

# Hiram Village Council Meeting

Rosser Municipal Building  
11617 Garfield Road, Hiram, Ohio 44234

October 15, 2019

The following Members of Council were present: Mr. Dempsey, Mr. Greenwood, Mr. Hemphill, 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, Village Administrator James McGee and Asst. Village Administrator Steven Schuller.

The following persons were present: Willard Greenwood and family, Jennifer Brant; intern with Tom Reitz.

Mayor Bertrand presented a proclamation to Willard Greenwood acknowledging his years of service on the Fourth of July Committee.

Mayor Bertrand called the regular meeting to order at 7:03 pm. The Mayor asked that all cell phones be silenced. There was a moment of silence followed by the pledge to the flag.

Mayor asked for a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of 9/10/2019. A motion to approve the minutes as presented was made by Mr. Dempsey and seconded by Mr. Spencer. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 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. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

## **GUEST AND PUBLIC COMMENT**

None. The Mayor acknowledged that Hiram Township Trustee Debra Blake would not be here this evening; she had a fall and is recovering.

## **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS**

\*Police Chief Brian Gregory provided their monthly report. There were a total of 305 offense reports for September.

The Annual Shop with a Cop event is planned for Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am at the Target in Streetsboro.

The Garrettsville Police Department now has the MARCS radios; they are still carrying v-chip radios and listening to our bands for our safety.

The Internet Fraud/Scam luncheon in conjunction with AAA, has been delayed. A date will be provided when set.

Hiram College homecoming is October 26<sup>th</sup>. This year, the dance/DJ will be held at the Kennedy Center and utilizing all floors for activities.

Our Police Department will be teaching a self-defense class later in the year. Brian will update Council members.

\*Fire Chief Bill Byers provided their monthly report for tonight. Their report was also emailed to everyone.

Chief Byers announced the retirement from the Hiram Fire Department of Assistant Fire Chief Brandon Baynes.

His department has been busy and everything has been running steady.

Our squad was involved in a cardiac arrest save; we have been invited by University Hospitals to attend a survivors' dinner along with other cardiac arrest survivors honoring them. The dinner is tomorrow night in Mayfield.

There have been ongoing fire inspections at Hiram College and at the preschool. They are working with the College on some of the activities for Homecoming as well as an inspection for an outdoor oven they wish to construct. Another inspection has been performed at the Zuver property with no major changes to report.

Chris Szell asked Fire Chief Bill Byers when he plans to fill the assistant fire chief's position. Chief Byers said he has spoken with 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chief Groselle and with Captain Sanchez; it would be sometime early next year.

**\*Village Administrator James McGee presented the monthly water/sewer report.** The municipal driveway is scheduled for a complete tear out beginning Monday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. The work on Ryder Road and the patch on Peckham will be done on October 24 and 25. Rob Dempsey said Sam Bixler offered his driveway for some of our vehicles, if needed. James said they plan to move some of their equipment down to the water plant and plans to put in a temporary drive for the Fire Department. James has also checked with Hiram Township and with Hiram Christian Church; both have offered some parking in the interim. The Salon will also be provided parking at the church parking lot.

James and Steven have been attending the Tree Academy; they are in their junior class. Each is a two-day course.

The police vehicle maintenance is done, the leaf machine is ready to go and the plows are also ready to go.

Asst. VA Steven Schuller, passed out an updated tax levy budget for the Street Department. This is just to keep everyone up to date on where we are at with the tax levy and our carryover amount.

There is legislation before Council tonight to name C.T. Consultants and Tim Lannon as the Village's engineering firm. Solicitor Tom Reitz explained that Tim Lannon, an engineer with C.T. Consultants, has done a number of projects with the Village over the years. Tim Lannon came to Tom about a year ago and asked about being named the Village's engineer. Tom told him to put together a contract which he did. Tom reviewed it and changed a few things. Tom explained that Tim Lannon would be paid as an independent contractor, not an employee. He would be paid \$250.00 per month which makes him available for questions from the Village. He also agrees to continue to look for grants and various funding opportunities for the Village. This is not a long term commitment; it can be canceled with thirty-day notice. Solicitor Reitz would recommend Council approve this contract. General discussion followed.

Steven said there will be legislation before Council at their next meeting for the water tower to start proceedings.

## **OCTOBER 15, 2019 MAYOR'S REPORT TO COUNCIL**

### **PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION:**

The Commission did not meet in September as no business and/or zoning applications were pending.

### **OML 68<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONVENTION:**

The Ohio Municipal League's 68<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Columbus, Ohio will run from Wednesday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> through Friday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. Council President Rob Dempsey will be attending on behalf of our community. The Mayor encourages all of Council to attend and network with other Village and Cities; it is a great opportunity. In light of our health care renewal rates rising by 20+ percent; the Mayor did contact OML. There is a group that works with Ohio villages and cities for the purchase of health insurance. The Mayor provided all the contact information to the Fiscal Officer; it was just received today.

**FORMER ANN STREETER RESIDENCE:**

I have received word from the Hiram Farm that they intend to engage Spaulding-Emig Appraisal Service of Kent, Ohio to appraise the house and lot immediately south of Village property and next to the south parking lot. I believe the Village would be willing to purchase this property for the appraised market value.

**AMATS ANNUAL MEETING:**

The meeting was held this past Friday attended by our Village Administrator James McGee and his Assistant VA Steven Schuller. I was late to attend because there was no school that day and I care for my two grandchildren.

**NOPEC ANNUAL MEETING:**

The NOPEC annual meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 12, 2019 at The Hilton Garden Inn located in Twinsburg, beginning at 11 a.m. | The topics of discussion will be the 2020 Budget, election of the Board, approval of 13 new electric aggregation members and 7 new gas aggregation members as well as an amendment of NOPEC By-Laws. Council is urged to attend. Please provide Wendelin your RSVP. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

**MAYOR LOU BERTRAND**

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

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

The September Bank Reconciliation balanced with the UAN with no adjusting factors and is available for signing by Mayor & Council.

Cash Summary by Fund as of September 30, 2019 was provided in Council packets.

The list of bills as of October 11, 2019 was provided in Council packets.

Council meeting minutes for September 10, 2019 were provided in Council packets.

R.I.T.A. income tax receipts YTD report was provided in Council packets.

The Comparison of Budgeted and Appropriated YTD report was provided in Council packets.

Tonight's Council meeting, being moved one week, was advertised in the Record Courier.

With our health insurance renewal, Susan is working with our agent of record; Ohio Health Benefits to obtain some comparisons. We are looking at a 20 percent increase on our health and a 5 percent on dental. They are also looking into a consortium for possible savings. Our renewal is November 1<sup>st</sup>; they are on top of it right now. Susan will probably have something to present at our next Finance meeting.

The Village did receive a refund from the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation for the 2017 policy year; \$9,700!

Susan asked if Council would announce when Trick or Treat would be this year. Council determined that it would be set for October 31<sup>st</sup> from 5:00 – 7:00 pm.

A motion to contribute \$350.00 to the Hiram Fire Fighters Association for their annual Trick or Treat night at the Fire Department was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

A motion to approve the Fiscal Officer's report was made by Mr. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Smith. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

A motion to approve the bills list was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Greenwood. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

**HIRAM TOWNSHIP REPORT**

None.

## **LEGISLATION**

### **ORDINANCES**

**2019-27: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND PART 5 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM REGARDING TALL GRASS AND WEEDS. 2<sup>nd</sup> READING.** Council members discussed this in detail. Michael Greenwood does not see any reason for this and felt it will just create problems. Council asked who would act on complaints? The Village Administrator would be authorized to act. Dave Smith felt our own Village would be in violation of this ordinance with the prairie in the park and other areas. Paul Spencer would like to kill this legislation. A motion to remove Ordinance 2019-27 from the agenda was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Greenwood. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

**2019-28: AN ORDINANCE TO ENACT CHAPTER 1303 OF THE HIRAM VILLAGE CODIFIED ORDINANCES REGARDING ABANDONED STRUCTURES AND UNOCCUPIED LOTS. 2<sup>nd</sup> READING.** Paul Spencer asked about this legislation; is this a sound piece of legislation or something makeshift to just get by with? Solicitor Tom Reitz explained that in his opinion, it is untried in the courts. He does not know how good it is. More discussion followed. The Mayor spoke about all the improvements that we have done in our Village; we need to do something to move these properties forward. More discussion followed on the process involved. This is just another tool that we can use in the process. The Zoning Inspector would be the one who initially finds this; he finds this, witnesses this and acts on this. Council wants this legislation sent to Dominic by email for him to review.

**2019-33: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS IN THE EMS SPECIAL REVENUE FUND (2901) FOR PERSONAL SERVICES AND OTHER OPERATIONS LINE ITEMS FOR PART-TIME EMS PERSONNEL IN ORDER TO COVER THE WAGE ADJUSTMENTS 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 6-0 in favor. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Dempsey and seconded by Mr. Spencer. Dave Smith asked about this increase for part-time personnel and whether it would still fall within the wage scale that was established by ordinance. Chief Byers said yes. The Chief had Susan double check his numbers beforehand and was something he originally drafted in 2018 as per the legislation passed by Council in 2016. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

### **RESOLUTIONS**

**2019-30: 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. 1<sup>st</sup> READING.**

**2019-31: A RESOLUTION OPPOSING HOUSE BILL 288 AMENDING THE LAW REGARDING EMINENT DOMAIN AS IT PERTAINS TO RECREATIONAL TRAILS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Greenwood. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor. Chris Szell had sent out an email just to clean up the legislation noting that the second whereas clause should be separated into a third. A motion to amend the legislation to separate the second whereas as noted was made by Mr. Szell and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor. A motion to approve as amended as an emergency was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

**2019-32: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE FISCAL OFFICER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF AURORA FOR THE PROVISION OF DISPATCHING SERVICES TO THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM, WHICH SERVICES INCLUDE DISPATCHING FOR THE HIRAM POLICE DEPARTMENT AND THE HIRAM FIRE DEPARTMENT, INCLUSIVE OF EMS SERVICE DISPATCHING, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Dempsey. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Smith. Dave Smith asked if there were any changes to the contract? Chief Gregory said no changes at all. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

**2019-33: A RESOLUTION RETAINING THOMAS REITZ, ATTORNEY AT LAW, AS SOLICITOR FOR THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM, OHIO, AND FIXING HIS FEES FOR THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY 1, 2020 TO DECEMBER 31, 2020, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. 1<sup>st</sup> READING.**

**2019-34: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN C.T. CONSULTANTS, INC. AND THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM FOR THE PURPOSE OF ENGINEERING AND ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES. 1<sup>st</sup> READING.**

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS:**

None.

**A motion to convene in Executive Session for pending litigation at 8:18 pm was made by Mr. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Greenwood. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.**

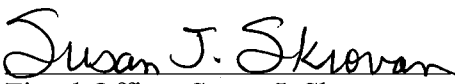
**A motion to reconvene to Regular Session at 8:36 pm was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.**

**A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Greenwood. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor. The meeting adjourned at 8:37 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