

Hiram Village Council Meeting

Rosser Municipal Building
11617 Garfield Road, Hiram, Ohio 44234

December 10, 2019

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, Asst. Fire Chief Jason Groselle, Village Administrator James McGee and Asst. Village Administrator Steven Schuller.

The following persons were present: Stacy Turner; Reporter with The Weekly Villager, Ed Frato-Sweeney with Hiram College and Debra Blake; Hiram Township Trustee.

Mayor Bertrand called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 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 11/19/2019. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Spencer. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

Mayor asked for a motion to approve the proposed agenda. A motion to approve the proposed amended agenda as presented was made by Mr. Dempsey and seconded by Mr. Greenwood. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

GUEST AND PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

*Police Chief Brian Gregory provided their monthly report. There were a total of 248 offense reports for November. His department has been dealing with recent storms and accidents.

The Annual Shop with a Cop event is this coming Saturday, December 14th at 10:00 am at the Target in Streetsboro. This event will benefit twelve families; six from the Crestwood School District and six from the James A. Garfield School District. Following the event, families and volunteers will return to the Hiram Christian Church for lunch.

*Fire Chief Bill Byers provided their monthly report for tonight. Their report is before them tonight.

His department was successful in receiving an EMS grant which was used to purchase an AED.

An update on the Zuver property; they are conducting ongoing inspections of the property.

On December 22nd in the afternoon, Santa on the fire truck will deliver gifts to both Township and Village residents. Gifts are now being dropped off at the fire station; they must be wrapped with names and addresses.

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

There are a couple pieces of legislation before Council to be considered. First is the purchase of the vehicle lift. Second is an adjustment to the base compensatory ranges.

The invoice we received from the Ohio Department of Transportation has been revised from \$90,000 to \$0! Thanks to Steven working with representatives from ODOT. This invoice came in for "inspection overages" on the hike and bike trail project which had been closed out for over two years. Paul Spencer was very happy with the outcome!

James explained a letter received from Kimble regarding an increase per household for trash removal of .60 cents per year. More discussion followed.

A motion to move forward with the rate increase from Kimble was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor. Legislation will follow.

Steven Schuller brought up to Council that Dan Vair has resigned as our water/sewer operator of record. They have been in talks with Clearwater and are working out a contract for the water; nothing yet on the sewer. Dan Vair has agreed to stay on in a part-time capacity for a month or two. Clearwater would cost \$1,000 per month plus \$75.00 per hour for extra work and training above the monthly fee. Steven added that he has begun training to perform lab testing under Adam Beal, our lab technician. James and Steven felt the need to have a special meeting with Council to finalize the details of a contract with Clearwater Operations. More discussion followed.

A motion to hold a Special Council meeting on Tuesday, December 17, 2019 at 6:00 pm to discuss the water operations contract was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

DECEMBER 10, 2019 MAYOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION:

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

FORMER ANN STREETER RESIDENCE:

Hiram Farm reports that Spaulding-Emig Appraisal Service of Kent, Ohio has appraised the house and lot immediately south of Village property and next to the south parking lot for \$105,000. I suggest that the Village retain Dave Testa of DJ Home Inspections to inspect the building for any defects or problems that could affect its value. If the Village Council concurs, it can be purchased and financed through a residential mortgage process. The inspection by Dave Testa with Radon test is \$400.

ELECTED OFFICE HOLDERS INDUCTION CEREMONY:

The Village has reserved Koritansky Hall for Friday, December 20, 2019 beginning at 7 p.m. for the swearing-in of elected officials in northern Portage County. The invited elected officials so far are: County Treasurer Brad Cromes, Commissioners Vicki Kline & Katherine Clyde, State Representative Diane Grendell and Congressman Dave Joyce. Father Rev. Dr. Joe Boysel of Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Hudson, Ohio will offer the Invocation and Benediction. [We now are swearing-in eleven (11) elected officials from Hiram Village & Township, Mantua Village & Township, Boards of Education [Crestwood & Garfield] plus Garrettsville.

Council discussed the inspection of the property south of the Village public parking area.

A motion to allow for the inspection of said property by Dave Testa of DJ Home Inspections at a cost of \$400.00 was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Smith. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

Mayor Bertrand again stressed the need for the Village to form a water/sewer district. It is in the law. We need to regionalize our infrastructure; systems are failing all over the townships!

The Mayor wanted to inform Council that the Village will be taking care of Baby Hiram by providing a grave and that the funeral costs have been covered by Mallory-DeHaven Carlson Funeral Home.

Respectfully submitted,

MAYOR LOU BERTRAND

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

The following reports were provided to Council for this meeting:

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

Cash Summary by Fund as of November 30, 2019 was provided in Council packets.

The list of bills as of December 6, 2019 was provided in Council packets.

Council meeting minutes for November 19, 2019 were provided in Council packets.

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

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

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

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

HIRAM TOWNSHIP REPORT

Debra Blake provided the report. It has been a quiet month for the township. Debra attended a recent Portage County Township Association dinner at the Ravenna Elks Club where 81 members were in attendance.

Debra complimented our Fire and Police departments on their support! Vaughn Road has been quiet.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCES

2019-36: AN ORDINANCE TO PUT IN PLACE TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS AT THE FUND LEVEL FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM, DURING THE FIRST QUARTER OF THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020. 2nd READING.

A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor. A motion to approve on second reading as an emergency was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Smith. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

2019-38: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM'S EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK, APPENDIX A. 2nd READING. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor. A motion to approve on second reading was made by Mr. Szell and seconded by Mr. Spencer. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

2019-39: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AN AGENCY FUND FOR THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Dempsey. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Spencer. Mr. Greenwood asked Solicitor Tom Reitz about a word in the legislation, "impliedly". Tom Reitz explained when he uses the term. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

2019-40: AN ORDINANCE SETTING BASE COMPENSATION RANGES FOR EMPLOYMENT POSITIONS AT THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM, REPEALING ORDINANCE 2018-17 AND OTHER INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES 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 6-0 in favor. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. There was discussion on the effective date of the ordinance. The decision was made to have it be effective December 9, 2019. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

2019-41: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTERS 505, 517, AND 549 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM WHICH ADDRESS THE USE OF FIREARMS IN THE VILLAGE. 1st READING. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Dempsey. Solicitor Tom Reitz explained to Council that he is the reason why this is before them tonight. There was a change in the Ohio Revised Code and he went onto explain those changes. More discussion followed. Council asked if this can be passed as an emergency. Tom Reitz said no, however, Council can stipulate for it to become effective immediately and Tom would recommend doing that. A motion to approve on first reading and become effective immediately was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. Chris Szell spoke about his constituents and that he has an obligation to protect the citizens as an elected official; he is opposed to this passing. Ed Frato-Sweeney spoke about the great risk of passing this legislation and does not think it is a good idea. Chief Brian Gregory informed Council he strongly opposes this! The State of Ohio is mandating and forcing our hand! Paul Spencer called the question. The result of the voice vote was 2-4 against passage with Mr. Dempsey and Mr. Spencer voting yes. The legislation failed passage.

2019-42: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS IN THE PERSONAL SERVICES AND OTHER OPERATIONS LINE ITEMS IN ALL DEPARTMENTS TO COVER THE TWO PERCENT RAISE APPROVED BY COUNCIL IN MARCH 2019 AND TO COVER COMPENSATORY PAYOUT APPROVED BY COUNCIL IN MAY 2019 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 6-0 in favor. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Dempsey and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. Dave Smith would like to see this paid out within each department's own budgets. Paul Spencer called the question. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

RESOLUTIONS

2019-30: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SPECIFIC ENUMERATED TRANSFERS BY THE FISCAL OFFICER BETWEEN FUNDS OF THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND. 3rd READING. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

2019-33: A RESOLUTION RETAINING THOMAS REITZ, ATTORNEY AT LAW, AS SOLICITOR FOR THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM, OHIO, AND FIXING HIS FEES FOR THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1, 2020 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. 3rd READING. A motion to amend paragraph seven of the exhibit A to read, April 2020, was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Greenwood. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor. A motion to approve as an emergency as amended was made by Mr. Dempsey and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

2019-34: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN C.T. CONSULTANTS, INC. AND THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES. 3rd READING. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Greenwood. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

2019-41: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH PORTAGE LIFT, INC. FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF A HYDRAULIC LIFT IN THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM SERVICE GARAGE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Szell 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. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Dempsey. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

2019-42: A RESOLUTION TO JOIN KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL AS A CORPORATE MEMBER. 1st READING. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor. A motion to approve on first reading was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Szell. Council asked what the benefits of club membership were and the costs. Rob Dempsey replied the Kiwanis does more for Hiram Village than any other organization! Rob explained their fundraising efforts. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

2019-43: A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE AN AGREEMENT WITH CLEARWATER OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE, LLC. TO BE THE CERTIFIED PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY OPERATOR FOR THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM WATER SYSTEM 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 6-0 in favor. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Greenwood. Chris Szell asked that the accompanying documents be marked as Exhibit A & B. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

2019-44: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH THE SOUTHERN OHIO CHAMBER ALLIANCE BENEFIT PLAN (SOCABP), FOR THE ACQUISITION OF MEDICAL INSURANCE BENEFITS FOR EMPLOYEES OF THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Dempsey. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Spencer. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

2019-45: A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF OHIO SENATE BILL 202, 133rd GENERAL ASSEMBLY, 2019-2020 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Szell and seconded by Mr. Greenwood. 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. Hemphill. Rob Dempsey asked what happens if this does not pass, does it just die? No one seemed to know the answer to Rob's question. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Council President Rob Dempsey informed Council that the Mayor and him have plans to meet with Hiram Farm tomorrow. Paul Spencer brought up a concern about the house on the farm which is in disrepair? Tom Reitz responded he felt our Zoning Inspector will need a lot of training regarding this issue. Mr. Reitz wants to sit down with him and have a draft violation letter prepared. Council members brought up other properties around the Village in disrepair. Tom Reitz would like addresses of the properties identified that should be investigated when he meets with our Zoning Inspector, Dominic Gualtieri. The Planning and Zoning Commission should plan to have their meeting on January 7, 2020.

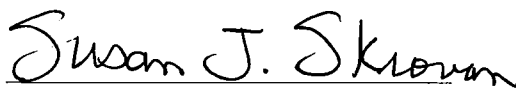
A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Dempsey and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:25 pm.

These minutes are pending approval by Council.



Mayor Lou Bertrand

ATTEST:



Fiscal Officer Susan J. Skrovan