

# Hiram Village Special Council Meeting

Service Department Building  
11617 Garfield Road, Hiram, Ohio 44234

March 31, 2020

The following Members of Council were present: Mr. Dempsey, Mr. Greenwood, Mr. Smith, Mr. Spencer and Mr. Szell. The following were also present: Mayor Lou Bertrand, Village Administrator James McGee, Fiscal Officer Susan Skrovan and Police Officer Devin Brown.

Mayor Bertrand called the special meeting to order at 6:00 pm. The purpose of this special meeting is to review and approve Ordinance 2020-08 for the permanent appropriations for 2020. Council has set up to meet in the service garage as an abundance of caution and separation concerning the Coronavirus pandemic.

## **2020-08: AN ORDINANCE TO PUT IN PLACE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS TO RUN THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020. 2<sup>nd</sup> READING.**

A motion to suspend the rules on second reading was made by Mr. Greenwood and seconded by Mr. Smith. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. A motion to approve on second reading as an emergency was made by Mr. Dempsey and seconded by Mr. Szell. Paul Spencer has concerns with the Coronavirus and businesses shutting down; experts are predicting a 38% loss in tax revenues. In addition, most of the relief is going to be tax free. We are not going to be getting the revenue we would normally get! The \$600.00 additional on top of the unemployment benefits are tax free. Susan, Fiscal Officer, said we would not have anticipated tax on that additional unemployment benefit anyway. We would expect it on the normal unemployment benefits. Council discussed the College; which have not furloughed anyone at this time. The Mayor mentioned he spoke with Mark Trushel at Mantaline who told him they are still in pretty good shape at this time. Paul has concerns about moving forward status quo, the Village will get bit later on with a reduction in revenues. The Village may have to make cuts later in the year. Susan told Council there is no room to cut from the General Fund; unless Council is planning on cutting personnel. Susan said, if the General Fund struggles, another fund will have to help the General Fund out such as Water or Sewer. Paul did not think we could do that. Susan said yes, she had seen legislation in the past that did transfer funds. More discussion. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

Public: None

Other Business: Paul Spencer passed out an "Exhibit A" originating from our Solicitor Tom Reitz regarding feral cats; this would be an ordinance suggestion. This revolves around harboring or feeding feral cats. Dave Smith believes this would set a precedent and cause a problem in the Village. Michael Greenwood agrees with Paul; we need good rationale to enact this legislation, list the negative impacts of feral cats? Chris Szell felt it needs to be handled delicately. Dave asked whether Paul was suggesting fines be used to spay/neuter the animals? Paul said he would be fine using the fine monies for this purpose. Chris said Hiram College has not yet met with Debbie Kreusler. More discussion on feral cats and whether Council should act on this ordinance just yet.

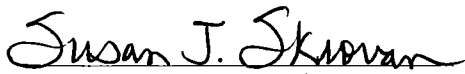
Audit documents were passed out to Council to fill out, answer the questions, sign and return to the Fiscal Officer.

A motion to adjourn the special meeting was made by Mr. Szell and seconded by Mr. Greenwood. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

These minutes are pending approval by Council.

  
Mayor Lou Bertrand

ATTEST:

  
Fiscal Officer Susan J. Skrovan