

**Hiram Village**  
**Special Council Meeting**  
11617 Garfield Road, Hiram, Ohio 44234

June 25, 2024

The following Members of Council were present: Mr. Szell, Mr. Ed Frato-Sweeney, Mrs. Greenwood, Mr. Smith, Mr. McCreight and Mr. Bisutti.

The following were also present: Mayor Anne Haynam, Fiscal Officer Susan Skrovan-DeYoung, Police Chief Brian Gregory, Asst. Fire Chief Jason Groselle, Village Administrator Steven Schuller.

Others present: None

1. Mayor Haynam called the special meeting to order at 6:19 pm. The purpose of this special meeting is to discuss and vote on several pieces of legislation and any other business that may properly come before Council.

**2. Legislation**

**a. RESOLUTION 2024-24: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE ODOT WINTER CONTRACT 2024-25 FOR ROAD SALT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Szell and seconded by Mr. McCreight. The motion carried unanimously 6-0 in favor. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Szell and seconded by Mr. Bisutti. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

**b. RESOLUTION 2024-25: A RESOLUTION SUBMITTING THE QUESTION OF REPLACEMENT OF AN EXISTING TAX LEVY FOR EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE PURPOSES PURSUANT TO SECTION 5705.19(U) AND SECTION 5705.192 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE. 2<sup>nd</sup> READING.** A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Szell and seconded by Mr. Bisutti. The motion carried unanimously 6-0 in favor. A motion to approve on second reading was made by Mr. Szell and seconded by Mr. Bisutti. David Smith asked about the emergency to pass this legislation; usually our Solicitor recommends three readings on anything taxing to the residents. He asked if there was a time issue to get this passed tonight. The Fiscal Officer spoke with our Fire Chief Bill Byers, he was hoping this would pass now in order to have enough time to get this down to the Board of Elections. The Mayor spoke that while we could still do this one on third reading; it felt tight with the timeline. We give ourselves a little buffer to have everything done timely and proper. Susan said third reading would be July 9<sup>th</sup>; it must be down to the Board of Elections by August 7<sup>th</sup>. Chris Szell would be in favor of moving this along. The public will have a chance to speak about this on election day. Chris McCreight asked if there are any plans to have some kind of forum to talk about this initiative prior to the election. David Smith said the fire department usually puts out a couple of signs around town. Ed Frato-Sweeney asked about the replacement millage; what is the increase. Susan said we estimate to bring in around \$21,000; we were getting in around \$17,500. It remains a 2-mill levy, at a replacement value. Ed wanted to make sure any questions are answered in a clear and concise way to residents. The Mayor said we could use the Communicator in September and have a segment that says, understanding your ballot. Ed said he would be happy to work on doing that. David Smith called for the question. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.


**c. RESOLUTION 2024-26: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE APPLICATION FOR AND SUBSEQUENT ACCEPTANCE OF ODNR 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. Szell and seconded by Mr. Smith. Motion carried unanimously 6-0 in favor. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Smith and seconded by Mr. Szell. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

**3. Other Business**

**a. RESOLUTION 2024-27: A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE CONTRACT FOR LEGAL SERVICES WITH JENNIFER KANGAS BERENDT AND REITZ, PAUL & SHORR AS LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE VILLAGE OF HIRAM, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** A motion to suspend the rules was made by Mr. Szell and seconded by Mrs. Greenwood. The motion carried unanimously 6-0 in favor. A motion to approve as an emergency was made by Mr. Frato-Sweeney and seconded by Mr. Bisutti. David Smith asked about #9; the option to cancel the contract, he did not remember seeing this language in the old contract. Chris Szell thought it was in the original contract and looked. No, this is something new. More discussion followed. The Fiscal Officer questioned the language in #2 that said this would be a "salary" to the law firm; we are not paying them as an employee, this is a contract. Susan felt that salary indicated "employee". Council discussed how best to correct this term. A motion to amend the Resolution 2024-27, exhibit "A" to say, "a fee" rather than "the salary" in #2 was made by Mr. Frato-Sweeney and seconded by Mr. Bisutti. The motion carried unanimously 6-0 in favor. A motion to pass as amended as an emergency was made by Mr. Frato-Sweeney and seconded by Mr. Bisutti. The result of the voice vote was 6-0 in favor.

A motion to adjourn the special meeting was made by Mr. Bisutti and seconded by Mr. Frato-Sweeney. The motion carried unanimously 6-0 in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

These minutes are pending approval by Council.

  
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Mayor Anne Haynam

ATTEST:

  
Fiscal Officer Susan J. Skrovan-DeYoung