

Hiram Village Council Meeting

Rosser Municipal Building
11617 Garfield Road, Hiram, Ohio 44234

June 11, 2019

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

The following persons were present: Debra Blake; Hiram Township Trustee, Stacy Turner; Reporter with The Weekly Villager, Ed Frato-Sweeney, Dan & Kathy Burdecki, Mrs. Spencer, Paul Thomas, several others.

Mayor Bertrand called the regular meeting to order at 7:10 pm following the Budget 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 5/14/2019. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. 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. Smith. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

GUEST AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Ed Frato-Sweeney commented that when the Sidewalk Committee first met, we heard from a woman in the Village, Sierra Nario-Redmond, to talk about the accessibility of our sidewalks. She and her family have reached out to express their support and their gratitude for the work that is being done, especially in front of Koritansky Hall. Ed wanted to thank Council, James and his staff for that work.

Second, Ed stated the Hiram Community Trust group met last night; there were four grant proposals from the Village. All four of those proposals were funded; three of them fully and one partially funded. The Police Department had two and the Village Administrator had two. A written notice will be sent out. Council thanked Ed for the news.

Lastly, Ed wanted to mention an event at the College this weekend; alumni weekend. It will coincide with the Police Department's annual car show and the Parks garage sales so it promises to be a full weekend. In past years, the College has had 800-900 attend. There are always a lot of walk-ins. The agenda is on the alumni website; www.hiram.edu.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

*Police Chief Brian Gregory provided their monthly report. There were a total of 302 offense reports for May. Traffic stops for speed are back up again with a few nice days. No incidents with the sidewalk project to report; everything running smoothly as far as traffic. K-9 deployment; we had six assisting other agencies and eight narcotics detections.

Chief Gregory thanked the Hiram Community Trust and Mr. Ed Frato-Sweeney for funding both of their grant programs. One is to provide for a bite suit for K-9 training and the second one will benefit the Shop with a Cop program.

June 15th is the Annual Car Show which will include the pet adoption, food vendors and fundraiser. The College asked his department not to have the community garage sales at that same location due to the alumni weekend at the College. The garage sales again this year will be out in front of the Rosser Municipal building.

The Police Department is set on their end for the July 3rd fireworks and with the bike rodeo on the 4th of July as their first event. Brian plans to meet with the 4th of July Committee; he would like the bike rodeo before the parade again this year.

The annual softball game between Fire and Police will be coming up the end of July. It will be held on a Saturday beginning at 1:00 pm. Date will be announced.

**Village Administrator James McGee presented the monthly water/sewer report.* The road project is coming to completion; they have striping to finish, hopefully in the next week or so. The sidewalk project has finished on S.R. 700; they are working on backfilling and started framing on Peckham. The reason they moved over to Peckham was to keep them off of Hinsdale during alumni weekend. This decision had to be made quickly and they may not have had enough time to notify all residents. James apologized for the inconvenience.

James requested and was awarded \$2,000 from the HCT grant for Fairview Cemetery which was a partial grant but still very much appreciated. Plans are to use those funds for restoration of the headstones, possibly putting in some new trees and gravel for the driveways.

James was awarded \$2,000 for the Jagow basketball court also from the HCT. Plans are to rehabilitate the court surface, install new backboards and rims.

Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) fund applications have all been turned in; the deadline was May 31st for the Garfield water main project and for the water meter project. July 1st is the award date.

The Village has been approved for the grant from the Small Government Fund for the water tower project.

Mr. Spencer wanted to return to discussion about the paving project; we did or did not pave Hinsdale? James said we did not pave Hinsdale. Mr. Spencer asked if James was going to fix the potholes on Hinsdale? James said yes, that would fall under our regular road maintenance. Paul added that there has been comments about the seaming or overlap of the pavement; he said that he is not impressed with the job they have done for the Village. James said they went back through with our engineers, CT Consultants, to take a look at our roads; CT said the seams were okay and were functional. They do not look the best and James went onto explain how the asphalt passes are put down and the overlap.

Mr. Dan Burdecki spoke about Kenyon and how thin the asphalt coat is. James replied that Kenyon has another issue in that the road is mostly concrete based and the concrete has been heaving. To do it right, the concrete would all have to come out and start over with a new road base and then paving. It was too costly to do at this time. A short section of Bancroft from Hayden Dean to Peckham is the same way; a thick layer of concrete. James said the lifetime expectancy of our paving is estimated at twenty years with a good base; some of our roads do not have a good base material.

Mr. Smith asked James about the water and sewer report; the sewer expenditures are still exceeding the receipts. James said they have had a lot of issues with the pump station on S.R. 305. They have made some repairs and replaced a couple of motors as well as had some contractors in to do some work.

**Fire Chief Bill Byers provided their monthly report emailed and copied for tonight.* The response time averages 5:00 minutes which is down from last month by a few seconds.

His department was called for mutual aid to assist Auburn Township with the plane crash at Ladue Reservoir. Our firefighters were directly involved with locating the wreckage. Bill reached out to all three departments to check on all personnel involved.

Being the first department on the scene and out in the woods searching, he wanted to make sure everyone was okay. The Fire Chief from Auburn reached out to Chief Byers to make sure our people were all okay and was very grateful for Hiram's assistance. Despite the tragic outcome, everyone was safe and did a good job.

Council will see legislation on the agenda to approve the capital expenditure for the down payment on a new F550 Fire Engine demo unit. It was brought out today for the Department to take a closer look at. Mr. Szell asked Chief Byers what the Township's contribution will be toward the new fire truck? Bill said it is a 60/40 split. The Township is currently contesting some of the funding numbers. Mr. Smith has met with Trustee Jack Groselle to review the percentages. Bill believes there is a misunderstanding in the contract of where the money comes from for these purchases. Based on the history, they have had bigger disagreements in the past over funding; they have always been solved. Bill is comfortable moving ahead with the purchase and that this will be resolved.

JUNE 11, 2019 MAYOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION:

THE COMMISSION DID NOT MEET IN JUNE AS NO BUSINESS AND/OR ZONING APPLICATIONS WERE PENDING. PURSUANT TO §1105.03 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF HIRAM, I HAVE APPOINTED **MR. DAN BURDECKI** to sit on the P&Z Commission. Dan is retired from the U.S. Post Office and a U.S Navy Veteran and resides in the Village.

PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD:

Pursuant to §143.02 of the Codified Ordinances of Hiram, I have appointed **MRS. SUZANN BENNETT**, a longtime resident of the Village to sit on the Parks and Recreation Board. Suzann is a graduate of Ohio University and is currently employed with an accounting firm in Mayfield Village. Suzann's husband is a Hiram graduate and teaches for the past 35 years at Garrettsville Garfield schools. She is also a parent of a Hiram graduate.

PENDING MATTERS:

The following should be passed on FIRST READING, **Ordinance 2019-19**, plus **Resolutions 2019-18, 19, 20, 21 and 22**.

MEMORIAL DAY:

Again the keynote speaker this year is **LTC David Simms (USA)** an Iraqi freedom combat veteran. We had in attendance at the Fairview Cemetery Service approximately 185 and almost 50 attended the reception following at Koritansky Hall. [LTC Simms speech is attached to my report as Exhibit "A".]

OML MAYORS CONFERENCE:

This Thursday and Friday I will be attending the 2019 Ohio Municipal League's Mayors Conference in Columbus, Ohio.

RUMOR ABOUT HIRAM'S PLAY PARKS:

This past Memorial Day I received information [*that is a rumor*] that I notified persons of Indian or Arabic descent that they were not welcomed to utilize the Play Park because these facilities are for use only by local residents.

These allegations are totally false because the several substantial Grants that the Village has received from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources specifically state that Hiram Parks and Recreation facilities shall be open for the enjoyment of all the public.

Also, if one is at all familiar with the make-up of my immediate family, they would realize that our family is racially and ethnically mixed with both African and Arabic backgrounds having grandchildren of both African racial and Arabic ethnic descents.

Finally, whomever started and those who spread this false rumor, know nothing about my family history, because my maternal grandparents took in an orphaned young black pre-school girl into their family and reared that child as one of their own. She was educated at the University of Pennsylvania and taught school in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania as her career. She was known by our family as my mother's younger sister.

Respectfully submitted,

MAYOR LOU BERTRAND

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

The following reports were provided to Council for this meeting:

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

Cash Summary by Fund as of May 31, 2019 was provided in Council packets.

The list of bills as of June 7, 2019 was provided in Council packets.

Council meeting minutes for May 14, 2019 was 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:

- Letter from Portage County District Library for a meeting on June 27th for community leaders.
- Post card for Ohio Historical Marker Grant Program.

On a sad note, Susan wanted to let Council members and everyone else know that her assistant, Wendelin, went down to care for her mother and be with her brother this past week; her mother has passed.

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

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

HIRAM TOWNSHIP REPORT

Trustee Debra Blake reported on a couple of items. First, the Portage County mosquito trap program is underway. They are monitoring two locations in Hiram Township; one at the intersection of S.R. 305 and Udall and the second at the intersection where the new township garage will be located and Wakefield.

The memorial flags were placed at the Hiram Rapids and Anchor Moore Cemeteries by Debra herself this year. The gentleman who usually placed the flags for something like 40 years, Mr. Richard Masters, broke his back and is recovering. This job is actually, by contract, to be performed through the road department. She will be working with their Road Supervisor, Mr. Tom Matota, who is also their cemetery sexton.

Lastly, there are two constituents living on S.R. 82 south and west of the new township property and the driveway where the new garage will go; who have reached out to Debra a couple of times. Mrs. Umbaugh has an issue with flooding. Debra coordinated a walk through and inspection with Eric, the engineer from Portage County Soil and Water. She claims that ever since the helipad was installed, her property has been flooding. After inspection, it was determined that her driveway culvert has failed. Also, her sump drain under her yard, which is over 40 years old, has also failed. Mrs. Umbaugh is going to have her issues fixed. Hiram Township will probably put in a small trough on the west slope of the township property. Eric told her in the past five years, historically, this has been the wettest five-year period in recorded history in this area!

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. 2nd READING.

2019-17: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS IN THE DRUG LAW ENFORCEMENT FUND (2081) FOR THE POLICE K-9 PROGRAM BY \$4,500.00 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Greenwood. 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.

2019-18: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS IN THE COMMUNICATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM FUND (2276) BY \$12,614.70 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Szell and seconded by Mr. Greenwood. 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.

2019-19: AN ORDINANCE TO LEVY A MUNICIPAL MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE FEE PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 4504.173. 1st READING. 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 on first reading was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Greenwood. Paul Spencer asked about this originally being \$10.00? Fiscal Officer Susan replied yes and the Village is already collecting the \$10.00. This will bring an additional \$5.00 because the Ohio BMV is initiating a new \$5.00 fee effective July 3rd. Paul asked why we do not have to reflect it as a total of \$15.00 in fees collected. Solicitor Tom Reitz spoke on these two fees being two different provisions of the Ohio Revised Code. The section of the code is what gave us problems with last month's legislation. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

2019-20: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS IN THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FUND (4901) FOR FIRE/EMS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

RESOLUTIONS

2019-14: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2020 PROPOSED BUDGET AND AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO SUBMIT THE BUDGET TO THE PORTAGE COUNTY AUDITOR. 2nd READING.

2019-18: 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. 1st READING. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Smith. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. A motion to approve on first reading was made by Mr. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Greenwood. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

2019-19: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR AND SUBSEQUENT ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS BY THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM FROM THE HIRAM COMMUNITY TRUST. 1st READING. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. A motion to approve on first reading was made by Mr. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Greenwood. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

2019-20: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR AND SUBSEQUENT ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS BY THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM FROM THE HIRAM COMMUNITY TRUST. 1st READING. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. A motion to approve on first reading was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Greenwood. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

2019-21: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR AND SUBSEQUENT ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS BY THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM FROM THE HIRAM COMMUNITY TRUST FOR THE ELMER JAGOW PARK BASKETBALL COURT. 1st READING. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Szell and seconded by Mr. Greenwood. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. A motion to approve on first reading was made by Mr. Szell and seconded by Mr. Greenwood. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

2019-22: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR AND SUBSEQUENT ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS BY THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM FROM THE HIRAM COMMUNITY TRUST FOR THE REVITALIZATION OF FAIRVIEW CEMETERY. 1st READING. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. A motion to approve on first reading was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

2019-23: A RESOLUTION DECLARING IT NECESSARY TO RENEW AN EXISTING TAX LEVY FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES PURPOSES AND REQUESTING THE PORTAGE COUNTY AUDITOR TO CERTIFY THE TOTAL CURRENT TAX VALUATION OF THE VILLAGE AND THE DOLLAR AMOUNT OF REVENUE THAT WOULD BE GENERATED BY THAT RENEWAL LEVY 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. Smith and seconded by Mr. Spencer. 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. 1st READING.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Councilman Michael Greenwood urged all members of Council to sign up for the Tree Academy. A resident (Bob) from the audience commented that the Holden Arboretum has a whole section of street trees! Something worth checking out for our own roadways.

Mr. Dan Burdecki thanked Council for rescinding the mailbox ordinance. He made application at the post office to get his post office box free of charge and he was successful!

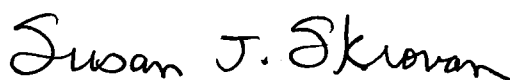
A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Smith. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.

These minutes are pending approval by Council.



Mayor Lou Bertrand

ATTEST:



Fiscal Officer Susan J. Skrovan