

Hiram Village Council Meeting

Rosser Municipal Building
11617 Garfield Road, Hiram, Ohio 44234

August 14, 2018

The following Members of Council were present: Mr. Dempsey, 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, Village Administrator James McGee.

The following persons were present: Hiram Township Trustee Debra Blake, Mrs. Susan Greenwood, Tony Badalamenti running for Portage County Commissioner and The Weekly Villager reporter Stacy Turner.

Before opening the Council meeting, Mayor Bertrand ceremoniously swore in our new Councilmember Michael Greenwood.

Mayor Bertrand called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 pm. He asked that all cell phones be silenced. There was a moment of silence followed by the pledge to the flag.

The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of 7/10/18 as presented. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Dempsey and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the proposed agenda. Paul Spencer asked whether Council would be entering executive session and if so, shouldn't we have that on the agenda. Solicitor Tom Reitz explained that what is on the agenda is sufficient however, if you like, it would be respective to imminent litigation. A motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Smith. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

GUEST AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Tony Badalamenti, running for Portage County Commissioner, provided Council with some background information about himself. He has lived in Aurora for 30 years and have a Chiropractic business there. He is also the Lieutenant Governor of the Kiwanis and is active in his community. The three things he is running on are; economic development, the drug epidemic and the financial health of the County. He thanked the Mayor and Council.

Hiram Township Trustee Debra Blake informed Council that the trustees voted for background checks for their employees. Debra provided some companies that perform these checks should the Village also be interested. Mayor Bertrand said our Village currently uses Pre-Check for our background checks.

Trustee Debra Blake also notified Council that the Beautification Commission authorized her to utilize \$700.00 of their funds for improvements to the Hiram Township cemeteries. It was used to paint the fence in the cemetery.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

*Police Chief Brian Gregory provided their monthly report. The department had 240 offense reports for July; their numbers have dropped.

The annual car show on Saturday, August 4th brought in \$1,200 for the Shop with a Cop program.

Cops and kids fishing day is set for Saturday, August 25th.

The Shop with a Cop program has been set for Saturday, December 8, 2018 at the Streetsboro Target store.

His department has a new sworn in officer; Vincent Polverine. They also had one resignation.

Chief Gregory is making application for an executive grant to be used for the Marcs radios. He is also working on a grant for four (4) speed signs.

*Asst. Fire Chief Brandon Baynes provided their monthly report by email and copied for tonight. Response times edged up this past month but other than that, it has been a routine month.

Preventive maintenance will be starting on Monday with F & S Automotive.

Squad #1 (2008) will be getting some rust fixed on the cab; the department is getting a quote from Perfect Choice.

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

The pre-construction meeting for the road projects will be Friday, August 24th at 11:00 am.

Dean Street work on the storm sewers is almost complete. The tree trimming and removal is done.

James asked the Crestwood School District to not use the turnaround (cul-de-sacs) at the ends of Plum Ridge and Kenyan because there is damage being done from the buses to those properties. He suggested a bus stop where those two roads meet.

There will be an Ohio Public Works Commission meeting tomorrow at the Portage County Engineers office. James plans to attend.

His department is working on requesting some amendments to the water operating budget.

Jagow Park improvements are now finished.

Paul Spencer felt that our Planning and Zoning Board needs to think about restrictions on tree planting along Village streets.

MAYOR'S AUGUST 14, 2018 REPORT TO COUNCIL

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION:

The Commission met on Monday, August 7th when Mr. & Mrs. Holmes and their architect presented and approved plans for \$50,000 in improvements to 11856 Plum Ridge, the former Auble residence.

PROPERTY IMMEDIATELY TO THE EAST OF THE ROSSER BUILDING OWNED BY HIRAM CHRISTIAN CHURCH:

Yesterday the Village received a qualified approval of the Mayor's proposal to purchase this land for \$35,000. The Church is requiring DEED restrictions which are: keep the majority of land as "green space" and the Grantee shall develop no more than one-third (1/3) of the area of conveyed property. Finally, should the Grantee sell the subject property that only the Hiram Christian Church have first option to purchase at current fair market value as determined by a duly Ohio licensed real estate broker.

Council discussed the purchase of this property.

A motion to authorize the Village Administrator to have the Hiram Christian Church property surveyed by our next meeting not to exceed \$800.00 was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND DISTRIBUTION FOR 2019:

See attached Exhibit "A"

ROADWAY CONSTRUCTION AND IMPROVEMENTS FOR VILLAGE:

The total bids for Village Street Improvement Programs including Constance Ave reconstruction will save the Village in excess of \$100,000 from the projected costs of \$450,000 and \$130,000 = \$580,000. Note, because of the high precipitation for the past months, the beginning date has been moved back to September with a completion date of July 2019. Also, I have been informed that KARVO Paving, Inc. is not equipped to do driveways. PRE-CONSTRUCTION MEETING IS SCHEDULED 8/24/2018 AT 11 A.M. AT HIRAM VILLAGE HALL.

EMPLOYEE AND ELECTED OFFICIALS COMPENSATION:

I have received the pay scales for several village employees of Burton, Windham, Garrettsville, Mantua, South Russell and Boston Heights. In addition, I have reviewed our Village employee pay ranges and yearly cost of living raises from 2006 to 2018. It should be noted that yearly employee pay ranges are Ordinances and yearly cost of living raises are Resolutions.

Examples:

- (1) Ord. 2006-12 the highest yearly full-time pay was Superintendent of Utilities \$48,505, with the lowest Dept. Head as part-time Fire Chief **\$3,000.**
- (2) Ord. 2008-3 "Director of Utilities" \$40,000 - \$60,000 with the lowest Dept. Head Fire Chief - part-time \$4,000-\$5,000.
- (3) Ord. 2009-25 Brought all Dept. Heads up to the same max as "Director of Utilities" \$40,000 - \$60,000 with the lowest Dept. Head Fire Chief - part-time \$4,000-\$15,000.
- (4) Ord. 2013-34 was enacted for a part-time Village Administrator range \$20,000 -\$30,000 (May be salary or hourly) and made new titles not addressed in prior ordinances. This Ordinance added Zoning Inspector per/yr. \$1,500 -\$6,500.
- (5) Ord. 2014-45 affected hourly Fire and EMS personnel mostly, bringing them up to competitive compensation ranges.
- (6) Ord. 2015-17 effective 9/10/2015 did raise the compensation of Fire Chief **\$15,000 -\$20,000** and Assist. Chief \$13,000 - \$25,000. Also addressed were Fire & EMS personnel pay raises.

Elected officials, that is part-time Council members and part-time Mayors are all over the pay range from my research. However, I found the VILLAGE OF BOSTON HEIGHTS with a similar population and budget. Their Council members are currently paid \$250 per month and the Mayor Bill Gonzey's compensation is currently \$2,000. per month. It should be noted for the record that for the annual budget, the elected officials are a mere drop in the bucket of total personnel services expenses.

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:

Bank reconciliation report for July is complete and available for signing by Mayor & Council.

Cash Summary by Fund as of July 31, 2018 was provided in Council packets.

The list of bills as of August 9, 2018 was provided in Council packets.

Council meeting minutes for July 10, 2018 were provided in Council packets.

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

A motion to approve the Fiscal Officer's report was made by Mr. Dempsey and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

A motion to pay the bills as presented was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

HIRAM TOWNSHIP REPORT

No Township report.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCES

2018-15: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS IN SEVERAL FUNDS AND AUTHORIZING AN ADVANCE FROM THE GENERAL FUND (1000) TO THE BODY ARMOR GRANT FUND (2275) OF \$6,731.19 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Smith. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Dempsey and seconded by Mr. Smith. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

2018-16: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS IN THE WATER FUND (5101) BY \$9,500 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Dempsey. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

2018-17: AN ORDINANCE SETTING BASE COMPENSATION RANGES FOR EMPLOYMENT POSITIONS AT THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM, REPEALING ORDINANCE 2018-14 AND OTHER INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES. 1ST READING.

RESOLUTIONS

2018-21: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM TO ESTABLISH COMPENSATION FOR THE HIRAM VILLAGE RESERVE OFFICER PROGRAM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Spencer. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Rob Dempsey has two tickets for the Cleveland Indians versus Cincinnati Reds baseball game for tomorrow night and cannot attend. If anyone would be interested, he would give them away. The game is in Cincinnati.

Chris Szell informed Council the community garage sales for the parks raised approximately \$300.00.

A motion to enter into executive session on imminent litigation and to consider the purchase of property for public purposes at 8:17 pm was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

A motion to come out of executive session at 8:58 pm was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

A motion to have the Village Administrator contact Mr. Jack Groselle regarding a survey of his property and ask him if he wants to sell the property was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Dempsey. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

A motion for the Village Administrator to contact Hiram College and Kimble Co. and utilize the services of our Solicitor Tom Reitz to negotiate a resolution to the issues at hand was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Greenwood. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.


A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Szell and seconded by Mr. Greenwood. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:01 pm.

These minutes are pending approval by Council.



Mayor Lou Bertrand

ATTEST:



Fiscal Officer Susan J. Skrovan