

Hiram Village Council Meeting

Rosser Municipal Building
11617 Garfield Road, Hiram, Ohio 44234

June 13, 2023

The following Members of Council were present: Mr. Szell, Mrs. Greenwood, Mr. McCreight 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, Asst. Village Administrator Steve Schuller and firefighter Josh Wilde.

The following persons were present: Hiram College student Madison Palmer and Joanne Sawyer.

Mayor Bertrand called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. 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 May 9, 2023. A motion to approve the meeting minutes as presented was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 4-0 in favor.

Mayor asked for a motion to approve the proposed agenda as presented. A motion to approve the proposed agenda as submitted was made by Mr. Szell and seconded by Mr. Spencer. The result of the voice vote was 4-0 in favor.

GUEST AND PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

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

There were 227 offense reports for the month of May, 44 traffic stops resulting in 28 citations. These numbers will remain low with the reduction in staff and with their current budget.

The bike rodeo is scheduled for July 4th.

The Annual Car Show is set for 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 had applied to the Hiram Community Trust grant for a mobile radar speed sign as well as an application to the Ohio Traffic Safety grant; his department has been turned down for both of them this year!

The Hiram Police Department has been awarded the AAA Platinum Traffic Safety award for nine consecutive years.

A vehicle repeater was sent out for repairs in February; the warranty had expired. The cost to repair it is \$1,108.94. VASU Communications is paying for the repair and allowing our HPD to make interest free monthly installments.

Brian brought up the Hiram College bar; it looks like it will be completed before the start of the school year. Brian has concerns about not having local police on duty once the bar closes. Can we pass legislation requiring security guards at the bar? Solicitor Tom Reitz said he can look into this option.

Village Administrator James McGee provided their monthly report.

James reported they have contacted Pearson Surveying about having Terrier Drive surveyed for the easement. Pearson Surveying will be performing a survey of the water plant property this week to complete the 99-year lease with college.

There was a watermain leak on Hinsdale Road Friday, May 26th. A repair band broke off; a new band was installed without a need to issue a boil alert.

The Hinsdale/Winrock Road project is moving forward again. The contractor took a short break due to the College's alumni weekend event. The Hinsdale extension still needs to be paved and they will be repairing the road from the watermain break. Dominion is also supposed to be out this week to address the gas main that is in the way of the Village's storm. Once that is addressed, the contractor will return to finish the storm line work including creating a spillway and adding 60 more feet of pipe to address the water pooling issue on Mr. Holmes property.

On June 8th, they received a call from a resident claiming to smell raw sewage on Plum Ridge. After investigating, they found the sewer main was backed up all the way to the corner of Hinsdale and Plum Ridge. They jetted the line and found a 3-foot long 2x10 blocking the main! The board was removed and the sewer line is flowing properly again.

James would like to ask if the public has a concern, that they contact their office or the main office. After our office reported the sewer problem to the EPA, the EPA informed us that they had received two other phone calls from residents; they never called us! The EPA is not quick to let us know anything and if you call them, there is a good chance, they will not notify us in a timely manner.

***Fire Chief Bill Byers provided their monthly report.** The Chief had nothing to add to his report.

Mayor's June 13, 2023 Report to Council

Hiram College:

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

Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting:

The Commission met on Tuesday, June 6th with a rather full schedule:

- (1) Recommended that the Zoning Inspector file on the Hanlon property, 6894 Wakefield Road the appropriate complaint in the PCMC for building maintenance and building code violations.
- (2) The Hiram Farm property, 11485 Garfield Road, (a long laundry list of problems with this property.)

Paul Spencer, chair for the Planning and Zoning Commission, updated Council on the Hiram Farm property issues which go back to May of 2022 when we had a verbal agreement they were going to step up and do things. We have gone back and forth since then without any results. Paul said he does not know what relationships Council members may have with the property; he knows the land is in a conservatory. Chris Szell said the land is privately owned by a trust; there are conservation restrictions held by the Western Reserve Land Conservancy. Paul said which is also Chris' employer; the WRLC. Chris said correct. Paul would ask Chris to keep that in mind when voting; he may want to abstain. Paul said they sent them a couple of enforcement letters but they are still not doing anything! Paul said the Mayor suggested doing an injunction with the Portage County Building Department against them. Council has concerns about the safety and well-being for all persons on the property. It does have a good thriving business on it; the Hiram Farm. Chris Szell said building B is the one that needs to be razed. Paul said they mentioned going to Habitat for Humanity for that structure. The Mayor added that all the buildings are in violation of the building codes. It will take so much money to rehab these buildings and he does not believe Habitat for Humanity will do anything for them; they build new homes. He does not believe the County will do anything. The Mayor asked Tom his thoughts.

Solicitor Tom Reitz said it sounds like you are talking about imminent litigation and that an executive session would be a better place to discuss this. He would prefer to share his thoughts with Council in that forum.

Beth Greenwood asked if anyone knows anything about GDS. Paul explained what he knows about them; Global Development Solutions. There are three Trustees; the two attorneys listed on the paper before them and Denny Taylor.

Paul brought up the Hanlon property which the Mayor mentioned in his report. It is the white house on the other side of Ellenberger's building which has been under an infinite rehab for the past six years. P&Z has reached out to him numerous times through our Zoning Inspector; he has ignored our letters and is reluctant to speak with us. The Mayor said he has never had any permits for any of the work he started doing there. Paul said we also have in our Zoning Code, if a property is left vacant for two years, and it has had a conditional usage on it, the conditional usage is dropped. That property does not conform by our zoning code in any manner. Solicitor Reitz asked Paul if it complies with the use for its location? Paul said for a residency, yes. Tom Reitz said so what you are saying is the setbacks are not met. Paul said the setbacks are not met, the house has laid vacant for years. Tom said he expects to file on this one next week.

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. We must generate a legal description for the easement acceptable for recording.

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.

Hiram4th.com:

July 3rd:

8:00pm Gathering, entertainment (Swiftly the Clown and Health Helicopter), and food

9:00pm National Anthem

9:15pm Fireworks (grant from Hiram Fire Association)

July 4th:

9:30am Softball game (Jagow Field)

11:00am Bike Rodeo (Parking lot at Hiram Christian Church)

12:00pm Parade (meet/depart from the Hiram Christian Church parking lot)

12:30pm Potluck and Kids Games (Gerstacker Green- Hiram College Campus)

4:00pm Hiram Community Band Performance (Frohring Building – Hiram College campus)

5:30pm Pie Contest (Gerstacker Arch – Hiram College campus)

7:30pm Big Band Performance, Dance, and Ice Cream Social (Gerstacker Green – Hiram College campus)

Submitted by:

Mayor Lou Bertrand

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

The following reports were provided to Council for this meeting:

May Bank Reconciliation balanced with the UAN with no adjusting factors, has been posted to the UAN and is now available for signing by Council & Mayor.

Cash Summary by Fund as of May 31, 2023 was provided last Friday by email & in their packets.

List of bills as of June 9, 2023 was provided to Council last Friday by email & in their packets.

Council Regular meeting minutes of May 9, 2023 was provided to Council last Friday by email & in their packets.

UAN Municipal Income Tax receipts YTD report was provided to Council Monday & in their packets.

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

Susan informed Council that the UAN income tax report they will see an unusually large amount collected for May. We received a large individual payment from someone working at Great Lakes Cheese! RITA has corrected this amount, \$15,865.00, which will be reflected in the June reconciliation.

Susan and Wendelin will be attending the annual Regional Council of Governments meeting with RITA in Brecksville.

Susan reported on the 2024 Budget; she sent everyone a PDF of the budget. The only fund that contains the revenue and expenditures is the General Fund. The other funds only show the revenue side; department heads have received their fund reports and have been asked to review their expenditures and provide any changes at our next Finance meeting.

A motion to approve the Fiscal Officer's reports for May as submitted was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 4-0 in favor.

The bill's list was reviewed. A motion to approve the bill's list as submitted was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 4-0 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. Council Chair Chris Szell would like to keep this tabled at this point.

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. 2nd READING. The Mayor noted some amendments were made to this by our Village Solicitor. Tom Reitz noted that he amended Section 513.121, explained why he made the changes and his update has been provided to Council for their review.

RESOLUTIONS

2023-09: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SPECIFIC ENUMERATED TRANSFERS BY THE FISCAL OFFICER BETWEEN FUNDS OF THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND. 3rd READING. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 4-0 in favor.

2023-13: A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DIRECTOR OF THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO DETERMINE AND DECLARE A REASONABLE AND SAFE PRIMA-FACIE SPEED LIMIT WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM. 1st READING.

2023-14: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2024 PROPOSED BUDGET AND AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO SUBMIT THE BUDGET TO THE PORTAGE COUNTY AUDITOR. 1st READING.

Council has set a Public Hearing on the 2024 Budget and Special Council meeting for Tuesday, June 27th beginning at 6:00 pm before their regular Finance & Safety meeting. Susan will advertise.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

A motion to convene into Executive Session for imminent litigation at 8:04 pm was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mrs. Greenwood. The result of the voice vote was 4-0 in favor.

A motion to come out of Executive Session at 8:30 pm was made by Mr. Szell and seconded by Mr. Spencer. The result of the voice vote was 4-0 in favor.

The Fiscal Officer was instructed to advertise for an executive session during the June 27th Special Council meeting to discuss imminent litigation resulting in possible enforcement actions.


A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 4-0 in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:31 pm.

These minutes are pending approval by Council.



Mayor Lou Bertrand

ATTEST:



Fiscal Officer, Susan J. Skrovan-DeYoung