

Hiram Village Council Meeting

Rosser Municipal Building
11617 Garfield Road, Hiram, Ohio 44234

August 13, 2024

The following Members of Council were present: Mr. Szell, Mrs. Greenwood, Mr. Bisutti, Mr. Smith and Mr. Frato-Sweeney. The following were also present: Mayor Anne Haynam, Village Solicitor Charles Gasior, Fiscal Officer Susan Skrovan-DeYoung, Police Chief Brian Gregory, Fire Chief Bill Byers and Village Administrator Steve Schuller.

The following persons were present: None

Mayor Haynam called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. followed by the pledge to the flag.

The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of July 9, 2024. A motion to approve the July 9, 2024 meeting minutes was made by Mr. Szell with a second from Mr. Bisutti. The motion passed 5-0 in favor.

The Mayor asked for a motion to approve the proposed amended agenda as presented. A motion to approve the amended agenda as presented was made by Mr. Szell with a second from Mr. Bisutti. The motion passed 5-0 in favor.

GUEST AND PUBLIC COMMENT

None

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

***Police Chief Brian Gregory provided an update to his monthly report.**

Police Chief Gregory asked for clarification from the Mayor on when he should present his report. The Mayor said both chiefs will provide their reports at the Finance & Safety meeting. If there are any new items or updates; that can be brought forward to Council. Anyone not on Finance & Safety; the Mayor would encourage them to go online and review the reports to provide any follow up questions.

Chief Gregory reminded everyone that the Cops & Kids fishing day is this Saturday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

An update on the speed camera program; the speed camera is down right now and has been sent for repair.

***Fire Chief Bill Byers provided their monthly report at Finance & Safety.**

Chief Byers provided an update to his report. The radio antenna has been moved to the new water tower.

His department had a very busy night with the storms that came through here on Tuesday evening.

***Village Administrator Steve Schuller provided his report tonight.**

The Street Department has available the crack sealing machine until Friday and will continue to crack seal roads. They will then return to striping the roads. They plan to crack seal the helipad for the Fire Department.

A water tower project update; the last piece is to do a pressure test on the tower, then the old tower will come down.

Our IT people, MSRC (formerly PC Surgeons) is moving forward with installing a new router sometime next week.

Steve has received to date close to 35 applicants for the part-time VA assistant positions.

Mayor Report August 2024

The Mayor's report was provided to Council on Friday in their packet. The following were items discussed by Council.

Mayor Anne wanted first to thank all of the department heads for what they did during the storm last week. Steve was on vacation but made himself available if needed, James did a great job getting down to the water plant. Please thank your team.

Ed Frato-Sweeney and she met with Congressman Dave Joyce and the Dean of Hiram College last week. Good networking opportunity which included discussion of the intersection funding as well as challenges to get personnel for safety services. Mr. Frato-Sweeney added that it was nice the congressman came; he actually initiated the meeting.

Signage for the loop trail should be up next week. The Mayor went onto explain how the trails will all connect. It is a four-mile loop.

****The Fiscal Officer Report: Susan Skrovan-DeYoung presented the monthly financial reports.***

Mrs. Skrovan-DeYoung provided Council her reports on Friday via email in the Council folder. Susan reported that she continues to work toward the use of more ACH payments; for July we were at 53 checks and 45 ACH payments. Susan is also working to transition any items from Wendelin that will come over to her. Working with RITA and the bank. The gentleman from Middlefield Bank would like to come to our Finance meeting to talk with our members about covering our checks with positive pay protection.

The Mayor asked Susan if we need to have a motion to waive the late fees and penalties for the water/sewer billing. Susan said she believed our VA, Steve, was going to ask for a motion by Council. For June and July.

A motion to waive the late fees & penalties associated with our water/sewer bills for the months of June and July was made by Mr. Szell with a second from Mr. Frato-Sweeney. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

Ed Frato-Sweeney asked about the status of the General Fund balance; it looks pretty healthy. Susan said it is healthier, however, monies still need to be moved from our General Fund to Fire. The forecast includes moving these funds.

Chris Szell asked about our insurance

A motion to accept the fiscal officer's report was made by Mr. Szell with a second from Mr. Bisutti. The motion passed 5-0 in favor.

The bills list was reviewed. A motion to approve the bills list as presented was made by Mr. Szell with a second from Mr. Bisutti. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

HIRAM TOWNSHIP REPORT

No Township report tonight.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCES

2024-15: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 339 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM PROHIBITING THE USE OF ENGINE BRAKES. 3rd READING. A

motion to approve was made by Mr. Bisutti with a second from Mr. Smith. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

2024-16: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND TITLE FIVE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM RECOGNIZING THE HIRAM HISTORICAL SOCIETY. 3rd READING. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Frato-Sweeney with a second from Mr. Szell. There was brief discussion by Council on having an elected official from the Village on their board; do we have one? The Mayor said yes, she is on their board. Mr. Szell called for the question. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

2024-17: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 1107.11 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM REGARDING THE PENALTIES FOR ZONING VIOLATIONS. 3rd READING. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Frato-Sweeney with a second from Mr. Bisutti. Discussion; there was none. Mr. Szell called for the question. The result of the voice vote was 4-1 in favor with a nay vote by Mr. Smith.

2024-20: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM'S EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK. 1st READING. The Fiscal Office will re-examine the handbook for minor spelling errors or formatting issues.

2024-21: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS IN SEVERAL FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Szell with a second from Mr. Frato-Sweeney. The motion passed 5-0 in favor. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Szell with a second from Mrs. Greenwood. Council members asked the Fiscal Officer to explain this piece of legislation. Mrs. Skrovan-DeYoung explained what funds were having their appropriations amended. The Mayor called the question. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

2024-22: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 351.17 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM REGARDING PAID PARKING AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Bisutti with a second from Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 4-1 in favor with a nay vote from Mr. Smith. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Szell with a second from Mr. Bisutti. Solicitor Chuck Gasior clarified the amendments to this legislation. The Fiscal Officer asked about the vote to suspend; our previous Solicitor used to always say that to suspend our rules we need a super majority to pass which meant 5 of our 6 voting members. With Mr. McCreight absent tonight and a vote of 4-1 we do not have a super majority. Mr. Gasior said yes, that would be correct. Mr. Smith explained his concerns of not knowing what the parking zones will be and with regard to the fees. Mr. Szell did say that passing this legislation does not mean Council can't still hash out those details. More discussion on whether to amend this or table this for now. A motion to table Ordinance 2024-22 as an emergency until after executive session was made by Mr. Szell with a second from Mr. Frato-Sweeney. Mr. Frato-Sweeney said we do have on the books, currently, paid parking. The Mayor added that this is about the implementation, it is simply housekeeping legislation. The motion passed 5-0 in favor. It is tabled.

RESOLUTIONS

2024-28: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES FOR FUNDING ASSISTANCE PURSUANT TO THE NATUREWORKS GRANT PROGRAM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Szell with a second from Mr. Bisutti. The motion passed 5-0 in favor. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Szell with a second from Mr. Bisutti. There was discussion about this grant being separate from the first packet. Yes, the Fiscal Officer needed to send a second addendum packet to Council. We are allowing the VA to apply for a grant. Steve added this grant is in conjunction with the State grant to accommodate ADA. Mr. Szell called for the question. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.

2024-29: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND/OR VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH T2 SYSTEMS FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPLEMENTING A PAY TO PARK SYSTEM FOR THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Szell with a second from Mr. Bisutti. Discussion on suspension and what lead to this new piece of legislation; the original one was tabled on 3rd reading and could not be used due to new Council members. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Frato-Sweeney with a second from Mr. Szell. Mr. Frato-Sweeney wants to table this piece of legislation. A motion to table Resolution 2024-29 until after executive session was made by Mr. Szell with a second from Mrs. Greenwood. The motion passed 5-0 in favor.

2024-30: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SEPARATION AGREEMENT WITH THE ASSISTANT FISCAL OFFICER AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Szell with a second from Mrs. Greenwood. The motion passed 5-0 in favor. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Szell with a second from Mr. Smith. Members desired that this piece of legislation be tabled. A motion to table Resolution 2024-30 until after executive session was made by Mr. Szell with a second from Mrs. Greenwood. The motion passed 5-0 in favor.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS: Justin Bisutti, as our website liaison, informed Council that our new website includes 50 uploaded pages, any pages above 50 are at a cost of \$3.00 per page. We currently have ten years on our website. Is there any requirement to have all of these years on our website, no. Members discussed their options; 1-2 years would be sufficient.


A motion to convene in Executive Session for the purpose of personnel & contract discussion per ORC 121.22 at 7:48 pm was made by Mr. Frato-Sweeney and seconded by Mr. Szell. The motion passed 5-0.

A motion to reconvene in Regular Session at 9:05 pm was made by Mr. Frato-Sweeney and seconded by Mr. Bisutti. The motion passed 5-0.

A motion to remove Resolution 2024-30 from the table was made by Mr. Szell with a second from Mr. Frato-Sweeney. The motion passed 5-0. A motion to approve Resolution 2024-30 as an emergency with an amendment in Section Two to remove "Exhibit A" was made by Mr. Szell with a second from Mr. Smith. The result of the voice vote was 5-0 in favor.


The Mayor asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Mr. Frato-Sweeney and seconded by Mr. Szell. The motion passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 9:08 pm.

These minutes are pending approval by Council.



Mayor Anne Haynam

ATTEST:


Fiscal Officer, Susan J. Skrovan-DeYoung