

Hiram Village Council Meeting

Rosser Municipal Building
11617 Garfield Road, Hiram, Ohio 44234

December 12, 2023

The following Members of Council were present: Mr. Szell, Mrs. Greenwood, Mr. Hemphill, Mr. McCreight, Mr. Smith and Mr. Spencer. The following were also present: Mayor Lou Bertrand, Village Solicitor Tom Reitz, Assistant Fiscal Officer Wendelin Taylor, Police Chief Brian Gregory, Fire Chief Bill Byers, Asst. Fire Chief Jason Groselle, and Asst. Village Administrator Steve Schuller. The following were absent: Fiscal Officer Susan Skrovan-DeYoung.

The following persons were present: Madison Palm, Hiram College student, Ed Frato-Sweeney Councilman-elect and Sharon Bertrand village resident, Fred Miavitz and Kristen and several others.

Mayor Bertrand called the regular meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. The Mayor asked that all cell phones be silenced. There was a moment of silence at which time the Mayor mentioned the illness of Hiram College President Robert Bohrer and the untimely passing of Fiscal Officer Susan Skrovan-DeYoung's sister.

Mayor asked for a motion to approve the special meeting minutes of November 14, 2023. A motion to approve the meeting minutes was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

Mayor asked for a motion to approve the regular minutes of November 14, 2023. A motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

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

GUEST AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Frato-Sweeney thanked the outgoing Mayor, Council Members and Solicitor for their years of dedication and service to the Village. He expressed his gratitude for the hard work and sacrifice.

Mrs. Bertrand spoke regarding her opposition to the proposed changes to the current Zoning Ordinances regarding the raising of backyard chickens.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

**Police Chief Brian Gregory provided their monthly report.*

During the month of November there were 225 offence reports. The college calls were minor. The Garrettsville Police Department Fill-a-Cruiser event on December 2nd collected \$1432.00 for the Shop with a Cop program. The event took place on December 9th at the Streetsboro Target store. 29 children participated in the event, the largest number of children to date. The Chief thanked the volunteers that gave of their time to make the event a success. The State will be paying 50% of the cost of MARC's radios. The 24 hours of annual CPT training is completed ahead of schedule. The hours required for 2024 will remain the same. The State will be reimbursing approximately \$1500.00 toward the cost of this year's training, however that disbursement will not be done until January 2024. Copies of the new State Recreational Marijuana Legislation have been forwarded to members of council. The council will be kept updated as changes are made to the legislation. Trevor Elkins has been on site to discuss speed cameras. The Chief expects it to be April before the system is ready to go. Mr. Smith asked what had been done regarding the attempted break-in of the Post Office's blue box. This occurred around 5:00 a.m. on Saturday, December 9th. The post office clerk on duty interrupted the individual in the act. Mr. Smith stated the Sheriff's Department dispatched a deputy. Chief Gregory stated that he was unaware of the incident and would request a report from the Sheriff's Department.

***Fire Chief Bill Byers provided their monthly report.**

The Department answered a call to one (1) township chimney fire. There was no damage. They also ran a couple of mutual aid fires that were minor. Two of the vehicles have gone to F&S Automotive for maintenance. The Chief offered his sentiments and thanks to outgoing council members, the Mayor and Mr. Reitz for their services.

Village Administrator James McGee provided their monthly report.

Asst. VA, Steve Schuller- The Service Department is completing maintenance on patrol cars. The new water tower is being filled and brought online. Residents may notice some rust-colored water during this process. The old tower is still full and will be supplying water during this process. Due to the structural condition of the old tower it is not expected to be disassembled until spring. Steve stated there is a leaf machine available in Iowa (\$30,000). The seller has stated the machine has been gone over and is working. A second machine is available in Pennsylvania (\$24,000) but has not been gone over, it is still being used by the owner, but, it has not been gone over by the seller. Steve could not remember if a motion to go ahead to purchase had to be made. He asked if the council would make a motion to purchase. It will cost approximately \$15,000.00 to repair the village's machine and the floor of the container needs welding work. The Mayor suggested the department hire someone to go to Iowa to inspect the machine. The village's old machine was purchased through Municibids from New Jersey for \$2400.00 four years ago.

Mayor's December 12, 2023 Report to Council

PLANNING & ZONING:

The Commission did not meet on Tuesday, December 5th since no business or applications for zoning were before it. However, Mr. Paul Spencer, who has served the Planning Zoning Commission has notified the Mayor as with Mr. Daniel Dunn that they do not wish to continue their service and have effectively immediately resigned.

LIGHT PLANT PROPERTY:

As reported the "Old Light Plant" property is to be advertised for bids and sold. The ingress and egress easement to and from the College property to access Wakefield (SR 305) has been signed, notarized, and recorded. (Ordinance 2023-29 Emergency Legislation)

COMMUNICATION WITH AND BY HIRAM COLLEGE:

There was no meeting today as President Bohrer has been critically ill hospitalized at UH Main Campus thus there was no meeting with a representative of the college.

SPEEDING IN VILLAGE:

There is considerable concern with speed within Village limits, both on the State Routes and on Village streets. (Yes, speed cameras operated by police officers that are authorized to issue civil penalties is a solution.)

33rd MAYOR ELECT, MS. ANNE HAYNAM:

I this evening sworn in Hiram's 33rd Mayor-elect Ms. Anne Haynam and we have been working on transition to her leadership to our village.

BECAUSE OF THE RETIREMENT OF OUR LEARNED VILLAGE SOLICITOR, HIRAM VILLAGE WILL BE RETAINING A NEW VILLAGE SOLICITOR:

The committee has recommended the selection of Attorney Jennifer Kangas Berendt an associate of Attorney Thomas Reitz for a one (1) year contract.

Last Report to Council:

- Beginning in January 1974 when initially elected as a member of this village and as Mayor, I attended over 500 council meetings. This number does not include informal meetings with department heads, employees, council members, Hiram's residents, College personnel, local state and federal officials and the media.
- When our family moved to this village over 53 years ago, the village had a public school (grades 1-5), barber shop, a full-service gas station, a co-op grocery store, a bar-restaurant, Warren Tool, Cammet Manufacturing, a

bank Cleveland Browns pre-season camp, college with 1200-1500 students, college faculty and staff lived within the village, Co-op Nursery School at the Church, Hiram Development Corp., just to name a few.

- When I began my first term as Mayor in 2008 the budget for Hiram Village was \$1,900,000. Of that, Police was \$282,500 and fire and EMS was \$326,400. In 2022 the Budget was approximately \$2,500,000 of that; Police was \$331,000 and fire and EMS was \$450,000. (An increase over 14 years of approximately \$600,000.)
- In the recent past Hiram Village has lost approximately \$1,400,000 in taxable earned income, or about \$40,000 in taxes.
- It is my recommendation that this village in the future, explore the following: water & sewer district, district wide police, fire and EMS.
- The Village should encourage annexation of land adjacent to the village, diversify the economic development, explore JEDD's and encourage single family home building and development.
- The village and their elected representatives should be active in the Ohio Municipal League and attend their conferences and education seminars. (Particularly the Mayor in the Ohio Mayors Association – emphasis- other college villages & cities.)
- The village should be cautious in adopting untried legislation and resolutions and procedures.
- The village should, wherever possible, cooperate with Hiram Township and neighboring communities. This goes without saying – work with our elected representatives, county, state and federal.
- Also, have constant communication with the village's largest employers and benefactors and work with them to improve our village community.

As a result of the changing of Hiram's Mayor and solicitor the village is losing some 70 years of municipal law and governance experience, not to mention the loss of 36 years of counsel service with the retirement of Misters Hemphill and Spencer.

Finally, it's been a wonderful experience working here and I am going to miss you all very much. I am taking along with me fond memories and I request all of you to stay connected with me. I wish you all and Hiram Village the very best for the future for our beloved community!

***The Fiscal Officer Report: Susan Skrovan-DeYoung presented the monthly financial reports for October.**

The Assistant Fiscal Officer Wendelin Taylor sat in for the Fiscal Officer. Mrs. DeYoung did not have an opportunity to complete a report for this evening's meeting. It was suggested by Mr. Reitz that the report be read and approved at the next council meeting.

The bills list was reviewed. A motion to accept the bills list as presented was made by Mr. Szell. The voice vote was 6-0 to approve. The motion passed.

The bank reconciliation was reviewed. A motion to accept the bank reconciliation as presented was made by Mr. Spencer. Seconded by Mr. Szell. The voice vote was 6-0 to approve the motion passed.

HIRAM TOWNSHIP REPORT

No Township report tonight.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCES

2023-17: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 505 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM REGARDING NUISANCES. 3RD READING. (AMENDED) (Tabled)

2023-19: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 1113.21 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM REGARDING CHICKENS. 3RD READING. (AMENDED)

Mr. Spencer made a motion to table. Mrs. Greenwood seconded. The voice vote was 6-0 to table. Motion is approved.

2023-20: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE INCOME TAX REGULATIONS, CHAPTER 182 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM. 3rd READING.

Mr. Spencer made a motion to approve the legislation. Mr. Szell seconded. A voice vote of 6-0 to approve. Motion is approved.

2023-22: AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AN AUTOMATED TRAFFIC CONTROL ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM, ESTABLISHING CIVIL PENALTIES FOR AUTOMATED VIOLATIONS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (EMG) (Tabled)

2023-24: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING SECTION 351.16 OF THE VILLAGE'S TRAFFIC CODE RELATING TO PAID PARKING. 2nd READING.

2023-25: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CREATION OF A PARKING VIOLATIONS BUREAU WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. 2nd READING Mr. Reitz considers the language to be too complex. He suggests that council decide what type of program they want. Mr. Reitz believes this legislation as is would be cumbersome as written.

2023-26: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM'S EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK, APPENDIX A. 2nd READING. Mayor asked for a motion to suspend the rules. Mr. Spencer made a motion to suspend the rules. Mr. Szell seconded. A voice vote of 6-0 in favor. Mayor asked for a motion to approve the legislation. Mr. Spencer made a motion to approve the legislation. Mr. Hemphill seconded. A voice vote of 6-0 to approve. Motion is approved.

2023-27: 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, 2024 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. 1st READING. *Passed on Emergency.* Mayor asked for a motion to suspend the rules. Mr. Smith made a motion to suspend the rules. Mr. Hemphill seconded. A voice vote of 6-0 in favor of suspending the rules. Mayor asked for a motion to approve the legislation. Mr. Szell made a motion to approve the legislation. Mr. Hemphill seconded. A voice vote of 6-0 in favor. Motion is approved.

2023-28: AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH SECTION 121.08 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES ENTITLED PUBLIC COMMENTS W/EXH. A 1st READING

2023-29: AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE ADVERTISING FOR SALE OF VILLAGE OWNED PROPERTY TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER W/EXH A&B. (EMG) Mayor asked for a motion to suspend the rules. Mr. Hemphill made a motion to suspend the rules to pass the legislation on emergency. Mrs. Greenwood seconded. A voice vote of 6-0 to suspend the rules. Mr. Reitz stated that he chose the \$100,000 minimum for the sale of the building. He suggested that council make that final decision. After a short discussion council decided to reduce the minimum amount to \$75,000. Mayor asked for a motion to amend the exhibit. A motion to amend the exhibit was made by Mr. Smith. Mr. Szell seconded the motion. Mayor asked for a motion to approve the legislation. A motion to approve the legislation as amended was made by Mr. Szell. Mrs. Greenwood seconded the motion. A voice vote of 6-0 to approve the legislation. Motion is approved.

2023-30: AN ORDINANCE TO ENACT SECTION 541.11 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES RE: MAINTENANCE OF DWELLINGS & UNITS W/EXH A. 1st READING

RESOLUTIONS

2023-27: RETAINING JENNIFER KANGAS BERENDT AS SOLICITOR AND REITZ, PAUL & SHORR AS LEGAL COUNSEL FOR 2024 (EMG). *Passed on Emergency.* Mayor asked for a motion to suspend the rules. Mr. Spencer made a motion to suspend the rules. Mr. Hemphill seconded. The voice vote was 6-0 in favor. Mayor asked for a motion to approve the legislation. Mr. Spencer made the motion to approve. Mr. Szell seconded. The voice vote was 6-0 to approve. Motion is approved.

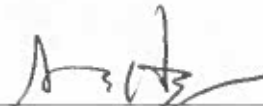
A motion to convene in Executive Session for pending litigation at 8:16 pm was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Szell. Solicitor Tom Reitz suggested to Council they ask that our Police Chief remain. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

A motion to reconvene in Regular Session at 9:13 pm was made by Mr. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: None.

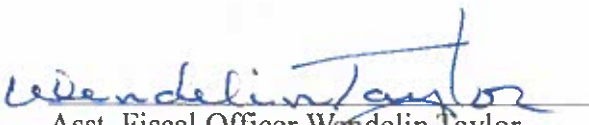
The Mayor asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:14 pm.

These minutes are pending approval by Council.



Mayor Anne Haynam

ATTEST:


Asst. Fiscal Officer Wendelin Taylor