

Hiram Village Council Meeting

Rosser Municipal Building
11617 Garfield Road, Hiram, Ohio 44234

March 12, 2024

The following Members of Council were present: Mr. Szell, Mrs. Greenwood, Mr. Ed Frato-Sweeney, Mr. McCreight and Mr. Smith. The following were also present: Mayor Anne Haynam, Village Solicitor Jennifer Kangas Berendt, Fiscal Officer Susan Skrovan-DeYoung, Fire Chief Bill Byers, Officers Anthony Yoder and Charles Hoskin.

The following persons were present: Madison Palm, Hiram College student, Denise Summers, Mr. Len Sippel; CFO with Hiram College, reporter with The Portager, Chris Cobb, Justin Bisutti, Paul Spencer, Frank Hemphill and past mayor Lou Bertrand.

Mayor Haynam called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. The Mayor asked that all cell phones be silenced followed by the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Mayor asked to approve the regular minutes of February 13, 2024 of Council by general consent. Is there any objection, any objection, any objection; seeing none, the meeting minutes as presented are approved by general consent.

Mayor asked to approve the proposed Council agenda as presented by general consent. Is there any objection, any objection, any objection; seeing none, the Council agenda as presented is approved by general consent.

GUEST AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Madison Palm asked the Mayor and Council if Hiram College was notified prior to the parking spots being painted along Village streets. Mayor Haynam said yes, several departments of the college were given prior notification.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

**Fire Chief Bill Byers provided their monthly report by email.*

Our Village tornado siren went off late last night, we don't know why. We are waiting for the service company to come and take a look at it; it is currently out of service.

Village Administrator Steve Schuller was not present to provide their monthly report.

Mayor Haynam indicated their report was in everyone's Council packet and she read the report.

Mayor's Report for March 12, 2024

Mayor Haynam is in the process of reviewing the employee handbook with department heads and will bring changes next month.

The Mayor discussed with Council the recommendation to move to all electronic materials and not print out materials for all of our committees. This would save a lot of time and paper. We could make two iPads available for ease at meetings. Electronic documents would be deposited to a drop box with a naming convention. Members can still print out on their own. Chris Szell will look into our options and departments can consult with him on getting this all set up.

The Mayor met with Todd Peetz, Director at Portage County Regional Planning as well as Brad Ehrhart, President of Portage County Economic Development to be better prepared to utilize their resources and pursue development in the Village. We are currently obtaining a quote for hours to help us review and update our Zoning Code and to explore a CDBG grant application for the renovation of our Village Park.

The Communicator: will be coming out later this week and again, we are not mailing them out but rather placing them at various locations around town in addition to emailing it to those who have requested. Overall, we are saving money and have a nicer product.

Village Pass: orientation will start later this month. Orientation is the first step and at the completion participants are given the application which is submitted directly to Hiram College. Participants will be given a picture ID.

An update on the Fiscal Efficiency Assessment by Deb Wordell: met after the preliminary round of review and authorized the next steps including reviewing data on the UAN system. Looking forward – what does Council want in the final report? Recommendations? Fiscal Efficiency 101 for Finance Committee or Council?

Website Committee: Dave Dreimiller, Lynn Brewster & Juan Fernandez (joining)
Revize vs Catalis \$1995/year with a 6% increase per year. Integrated outside payment link, smart form sign up for sending bulk emails is included plus department subscriptions, citywide alert, etc.

Trail Town Task Force: we had our first meeting and established a short-term goal of creating a loop around the perimeter of the Village and then long-term goals of connecting the Village to the Headwater's Trail as well as re-routing the Buckeye Trail into town. At this point we are focusing on the two north quadrants as these have established trails that could be connected more easily. For the southern quadrants, we are exploring possibilities with landowners.

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

The UAN system is no longer in temporary mode. The AOS requirements have been met with the year-end financials and Hinkle notes electronically sent to the State on February 28, 2024. This included the financials and Hinkle notes for the Hiram Energy Special Improvement District or ESID.

The fiscal office is now set up to receive payments using credit and debit cards through BancCard. We will need to review our public records policy legislation to allow for payments by cash or credit cards.

The Fiscal Officer was successful in invoicing and collecting for the oversized load that came through the Village. Kush Creative Outdoors paid the Village \$403.75 to reimburse for the cost to have the street light raised.

Our liability & casualty insurance renewal is April 1st. Council will need to decide whether to stay with AssuredPartners through the Ohio Plan or go with Burnham & Flower through the PEP Plan.

The Fiscal Officer has made arrangements to attend the annual Auditor of State's Local Government Official's Conference in Columbus on March 26, 27 & 28th. She will not be present at the next Finance & Safety meeting.

The Village's medical insurance renewal is coming up on May 1st. The fiscal office has not received any documentation from Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield on renewal rates as of today.

The Fiscal Officer provided Council with a list of changes that needed to be accounted for in the 2024 permanent appropriations legislation that is before them this evening to consider. Permanents must be in place by March 31st.

A motion to accept the Fiscal Officer's report was made by Mr. Szell with a second by Mrs. Greenwood. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. The motion passed.

The bills list was reviewed. A motion to approve the bills list as presented was made by Mr. Smith with a second by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. The motion passed.

**Police Chief Brian Gregory was not present to provide their monthly report.*

PD Officer Anthony Yoder presented their monthly report which included 267 offense reports for February with an increase in traffic stops. Officer Yoder said he submitted a report to Ohio Edison on the street lights out in the Village; a total of 10. Some of them are the Village's responsibility but not all of them.

Pancake breakfast fundraiser is scheduled for Saturday March 30th from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm at Dix Dining Hall, Kennedy Center. Cost is by donations. There is be information in the KC hallway on their distracted driving course.

Speed camera signs are up at all four entry points to the Village. They have already seen a reduction in speed. Cameras should be delivered at the end of March or the first week of April according to Traffic Solutions.

Garrettsville Police Department held their Fill-a-Cruiser event with food last weekend; they received \$507.31 in donations to go towards our Shop with a Cop program.

Officer Yoder provided Council with a detailed report on the handling of rabid racoons, the humane use of firearms and notification to the public around the situation whenever possible. Other agencies are notified as well including Portage County dispatch, ODNR wildlife officer and our own Street Department.

HIRAM TOWNSHIP REPORT

No Township report tonight.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCES

2023-19: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 1113.21 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM- REGARDING CHICKENS. TABLED ON 3RD READING. A motion to take off the table was made by Mr. Szell with a second by Mr. Frato-Sweeney. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. A motion to approve on 3rd reading was made by Mr. Frato-Sweeney with a second by Mr. Szell. Beth Greenwood questioned the reference to Goddard's Law and said that it does not apply to livestock. Ed Frato-Sweeney said the concern was for the treatment of the animals. It was referenced there more to prevent abuse. More discussion followed. On the second amendment, Mr. Frato-Sweeney explained that at the Planning & Zoning meeting there was discussion regarding chickens being conditionally permitted in residential districts. This meant that if applicants met these conditions, they would be permitted. Instead, looking at our zoning code, chickens being conditionally permitted would require a conditional permit for chickens, which was not their intention. Mr. Szell called for the question. A motion to amend the legislation to remove under 5, "as defined by O.R.C. 959.131 (Goddard's Law)" and remove "conditional" in (g) was made by Mr. Frato-Sweeney with a second by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. A motion to approve 2023-19 on 3rd reading as amended was made by Mr. Szell with a second by Mr. Frato-Sweeney. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. The motion passed.

2024-02: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 303 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM REGARDING ENFORCEMENT, IMPOUNDING AND PENALTY. 2nd READING.

2024-04: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 351 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM REGARDING PARKING GENERALLY. 2nd READING.

2024-05: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 319 AUTOMATED SPEED AND TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Postponed in February. Council discussed the wording in this legislation. We are using "manually" operated traffic law enforcement devices referencing Ordinance 2023-23 which was passed in November of 2023; we should remove the word, "automated". Council members would like to keep with the same language throughout. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. McCreight with a second by Mrs. Greenwood. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. A motion to approve the amendments was made by Mr. Frato-Sweeney with a second by Mr. Szell.

The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. A motion to approve as amended was made by Mr. Frato-Sweeney with a second by Mr. Smith. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. The motion passed.

2024-06: AN ORDINANCE SETTING BASE COMPENSATION RANGES FOR EMPLOYMENT POSITIONS AT THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM, REPEALING ORDINANCE 2022-14 AND OTHER INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES OR PARTS OF ORDINANCES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Szell with a second by Mrs. Greenwood. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Szell with a second by Mr. Frato-Sweeney. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. The motion passed.

2024-07: AN ORDINANCE TO PUT IN PLACE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS AT THE FUND LEVEL FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2024 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Smith with a second by Mrs. Greenwood. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Szell with a second by Mr. Frato-Sweeney. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. The motion passed.

RESOLUTIONS

2024-01: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE INTERNET SALE OF UNNEEDED, OR UNFIT, OR OBSOLETE PERSONAL PROPERTY, INCLUDING MOTOR VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT OWNED BY THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM. 3rd READING. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Szell with a second by Mrs. Greenwood. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. The motion passed.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: None.


A motion to convene in Executive Session for the purpose of personnel matters; dismissal and appointments and for pending litigation at 8:17 pm was made by Mr. Szell and seconded by Mr. Smith. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

A motion to reconvene into Regular Session at 9:05 pm was made by Mr. Szell and seconded by Mr. Smith. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

A motion to fill the vacant Council seat with Mr. Chris Cobb was made by Mr. Smith. There was no second to the motion. A motion to fill the vacant Council seat with Mr. Justin Bisutti was made by Mr. Szell with a second by Mr. McCreight. The result of the voice vote was 4-0-1 with a nay vote by Mr. Smith. The motion passed.

The Mayor asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Szell with a second by Mr. Smith. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm.

These minutes are pending approval by Council.



Mayor Anne Haynam

ATTEST:



Fiscal Officer Susan J. Skrovan-DeYoung