

Hiram Village Special Council Meeting

Rosser Municipal Building
11617 Garfield Road, Hiram, Ohio 44234

December 17, 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, Village Administrator James McGee, Fiscal Officer Susan Skrovan and Asst. Village Administrator Steven Schuller.

The following persons were present: Christopher Cobb

Mayor Bertrand called the special meeting to order at 6:00 pm. The purpose of this special meeting was to address several special items that needed to be considered before year end. The Mayor asked that all cell phones be silenced. There was the pledge to the flag.

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

1): The first item on the agenda for discussion are the options for our water and wastewater operations. Asst. Village Administrator Steven Schuller explained to Council the options available to the Village. Dan Vair, our Operator of Record who recently resigned, has agreed to stay on as a part-time salaried employee as our wastewater operator only until December 31, 2020. He is on a one-year probation with his new job. We cannot pay him as an independent contractor because he does not carry at least a million dollars on him. His part-time salary would be \$16,008.00 per year which includes his fringe benefits/taxes. Steve went onto explain the options in further detail. They would like to hire a second person with the difference in costs between hiring out a firm and utilizing Dan.

A motion to move forward with option 1 for the water & wastewater plant operations was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Dempsey. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

2): The second item is for reconsideration of Ordinance 2019-41, to amend Chapters 505,517 and 549 of Village Codified Ordinances for Use of Firearms. A motion to rescind the prior action on Ordinance 2019-41 and bring it back before Council for reconsideration was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. Paul Spencer spoke about how Council did not support our Solicitor and did not follow the oath we took! To uphold the laws and ordinances of the Constitution of the United States, the State of Ohio and the ordinances of the Village of Hiram! More discussion followed. Paul Spencer called the question. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor. A motion to adopt Ordinance 2019-41 was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Dempsey. Tom Reitz spoke on what sections he amended and the reasons why. Paul Spencer called the question. The result of the voice vote was 4-1-1 with an abstention from Mr. Smith and a no vote from Mr. Szell. The legislation passes.

3): The first item for consideration is our Ricoh copier contract. Fiscal Officer Susan Skrovan explained that our copier company, MT Business is looking to replace our copier early with a new Xerox copier at a savings. Susan went onto explain their offer. This would be for a 63-month lease. A motion to go with MT Business Solutions for a new Xerox copier was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

4): The second item for consideration is for raises in 2020. Paul Spencer spoke about past discussion at our Finance meeting regarding our ever increasing payroll which is currently at \$880,000; the raise proposed would add another \$17,000. We are very heavy on part-time personnel. Down the road, Paul felt we will need to adjust either the amount of our part-time personnel or take a closer look at our revenues coming in to support our personnel services. CPI is a .3 increase; adjusted to 2.1. Council discussed the cost of living increase. More discussion followed. Last year employees saw a 2.0 percent raise.

A motion to approve a 1.5 percent cost of living increase effective January 1, 2020 for all employees of the Village of Hiram was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Dempsey. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

5): The third and last item for consideration is to approve the November bank reconciliation. Susan explained there were two adjusting factors which was a bank error and their correction. Council would prefer to have the bank reconciliation sent by email; the Mayor would like a printed copy. A motion to approve the November bank reconciliation as presented was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

Guests and Public Comment:

Chris Cobb, who arrived after the start of the meeting, asked about the water and wastewater treatment plant operations. Steven Schuller provided him with a copy of the proposal discussed earlier.

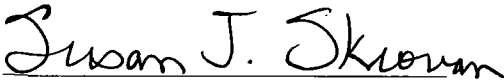
A motion to adjourn the special meeting was made by Mr. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Smith. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor. The meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

These minutes are pending approval by Council.



Mayor Lou Bertrand

ATTEST:



Fiscal Officer Susan J. Skrovan