

**HIRAM VILLAGE
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

Unofficial

Rosser Municipal Building
11617 Garfield Road, Hiram, Ohio 44234
December 10, 2024

- I. Call to Order by Mayor Anne Haynam at 7:02 pm.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
 - A. Roll Call: Christopher Szell, Ed Frato-Sweeney, David Smith, Christopher Perme, Justin Bisutti
 - Others Present: Mayor Anne Haynam, Solicitor Charles Gasior, Village Administrator Steven Schuller, Police Chief Brian Gregory, Fire Chief Bill Byers
 - Citizens Present: Diane Hladky and Jo Cobb
 - Mr. Szell made a motion to amend November 12, 2024, Council Meeting Minutes to add times for executive session. Mr. Frato-Sweeney seconded. Motion passed 5-0.
- III. Mr. Szell made a motion to approve the November 12, 2024, Council Meeting Minutes as amended. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed 5-0.
- IV. Mr. Bisutti made a motion to approve the December 10, 2024, Agenda. Mr. Szell seconded. Motion passed 5-0.
- V. Guest and Public Comment
 - A. Resident Diane Hladky spoke on her concerns regarding zoning, public comment policy, and accessibility to documents.
- VI. Department Heads Report
 - A. Mayor's Report: *See attached report.* Mayor Haynam provided an update from Hiram's Recreation and Parks Board, the Board requested \$7,500 to be added to the 2025 Appropriations. Update Couch Farm cleanup.
 - Mr. Szell made a motion to approve a 3% Merit Raise for the Village Administrator Steven Schuller. Mr. Frato-Sweeney seconded. Motion passed 5-0.
 - Mayor Haynam requested a motion to approve Debrorah Wordell's consultant contract at the current rate, until March 31, 2025. Mr. Szell made the motion. Mr. Perme seconded. Motion passed 5-0.
 - B. Village Administrator's Report: Service Department has been doing snow removal, update on the new water tower installation, vehicle maintenance is continuously in the works, and update on the NatureWorks Grant approval.
 - C. Safety Service's Report
 1. Fire/EMS Report: Chief Byers updated Council on an upcoming grant application and that he will be seeking legislation at the January Council meeting.
 2. Police Report: Chief Gregory updated Council on the success of Shop with a Hero, traffic appeals, and emergency calls made to the Hiram College Campus.
 - D. Financial Report:
 1. Mayor Haynam requested a motion to approve the Fiscal Officer Report. Mr. Perme made the motion. Mr. Frato-Sweeney seconded. Motion passed 4-0-1, with Mr. Smith abstaining.

VII. Hiram Township Report
No Township report tonight.

VIII. Legislation

A. Ordinances:

1. 2024-24: An Ordinance to Put in Place Permanent Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2025 with Exhibit A. Mr. Szell made a motion to amend Ordinance 2024-27 by appropriating \$7,500 to Hiram Village Recreation and Parks Fund, \$152,000 to the Fire Department payroll (2914) and \$254,000 to the EMS payroll (2901), and \$192,880 to Police Department Payroll, \$74,236.81 to Police Department Fringe Benefits, and \$10,218 to Other- Professional and Technical Services (0109). Mr. Perme seconded. Motion passed 5-0. 3rd Reading.
Mr. Perme made a motion to approve changes made to Ordinance 2024-24. Mr. Frato-Sweeney seconded. Motion passed 5-0.
2. 2024-27: An Ordinance Amending the Village of Hiram's Zoning Code with Exhibit A. 2nd Reading.
3. 2024-28: An Ordinance Amending the Village of Hiram; s Employee Handbook, Appendix A. 2nd Reading.
4. 2024-33: An Ordinance Amending the Permanent Appropriations and Declaring an Emergency. Mr. Szell a motion to Suspend the Rules. Mr. Bisutti seconded. Motion passed 5-0.
Mr. Frato-Sweeney made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-33. Mr. Bisutti seconded. Motion passed 5-0. 1st Reading.
5. 2024-34: An Ordinance to Transfer Twenty-One Thousand Dollars from The General Fund (1000) to the Fire Department Operations Fund (2914) and Declaring and Emergency. 1st Reading. Mr. Smith made a motion to Suspend the Rules. Mr. Frato-Sweeney seconded. Motion passed 5-0.
Mr. Smith made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-34. Mr. Szell seconded. Motion passed 5-0.
6. 2024-35: An Ordinance to Transfer Two Hundred Eighty Dollars and Twenty-Eight Cents from Unclaimed Monies Fund (9101) to the General Fund (1000) and Declaring an Emergency. Mr. Szell made a motion to Suspend the Rules. Mr. Perme seconded. Motion passed 5-0.
Mr. Perme made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-35. Mr. Szell seconded. Motion passed 5-0. 1st Reading.
7. 2024-36: An Ordinance to Transfer Ninety-Two Cents from Fund (9924) to the General Fund (1000) and declaring an Emergency. Motion passed 5-0. 1st Reading.
8. 2024-37: An Ordinance Suspending the Water Rate Increase for the Calendar Years 2022-2024, As Well As Any Future Increases Until Approved by Council and Declaring and Emergency. 1st Reading. Discussion on Ordinance 2021-18, and the 0.5% increase annually, between 2022-2027. Hiram Village did not incorporate this increase for the following years: 2022, 2023, and 2024 and is recommending there be a hold placed on the water and sewer increases until further evaluation. Mr. Bisutti made a motion to Suspend the Rules. Mr. Smith seconded. Motion passed 5-0.
Mr. Bisutti made a motion to approve Ordinance 2024-37. Mr. Szell seconded. Motion passed 5-0. 1st Reading.

B. Resolutions:

1. 2024-37: A Resolution Authorizing an Independent Contractor Agreement with Lilly Johns to Perform a Records Retention and Declaring an Emergency. Mr. Szell a motion to Suspend the Rules. Mr. Frato-Sweeney seconded. Motion passed 5-0. 1st Reading. Mr. Frato-Sweeney made a motion to approve Resolution 2024-37. Mr. Szell seconded. Motion passed 5-0. 1st Reading.

IX. New Business

- A. New Council Member: Mr. Szell presented two candidates, Juan Fernandez, and Chris Cobb. Mr. Frato-Sweeney made a motion to table discussion until after the Executive Session. Mr. Perme seconded. Motion passed 5-0.
- B. 911 Program Representative: Discussion on what representative options exist and Mr. Perme requested his name be submitted for board consideration.

X. Mr. Szell made a motion to convene the Executive Session for the purpose of personnel issues per ORC 121.22 at 8:15 pm. Mr. Bisutti seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Bisutti made a motion to reconvene in Regular Session at 8:45 pm. Mr. Perme seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Smith made a motion to nominate Chris Cobb as a new Council Member. Mr. Frato-Sweeney seconded. Motion Failed 2-3.

Mr. Bisutti made a motion to nominate Juan Fernandez as a new Council Member. Mr. Perme seconded. Motion passed 3-2.

Mr. Bisutti made a motion to exit Executive Session at 8:45 pm. Mr. Perme seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

XI. Motion to Adjourn

Mr. Szell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 pm. Mr. Bisutti seconded. The motion passed 5-0. The meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.

ATTEST:

Fiscal Officer, Megan Fogel

Mayor, Anne Haynam