

Hiram Village Remote Video Conference Council Meeting

Rosser Municipal Building
11617 Garfield Road, Hiram, Ohio 44234

January 12, 2021

The following Members of Council were present online: Mr. Dempsey, Mr. Greenwood, Mr. Hemphill, Mr. Smith, 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 and Ann Patella.

Mayor Bertrand called the regular meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. 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 proposed amended agenda. A motion to approve the proposed amended agenda as presented was made by Mr. Szell and seconded by Mr. Greenwood. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

The Mayor asked for a motion to nominate Council President for 2021. A motion to nominate Robert Dempsey as Council President was made by Mr. Szell and seconded by Mr. Smith. There were no other nominations from the floor. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

The Mayor asked for a motion to adopt the rules of Council. A motion to adopt the Roberts Rules of Order 10th edition was made by Mr. Dempsey and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the calendar for 2021. A motion to approve the Council meeting calendar for 2021 as the second Tuesday of every month at 7:00 pm 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 regular meeting minutes of 12/15/2020. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Greenwood and seconded by Mr. Dempsey. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

Mayor asked for a motion to approve the special meeting minutes of 12/22/2020. A motion to approve the special minutes as presented was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

GUEST AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Ann Patella had no announcements to make; she was present to observe the meeting. Ed Frato-Sweeney informed Council that classes would resume at Hiram College on Tuesday, January 19. Students will begin moving back in beginning on Friday, January 15. All students and staff will be tested for COVID-19 by the National Guard. Ed Frato-Sweeney asked Council if anyone had comments about what occurred at our Nation's U.S. Capitol last week. Council and the Mayor voiced their concerns and disappointment over actions by our President and the public.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

*Police Chief Brian Gregory was present to provide their monthly report. There were 248 offense reports for December. The courts have asked law enforcement departments to back down on traffic stops given the limited hours the courts are open. His year-end reports are in Council's new mailbox at Village Hall.

No dates have been set yet on COVID vaccinations.

The police department have been warned of credible threats to State and U.S. Capitols over the next several weeks.

Dispatch services with Portage County Sheriff started last Monday; there are some issues to resolve.

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

Chief Byers noted an expense on the bill's list for B&C Communications; he went onto explain the expense.

His department will have 12 MARCS radios purchased through the CARES Act funds.

The old Zuver property on State Route 700 has a new owner who wants to have it burned down by the Fire Department as a training exercise.

The grant award from Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation will go to purchase two extrication tools.

***Village Administrator James McGee presented the monthly report.** James reported on the OPWC grant application, which would have been an 80/20 with \$250,000 being a grant and \$50,000 a loan. We missed the cut off by three points! We are eligible for the Small Governments funding which we will now apply.

We have received three iPads, one for the Mayor, one for Rob Dempsey and one for Frank Hemphill.

The Verizon bill has been streamlined to one bill.

OWDA water project

The Garfield Road water main, James and Steve met with CT Consultants and walked the project. Bids would be in next month.

Regarding our water-operating license, we need 2080 hours. James and Steve each have about 100 hours so far. They are receiving information pamphlets for online classes.

The sewer license; both of our employees are studying for their licensing. They do have the required hours.

Chris Szell asked James or Steve about the timing on the water tower. James said the Ohio EPA received all the paperwork from our engineers, CT Consultants. There were questions that needed to be answered before they approve the project. It could take several months before the project is approved through the EPA.

MAYOR'S JANUARY 12, 2021 REPORT TO COUNCIL

The Mayor's 2020 year-end report has been attached to the official meeting minutes.

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

The following reports were provided to Council for this meeting:

The December Bank Reconciliation has not been completed until the year-end process with the UAN can be closed.

Cash Summary by Fund as of December 31, 2020 was provided in Council e-Packets.

List of bills as of January 8, 2021 was provided in Council e-Packets.

Council Regular meeting minutes for December 15, 2020 were provided in Council e-Packets.

Council Special meeting minutes of December 22, 2020 were provided to Council today by email.

R.I.T.A. income tax receipts YTD report was provided to Council today by email.

Comparison of Budgeted and Appropriated YTD report was provided in Council e-Packets.

Susan informed Council she is currently working in temporary mode with the UAN system. This allows her to finish out the year 2020 while setting up the new 2021 year with revenue and appropriation budgets and PO's. She will have a financial report for February's Council meeting. No bank reconciliation will be ready until 2020 is closed.

New mailboxes have been installed for Council, the Mayor and various committees at the administration office. This was accomplished through the CARES Act funds. Susan noted that the cost of the mailbox system was on the bill's list but not marked using the CARES Act funds; the original bill's list to be signed has the correction made to it.

The last item to note was the extension of time to spend the CARES Act funds. Office of Business & Management (OBM) has extended it until December 31, 2021. No one knows whether any additional funding will be provided.

A motion to approve the Fiscal Officer's report for December as submitted was made by Mr. Greenwood and seconded by Mr. Smith. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

The Bill's list was reviewed. A motion to approve the Bill's list was made by Mr. Dempsey and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

HIRAM TOWNSHIP REPORT

No report.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCES

2020-30: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM'S EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK, SECTION 5.1. 3rd READING. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Dempsey and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

RESOLUTIONS

2020-33: A RESOLUTION SUBMITTING THE QUESTION OF RENEWING AN EXISTING TAX LEVY FOR CURRENT EXPENSE PURPOSES TO THE VOTERS OF THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM PURSUANT TO SECTION 5705.19(A) OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. 2nd READING. 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. Smith and seconded by Mr. Dempsey. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

2021-01: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH THE PORTAGE COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER FOR DEFENSE OF INDIGENT PERSONS CHARGED WITH CRIMINAL OFFENSES UNDER THE VILLAGE ORDINANCES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Greenwood 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. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

2021-02: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHI PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND / OR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM(S) FOR REPAIRS AND IMPROVEMENTS TO HINSDALE STREET, TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED, RATIFYING PAST ACTIONS, WHICH ARE NOW AUTHORIZED BY THIS RESOLUTION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Szell. 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. Greenwood. Dave Smith asked what the final costs would be. James said this would still be a \$250,000 grant and a \$50,000 loan. Dave asked where the funds would come from to pay the loan. Steve said out of the Street Infrastructure Fund (2012) which is funded by the .25% income tax, not from the General Fund.

The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

2021-03: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER OF THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM TO CREATE A THEN AND NOW PURCHASE ORDER TO PAY VASU COMMUNICATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Dempsey. 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. Greenwood. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

2021-04: 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. Smith and seconded by Mr. Szell. 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. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Steve Schuller informed Council that the house on the corner of State Route 700 and Hinsdale was officially purchased! The new owners plan to go through abatement to have it removed.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Szell and seconded by Mr. Greenwood. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.

These minutes are pending approval by Council.


Mayor Lou Bertrand

ATTEST:


Fiscal Officer Susan J. Skrovan