

Hiram Village Council Meeting

Rosser Municipal Building
11617 Garfield Road, Hiram, Ohio 44234

August 9, 2016

The following Members of Council were present: Mr. Wadkins, Mr. Cobb, Mr. Hemphill, Mr. Smith and Mr. Spencer. The following were also present: Mayor Lou Bertrand, Village Solicitor Tom Reitz, Fiscal Officer Susan Skrovan, Fire Chief Bill Byers, Captain Gary Bott, Sergeant/Acting Chief Brian Gregory, Retired Police Chief Ed Samec, Village Administrator James McGee, Zoning Inspector Dominic Gualtieri and many of our Police Officers.

The following persons were present: Stacy Turner; reporter for the Weekly Villager, Matthew Merchant; reporter for the Record Courier and resident Matt Sorrick.

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.

Mayor Bertrand read Proclamation 2016-2 declaring the month of September as Edward F. Samec Jr. month. Retired Police Chief Ed Samec thanked everyone and commented on what had been accomplished during the time he was Chief. With everyone's cooperation and hard work, they created Team Hiram. Ed was very touched.

The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of 7/12/16 as presented. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Cobb. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

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

A motion to approve Proclamation 2016-2 was made by Mr. Wadkins and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

GUEST AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Matt Sorrick asked what the timeframe is for work on the Hike & Bike Trail project. James McGee, Village Administrator, responded that it looks like November of this year to start or early next spring with a completion date of July of 2017. James went on to explain what has been done up to this point and why it was done. Matt asked about a pre-construction sign placed at the project site to explain what this is all about. James said they have not had any discussion on a pre-construction sign; there will be a sign there when it is completed.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Police Sergeant Brian Gregory provided the monthly report. They had 242 offense reports for the month of July. The Police are seeing more drugs out there with more arrests. There is some mandatory State training taking place.

This evening, our Police Department, Council and others honored retiring Police Chief Ed Samec with a cake and engraved clock. Many of our Police Officers attended.

Sergeant David Ovens has announced his retirement date of August 28, 2016. The full-time position will be filled internally.

The annual Cops & Kids fishing event is coming up this Saturday, August 13th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

On Saturday, August 20th, they will be having live training with Garrettsville and hopefully Mantua from 8-12.

Fire Chief Bill Byers provided their monthly report. The Fire department had 32 calls last month with a response time of 6 minutes 55 seconds.

There is a newly formed Committee on opioid abuse or “DAWN”. We will host a meeting here on Saturday, September 24th from 10-12 p.m. Bill explained the program and its benefits. Our Fire Department will also be participating in the Crestwood Community Day at the stadium on Sunday, August 14th from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m.

With regard to our dispatch services, Garrettsville went live; we will go in November to Aurora City. Mantua-Shalersville Fire District has not yet made their decision on where they will be for dispatch.

All of our fire equipment is running good right now.

Village Administrator James McGee presented the July monthly water/sewer report. Spending has leveled off. James updated Council on the following projects;

- Sidewalks on State Routes Project: work has begun.
- Hike & Bike Trail Project: we have received the last forms. We can now move forward to request reimbursement of our funds.
- OPWC District 7, Round 31: we scored 64 points on our water and sewer project. This is above the cutoff line and will be funded. Our road project, however, fell below the cutoff line. CT Consultants will try and submit the project with Portage County.

Mayor Lou Bertrand's report:

MAYOR LOU BERTRAND'S REPORT TO COUNCIL FOR AUGUST 9, 2016

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

The Commission met in August and passed the proposed plans for the development of the Hiram School Park. (See: Exhibit “A” attached) All are reminded that in March the Commission unanimously approved the purchase of the office, industrial building and parking lot containing 8 acres by MANTALINE CORPORATION from Win-Pro. Mantaline Corporation's grand opening is now scheduled for Wednesday, August 17th from 4-7 pm.

FIRE, EMS & POLICE DISPATCH

In Resolution 2016-25 the Village one year contract for DISPATCH services for Fire, EMS and Police with the City of Aurora was approved at the July Council meeting and scheduled to begin in November.

Submitted by:

MAYOR LOU BERTRAND

August 9, 2016

Paul Spencer asked how to go about spending some public purpose funds for economic development, for maybe a key to the Village, a proclamation or a plaque of recognition. Solicitor Tom Reitz explained the process and how we can accomplish it. There needs to be a finding that it is for a public purpose and for the public good. It must be shown to advance the municipality.

The Fiscal Officer Susan Skrovan presented her monthly financial reports.

The following reports were provided to Council for this meeting:

Bank reconciliation report for July 2016 was presented to Council and the Mayor for signing.

Cash Summary by Fund as of July 31, 2016 was provided in Council packets.

The list of bills as of August 5, 2016 was provided in Council packets.

R.I.T.A. income tax receipts YTD

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

A motion to pay the bills as presented was made by Mr. Wadkins and seconded by Mr. Spencer. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

HIRAM TOWNSHIP REPORT

There was no Township representative to provide a report this evening.

Mayor Bertrand did say there was a very nice school reunion which he and Gary Bott attended.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCES

2016-18: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL FUND (1000) POLICE DEPARTMENT (110) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Wadkins 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. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Smith. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

2016-19: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL FUND (1000) POLICE LAW ENFORCEMENT (110) OTHER OPERATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Wadkins 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. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Smith. Chris Cobb asked what the logic is behind this legislation. Fiscal Officer Susan explained what transpired between the Police Chief retiring and now a Sergeant ready to retire. The personal services line item was never allocated funds for retirement payouts. This will cover a lump sum payment for both of them. And, as in the past with Chief Lombardi, funds were approved from the General Fund in order to complete his payout. Chris Cobb asked how the Village accounts for carryover, as a future debt. Paul Spencer said it remains in the General Fund. Chairman Wadkins stated that you would not want to earmark that money and take it out of investment or operating funds. Solicitor Tom Reitz responded that some municipalities have a policy that does not allow accumulation of comp time; you use it or get paid overtime for it, but you do not carry it over from year to year. In light of these recent retirements, Council may want to re-visit that policy before the end of the year so that you do not face these same types of substantial expenditures sometime in the future. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

2016-20: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL FUND (1000) BY \$3,250 AND AUTHORIZING AN ADVANCE OF \$3,250 TO THE STATE EMS GRANT FUND (2062) 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 5-0 in favor. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Wadkins. Dave Smith asked if these funds have been earmarked for anything. Chief Bill Byers explained based on the state guidelines what it can be spent on; which is for fire equipment and for education. It will more than likely be dedicated to paramedic training. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

RESOLUTIONS

2016-23: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH GAMETIME FOR PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. TABLED on 3rd READING. A motion to remove from the table was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Wadkins. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. A motion to approve on third reading was made by Mr. Wadkins and seconded by Mr. Spencer. Solicitor Tom Reitz spoke on concerns raised over the liability on the new equipment and whether we are covered; the answer is yes. He sent the actual plans, the contract and the location of the other various improvements to our insurance carrier, Dawson Insurance Companies. They did reply to him with a nominal fee of \$13.00 a year for the liability coverage and \$89.00 for any equipment damage or vandalism for a total of \$102.00 annually. Council members felt this was very reasonable. Tom Reitz will be obtaining a complete quotation for all the park improvements. Council approved. Chris Cobb asked when the plan was to install these items. James replied the gazebo and prairie grass should be installed this year; the playground equipment would probably be in the spring. Mr. Spencer called to question. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

2016-26: 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. Wadkins 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. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

A motion to allow the Mayor to spend, for public relations for Mantaline Corporation dedication, up to \$200.00 to advance the economic development, safety and welfare of the community was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

Sergeant and Acting Chief Brian Gregory informed Council that the current Queen of Hearts game going on in Garrettsville may benefit the Shop with a Cop program through the 50/50 raffle proceeds.

Brian Gregory asked that any help with donations for Chief Ed Samec's retirement gift would be appreciated.

Dave Smith was approached by a resident over concerns with blighted properties in the Village and asked what Council was doing about them or what zoning can do. Chairman Wadkins noted that our Solicitor, James and he have discussed what can be done and determined we would need legislation. More discussion followed regarding possible solutions to the problem. Village Council would need to pass legislation on an exterior maintenance code, something that has been brought up in recent years. Solicitor Tom Reitz noted that one was brought before Council with the final decision being Council was reluctant to enact one. Solicitor Reitz went onto explain what procedures a municipality has right now under ORC for "public nuisances". The County Health Department and your fire forces have a lot of authority under this code. Chairman Wadkins and Solicitor Tom Reitz both felt this would be best discussed at a committee level. Chairman Wadkins would be in favor of chairing a committee on an exterior maintenance code and work with ORC regulations to create legislation. It would affect everyone's properties.

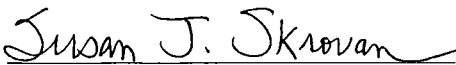
A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Wadkins and seconded by Mr. Spencer. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:28 pm.

These minutes are pending approval by Council.



Mayor Lou Bertrand

ATTEST:



Fiscal Officer Susan J. Skrovan