

Hiram Village Council Meeting

Rosser Municipal Building
11617 Garfield Road, Hiram, Ohio 44234

May 15, 2018

The following Members of Council were present: Mr. Dempsey, Mr. Hemphill, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Szell and Mr. Wadkins. The following were also present: Mayor Lou Bertrand, Village Solicitor Tom Reitz, Fiscal Officer Susan Skrovan, Police Chief Brian Gregory, Asst. Fire Chief Brandon Baynes, Village Administrator James McGee, Asst. Village Administrator Steven Schuller.

The following persons were present: Stacy Turner; The Weekly Villager, Dexter Odom, CFO of Hiram College and Ed Frato-Sweeney.

Mayor Bertrand called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 pm. He asked that all cell phones be silenced. There was a moment of silence followed by the pledge to the flag. The Mayor reminded everyone it is Police Memorial Week for our fallen police officers. Flags are all at half-staff.

The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the proposed agenda. A motion to approve the agenda as presented and noting an executive session for the purpose of specializing details of security arrangements per Section 121.22, subsection 6 of the Ohio Revised Code was made by Mr. Wadkins and seconded by Mr. Dempsey. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of 4/10/18 as presented. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Wadkins and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

GUEST AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Ed Frato-Sweeney reminded everyone of the upcoming application available for the Hiram Community Trust grant. The deadline for making application has been moved back to May 25, 2018. The Park Board, our Street and Police Departments all plan to submit an application.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

*Police Chief Brian Gregory provided their monthly report. They had 276 offense reports for April.

His department responded to a number of traffic accidents in the Township. They also had criminal arrests more than double for the month.

The Click it or Ticket event is Saturday, May 26th from 11:00 to 1:00 pm.

Our Police Department attended this year's MADD awards banquet. Two of our officers were recognized with awards over a two-year period; Devin Brown and Anthony Yoder.

The None 4 Under 21 event at Hiram College went well with no issues. The Mayor asked about the schools that were considering not attending this event. Chief Gregory explained a few schools were considering doing this because the content scared some students. It focuses on the consequences of drunk driving; however, at the last minute they did attend. Paul Spencer said it was the first year he received any complaints and it was on the traffic control. It was on exiting Winrock; attendees were only allowed to turn right. Chief Gregory explained how they routed traffic in and out of the event to prevent congestion at the traffic light. They were letting vehicles go in both directions; they just did it in groups of 10 or so each way. The Chief commented that others felt this worked very well; it was the best it has ever been for the intersection.

The Fill a Cruiser and Pet Adoption will be held on Saturday, July 14th. Hopefully the Park Board will have their community garage sales that same day.

The Police Department is still in the process of hiring a full-time officer; the officer is now going through a physical agility test. If he passes that, he will then take the State physical.

**Asst. Fire Chief Brandon Baynes provided their monthly report by email and copied for tonight.* The Fire Department had 48 callouts for the month; 10 higher than normal.

New Equipment has been brought in to help with cancer risks for firefighters due to skin exposure during a fire.

The Fire Department received the Farmer's Grow Grant again this year; they purchased a grain bin rescue device.

Their department has had two new hires and three promotions to Lieutenant; Alex Maglionico, Ryan Wade and Steven Laskey. They have also promoted Jason Groselle to second Assistant Chief.

**Village Administrator James McGee presented the monthly water/sewer report.* James gave a detailed report.

The Street Department has been working on updating the baseball field at Jagow Park including the two side fences, the backstop fence, new soil and new pavers and benches for the dugouts.

Our Tire Day is set for this Saturday, May 19th from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm.

The ODOT 700/305 paving project is going on now. There have been no additional costs to the Village due to any issues or damages. His department had to make emergency water repairs at the State Route 305 curb and explained how they made the repairs using a special contractor to tunnel underneath the road and pull the line back across.

There will probably be emergency legislation for the next Council meeting to approve the Constance Ave./Street Improvements contract. They are being bid out as two separate jobs; however, one contractor could get both.

The Village Hall experienced a lightning strike which caused some damage. Four cable boxes, the large television in Council chambers, a router, printer and a couple police radios as well as the alarm system in our evidence storage at the back of the street building. James and Steven are assessing the damages now to submit them to our insurance co.

Rob Simon, Utilities Supervisor, has notified James of his decision to retire effective June 30, 2018. James has three days per Ohio EPA to have a licensed operator. Dan Vair does have a license and is registered with the EPA as an additional licensed operator. James is looking to fill the position in house if possible. Council suggested that James follow our procedures, advertise for the position and then go from there with interviews and making a selection. More discussion followed. James indicated that Rob would be willing to stay on as an independent contractor, should we need his assistance and as long as his license is still good. James is looking to utilize more summer help.

Assistant Village Administrator, Steven Schuller, provided an update on the water tower. The study from CT Consultants has been completed; repair estimates are at \$577,000 and a new water tower would run \$634,000. Steven and James have not had a chance to review the 78 pages of the study which was just emailed out to them. Mayor Bertrand asked whether they have called Portage County. Are we doing the right thing or should we be looking at a water/sewer district? Chris Szell said the property that is needed for a new tower is under a land conservation easement; he is researching the options now and may have some answers by June's Council meeting. We will need the landowner's consent. There is 15% figured into the total costs for engineering. A welded tank would cost a million dollars and every 15 years, it must be painted inside and out at \$150,000 each time. The cost of a new tower is \$634,000 plus \$130,000 for a new automated water panel. A grant through OPWC or ODSA would max out at \$500,000. We can apply to both but CT recommends applying at a lower number; not 90/10. An OPWC loan is at no interest; an OWDA loan comes with a low interest rate. Life expectancy would be a 25-year loan.

A motion to allow the Village Administrator to move forward on the grants for the water tower was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Dempsey. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

MAYOR'S MAY 15, 2018 REPORT TO COUNCIL

TUESDAY, MAY 8TH PRIMARY ELECTION RESULTS:

Issue Number 7 – a .25% increase in Hiram Village income tax passed by more than 81%, 103 for/24 against | Voter turnout was; 52% Democrat, 38% Republican with the total voter turnout of 18% | Highest vote count for a Democratic Candidate was Kathleen Clyde – Secretary of State | Highest vote count for a Republican Candidate was Janet Esposito – County Auditor.

PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION:

The Commission did not meet on May 1st as there was no business on the Commission's agenda.

OTHER INFORMATION OF INTEREST:

The formal dedication of the HIRAM SCHOOL PARK on Saturday April 21, 2018 was a great success thanks to the Park Board and especially MRS. JO WALSH COBB.

James McGee and I met at Hiram Christian Church on Monday evening April 30th and Saturday morning May 5th to discuss the purchase of property. Questions and concerns were voiced; we do not expect a decision until later this year. As to the possible purchase of the township garage facility on Ryder Road, I have spoken with Delores McCumbers of McCumbers-Brady Realty in Garrettsville but no word yet on an appraisal. When I receive same I will obtain further instructions from Council.

MAYOR'S ACTIVITIES:

Although, due to my grandson's ear infection and gastro difficulties, I was unable to attend the Ohio congressional delegation's leadership conference at our Nation's Capital, I am planning to attend the OHIO MAYORS ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL CONVENTION in Akron next month.

COLLEGE/VILLAGE SAFETY CONTRACT:

▲MR. WADKINS, WILL REPORT ON NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE COLLEGE ON THE RENEWAL OF THE FIRE, EMS & POLICE CONTRACT. IT IS MY SUGGESTION THAT THIS CONTRCT BE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2018 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2019, SINCE ALL WILL BE BETTER ADVISED AS TO THE NEEDS, INCOME AND EXPENSES OF BOTH ENTITIES.

MEMORIAL DAY:

Keynote Speaker: Mr. Joe Benedict of Cleveland [Veteran USN] President of Honor Flight.

Invocation and Benediction: Rev. Father Lee Martin [Veteran USN] Priest at Christ the King Anglican Church, Salem, OH.

Roll Call of Veterans: Mr. Nathan Frania (Veteran USA-82ABD), Mr. Sam Bixler (Veteran USA), Hon. Rob Dempsey (Veteran USAF), Hon. Debra Blake (MAJ Retired USA)

Submitted by:

MAYOR LOU BERTRAND

**The Fiscal Officer Susan Skrovan presented the monthly financial reports for March and for April.*

The following reports were provided to Council for this meeting:

Bank reconciliation report for April is complete and available for signing by Mayor & Council.

Cash Summary by Fund as of April 30, 2018 was provided in Council packets.
The list of bills as of May 9, 2018 was provided in Council packets.
Council meeting minutes for April 10, 2018 was provided in Council packets.
R.I.T.A. income tax receipts YTD report was provided in Council packets.

Susan had sent in an email, the options that were requested by Council on our insurance renewal for their review. James and Susan discussed prior to tonight some of the options. We were not in favor of the \$2,500 deductible; we did not feel the savings was enough to be worthwhile. Council discussed the amounts for uninsured motorists. We currently pay \$26,000 annually for our insurance. Council members talked about an increase in the medical liability coverage to \$10,000 and an increase to the uninsured/underinsured motorists' coverage to one million dollars.

A motion to increase coverage for medical GL to \$10,000 for an additional annual cost of \$60.00 and increase the uninsured/underinsured to \$1,000,000 for an additional annual cost of \$2,040 was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Dempsey. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

The second item to bring before Council is our third party administrator for Bureau of Workers Compensation. We renewed with CompManagement again earlier this year which was the preferred administrator under the Ohio Municipal League. Since our renewal, OML has abruptly changed their administrator to CareWorksComp. They want us to change from CompManagement to CareWorksComp. Susan wanted direction from Council. Council members discussed the options and felt since CompManagement is a good third party administrator and has taken care of any of our BWC claims; we should stay with them for this year and then look at it again.

A motion to approve the Fiscal Officer's 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 pay the bills as presented was made by Mr. Wadkins and seconded by Mr. Dempsey. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

HIRAM TOWNSHIP REPORT

Since our Council meeting was moved to the same night as Hiram Township; there is no report.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCES

2018-05: 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. Wadkins and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

2018-07: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 901 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM REGARDING SIDEWALKS. 3rd READING. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Szell and seconded by Mr. Wadkins. Solicitor Tom Reitz informed Council that the change they requested at their last meeting has been made; it is part of the revised exhibit. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

2018-08: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF \$9,856.74 FROM THE OPWC GRANT HINSDALE ROAD EXTENSION FUND (4902) TO THE OPWC GRANT CONSTANCE AVENUE PROJECT FUND (4903). 2nd READING.

2018-12: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL FUND (1000) PARKS (320) BY \$1,000 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Wadkins and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Wadkins and seconded by Mr. Dempsey. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

RESOLUTIONS

2018-04: 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. 3rd READING. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Wadkins. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

2018-05: 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. Dempsey. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

2018-11: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND FISCAL OFFICER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH HIRAM COLLEGE FOR THE HIRAM FIRE DEPARTMENT AND HIRAM VILLAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO HIRAM COLLEGE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Council will have discussion on this contract in executive session. It is at second reading.

2018-14: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR AND SUBSEQUENT ACCEPTANCE OF GRANT FUNDS BY THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM FROM THE HIRAM COMMUNITY TRUST. 1st READING.

2018-15: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE 2019 PROPOSED BUDGET AND AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER TO SUBMIT THE BUDGET TO THE PORTAGE COUNTY AUDITOR. 1st READING.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Chris Szell attended the Portage Park Foundation dinner; over 300 were in attendance. Mantaline Corporation received an environmental award; their "green" initiative.

A motion to convene in Executive Session at 8:33 pm pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22, subsection 6; to determine specialized details of a security arrangement was made by Mr. Wadkins and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. Mr. Szell was excused and Mr. Hemphill also left. Mr. Dexter Odom, CFO with Hiram College and Mr. Ed Frato-Sweeney were invited into executive session.

A motion to adjourn Executive Session at 9:41 pm was made by Mr. Wadkins and seconded by Mr. Dempsey. The result of the voice vote was 3-0 in favor. No action.

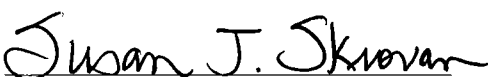
A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Wadkins and seconded by Mr. Spencer. The result of the voice vote was 3-0 in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:42 pm.

These minutes are pending approval by Council.



Mayor Lou Bertrand

ATTEST:



Fiscal Officer Susan J. Skrovan