

Hiram Village Council Meeting

Rosser Municipal Building
11617 Garfield Road, Hiram, Ohio 44234

September 13, 2022

The following Members of Council were present: Mr. Hemphill, Mr. Szell, Mr. Smith, Mrs. Greenwood, Mr. Smith and Mr. Spencer. The following were also present: Mayor Lou Bertrand, Village Solicitor Tom Reitz, Asst. Fiscal Officer Wendelin Taylor, Police Chief Brian Gregory, Fire Chief Bill Byers, Asst. Fire Chief Jason Groselle, Village Administrator James McGee and Assistant Village Administrator Steve Schuller.

The following persons were present: Stacy Turner; reporter with The Weekly Villager.

Mayor Bertrand called the regular meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. The Mayor asked that all cell phones be silenced. There was a moment of silence followed by the pledge to the flag. The Mayor reminded everyone present the flags are at half-staff in observance of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II.

Mayor asked for a motion to approve the regular meeting minutes of August 16, 2022. There was not a quorum present at the August 16th meeting and the meeting was rescheduled to August 30, 2022 as a Special Meeting to approve legislation. A motion to approve the minutes for both meetings as presented was made by Mr. Szell and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor. The Mayor requested that in future the votes for legislation be recorded in writing in the minutes.

Mayor asked for a motion to approve the proposed agenda. A motion to approve the proposed agenda was made by Mr. Szell and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

GUEST AND PUBLIC COMMENT - None

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

***Police Chief Brian Gregory provided their monthly report.** There were 280 offense reports for August.

Chief Brian Gregory said the Police Department has applied for the AAA Platinum Award for Traffic Safety. This is the first time an award will be presented since 2020.

Hiram College sign: It has been confirmed that there has been no vandalism to that sign.

Districted Driving Course will be held late October/early November.

Elevator alarms: Elevator alarms are being triggered by the College clean crews. Apparently as they wipe down the button panel, they are accidentally pressing the alarm button and then exiting the elevator. Only one occasion has the alarm actually been triggered by a student.

***Fire Chief Bill Byers provided their monthly report.** Bill had emailed his report.

Chief Byers said their response times dipped slightly from the previous month.

Update on Engine 2: The bumper has arrived and the engine should be out for repair soon. Currently it is still in service.

The Mayor asked Chief Byers if the Mayor's calculation is correct. He believes that almost 72% of the calls are for the township. Chief Byers said that if the numbers were to be looked at historically, the number would be 60-65%.

Village Administrator James McGee provided their monthly report.

New drainage pipe and catch basin have been installed in the Village Hall Street Dept. garage parking lot. Skibiski Asphalt will begin paving the week of September 26th.

UCI has not been able to confirm a date to begin the catch basin replacement on State Route 82.

The OWDA Board meets September 29th to approve the loan for the water tower replacement.

James requested Council Water Utility Billing allow to make adjustments for over charges made by the UB billing system when the new water meters were brought completely on line and reads pulled in May. The Sensus meter system pulled usage reads from the first day meters began to be installed in October and November 2021 instead of the intended one (1) month usage for May 2022 only, as a result the billing system over charged for water/sewer usage to the College and approximately 30 households. Wendelin explained the overages for households have been corrected, but the College still has overages that need to be corrected. These charges are not valid and the Village will not be losing money. James stated the amount to be corrected is \$48,611.38. He asked for a motion to be allowed to make the corrections as backup for the next State Auditor.

Mr. Spencer made the motion to allow the Water Utility Billing clerk to correct the error in the billing system. Mr. Hemphill seconded. The result of the voice vote; 6-0 in favor.

Steve Schuller went over the Village budget handout he provided to Council. At present the Village's total revenue is \$576,374.80, expenditures are \$585,821.39. Our final ARPA payment has not been received. Wendelin said it is expected to be received sometime in October. Steve explained the amounts in his spreadsheet do not reflect those monies. Susan's projected final expenditures are \$844,247.26, project final revenue \$806,570.25. Last year's actual final expenditures were \$828,761.98, final revenue was \$742,043.00. Steve said that Susan always projects conservatively.

Mayor's September 13, 2022 Report to Council

Planning & Zoning Commission Meeting:

The Planning & Zoning Commission did not meet the first Tuesday of the month as there was no new business or zoning application pending, next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, Oct. 4, 2022 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Meeting with Hiram College President David Haney, PhD:

- What are President Haney's thoughts on the 1% credit for taxes paid to other Ohio Taxing authorities? Approve this legislation beginning immediately.
- Negotiations on the College Village Safety Contract are ongoing and we do have a verbal proposal To be discussed in Council's Executive Session.

Discussion on Village Budget:

Credit for Municipal earned income taxes paid by residents to other municipalities and/or school taxes, which Will increase the money raised in the projected annual amount of \$50,000-\$60K. This proposed Resolution should remain tabled until a full council membership is present to vote.

Cash Collateral Loan:

In 2019 the Village financed the sidewalks balance of \$300,000 is a commercial loan of twenty years at 3% APR. Shouldn't this also be a cash collateral loan of 2% APR?

Annual Conference Early Bird Registration Closing Soon:

In addition to the announcement that Nir Bashan will serve as keynote speaker, the wee ONL highlighted many of the sessions that will be on the agenda at this year's Annual Conference taking place Oct.12-14. With a broad array of topics important to municipal leaders, check out the sessions and descriptions – then be sure to register everyone from our municipality before the early bird pricing ends Sept. 19.

State Tax Collections Exceed Forecasts:

The Office of Budget and Management said the state brought in 3.4% more in tax revenue than expected in August, led by income tax collections that exceeded forecasts by 6.8%. The sales tax generated 2.2% more than expected, while the commercial activity tax misses its forecast by 1.9%. Taxes have generated 233.5 million more in the first two months of FY23 than in the same period of FY22.

State Tax Collections Exceed Forecasts:

Hiram Village will receive 1.392% - projected \$68,965 increasing from approximately \$53,000 + or -.

Submitted by:

Mayor Lou Bertrand

***The Fiscal Officer Report: Wendelin Taylor presented the monthly financial reports for August.**

The following reports were provided to Council for this meeting:

August Bank Reconciliation balanced with the UAN with two adjusting factors, a \$0.09 error on a water/sewer receipt and an NSF check \$152.00 that has not been repaid as of this meeting, the error has been corrected and posted to the UAN and is now available for signing by Council & Mayor.

Cash Summary by Fund as of August 9, 2022 was provided to Council today by email and in their packets.

List of bills as of September 12, 2022 was provided to Council by email last week and today in their packets.

Council Public hearing minutes & the Regular meeting minutes of August 16, 2022 and Special meeting minutes of August 30, 2022 were provided to Council by email today & in their packets.

R.I.T.A. income tax receipts YTD report was provided to Council today in their packets. Wendelin went over the increase in income tax receipts to date explaining the increase in funds received from the Treasurer of State.

Comparison of Budgeted and Appropriated YTD report was provided to Council today in their packets.

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

The bill's list was reviewed. A motion to approve the bill's list was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

HIRAM TOWNSHIP REPORT

No Township report tonight.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCES

2022-08: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 182.081 OF THE INCOME TAX REGULATIONS OF THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM. Motion to remove the legislation from Tabled was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. Vote: Mr. McCreight-aye, Mrs. Greenwood-aye, Mr. Spencer-aye, Mr. Szell-aye, Mr. Hemphill-aye, Mr. Smith-aye. The motion passed.

Mr. Spencer is not in favor of the reduction in the credit. He believes once the credit is reduced it will never be reversed. He does not believe the tax burden should not be placed on the Village residents. Mr. Szell stated he does not like to see the residents pay more in income tax; unfortunately the general fund will begin to suffer if nothing is done to increase revenue. The possibility of new business moving into the Village is not likely and this is unfortunately the solution at this time.

Motion to approve on third reading was made by Mr. Szell and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. Vote: Mrs. Greenwood-aye, Mr. Spencer-nay, Mr. Szell-aye, Mr. Hemphill-nay, Mr. Smith-nay, Mr. McCreight-aye. Mayor Bertrand cast the deciding vote with a vote of aye. The motion passed.

2022-12: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS IN SEVERAL FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Szell. Vote: Mr. Spencer-aye, Mr. Szell-aye, Mr. Hemphill-aye, Mr. Smith-aye, Mr. McCreight-aye, Mrs. Greenwood-aye. The motion passed.

The motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Szell. Vote: Mr. Szell-aye, Mr. Hemphill-aye, Mr. Smith-aye, Mr. McCreight-aye, Mrs. Greenwood-aye, Mr. Spencer-aye. The motion passed.

RESOLUTIONS

2022-28: A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Szell. Vote: Mr. Hemphill-aye, Mr. Smith-aye, Mr. McCreight-aye, Mrs. Greenwood-aye, Mr. Spencer-aye, Mr. Szell-aye. The motion passed. **Motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Szell and seconded by Mr. Smith.** Vote: Mr. Smith-aye, Mr. McCreight-aye, Mrs. Greenwood-aye, Mr. Spencer-aye, Mr. Szell-aye, Mr. Hemphill-aye. The motion passed.

2022-29: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE FISCAL OFFICER OF THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM TO CREATE A THEN AND NOW PURCHASE ORDER TO PAY OHIO DRILLING COMPANY INC. AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Szell and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. Vote: Mr. McCreight-aye, Mrs. Greenwood-aye, Mr. Spencer-aye, Mr. Szell-aye, Mr. Hemphill-aye, Mr. Smith-aye. The motion passed. Mr. Smith asked if Ohio Drilling is the only company that can service the Village wells. Steve Schuller said the company has been servicing our wells for at least 70 years, not many companies exist that can perform this kind of work. Mr. McCreight asked if it is a question of the type of pumps that are installed at the wells and can another pump or more efficient pump be used? James stated the pumps installed are new and most likely more efficient than the previous pumps. **Motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Szell.** Vote: Mrs. Greenwood-aye, Mr. Spencer-aye, Mr. Szell-aye, Mr. Hemphill-aye, Mr. Smith-aye, Mr. McCreight-aye. The motion passed.

A motion to hold Halloween trick or treat on Monday October 31, 2022 was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor. The hours for trick or treat are to be decided.

A motion to donate \$450.00 for refreshments to the Fire Department Halloween Party was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Hemphill. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Mrs. Greenwood said she has noticed the flags lining the roadways are looking sad. She asked when they would be removed. James said the Street Department is in the process of taking down the flags.

Mayor Bertrand said the Ohio Municipal League conference is coming up. He will not be able to attend this year and requested someone from Council try to attend at least one day.

Mayor Bertrand called for Executive Session. Mr. Spencer asked the purpose of Executive Session since it is not listed on the agenda. Mr. Reitz stated the purpose is to discuss special details of security arrangements if the disclosure of these matters might be used to reveal information that could be used for the purpose of committing or avoiding prosecution for a violation of the law.

A motion to enter Executive Session at 8:25 pm was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

A motion to return to Regular Session at 9:08 pm was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. McCreight. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

A motion to end the Safety Services Contract with Hiram College was made by Mr. Spencer and seconded by Mr. Szell. Vote: Mr. Hemphill-aye, Mr. Smith-aye, Mr. McCreight-abstain, Mrs. Greenwood-aye, Mr. Spencer-aye, Mr. Szell-aye. The motion passed.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Hemphill and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor. The meeting adjourned at 9:18 pm.

These minutes are pending approval by Council.



Mayor Lou Bertrand

ATTEST:



Assistant Fiscal Officer, Wendelin Taylor