

Hiram Village Council Meeting

Rosser Municipal Building

11617 Garfield Road, Hiram, Ohio 44234

August 13, 2019

The following Members of Council were present: Mr. Greenwood, Mr. Hemphill, 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 and Village Administrator James McGee.

The following persons were present: Debra Blake; Hiram Township Trustee, Stacy Turner; Reporter with The Weekly Villager and Mr. & Mrs. Burdecki.

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 7/9/2019. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Smith. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

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

GUEST AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Village Solicitor Tom Reitz introduced a colleague of his in attendance, Jennifer Berendt.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

*Police Chief Brian Gregory provided their monthly report. There were a total of 253 offense reports for July which are down from last month by 30 from assists to other departments. 63 traffic stops with 26 written citations. There were three canine deployments resulting in two drug arrests.

Fishing with a Cop event will be this Saturday, August 17th from 9:00 am – 1:00 pm at Camp Asbury.

Hiram College move in day is August 22nd.

A Distracted Driver awareness event will be Wednesday, August 28th from 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm at the Kennedy Center. AAA will be helping with this event which is usually in the spring at the end of the school year; this year they wanted to try it at the beginning of the school year. This will better accommodate the college students' schedules.

MARCS radios; his department now has four portable units to work with and carry, they are not live yet.

His department just completed an Active Shooter training course with Garrettsville; they did a great job!

*Fire Chief Bill Byers provided their monthly report for tonight. Their report was also emailed to everyone.

Chief Byers reported his department will be conducting RA training for the College on August 20th here in Council chambers.

The State Fire Marshal was here a week ago Saturday; they provided a fire blast trailer which simulates different fire scenarios. This was a joint training with Ravenna Township, Community Ambulance and City of Aurora. It was at no cost to the Village.

Chief Brian Gregory complimented the Fire Department personnel on the way they handled the recent electrical fire at Hiram College. Great job!

*Village Administrator James McGee presented the monthly water/sewer report. James updated Council on the sidewalk project. Alba Contractors has plans to start up again at the end of August to finish.

On August 19th there will be an Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) meeting. Plans are for James, Steve and the Mayor to attend that meeting at the Portage County Engineer's office. The Village has submitted two projects for consideration; the water main along Garfield Road and the new water meters.

The Street Department experienced storm water problems in front of Councilman David Smith's home. A section of sidewalk had to be removed and a large hole was dug to make the necessary repairs.

His department is working on the installation of the new benches at the park.

Cemetery restoration project is underway and almost complete. Work centered around straightening of headstones and pouring foundations.

Mr. Steve Romberger asked James about recent discussions for a dog park. James said they were discussing the possibility of a dog park and wanted public input. The next Park Board meeting is on August 15th at 4:30 pm.

AUGUST 13, 2019 MAYOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION:

The Commission did not meet in July as no business and/or zoning applications were pending.

DEATH OF BELOVED SISTER DR. HELEN ANNE BERTRAND:

As many of you may know, our family has been dealing with the recent passing of our beloved sister Dr. Helen Bertrand on July 24, 2019 in Green Valley, AZ. [Her obituary appeared in the August 9, 2019 Weekly Villager.] I wish to thank everyone for their outreach of thoughts and prayers through this difficult time for our family.

MUNICIPAL LAW INSTITUTE, Columbus, Ohio:

On July 25 - 26, 2019, I along with over 200 other representatives of both cities and villages in Ohio attended this very valuable seminar/conference. Again the most interesting session was the blighted properties presentation by the City of Columbus Law Department. [I brought a thumb drive back for anyone on Council to study.]

- Portage County Letter received from the Commissioners on a grant fund outreach program.
- NOPEC Letter regarding the energizing communities grant for the 2019 Hiram grant award.
- Tom Reitz sent the Codified Ordinances for Garrettsville Village on Blighted Properties.

Respectfully submitted,

MAYOR LOU BERTRAND

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

The following reports were provided to Council for this meeting:

The July Bank Reconciliation balanced with the UAN with no adjusting factors and is available for signing by Mayor & Council.

Cash Summary by Fund as of July 31, 2019 was provided in Council packets.

The list of bills as of August 9, 2019 was provided in Council packets.

Council meeting minutes for July 9, 2019 were provided in Council packets.

R.I.T.A. income tax receipts YTD report was provided to Council tonight.

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

Regarding the special audit for the Fire/EMS departments; Susan did send an email to Hiram Township's Fiscal Officer, Diane Rodhe. They are both going to contact their own auditors to receive a cost estimate.

Today, Susan received audit paperwork back for the ESID, our Energy Special Improvement District. This was set up through NOPEC under their PACE program. There has been no financial activity at this time and was at no cost to the Village. It was established in 2017 with the first assessments being collected in 2019.

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

A motion to approve the bills list was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

HIRAM TOWNSHIP REPORT

Trustee Debra Blake reported having a quiet month. She has been speaking with township residents about their flooding/drainage issues and looking for solutions. Debra referenced the ORC section on waterway regulations.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCES

2019-22: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL FUND (1000) BY \$25,041.00. 2nd READING. Our Police Department could benefit from this legislation as soon as possible. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Smith. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. A motion to approve on second reading was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

2019-23: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS IN THE POLICE DEPARTMENT'S CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND BY \$20,029.11 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Hemphill 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. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Szell. Mr. Smith questioned the figures presented and where this would all be paid from. Chief Brian Gregory explained the capital funds he needs and any shortfall in his capital, would come from his operating budget. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

2019-24: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS IN THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FUND (4901) FOR THE STREET DEPARTMENT BY \$7,360.00 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Szell 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. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Szell. Mr. Spencer asked James what repairs are being done with this legislation. James explained there are no repairs being done; the plow frame on the 2018 Ford F550 is bent. James or Steve cannot pinpoint when this damage could have happened since they have never had the 2018 plow off the truck. They need a new plow and frame for the 2012 Chevy truck. In the second whereas, it looks like all the work and new plow belongs to the 2018 vehicle only.

A motion to amend the legislation to remove in the third whereas, the words "to the 2018 Ford F550" was made by Mr. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. A motion to approve as amended as an emergency was made by Mr. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

2019-25: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS IN THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FUND (4901) FOR ADMINISTRATION BY \$66,848.00 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. 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. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

RESOLUTIONS

None.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Paul Spencer asked James and Chief Byers where our fire equipment will be housed during the work on the municipal driveway. Chief Byers spoke about their contingency of operation in the loss of use of the facility would be to station equipment on the west side and east side of the township. James said they plan to keep it to one lane at a time; the apron is not getting touched so he did not see an issue with them operating.

Chief Byers also noted to Council, the Village siren, the day of their training, did not go off. Bill contacted Federal Signal Service. His department is monitoring the siren and will have it checked out. The last two Saturdays it did not go off.

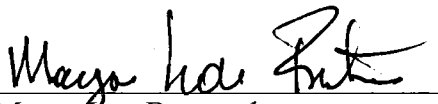
A motion to enter executive session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22, G, 2 to consider the possible purchase of property at 7:45 pm was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

A motion to come out of executive session at 8:08 pm was made by Mr. Greenwood and seconded by Mr. Smith. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.


A motion to authorize the Mayor to seek what value the property owners want for their property was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Greenwood. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.

These minutes are pending approval by Council.


Mayor Lou Bertrand

ATTEST:


Fiscal Officer Susan J. Skrovan