

Hiram Village Council Meeting

Rosser Municipal Building
11617 Garfield Road, Hiram, Ohio 44234

July 9, 2019

The following Members of Council were present: Mr. Dempsey, Mr. Greenwood, Mr. Hemphill, 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 and Village Administrator James McGee.

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

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 budget hearing minutes of 6/11/2019. A motion to approve the hearing minutes as presented was made by Mr. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Spencer. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

Mayor asked for a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of 6/11/2019. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Dempsey. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

Mayor asked for a motion to approve the proposed final agenda. A motion to approve the proposed agenda as presented was made by Mr. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Spencer. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

GUEST AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Betsy Siman asked about a tiny horse statue on Dean Street and on whose property it sits, it needs to be painted. It is on College property. Betsy also mentioned there are two lights at the garden that need to be painted.

Betsy's second concern was for the runoff into her yard which cannot be absorbed. She has been talking with Hiram College; they are going to replace the drain on Terrier Drive. If the Village could slightly slant the sidewalk, it may take care of her water issues. Village Administrator, James McGee, said he has been instructed by Council to slant the sidewalk work slightly and drop the catch basin and then to build some edges to catch the water flow.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

*Police Chief Brian Gregory provided their monthly report. There were a total of 288 offense reports for June. Citations were down last month due to his full-time officers trying to use down their comp time as much as possible.

The MARCS radios, Brian plans on purchasing five units out of the Police Capital funds. It will take 4-6 months to get them.

The car show raised \$1,700 for the Shop with a Cop program.

There were no major incidents at the 4th of July fireworks and no damage to our new sidewalks.

Chief Brian Gregory thanked Hiram Township Trustee Debra Blake for volunteering to drive the grand marshal in the 4th of July parade.

Saturday, August 17th, is our Cops and Kids Fishing Day event.

Wednesday, August 28th, will be our Alcohol & Drug Awareness event.

Mayor stated that our Police Department is known as a very professional department. Especially with Portage County. Frank Hemphill also complimented our Police Department.

*Fire Chief Bill Byers did not provide their monthly report for tonight. Chief Byers apologized for not having their monthly report to members of Council. There was a miscommunication in his department; he will get that report out. The month was routine, 4th of July fireworks went off smoothly. His department's inspections have been good.

*Village Administrator James McGee presented the monthly water/sewer report. James updated Council on the sidewalk project. They are working with Maggie's Donuts right now on crossing their driveways and keeping them open in the process.

New basketball hoops and backstops were installed before the 4th; we have had very positive feedback!

JULY 9, 2019 MAYOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION:

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

HIRAM'S FOURTH OF JULY OBSERVANCE:

I was unable to attend the 4th of July celebration because my older sister Dr. Helen Bertrand, retired University of Texas Medical Professor, is in Hospice in the Tucson, Arizona area. Council President Rob Dempsey reported on the 4th of July festivities and on the 3rd of July fireworks.

Also, both Willard Greenwood and Chris Cobb will no longer be volunteering for the 4th of July Committee, they feel Village officials and Fire Dept. should now be responsible. Mr. Greenwood and Mr. Cobb should be recognized at our next Council meeting for their work on the 4th of July Committee!

Mayor Bertrand issued Proclamation 2019-01 for Dr. Jay Alan Gershen, B.A., D.D.S., PH.D., president of NEOMED. Dr. Gershen was instrumental in developing the first rural STEM+M School in Ohio.

OML MAYOR'S CONFERENCE, COLUMBUS:

The 254 members of the OML Mayor's Association met on Thursday and Friday, June 12th & 13th. The workshops/seminars were divided into Village and City workshops. I networked with municipalities that contain colleges within their limits; namely, Marietta, Urbana, Batavia and Wilmington.

The one session I was very interested in was Code Enforcement: Quality of Life Issues presented by Columbus City Attorney Steve Dunbar.

Also, today I have been informed that the Portage County Health Department is currently taking action on a residential nuisance property within the Village.

Respectfully submitted,

MAYOR LOU BERTRAND

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

The following reports were provided to Council for this meeting:

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

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

The list of bills as of July 5, 2019 was provided in Council packets.

Council budget hearing minutes for June 11, 2019 were provided in Council packets.

Council meeting minutes for June 11, 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.

Correspondence:

- 1) On June 30, 2019, the Village of Hiram received a "Retainer Refund" from Regional Income Tax Agency for the 2018 allocation of costs for income tax collections. A copy has been provided to Council.
- 2) On Friday, July 5, 2019, the Village of Hiram received a wire of \$7,500.00 to reimburse the Village for costs associated with the Water Asset Management Plan administered by the Ohio EPA, DEFA loan. The Village was a successful candidate for loan forgiveness from the EPA. These funds will be receipted back into the Water Operating Fund.
- 3) Earlier this year, appropriations were amended in order to cover an additional invoice from the State of Ohio, Department of Transportation for the final Sidewalks on State Routes project in the amount of \$7,941.64. Under the contract with ODOT, the Village agreed to assume and bear 100% of any amount over the funds allocated from the State and Federal governments. On June 14, 2019, the Village received a "Refund" check in the amount of \$726.19 from the State of Ohio for the same project.
- 4) On July 2, 2019, the Village received a certified letter from the Ohio Department of Public Safety acknowledging receipt of our Ordinance 2019-19 to collect the additional \$5.00 municipal vehicle license tax fee beginning January 1, 2020. A copy has been provided to Council.
- 5) Portage County Auditor, Janet Esposito, has provided the Village with a certificate of estimated property tax revenue for the 2.0 mill EMS levy to be placed on the ballot November 5, 2019 as a renewal for five years. The calculations she provided have been inserted into Resolution 2019-24.

A motion to approve the Fiscal Officer's report was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Dempsey. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

A motion to approve the bills list was made by Mr. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Dempsey. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

HIRAM TOWNSHIP REPORT

Trustee Debra Blake reported on a couple of items.

1. Regarding the Fire and EMS Departments; the Hiram Township Trustees at their last meeting discussed separating the funds. Trustee Jack Groselle said he spoke with the Village Fiscal Officer about working this out. Susan replied Mr. Groselle has not spoken with her.
2. State Representative Grendell took over for our State Representative LaTourette effective June 1st.
3. American Legion Post #193 was honored to provide military honors for Frank Hemphill's family at Rittman Cemetery.
4. Working with our Police Chief; the Township hopes that some of the allotted patrol hours can be coordinated with the K-9 unit.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCES

2019-13: 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. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Greenwood. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

2019-21: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS IN SEVERAL FUNDS FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF HIRAM COMMUNITY GRANT FUNDS 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 5-0 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 5-0 in favor.

2019-22: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL FUND (1000) BY \$25,041.00. 1st READING.

RESOLUTIONS

2019-14: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2020 PROPOSED BUDGET AND AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO SUBMIT THE BUDGET TO THE PORTAGE COUNTY AUDITOR. 3rd READING.

A motion to approve was made by Mr. Szell and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. Paul Spencer asked why this was not passed as an emergency; does it not have to wait 30 days before it becomes effective? Solicitor Tom Reitz spoke about the legislation and what is "administrative" actions. This is administrative. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

2019-24: A RESOLUTION SUBMITTING THE QUESTION OF RENEWING AN EXISTING TAX LEVY FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PURPOSES PURSUANT TO SECTION 5705.19(U) OF THE REVISED CODE. 2nd READING. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Greenwood and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. A motion to approve on second reading was made by Mr. Dempsey and seconded by Mr. Spencer. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

2019-25: 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. Greenwood and seconded by Mr. Spencer. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 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 5-0 in favor.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Chief Bill Byers wanted to inform Council his department was awarded the EMS grant from the State of Ohio this year! Summerfest weekend, twelve showed up for the race and ran!

A motion to enter executive session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22, G, 2 to consider the purchase of property at 7:58 pm was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

A motion to come out of executive session at 8:10 pm was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

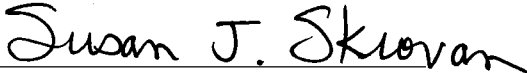
A motion to authorize the Mayor to negotiate on the purchase of property was made by Mr. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Greenwood. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Dempsey and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm.

These minutes are pending approval by Council.


Mayor Lou Bertrand

ATTEST:


Fiscal Officer Susan J. Skrovan