

Hiram Village Council Meeting

Rosser Municipal Building
11617 Garfield Road, Hiram, Ohio 44234

July 11, 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, Fiscal Officer Susan Skrovan-DeYoung, Police Chief Brian Gregory, Fire Chief Bill Byers, Village Administrator James McGee and Asst. Village Administrator Steve Schuller.

The following persons were present: Mr. Len Sippel, new CFO for Hiram College.

Mayor Bertrand called the regular meeting to order at 7:16 p.m. following the public hearing. 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 June 13, 2023. A motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented was made by Mr. Hemphill and seconded by Mrs. Greenwood. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

Mayor asked for a motion to approve the special meeting minutes of June 27, 2023. A motion to approve the special meeting minutes as presented was made by Mr. Szell and seconded by Mr. Smith. 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 as submitted was made by Mr. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Smith. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

GUEST AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Sippel said he just came to observe.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

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

There were 232 offense reports for the month of June, 62 traffic stops resulting in 35 citations.

Chief Gregory thanked Chris McCreight and all the volunteers for their help with the 4th of July activities. They had a total of 58 kids for the bike rodeo! 45 of them registered after 11:30 a.m.

The Annual Car Show is Saturday, August 5th from 9-1 pm with a community garage sale on Hayden & Dean Streets.

Cops and Kids fishing day is set for Saturday, August 19th from 9-1 pm at Camp Asbury.

Brian reported receiving a letter from the Ohio Liquor Control agency. Hiram College will have to re-submit their application since the contacts on the original application are all gone. Brian was concerned with a bar on college property; he said 90% of our assaults involve Hiram College students!

***Fire Chief Bill Byers provided their monthly report.** The Chief reported receiving a letter of resignation from one of their firefighters; James Morell.

They ordered new firehouse software from a new company; their W-9 form has been requested and is on its way.

Village Administrator James McGee provided their monthly report. James received an email from Councilman Chris McCreight with questions on several projects that are ongoing.

James said Steve handed out a schedule from Workman Industries on the water tower project. They are starting to prep the area this week.

James said there was a hole near the Reign Hadsell park in the parking lot; this was the old bus loop. They removed the loop, filled the hole, plant grass seed and plan to extend the split rail fence to match the other side.

The hydrant next door to our Village building; James said their plans are to install it the week of July 24th. They need to address the storm sewer and will be cutting the concrete in front of the fire bays. Sidewalk repair is part of this project.

Paul Spencer said the worst sidewalks we have are at Fairview Cemetery! He felt we need to either fix them or remove them altogether! James said they have talked about removing that entire sidewalk area along Ryder Road. Paul asked about the old Township garage and the bathroom that was built on Village property; are we going to address it? Paul thought we should have an easement or something; it has been there for an extended period of time. Chris Szell agreed we should clean it up. Tom Reitz said this is the first he has heard about this; do you have a survey or legal description? Steve said we do. Tom said you do not have the funds to staff your police department but you want to throw money at this issue. Tom will do whatever Council tells him to do, how long has it been like this? The Mayor said 30 years. For the record, Chris Szell said he is not in favor of improving the sidewalks along Ryder Road. Steve said we cannot get funding to “repair” sidewalks, the best thing to do would be to remove the sidewalks on Ryder Road altogether. Then, at a later time, look for funding to install brand new sidewalks.

Setting up our new email accounts with MSRC, LLC (formerly PC Surgeons) was discussed. Their services included monitoring our computers, remoting into them for updates and security fixes and for them to come out to our physical location when needed. James said he can ask them for a report every month. Chris Szell said he has not been happy and felt this whole process has taken too long! James said he will invite them to our next Finance & Safety meeting.

Updates to Jagow Park; James said they have the junior hoop, bike rack and bench, he is not sure when they may be installed. The hydrant project will take priority.

Regarding the water plant improvements; James will be working on that while Steve is on vacation.

Steve said they believe the asphalt in the parking lot at the hike & bike trail is a test patch that the company did.

Mayor’s July 11, 2023 Report to Council

HIRAM COLLEGE:

As reported this past month President David Haney, PH.D. has retired as of June 1, 2023 and Robert Bohrer, Ph.D. Dean of the College is now serving as Interim College President. Dr. Bohrer resides at the former residence of Paul & Dr. Tina Dreisbach.

PLANNING AND ZONING:

The Commission did not meet on Tuesday, July 4th as no business or zoning applications were to be considered.

LIGHT PLANT PROPERTY:

The “old Light Plant” property is to be advertised for bids and sold. Our learned legal counsel has prepared an Ingress and Egress Easement to and from the College property to access Wakefield – SR 305. (Legal descriptions are pending.)

LEASE WITH COLLEGE:

The proposed 99-year lease with the College for property to deposit Village compost has been prepared, signed and now requires legal description acceptable for recording. (Surveyor Beth Pearson’s work is now completed.)

Hiram4th.com: Hiram Old-fashioned Fourth of July 2023

Monday, July 3rd:

9:15pm Fireworks at Joe Malmisur Stadium, Henry Field – attended by approximately 1500 was a great success!

Tuesday, July 4th:

9:30 am Softball Game (Jagow Field) was captured by the “old timers”

11:00 am Bike Rodeo

12:00 pm Parade

12:30 pm Potluck and Kids Games

4:00 pm Hiram Community Band Performance

5:30 pm Pie /Contest

7:30 pm Big Band Performance, Dance and Ice Cream Social

The Mayor asked Mr. McCreight to give his report of the 4th of July. Chris McCreight thanked those who helped and participated! It was a good turnout! They sold t-shirts which netted them \$500 which will go to help next year with the event. They did have approximately 1,500 people attend.

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

The following reports were provided to Council for this meeting:

The June Bank Reconciliation could not be balanced with the UAN due to a couple issues, one with a duplicate loan payment at the bank and with a muni net profit deposit from the State. This is being resolved and as soon as it is, the reconciliation will be posted and will be available for signing by Council & Mayor.

Cash Summary by Fund as of June 30, 2023 was provided last Friday by email & in their packets.

List of bills as of July 7, 2023 was provided to Council last Friday by email & in their packets.

Council Regular meeting minutes of June 13, 2023 was provided to Council yesterday by email & in their packets.

Council Special meeting minutes of June 27, 2023 was provided to Council yesterday by email & in their packets.

UAN Municipal Income Tax receipts YTD report was provided to Council last Friday by email & in their packets.

Comparison of Budgeted & Appropriated YTD report was provided to Council last Friday by email & in their packets.

Susan reported getting the paperwork back from the County Recorder for the two easements with Keith Holmes. Susan wanted to let Tom know that our agent, Amy Ballachino, is still trying to get our complete liability policy to us.

Susan will also take the paperwork for the 99-year lease with the survey down to the County Recorder for recording.

A motion to approve the Fiscal Officer’s report for June as submitted was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

The bill’s list was reviewed. A motion to approve the bill’s list as submitted was made by Mr. Szell and seconded by Mr. Smith. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

HIRAM TOWNSHIP REPORT

No Township report tonight.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCES

2022-20: AN ORDINANCE ENACTING SECTION 351.17 OF THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO ESTABLISH PARKING PERMIT PROVISIONS. TABLED ON 2nd READING.

+2023-10: AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE RECODIFICATION, EDITING AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PART OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF HIRAM, OHIO. 3rd READING. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

RESOLUTIONS

2023-14: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2024 PROPOSED BUDGET AND AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO SUBMIT THE BUDGET TO THE PORTAGE COUNTY AUDITOR. 2nd 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 was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

2023-15: A RESOLUTION REPEALING RESOLUTION 2021-20 WHICH AUTHORIZED MUTUAL AID CONTRACTS TO OTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISIONS. 1st READING.

A motion to convene into Executive Session to discuss pending litigation at 8:02 pm was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor. Only Chief Brian Gregory and Fiscal Officer Susan Skrovan-DeYoung were invited to stay.

A motion to come out of Executive Session at 9:00 pm was made by Mr. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Spencer. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

2023-16: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AN ENGAGEMENT LETTER WITH THE LAW FIRM OF WESTON HURD FOR THE DEFENSE OF THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM, ITS COUNCIL MEMBERS INDIVIDUALLY, ITS MAYOR, AND ITS POLICE DEPARTMENT AND CHIEF INDIVIDUALLY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mrs. Greenwood. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor. Solicitor Reitz requested that before Council approves the legislation, they determine whether they want Tom to be their contact person or not. A motion to name our Village Solicitor Tom Reitz as our point of contact was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mrs. Greenwood. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor. A motion to approve Resolution 2023-16 as an emergency measure with Tom Reitz as our contact person with the law firm of Weston Hurd was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. Chris Szell raised a question under Section 4 about an “exhibit A”? Tom said there is no exhibit A. A motion to amend Resolution 2023-16 under Section 4 to remove, “**attached hereto as Exhibit A**” 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 as amended was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

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 9:05 pm.

These minutes are pending approval by Council.



Mayor Lou Bertrand

ATTEST:



Fiscal Officer, Susan J. Skrovan-DeYoung