IN PUBLIC INDOOR AND OUTDOOR AREAS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Szell and seconded by Mr. Greenwood. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Szell and seconded by Mr. Smith. Solicitor Tom Reitz explained how he drafted this legislation. He followed very closely the directives from the Ohio Department of Health. One section he added, 555.03(c) that allows for enforcement by employees of the Fire Department and/or the Service Department. Tom did not speak with either department on their involvement. Council can use its judgement when enacting this legislation, that section can be stricken from the legislation if you so desire. James spoke that his department will do what Council instructs; he does not feel comfortable though writing citations. Mr. Greenwood spoke about an issue with a large gathering in his neighborhood. Chief Gregory asked if he or anyone else notified our Police Department. Mr. Greenwood said he did not, it was a graduation party. Ed Frato-Sweeney spoke about the large gathering. The Mayor spoke about the baseball game being held right now with almost no one wearing masks. Chief Byers said his department would do what Council directs; they really do not want to be in that arena to enforce this ordinance. Mr. Smith is opposed to having the Service or Fire Departments enforce this legislation. A motion to amend the legislation to delete section 555.03 (c) was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Spencer. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. A motion to approve the legislation as amended was made by Mr. Szell and seconded by Mr. Greenwood. Ann Patella asked how the public would be informed about this legislation. Chief Gregory said his department would first give a warning and follow the Governor's guidelines. More discussion followed. The Village will also post this at the post office. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

RESOLUTIONS

2020-19: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR AND SUBSEQUENT ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS BY THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM AND RATIFYING PAST ACTIONS WHICH ARE NOW AUTHORIZED BY THIS RESOLUTION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Greenwood and seconded by Mr. Spencer. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Dempsey and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

2020-20: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH BRENNAN, MANNA & DIAMOND, LLC AND REITZ, PAUL & SHORR PERTAINING TO THE PENDING PURDUE PHARMA L.P. BANKRUPTCY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Smith. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Szell. Solicitor Reitz spoke on this action; it is very difficult to predict what we may get from this lawsuit. This pursues a claim in the bankruptcy court. Purdue's assets are estimated to be at several million dollars! The Mayor responded on what other Mayors are doing; they are all filing a claim. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

2020-21: A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE PRINCIPLES OF DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION CENTRAL TO A HEALTHY COMMUNITY AND DECLARING RACISM A PUBLIC HEALTH CRISIS. FIRST READING. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Spencer. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. A motion to approve on first Reading was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Greenwood. Mr. Greenwood asked how this is a public health crisis; he needs the rationale. Jacqueline Gillon spoke about the stress that is place on a person on a daily basis! The Mayor asked if Council would want him to send this onto the State Legislature. Council felt absolutely! The Mayor thanked Jacqueline Gillon for attending and providing her thoughts. Chris Szell thanked his constituents. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

2020-22: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH THE ENGINEERING FIRM CT CONSULTANTS, ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE GARFIELD ROAD WATERMAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Szell and seconded by Mr. Spencer. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Szell. Dave Smith thanked the Village Administrator and his staff for pursuing this project, job well done! The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

2020-23: A RESOLUTION AWARDING A CONTRACT TO KIMBLE RECYCLING & DISPOSAL, INC. FOR SOLID WASTE COLLECTION SERVICE WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM, PORTAGE COUNTY, OHIO. FIRST READING. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Szell and seconded by Mr. Dempsey. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. A motion to approve on first Reading was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Szell. Paul Spencer asked Tom Reitz whether this contract addresses the issues we had before with the College and Kimble. Tom Reitz said he and our Village Administrator, James McGee, went over this contract in great detail; it is monumentally tighter! The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

2020-24: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE FISCAL OFFICER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH COMDOC TO PROVIDE FOR THE LEASE AND SERVICE OF A PHOTO COPIER FOR USE BY THE VILLAGE AND RATIFYING PRIOR ACTIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Greenwood and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. Council determined they wished to go with Exhibit A-1 of the contract at \$272.03 per month contingent upon the adjustments being made that were requested by Tom Reitz in their contract and if we cannot appropriate funds, we can get out of the lease, and e-copy PDF convertor is included. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Dempsey. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Dave Smith reminded everyone the 2020 Census is still being collected; there are two more dates set at the Hiram Christian Church, August 17 and 24th. Ed Frato-Sweeney spoke about Hiram College and the census; they will be submitting 600 students this year!

Council and the Fiscal Officer discussed the Council packets and all the copies that are generated for them. Dave and Chris would like electronic documents only. The Mayor asked all Council members to send an email to Susan with their desires for electronic documents; he would like them both, hard copies & email.

Ann Patella spoke about making certain that our County Commissioners know we passed Resolution 2020-21 declaring Racism a public health crisis. Yes, we will notify them as well.

A motion to convene in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing imminent court action at 8:39 pm was made by Mr. Szell and seconded by Mr. Spencer. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. The Mayor asked the Department Heads to remain for executive session.

A motion to reconvene into regular session at 9:48 pm was made by Mr. Dempsey and seconded by Mr. Spencer. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

The Village population is 1155 while the Township's population is 2,407. Council felt they need to negotiate a new contract for Fire and EMS and then create an advisory board. Council discussed the analysis that was provided by Anne Spicer. We need to look at what the Village levies and Township levies bring in for the Fire/EMS departments.

Steven Schuller brought up the reverse 911 program; does Council want to move forward with legislation. They would pass along a \$1.00 per month surcharge per water customer. Chris Szell asked whether we could cancel the program if only say 10 residents sign up for it. Steve said that is a good question; he will check into it. The Mayor felt we should ask people to list their email and/or phone numbers to see how many would be interested in this program.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Smith. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:52 pm.

These minutes are pending approval by Council.



Mayor Lou Bertrand

ATTEST:


Fiscal Officer Susan J. Skrovan