

Hiram Village Council Meeting

Rosser Municipal Building
11617 Garfield Road, Hiram, Ohio 44234

June 12, 2018

The following Members of Council were present: Mr. Dempsey, Mr. Hemphill, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Smith, Mr. Szell and Mr. Wadkins. 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 Brandon Baynes, Village Administrator James McGee, Cpl. Devin Brown, Firefighters Josh Wilde and Steven Laskey.

The following persons were present: Stacy Turner; The Weekly Villager, Hiram Township Trustee; Debra Blake, Mrs. Kyle Wadkins and Ed Frato-Sweeney.

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 proposed agenda. A motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Mr. Wadkins 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 regular meeting minutes of 5/15/18 as presented. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Dempsey and seconded by Mr. Spencer. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

GUEST AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Chris Haynes gave a presentation on his company, Civically. It is a community app which allows municipalities to post announcements and events. Anyone can download the app and be able to access this information for any local government or local & civic organization that has posted information to the app. It is great for people traveling who want to find out what is happening in your community. Nine communities are on board with Civically so far. Local & civic organizations are restricted to posting only their events. Notifications and announcements are reserved only for local governments. It is updated by the local government. The first year is free to the first 25 to sign up. The cost is \$49.00 per month or \$500.00 annually. Council asked whether Hiram Township and Hiram Village can go together on an app. Chris Haynes said yes, you can share an app. It is free to civic and local organizations.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

*Police Chief Brian Gregory provided their monthly report. The department had 253 offense reports for May and average traffic citations.

The Click It or Ticket campaign was held May 25th; 215 informational bags given out including Maggie's Doughnuts and McDonalds coupons.

Last week, the department was awarded a Step Outside grant for \$500.00 from ODNR. This is used for the Cops & Kids fishing.

Chief Gregory is still in the process of working on an emergency management plan; it may take a year to complete.

We had a lightning strike last month which damaged our repeater. We are assessing damages to submit a claim.

The Police policy handbook needed to be and has been completely re-written.

In house, there has been an increase in tactical training; equipment and the physical ability of our officers.

Corporal Devin Brown gave an extensive presentation to Council requesting support for a K-9 unit in 2019. Our insurance agent has been contacted; option #1 would be the cost to have \$10,000 in coverage for a K-9 is \$155.00 per year and would come out of the police budget. Devin noted that everything he is proposing tonight would be funded out of the police budget out of a special line item for the K-9. He would recommend option #2 which would be \$417.00 per year with \$25,000 in coverage. This would cover the cost of the dog, the training and all items required to outfit the vehicle. A police canine is covered the same as a police officer in the line of duty. Devin would house the canine; his property will be equipped to do so. The veterinarian care would be provided by the Aurora/Mantua Veterinary Clinic through two insurance policies which would cover any care. Devin explained that the K-9 trainer is very pro-Hiram and would love to see Hiram have a canine. He is willing to donate a dog with training along with Devin going out and collect donations. Devin also said there are grants available; one in particular is the Ben Roethlisberger grant. He nominates one Village and sponsors a K-9. Chief Byers commented on Paul Shaughnessy, the K-9 trainer. He is probably at the forefront of K-9 training and he is right here in Hiram. This would be funded primarily with forfeited drug funds and by donations. Devin provided a breakdown of all costs. Corporal Brown is asking for a motion by Council to authorize them to proceed with a K-9 program in Hiram Village. Dave Smith asked if one of our three patrol cars would be dedicated to the K-9. Chief Gregory said the plan in 2019 was to purchase a new vehicle within their capital funds; unit #15 would be turned into the K-9 vehicle. Dave Smith asked about the training. Devin said, initially, it would be 6-7 weeks of training. Then, every week there is 4 hours of training. Chris Szell asked about him essentially being on call 24/7 with the K-9. Devin said yes, this is his dream to have a K-9 unit. Paul Spencer asked about the cost associated with the care of the canine. Devin explained. FSLA requires 4 hours of training every week for the patrol officer and the K-9.

A motion to enable/create necessary accounts and formalize Council's permission for the Police Department to proceed with the K-9 program was made by Mr. Wadkins and seconded by Mr. Dempsey. David Smith asked what is the proposed use for this K-9. Corporal Brown said the K-9 would be for patrol & drug intervention. Chief Byers explained what a K-9 trained for dual purpose would be utilized to do. Paul Spencer asked about the costs for general maintenance of the K-9; would that be at an hourly rate. Chief Gregory said no, this has been discussed; Devin would be taking the dog home with him. All general maintenance of the animal will be at no cost to the Village. Devin would not be compensated for any care of the dog. General discussion followed about the training requirements, safety and liabilities of the K-9. The result of the voice vote was 5-1 in favor with one abstention from Mr. Spencer.

*Asst. Fire Chief Brandon Baynes provided their monthly report by email and copied for tonight. They have been conducting general maintenance on the equipment; business as usual.

Chief Bill Byers, following a personal story he shared about Mr. Wadkins, presented Council President Thomas Wadkins with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Hiram Fire Department. Applause.

*Village Administrator James McGee presented the monthly water/sewer report. He has little to report. Applause.

In the water and sewer department, Adam Vanek gave his notice to leave employment with Hiram Village as of June 8, 2018. James now has two positions to fill.

The 2018 Street Improvements & Constance Avenue project held a bid opening on June 6th at noon. The probable construction costs were \$519,000. Karvo Company came in the lowest and best bidder at \$461,853.05. Grant funds should be available on July 6th. CT Consultants, our engineering firm, is tabulating the bids and verifying that all documents have been properly supplied. The projects will be tracked separately. Solicitor Tom Reitz explained that escrow will now be opened for Constance Avenue and the Village will become the owner of the road. Chris Szell asked whether the parking area in the new park on Bancroft Street is part of this road improvement project. James said no; it is something we could check with Karvo about doing while they are here completing our other roadways.

A motion to have the Village Administrator, James McGee, explore the costs to pave the new Reign Hadsell Park parking area within the park through Karvo Company as a side project was made by Mr. Szell and seconded by Mr. Spencer. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

Chris Szell asked Council about the water tower property; do we buy it or just have an easement to use it? VA, James McGee would prefer that we purchase an acre of the property and then allow an easement on part of it for farming. Council felt that the Village Administrator needs to explore the zoning regulations for Hiram Township.

A motion to purchase the property needed for the installation of a new water tower was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

MAYOR'S JUNE 12, 2018 REPORT TO COUNCIL

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION:

The Commission did not meet on Tuesday June 5th as there was no business on the Commission's agenda.

MAYOR'S ACTIVITIES:

Your Mayor will be attending the OHIO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE'S OHIO MAYORS ASSOCIATION ANNUAL CONVENTION this week beginning on Wednesday through all day Friday in Akron.

MEMORIAL DAY:

Keynote Speaker: Mr. Joe Benedict of Cleveland [Veteran USN] President of Honor Flight. |

Invocation and Benediction: Rev. Father Lee Martin [Veteran USN] | Priest at Christ the King Anglican Church, Columbiana, Ohio.

Roll Call of Veterans: Mr. Nathan Frania (Veteran USA-82ABD), Mr. Sam Bixler (Veteran US Army), Hon. Rob Dempsey (Veteran USAF), Hon. Debra Blake (MAJ Retired USA)

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 for the projected costs of \$450,000 and \$135,000. = \$585,000. Note, this is with a completion date of November 2, 2018!

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

The following reports were provided to Council for this meeting:

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

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

The list of bills as of June 8, 2018 was provided in Council packets.

Council meeting minutes for May 15, 2018 was provided in Council packets.

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

Susan wanted to thank Stacy Turner and Rosemary Yukich, who volunteered to help place veteran's flags at Fairview Cemetery.

Susan also informed Council that she did receive a \$300 donation for a possible veteran's memorial in the cemetery. This same person offered to do some design engineering for a memorial at no cost to the Village.

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 6-0 in favor.

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

HIRAM TOWNSHIP REPORT

No Township report.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCES

2018-08: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF \$9,856.74 FROM THE OPWC GRANT HINSDALE ROAD EXTENSION FUND (4902) TO THE OPWC GRANT CONSTANCE AVENUE PROJECT FUND (4903). 3rd READING. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Wadkins. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

RESOLUTIONS

2018-11: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND FISCAL OFFICER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH HIRAM COLLEGE FOR THE HIRAM FIRE DEPARTMENT AND HIRAM VILLAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO HIRAM COLLEGE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. This is at 3rd reading as an emergency; there should not be a motion to suspend rules. Solicitor Reitz explained that for an emergency, there needs to be two-thirds of the elected Council; which is four. A suspension of the rules means that you are not going to go to three readings, which you already have on this legislation. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Wadkins and seconded by Mr. Smith. Paul Spencer asked about emergency language given the fact that Council went three readings on this legislation. Solicitor Tom Reitz explained that the statute says to pass legislation, you must have a majority elected to Council; four. In an emergency, you must have two-thirds. It can pass even with an abstention. The result of the voice vote was 4-2 in favor with an abstention from Mr. Hemphill and Mr. Szell. Paul Spencer asked with the abstentions, did it pass as an emergency. Solicitor Reitz explained that it is still an emergency because you received two-thirds positive votes of the elected Council; four out of six. Council members should provide the reason on the record why they abstained. This comes from the Ohio Ethics Commission opinion 2007-01. Mr. Hemphill stated he has an ongoing relationship with the College even though he is retired. Mr. Szell stated his wife works for the College.

2018-14: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR AND SUBSEQUENT ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS BY THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM FROM THE HIRAM COMMUNITY TRUST. 2nd READING.

2018-15: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2019 PROPOSED BUDGET AND AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO SUBMIT THE BUDGET TO THE PORTAGE COUNTY AUDITOR. 2nd READING.

2018-16: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR AND SUBSEQUENT ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS BY THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM FROM THE HIRAM COMMUNITY TRUST. 1st READING.

2018-17: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR AND SUBSEQUENT ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS BY THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM FROM THE HIRAM COMMUNITY TRUST. 1st READING.

2018-18: A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A NEW SPECIAL REVENUE FUND 2912 FOR THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Wadkins 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. Wadkins and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

2018-19: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH KARVO COMPANIES, INC., FOR THE 2018 STREET IMPROVEMENTS & CONSTANCE AVENUE REPAIR PROGRAM WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM, PORTAGE COUNTY, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Dempsey and seconded by Mr. Wadkins. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Wadkins and seconded by Mr. Dempsey. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

The Mayor presented Proclamation 2018-1 to honor Thomas J. Wadkins for his dedicated service to the Village of Hiram and asked him to be our Grand Marshal for the 4th of July parade. Mr. Wadkins thanked everyone. Applause.

Thomas Wadkins resigned his position as President of Council effective immediately. Solicitor Tom Reitz explained to Council they have 30 days to elect someone to the position on Council and if they do not, then the Mayor appoints someone to Council to fill the vacancy. The second item to consider will be to appoint your next Council President. Thomas Wadkins offered to nominate Robert Dempsey as a candidate for President of Council, Mr. Spencer seconded that motion. No further nominations.

A motion to elect Robert Dempsey as Council President was made by Mr. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Spencer. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor. Mr. Thomas Wadkins resigned his position as Councilperson.

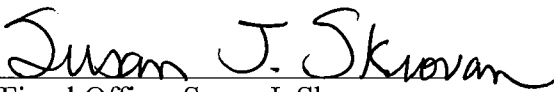
A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Wadkins and seconded by Mr. Dempsey. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:05 pm.

These minutes are pending approval by Council.



Mayor Lou Bertrand

ATTEST:



Fiscal Officer Susan J. Skrovan