

Hiram Village Council Meeting

Rosser Municipal Building
11617 Garfield Road, Hiram, Ohio 44234

December 12, 2017

The following Members of Council were present: Mr. Cobb, Mr. Dempsey, Mr. Hemphill, Mr. Smith, Mr. Spencer and Mr. Wadkins. The following were also present: Mayor Lou Bertrand, Village Solicitor Tom Reitz, Fiscal Officer Susan Skrovan, Village Administrator James McGee, Police Chief Brian Gregory, Fire Chief Bill Byers and Assistant VA Steven Schuller.

The following persons were present: Chris Szell; Park Board Chairman and Councilman elect and Debra Blake; Hiram Township Trustee elect.

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 11/14/17 as presented. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Spencer. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

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

GUEST AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Chris Szell; Chairman of the Park Board, provided a quick update on the park. Chris passed out a final spreadsheet of the park budget in order to submit for reimbursement to both NatureWorks and Land and Water. We expect to receive back from both agencies a total of \$127,000 in grant funds. Chris added that the Village's total cash contribution was \$35,446. That is all the Village put into the project, which was less than the original estimation of \$46,000. Chris felt there may be a couple small charges he missed. Chris went onto explain the figures presented including donations and in-kind work performed by our Street Department. Chris did thank all those who helped complete the project. Chris put two reports before Mayor Bertrand today for his signatures. They are the performance reports; one for NatureWorks and the other for Land and Water Conservation. We are still waiting for our temporary occupancy permit and for some lighting to be installed in the gazebo.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Police Chief Brian Gregory provided their monthly report. They had 321 offense reports for November.

Reminder this Saturday, December 16th, is our Shop with a Cop program. Council are more than welcome.

No Shave November is going on into December. Right now we are at \$420.00; proceeds to benefit the 4C's food cupboard.

None for Under 21 at Hiram College will be scheduled for April 17, 2018.

Brian wanted to inform Council and everyone that there is a teddy bear scam going on in Hiram. Numerous residents in the Township and Village have been solicited by someone claiming to be raising money for Christmas teddy bears for the Hiram Police Department! It is a scam.

This past weekend, the Police Department held their less than lethal training for their bean bag shotguns. Other training is ongoing in the department.

The dispatch contract with Aurora has been signed and is ready to go; it covers a 1-year period with no increase.

Fire Chief Bill Byers provided their monthly report tonight. Bill did include some photographs to show the extent of several fires and what their personnel were up against. We are about 40 calls ahead of last year; some are due to our cooperation with Garrettsville and Community Ambulance. They can now page all three departments at one time.

Due to the cooperation with our Village Administrator, Bill was able to utilize some funds in the Fire Department to purchase some outside lighting for the fire station. It was something on his to do list for about a year.

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

The sewer line project has been completed; we are waiting on final inspection results from CT Consultants.

The Hike & Bike trail is complete; ODOT had a punch list. James has not seen any activity in the last few days other than the bollards have been installed and are up and locked. The Fire & Police Departments have keys. Ohio Edison will also be given a key so they can access their right of way.

Constance Avenue agreement should come up at the January Council meeting.

The school park was covered very well by Chris Szell.

MAYOR LOU BERTRAND'S REPORT TO COUNCIL DECEMBER 12, 2017

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION:

The Commission did not meet this month as no business is pending.

HIKE AND BIKE TRAIL COMPLETED:

Dedication to be announced.

NOPEC ANNUAL MEETING:

THE ANNUAL NOPEC MEETING WAS HELD ON NOVEMBER 14, 2017 AT INDEPENDENCE OH. [ANNUAL REPORT IS ATTACHED TO MAYOR'S REPORT.]

HIRAM VILLAGE COMMUNITY THANKS CHRIS COBB: THE HIRAM VILLAGE COMMUNITY wishes to thank COUNCILMAN CHRISTOPHER COBB for his four (4) years of service on HIRAM VILLAGE COUNCIL. In addition, CHRIS served six (6) years on the VILLAGE PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION and years on both HIRAM VILLAGE BOARD OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS and the FOURTH OF JULY COMMITTEE, of which the latter he still serves.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 2017 AT 7:00 PM, OATH OF OFFICE FOR HIRAM AND SURROUNDING COMMUNITIES: Hon. **Brad Cromes**, Portage County Treasurer and Hon. **Sabrina Christian Bennett**, Portage County Commissioner will preside with Hon. U.S. Congressman **Dave Joyce** officiating the Oaths of various offices. Refreshments will be served provided by Mantua's Jakes Restaurant.

Respectfully Submitted,
Hiram Mayor Lou Bertrand

The Fiscal Officer Susan Skrovan presented the monthly financial reports.

The following reports were provided to Council for this meeting:

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

Cash Summary by Fund as of November 30, 2017 was provided in Council packets.

The list of bills as of December 8, 2017 was provided in Council packets; however, an amended version is before Council tonight. Items in *italics* had to be added as paperwork came in for large projects being completed.

Council meeting minutes for November 14, 2017 were not completed for packets and were emailed to members.

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. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Wadkins. 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. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

HIRAM TOWNSHIP REPORT

Debra Blake, Trustee elect, reported that Mr. Chuck Kieper with NOPEC was at their last township meeting.

Everyone's electric bill, as long as they have NOPEC, the township will receive \$8.00 per person from NOPEC.

Debra believes the Village should also receive some funds back from NOPEC. The Mayor explained what was discussed at the last NOPEC meeting he attended.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCES

2017-26: AN ORDINANCE DECLARING IT NECESSARY IN ORDER TO PROVIDE FOR INFRASTRUCTURE SERVICES IN THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM TO INCREASE THE VILLAGE INCOME TAX BY .25% EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2019, REPEALING ALL PRIOR INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES. 3rd READING. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Wadkins and seconded by Mr. Smith. Dave Smith asked about passage, if this passes, it will cover repairs to roads and sidewalks. Will it change our sidewalk legislation? Chairman Tom Wadkins said not necessarily; Council members should meet and discuss this all to be very clear moving forward. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

2017-29: AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING FUNDS TO RUN THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2018. 2nd READING. The Fiscal Officer informed Council that this needs to be passed on second reading for it is to be in effect by January 1, 2018. 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. Wadkins and seconded by Mr. Dempsey. Dave Smith had a couple questions between the certification of funds versus the actual appropriations. Susan explained the certification of funds comes from the County Auditor and estimates what is expected to be collected in; it does not include our carryover. The General Fund is down. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

2017-31: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM'S EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK, APPENDIX A. 1st READING. 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 adopt on first reading was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Wadkins. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

2017-32: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH THE PORTAGE COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER FOR DEFENSE OF INDIGENT PERSONS CHARGED WITH CRIMINAL OFFENSES UNDER THE VILLAGE ORDINANCES. 1st READING. Solicitor Tom Reitz would recommend that Council suspend the rules on this legislation. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Smith. 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. Wadkins. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

2017-33: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS IN THE STATE HIGHWAY SPECIAL REVENUE FUND (2021) BY \$3,676 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. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Spencer. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

RESOLUTIONS

2017-25: A RESOLUTION PLACING AN ADDITIONAL .25% GENERAL INCOME TAX ON THE BALLOT FOR THE MAY 8, 2018 PRIMARY ELECTION, SAID INCREASE TO BE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2019, AND NOTIFYING THE PORTAGE COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO CAUSE NOTICE OF THE ELECTION, REPEALING ALL PRIOR INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS. 3rd READING. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Wadkins and seconded by Mr. Dempsey. Chris Cobb asked whether the language in the legislation for the ballot would be the exact language before the voters. Solicitor Tom Reitz replied yes, exactly as you see it here. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

2017-27: 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, 2018 TO DECEMBER 31, 2018, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. 3rd READING. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Wadkins. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

2017-32: 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 6-0 in favor. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Wadkins and seconded by Mr. Spencer. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

2017-33: A RESOLUTION EXECUTING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT) FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO STATE ROUTE 305/700 PROJECT, PID NO. 94131 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. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

2017-34: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF PUBLIC FUNDS OF NO MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS FOR A RECEPTION FOLLOWING A SWEARING IN CEREMONY FOR NEWLY ELECTED AND/OR RE-ELECTED OFFICIALS ON DECEMBER 22, 2017 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Hemphill 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. Spencer. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Robert Dempsey informed Council he will be unable to attend the January Council meeting.

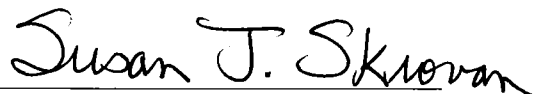
A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Mr. Wadkins. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

These minutes are pending approval by Council.



Mayor Lou Bertrand

ATTEST:



Fiscal Officer Susan J. Skrovan