

# Hiram Village Remote Video Conference Council Meeting

Rosser Municipal Building  
11617 Garfield Road, Hiram, Ohio 44234

October 13, 2020

The following Members of Council were present online: Mr. Dempsey, Mr. Greenwood, Mr. Smith, Mr. Spencer and Mr. Szell. The following were also present: Mayor Lou Bertrand, Village Solicitor Tom Reitz, Fiscal Officer Susan Skrovan, Police Chief Brian Gregory, Fire Chief Bill Byers, Asst. Fire Chief Jason Groselle, Village Administrator James McGee and Asst. VA Steven Schuller.

The following persons were present online: Ed Frato-Sweeney, Ann Patella, Crystal Teicher, Anthony Lyon and Stacy Turner, reporter with The Weekly Villager.

Mayor Bertrand called the regular meeting to order at 7:02 pm. The Mayor asked that all cell phones be silenced. There was a moment of silence to remember Hiram resident Audley Vincent Zuver, born on 6/4/1950 and died Saturday the 10<sup>th</sup> of October 2020. Audley did many things for this community and was a friend to many, followed by the pledge to the flag.

Mayor asked for a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of 9/8/20. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Greenwood and seconded by Mr. Dempsey. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

Mayor asked for a motion to approve the special meeting minutes of 9/29/20. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Greenwood. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

Mayor asked for a motion to approve the proposed agenda. A motion to approve the proposed agenda as presented was made by Mr. Dempsey and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

## GUEST AND PUBLIC COMMENT

Ed Frato-Sweeney reported Hiram College students would be holding classes online between Thanksgiving and Christmas. The College is getting ready for election with their polling place on campus. The College does have some concerns with what might happen on election night and days following the election. Council discussed general concerns with the upcoming election and possible unrest. The Mayor felt it would be just like any other election over the last 200 years; people will exercise their right to vote! Mr. Frato-Sweeney was concerned this election with tensions that are running high and parades that run through the community every Thursday evening. The College is having a series of programs talking about getting ready for the election and where we go from here. Chris Szell asked both Chiefs if we are planning to have additional staff on duty for that day and the day after; Chris has the same concerns that the College has for this election. Chief Brian Gregory said he does plan to have at least one officer there all day for election. The Mayor asked whether this additional staff would cost the Village overtime pay. Chief Gregory said yes it would. More discussion.

Ann Patella mentioned that she is still working on identifying the veterans' graves at Fairview Cemetery. Council thanked her for the work she is undertaking.

## DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

**\*Police Chief Brian Gregory was present to provide their monthly report.** There were 340 offense reports for September. There were a lot of traffic stops for training; 82 with 38 traffic citations issued.

Brian attended a dispatch meeting with the Sheriff's department last Thursday. Chief Byers will discuss this later on.

MARCS radios are now equipped in all our police vehicles with repeaters.

Brian spoke about some of the items purchased using the CARES Act funds. A summary was provided.

There is a parade set for this Thursday to come through Hiram at 6:00 pm.

Legislation is before Council this evening for funding from the JAG-LE grant. This is not affiliated with the CARES Act funding. Brian applied for this back in April to cover expenses.

The Police Department had an officer sworn in, Justin Hardy. He has been coming out with our department over the last nine months while in the academy.

Chris Szell asked about the mobile communication sign listed in his CARES Act items. Brian explained what this would be used for and when. Chris asked whether the parade must apply for a permit. Brian said they called once but have not called again for a permit. This is a pro-Trump parade. More discussion on the route the parade will probably take and what actions may be taken. Brian said if they do not apply for a permit, his department will not stop them from going through without a permit; he would talk to the organizers later on about it.

**\*Fire Chief Bill Byers provided their monthly report for tonight.** The report was emailed to everyone. Chief Byers reported the Fire Association would like to move forward with something for Halloween. They may utilize the church parking lot to have just a drive up trick or treat.

Our tornado siren is not working for Village Hall and is need of repairs. Chief Byers would like to have a preventative maintenance plan for next year on the siren. It would run \$450.00.

**A motion to move ahead with the Preventative Maintenance program for the tornado siren was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.**

The Mayor felt Village Council should approve some funding, perhaps \$200.00 for the Fire Department to have trick or treat. Paul asked what we have been giving the Fire Department in the past few years. Susan said over the last several years it has been \$375.00 or \$400.00.

Paul Spencer moved to provide \$400.00 to the Fire Association towards the trick or treat event. Chris Szell asked whether the Village has even decided to have this event this year given the COVID-19 pandemic. Dave Smith said he was on the State's COVID-19 website and they recommend not having trick or treat. No second on the motion. The Mayor asked that Council wait until after his report and they can discuss it further.

Chief Byers spoke about the dispatch contract and moving to the Portage County Sheriff. He has some reservations with not knowing the dispatchers or their training. Concerns with the dispatchers not knowing our area, our streets. It was a productive meeting with his questions answered. We use the Active 911 system. Chief Byers went onto explain the Active 911 system in more detail. The Sheriff's dispatch system is compatible.

**\*Village Administrator James McGee presented the monthly water/sewer report.** James reported on the waterline replacement project; Utility Contracting Inc. is to start in the next day or so and should be done in a couple days.

The two new signs have been installed at Fairview Cemetery.

Dave Smith asked James about the tree that came down on State Route 82 near the post office. James replied he moved some of the limbs off the sidewalk and plan to go back and clean up the debris. Paul Spencer asked about the cost of the tree cleanup on the Spencer property. James said we paid for it out of the street operating budget.

Chris Szell asked about the Rave Reverse 911. Steve Schuller said we have had three training sessions to date on it. We will putting up a link on our website and then get it out to everyone to sign up for it. Moving forward this week.

## HIRAM MAYOR LOU BERTRAND'S OCTOBER 13, 2020 REPORT TO COUNCIL

### CORONA-VIRUS aka COVID-19 PANDEMIC:

In OHIO 4,691 people have died of the novel corona-virus and at least 168,749 have been infected, 16,399 hospitalizations according to Ohio Dept. of Health reports Monday October 12, 2020.  
Further PORTAGE COUNTY, Ohio: 1,387 reported cases and 67 DEATHS.

### U.S. FROM THE CDC:

Based on death certificate data COVID-19 Cases: 7,790,000, Deaths: 215,000 as of October 8, 2020

### WORLD WIDE STATICS:

CASES: 37,600,000                      RECOVERED 26,100,000                      DEATHS: 1,080,000

### ECONOMIC DEVELOPEMENT COMMITTEE:

No Meeting in September Chair out of town. A fifth (5) meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 20, 2020 beginning at 5:30 p.m.

### MARILANE SPENCER'S PROPERTY:

I recently met with Mrs. Spencer and she is willing to sell 5 acres of land fronting on Ryder Road to the Village at the appraised market value. I suggested the name of Jack Kohl Realty as an acceptable appraiser and she agreed. If Council intends to pursue this property, the Village would need to pay Jack Kohl to appraise Mrs. Spencer's property for \$250 - \$300.00.

**A motion to go ahead and find out what Marilane Spencer's property is worth by having it appraised not to exceed \$300.00 was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Dempsey. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.**

### PLANNING & ZONING:

No meeting was held as no business.

### MAYORS/MANAGERS LIST-SERVE - ZOOM MEETINGS:

Your Mayor has joined a large group of Village Mayors/City Managers in Ohio that have Colleges/Universities within their boundaries. THE ZOOM MEETING WAS SCHEDULED FOR FRIDAY, OCOBER 9, 2020. I WAS UNABLE TO ATTEND BECAUSE OF A CONFLICT WITH OUR YOUNGEST GRANDSON'S APPOINTMENT WITH HIS OPTICIAN.

### HIRAM VILLAGE TRICK OR TREAT SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2020.

Hiram Village announces Trick-or-Treat will take place Saturday, October 31<sup>st</sup> 5p.m. – 7p.m.

Those hosting should turn on porch lights or indicate your participation. All are requested to distribute treats responsibly.

*TRICK-OR-TREATERS* are to wear Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and practice social distancing.

This year, weather permitting, *TRICK-OR-TREATERS* can collect treats from Hiram fire trucks located at the Church parking lot. Bad weather plan: *TRICK-OR-TREATERS* can "walk through" the Fire Station bays to collect treats.

Submitted by:

### **MAYOR LOU BERTRAND**

Council discussed Trick or Treat and any safety guidelines that should be followed. The Mayor looked over what other communities around us are doing; they are all doing trick or treat. He would like to participate in trick or treat, which is optional, homes would turn on their porch light if participating. Stay in small family groups and wear PPE masks. Keep a six feet distance between parties to ensure everyone's safety.

**A motion to go with the Mayor's recommendations as an "optional" event was made by Mr. Dempsey and seconded by Mr. Spencer. Chris Szell asked if the employees who work the event would be paid hazard pay.**

Chief Brian Gregory said yes. Chief Bill Byers said the Fire Association puts it on so there would not be any hazard pay or no other pay for that matter except the two firefighters that are on duty that night. Dave Smith said he would not be passing out candy and had concerns with this event becoming a super spreader of the virus. Chris Szell wanted to amend the Mayor's summary that facial coverings are required, a PPE mask not just a Halloween mask and if you are sick, please stay home! Social Distance. These need to be stated. Paul Spencer felt this is ultimately the parents' responsibility. The motion was 2-3 with nay votes from Mr. Szell, Mr. Smith and Mr. Greenwood. Motion failed. The Mayor wants the vote to appear in the Communicator.

\*The Fiscal Officer Susan Skrovan presented the monthly financial reports for September.

**The following reports were provided to Council for this meeting:**

The September Bank Reconciliations balanced with the UAN system with no adjusting factors, has been emailed for review before signing by Mayor & Council.

Cash Summary by Fund as of September 30, 2020 was provided in Council e-Packets.

List of bills as of October 9, 2020 was provided in Council e-Packets.

Council Regular meeting minutes for September 8, 2020 were provided in Council e-Packets.

Council Special meeting minutes for September 29, 2020 were provided in Council e-Packets.

R.I.T.A. income tax receipts YTD report was provided in Council e-Packets.

Comparison of Budgeted and Appropriated YTD report was provided in Council e-Packets.

Today we received a third round of the CARES Act funding from the Portage County Auditor's through H.B. 614 for \$41,765.43. This is on top of the \$96,428.19 already received. We are spending these funds cautiously.

A motion to approve the Fiscal Officer's report for September as submitted was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Smith. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

A motion to approve the bills list was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Dempsey. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

## **HIRAM TOWNSHIP REPORT**

No report this evening.

## **LEGISLATION**

### **ORDINANCES**

**2020-22: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS IN THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND (4901) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Spencer 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. Szell and seconded by Mr. Dempsey. The Fiscal Officer was asked about this legislation and she explained the steps to move funds back to the General Fund. Paul Spencer called the question. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

**2020-23: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS IN SEVERAL FUNDS FOR THE ACCEPTANCE OF HIRAM COMMUNITY GRANT FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Greenwood and seconded by Mr. Dempsey. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Spencer. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

**2020-24: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND PART 1 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM ESTABLISHING THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE. 1<sup>ST</sup> READING.**

**2020-25: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS IN THE COMMUNICATION ENHANCEMENT (JAG-LE) SPECIAL REVENUE FUND (2276) BY \$1,190.00 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Spencer. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Szell. Chris Szell asked what the JAG-LE stands for in this legislation; is it used correctly. Chief Gregory explained that earlier this year they did a coronavirus grant not knowing that there would be a CARES Act funding later on this year. JAG-LE must be in this grant. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

#### RESOLUTIONS

**2020-27: 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. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Greenwood. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Dempsey and seconded by Mr. Smith. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

#### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

Village Administrator James McGee brought up computers for Council, Mayor and department heads using some of the CARES Act funding. Paul felt we could also use them for Council once we can meet again in person; he does prefer paper. Paul asked that James not go cheap on these computers. There was a consensus that only three will need an iPad, Rob Dempsey, Frank Hemphill and the Mayor. Chief Bill Byers stressed the importance of cleaning hands and sanitizing surfaces! Masks are very important too!

**A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Szell and seconded by Mr. Spencer. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.**

These minutes are pending approval by Council.

  
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Mayor Lou Bertrand

ATTEST:

  
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Fiscal Officer Susan J. Skrovan