

Hiram Village Council Meeting

Rosser Municipal Building
11617 Garfield Road, Hiram, Ohio 44234

October 11, 2016

The following Members of Council were present: Mr. Wadkins, Mr. Cobb, Mr. Dempsey, Mr. Hemphill and Mr. Smith. The following were also present: Mayor Lou Bertrand, Attorney Doug Paul sitting in for Village Solicitor, Fiscal Officer Susan Skrovan, Fire Chief Bill Byers, Sgt. /Acting Chief Brian Gregory and Village Administrator James McGee.

The following persons were present: Stacy Turner; reporter for the Weekly Villager, Matthew Merchant; reporter for the Record Courier, Todd Peetz; director for Portage County Regional Planning Commission, Tina Rutledge with Portage County Water Resources, Lori Calcei running for County Recorder and Tia Paoloni running for Clerk of Courts and several others.

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 asked for a motion to approve the proposed agenda. A motion to approve the agenda was made by Mr. Wadkins and seconded by Mr. Cobb. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of 9/13/16 as presented. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Wadkins. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

GUEST AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Lori Calcei presented her background information on her run for the office of Portage County Recorder.

Tia Paoloni presented her background information on her run for the office of Portage County Clerk of Courts.

Todd Peetz, director for Portage County Regional Planning along with Tina Rutledge with Water Resources presented information on the Local Government Innovation Fund (LGIF) grant application which was due by September 15th. They submitted a grant application for a County wide water and sewer plant. They will need a memorandum of understanding (MOU) signed from the Village as a service provider in order to be on the steering committee. Members of Council would like to see the documents and review them before making a commitment to a memorandum. Todd will forward the documents to the Village Administrator.

Tim Casper, a Hiram Township resident on Cheryl Drive, was excited about the new sidewalks. He asked why they did not extend the sidewalks all the way on the west side of State Route 700 to the Village line. There is not even a crosswalk from the west to the east side. The Mayor thought there may have been an oil/gas easement or something else that would have prevented this. Maybe sometime in the future, they could be extended.

Tim Casper announced the work being done on the new Hiram Township Park; a cleanup is set for Saturday, October 22nd from 10-2 pm.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Police Sergeant Brian Gregory provided the monthly report. They had 231 offense reports for the month of September. Traffic stops remain down this past month due to construction.

His department experienced a lot of training as well as the upcoming project DAWN training class on Saturday, October 15th.

Officer Devin Brown was sworn in as a full-time police officer. The Mayor also swore in Emily Ahrens, a reserve officer who is replacing a retiring officer.

Brian thanked our FO, Susan and our VA, James for their help with the disposal of old records.

Fire Chief Bill Byers provided their monthly report by email. Calls to Hiram College have gone up. Bill thanked James for the new cement pad in front of the fire bays and added that a few of his fire fighters decided this would be a good time to re-seal the bay floors, with all the equipment being parked elsewhere.

Village Administrator James McGee presented the September monthly water/sewer report.

James updated Council on the following projects;

- Hayden Street Resurfacing: the contractor, Zuver Contracting plans to begin work starting October 24th. Letters were hand delivered to area businesses affected by the work as well as a notice placed in the Record Courier and the Weekly Villager.
- Concrete Pad in front of fire bays: the concrete work in front of the fire bays is complete as well as the manhole north on State Route 700.
- Hike & Bike Trail Project: the contract will be awarded to Burton-Scot for \$559,215.60. James reported having some issues with the alternates or trail heads. James has spoken with Doug McGee; we want the one on Winrock. ODOT is telling us our options are to do the one at State Route 305 at no additional cost or do both trail heads and the Village would pay an additional \$36,000; or do none at all. James' opinion would be to do the trailhead at Winrock or none at all. Chairman Tom Wadkins felt there would be a safety issue with the one at 305 and would encourage James to make a stringent appeal for the one at Winrock.

A motion to request an appeal to ODOT for reconsideration for a trailhead located at Winrock rather than one at State Route 305 because of public safety issues and concerns was made by Mr. Dempsey and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

Mayor Lou Bertrand's report:

MAYOR LOU BERTRAND'S REPORT TO COUNCIL FOR OCTOBER 11, 2016

PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION

The Commission met in October and granted two variances to the Cobb family so that they could rebuild their home on Hinsdale from the destruction caused by a recent house fire.

SIDEWALK CONSTRUCTION

The Construction is completed and again the workmanship appears to be very good. We will come back to this subject in 20 years; 2036.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON BLIGHTED PROPERTIES

Those appointed are: Tom Wadkins & Paul Spencer, others will be appointed by the seated members.

COMMITTEE TO ADDRESS THE DETERIORATING SIDEWALKS

Those appointed are: Tom Wadkins, Cristine Boyd and Paul Spencer together with James McGee, Village Administrator.

2016 OHIO MUNICIPAL LEAGUE CONFERENCE

All Council is encouraged to attend the annual OML Conference on October 26-28th at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Columbus. Your Mayor hopes to attend the conference on Wednesday, October 26th for the seminars and lectures offered. Council member Rob Dempsey plans to attend all three days.

HALLOWEEN:

Halloween is set for Monday, October 31st from 5-7 pm followed by a party at the Hiram Fire Department.

Submitted by:

MAYOR LOU BERTRAND

October 11, 2016

A motion to support the Hiram Fire Department Halloween Party for \$250 and approve expenditure was made by Mr. Wadkins and seconded by Mr. Smith. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

The Fiscal Officer Susan Skrovan presented her monthly financial reports.

The following reports were provided to Council for this meeting:

Bank reconciliation report for September 2016 was presented to Council and the Mayor for signing.

Cash Summary by Fund as of September 30, 2016 was provided in Council packets.

The list of bills as of October 7, 2016 was provided in Council packets.

R.I.T.A. income tax receipts YTD

The Fiscal Officer and Assistant Fiscal Officer will both be attending a continuing education class in Twinsburg put on by the Auditor of State's office, Local Government Services on Thursday, October 20th. The administration office will be closed that day.

Susan wanted to schedule the annual Record's Commission meeting. Since November's Council meeting falls on Election Day; Susan would ask that we hold the Record's meeting in December just before the regular Council meeting at 6:30 pm.

A motion to approve the Fiscal Officer's report was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Dempsey. Chris Cobb asked about the last column in the RITA report; do we have to wait until year end to see the final difference; we may have to wait until then. Susan will take a look at the report. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

A motion to pay the bills as presented was made by Mr. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Cobb. The result of the voice vote was 4-1 in favor with an abstention by Mr. Dempsey.

HIRAM TOWNSHIP REPORT

There was no Township representative to provide a report this evening.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCES

2016-21: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS IN THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FUND (4901) FOR INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Wadkins and seconded by Mr. Smith. 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. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

2016-22: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS IN THE SHOP WITH A COP FUND (2273) BY \$2,500. 1st READING.

2016-23: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A CONTRACT WITH THE PORTAGE COUNTY PUBLIC DEFENDER FOR DEFENSE OF INDIGENT PERSONS CHARGED WITH CRIMINAL OFFENSES UNDER THE VILLAGE ORDINANCES. 1st READING.

2016-24: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS IN THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS FUND (5701) FOR WATER AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Cobb. 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. Wadkins. Dave Smith asked why these are emergency repairs. James explained funds had already been set aside for these upgrades when we had two wells go down and needed to use those funds. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

2016-25: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM'S EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK, APPENDIX A. 1st READING.

RESOLUTIONS

2016-31: 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 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Wadkins and seconded by Mr. Smith. 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. Hemphill. Dave Smith asked what the grant funds are earmarked for. Brian Gregory said they are applying for the \$20,000; they would be lucky to get \$5,000. We need a camera system in one car and a new radar unit for one car; it does not work very well. Chris Cobb asked about the dispatch services. Brian said he was in Aurora today; they are waiting to get all of our information. Brian is also working with Windstream, our phone carrier to work out the long distance routing of calls. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Chris Cobb brought up the Village's zoning code; it is quite restrictive. Could we consider consolidating R2 & R1 or maybe rezoning it to R3 would be best? We should reach out to Todd Peetz and Portage County Regional Planning Commission to see what would work best and ask them for suggestions. Tom Wadkins would like to know what the effects of a zoning change to R3 would be on the Village.

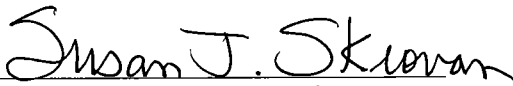
A motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Cobb and seconded by Mr. Smith. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm.

These minutes are pending approval by Council.



Mayor Lou Bertrand

ATTEST:



Fiscal Officer Susan J. Skrovan