

**VILLAGE OF HEBRON  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
March 22, 2023  
6:00 PM**

This meeting was held both remotely and in person.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Layton called the meeting to order at 6:00pm

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Mayor Layton asked everyone to join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ROLL CALL**

Councilmembers in attendance: Council President Dr. Valerie Mockus, Councilmembers Stacy Stoner, Annelle Porter, Kenney Nauer, Paige Seymour and Randy Wolf.

Others in attendance: Mayor James Layton, Village Fiscal Officer/Interim Administrator Deborah Morgan, Police Chief Larry Brooks, Police Sergeant Anthony Oliver, Water Superintendent Jason Figgins, Water Assistant Superintendent Shawn Kolometz, Water Reclamation Superintendent Tom Coleman, Water Reclamation Assistant Keith Corwin, Water Reclamation Laborer Devin Adkins, Community Development Coordinator Bonnie Miller, Village Solicitor Wesley K. Untied, Attorney Jarod Rose, and Clerk of Council/Administrative Assistant Christina Furbee.

Visitors in attendance: Connie Klema, Alexis Fitzsimmons, Sarajane Steffes, Doug Lowe

Remote Visitors: None

**ACKNOWLEDGE VISITORS**

Mayor Layton acknowledged the visitors in attendance.

**NOTICE: MEETING DOCUMENTATION**

Mayor Layton said the minutes for this meeting are being recorded and a written summary will be available by request at a later date.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

February 22, 2023 Council Meeting

Mrs. Seymour moved to approve the February 22, 2023 Council Meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Dr. Mockus. A roll call vote was taken with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

March 8, 2023 Council Meeting

Dr. Mockus moved to approve the March 8, 2023 Council Meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. Nauer. A roll call vote was taken with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

**VISITOR COMMENTS**

None

**SWEARING IN OF WATER/WRF ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS**

Water Superintendent Jason Figgins said as part of the Village's new restructuring plan, Water Operator Shawn Kolometz is being promoted to Assistant Water Superintendent. He said Mr. Kolometz has worked for the Village for 24 years. He received his EPA Certification 1 in 2008.

Mayor Layton read the Oath of Office to Assistant Water Superintendent Shawn Kolometz.

Water Reclamation Superintendent Tom Coleman said Keith Corwin is also being promoted to Assistant Water Reclamation Superintendent as part of the Village's restructuring plan. He said Mr. Corwin has worked for the Village for 23 years and has achieved his Class 3 Wastewater Operator's license.

Mayor Layton read the Oath of Office to Assistant Water Reclamation Superintendent Keith Corwin.

#### Planning & Zoning Board Recommendation

Dr. Mockus moved to accept the recommendation from the Planning & Zoning Board and direct the Village Solicitor to draft legislation to amend the zoning as requested, seconded by Mrs. Seymour. A roll call vote was taken with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

#### Executive Session

Dr. Mockus moved to go into Executive Session pursuant to O.R.C. 121.22(G) (8) to consider confidential information related to the marketing plans, specific business strategy, production techniques, trade secrets, or personal financial statements of an applicant for economic development assistance, or to negotiations with other political subdivisions respecting requests for economic development assistance at 6:07 pm. She said both of the conditions of O.R.C. 171.22 (G) (8) (a) and (b) apply. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Stoner. A roll call vote was taken with all Councilmembers present voting in favor. Dr. Mockus asked Village Fiscal Officer/Interim Administrator Deborah Morgan and Community Development Coordinator Bonnie Miller to join the Executive Session.

Mrs. Porter moved to reconvene from Executive Session at 7:02 pm, seconded by Dr. Mockus. A roll call vote was taken with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

Mayor Layton noted Councilmember Stoner left the meeting.

#### **DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORT- Police Department**

Police Chief Larry Brooks said the Police Department received the new police car and it is in service. He said it is a nice car.

Chief Brooks said he's still dealing with the Ohio Department of Transportation to get approval to place Flock cameras at the entrances to the Village. He said he has been told ODOT has started a permit process for this, but they have not yet relayed what the permit process will be. Chief Brooks said the Flock cameras in other areas have proven to be a useful tool and a good deterrent against crime.

Chief Brooks said the speed monitoring signs have been moved to different areas in the Village. He said the Police Department is using public input to decide where to place the signs, and they have had a lot of good feedback on the signs.

Chief Brooks said there are a lot of open cases right now, including a child pornography case. He said the Vance Outdoors theft cases have pretty much been solved. There was a car crash on Main Street and fortunately there were no injuries.

Chief Brooks said there were comments on Facebook about the Police badge no longer containing the Hebron crossroads logo. He said the badge has been upgraded to a better-quality badge but otherwise, there has been no change to the logo. He showed Council the old and new badges, as well as the Police Department uniform patch which does contain the crossroads logo.

#### **LEGISLATION**

**ORDINANCE 07-23-AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE 25-22 TO PROVIDE FOR ADJUSTMENTS OF THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY-Second Reading**

Mr. Untied said Mrs. Morgan inquired about making an amendment to this legislation. He said the case law says if the amendments are substantial the legislation must be redone. He recommended Council let this legislation die and Mrs. Morgan will be requesting a motion from Council to direct the Village Solicitor to draft new legislation.

**ORDINANCE 08-23-AN ORDINANCE INDICATING WHAT SERVICES THE VILLAGE OF HEBRON WILL PROVIDE TO THE PROPERTY TO BE ANNEXED AS PER THE PETITION FILED BY CONNIE J. KLEMA, AGENT FOR THE PETITIONERS-First Reading**

Attorney Connie Klema said Ohio Revised Code states Council must act on an Expedited II annexation within 20 days of being filed. She said the annexation was filed at the Licking County Commissioners' office on March 16<sup>th</sup>.

Dr. Mockus said she does not support this type of annexation especially when the Village is trying to improve its relationship with Union Township, and this type of annexation will also create some overlapping of taxation for some folks in the area. Dr. Mockus said she would be happy to support a regular annexation. Ms. Klema said a regular annexation takes longer and is subject to a Public Hearing by the Commissioners. She said she is concerned some people may not support the proposed development and if this portion of land is not able to be annexed, the development will not happen. Dr. Mockus said she does not anticipate that residents would be against the annexation. There was some discussion about the time frame and process of a regular annexation. Mr. Untied said a regular annexation will take a minimum of 6 months but most likely longer, with a chance that it may not pass. Ms. Klema said her client will most likely proceed with pursuing a regular annexation if Council does not support an expedited annexation, but she cannot be sure. Dr. Mockus said she is hopeful they will.

Mr. Wolf moved to suspend the readings of Ordinance 08-23 as presented, seconded by Mr. Nauer. A roll call vote was taken with Mr. Nauer and Mr. Wolf voting in favor, and Dr. Mockus, Mrs. Seymour and Mrs. Porter voting against. The motion failed.

Mrs. Seymour said her vote was not against annexation, it is only against the expedited annexation. Mr. Nauer asked about the 20-day rule. Mr. Rose said there are multiple ways to annex properties. He said Ohio Revised Code mandates that Council pass legislation and return it to the County Commissioners within 20 days of the date of filing, if they are in favor of the expedited annexation. He said a regular annexation does not carry that 20-day rule. Mr. Untied said the concern is with taxation issues and relations with Union Township, not with the proposed development.

**ORDINANCE 09-23-AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH ZONING FOR A 21.43 ACRES PARCEL ADJACENT TO THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY OF THE VILLAGE OF HEBRON LOCATED AT PARCEL NUMBER: 073-330558-00.000 UPON THE EFFECTIVE DATE OF ITS ANNEXATION INTO THE VILLAGE OF HEBRON -First Reading**

**ORDINANCE 10-23-AN ORDINANCE CONSENTING TO AN EXPEDITED TYPE II ANNEXATION PETITION FILED WITH THE BOARD OF LICKING COUNTY COMMISSIONERS BY CONNIE J. KLEMA, AGENT FOR THE PETITIONER -First Reading**

**COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS**

Amend Ordinance 07-23

Mrs. Morgan said Village Solicitor Untied advised due to the extent of the changes needed, the appropriation ordinance that is currently up for a second reading cannot be amended. She said Council will need to move to direct the Solicitor to draft a new appropriation ordinance.

Mrs. Morgan said the proposed changes include appropriating \$7,000 from the (cancelled) Pie Fest to the Parks fund, \$275,000 from the General fund to the Parks fund in exchange for funds for a property purchase that is no longer necessary, \$127,350 Fire fund that needs to be appropriated, and \$45,000 to the General Fund for additional reparations to Union Township.

Mrs. Morgan said she reached out to Brad Cottrell and he sent her a list of steps in regards to reparations. She said there was a slight increase in the taxable value from 2022-2023 so the value was originally underestimated by about \$12,500. She said the industrial/commercial retail was also underestimated. There was some discussion

about Union Township's request and expectations for reparations, and the need for the other appropriation changes.

Dr. Mockus moved to direct the Village Solicitor to draft legislation to amend the 2023 appropriations with the following items: \$7,000 from the pie fest to the parks fund, \$275,000 from the General fund to the Parks fund, \$127,350 from the Fire funds, and \$45,000 to the General Fund for additional Township reparations, seconded by Mrs. Seymour. A roll call vote was taken with all councilmembers present voting in favor.

Mrs. Morgan said the legislation will be presented for a first reading on the next Council Meeting agenda and Council should consider waiving the additional reading at the April 26<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting.

#### Municipal Grounds Landscaping

Mrs. Morgan said Mr. Ward discussed this item at the last meeting and it is on the agenda tonight for a motion of support from Council.

Dr. Mockus moved to go forward with Municipal Grounds landscaping as presented by Public Works Superintendent Ward, seconded by Mr. Wolf. A roll call vote was taken with all councilmembers present voting in favor except Mr. Nauer who voted against. The motion passed.

#### Seeding of Wildflowers at Municipal Grounds & Evans Park

Mrs. Morgan said Mr. Ward discussed this item at the last meeting as well, and it is on the agenda tonight for a motion of support.

Dr. Mockus moved to move forward with seeding of wildflowers at the Municipal Grounds and Evans Park, seconded by Mr. Wolf. A roll call vote was taken with all councilmembers present voting in favor except Mr. Nauer who voted against. The motion passed.

#### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Village Fiscal Officer/Interim Administrator Deborah Morgan said the S. 5th St drainage is completed. The Public Works Superintendent said they were not able to go across Parks Avenue and across 5th Street due to EPA regulations with crossing water lines.

Mrs. Morgan said the Water Street storm line installation is 80% completed. The catch basin and lines are in and mostly backfilled, and they are looking to concrete across Water Street tomorrow.

She said a new aluminum bleacher has been ordered for softball at Canal Park. Two light bars for Canal Park have also been ordered. Both projects have an estimated lead time of two weeks.

A-1 Concrete is scheduled to start the sidewalk leveling project this Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, and is estimated to last through Wednesday.

Mrs. Morgan said she and Mr. Ward met with the Licking County Health Department "Creating Healthy Communities" and talked about creating a walking map. She said they have started the process and are moving forward with it. She said the walking map will include points of interest, historical sites, community hubs, etc. They reached out to a company through Licking County, and the Licking County Area Transportation Study (LCATS) will cover the cost of the design work and printing so it looks to be a project that may not cost the Village much (or no) money. Mrs. Morgan asked Councilmembers for input on things they would like to see included on the map. She asked that they email ideas to her by March 29<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Morgan said Mayor Layton contacted a headhunting company to discuss the vacant Administrator's position. She said they suggested the Village advertise and pull in all of the applications and look them over, then have the company start their process of vetting them. She said the ad has been placed and we have so far received four resumes. The application deadline is April 26<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. Mayor Layton and Mrs. Morgan will meet on April 28<sup>th</sup> to look through the resumes. Mayor Layton said they will bring the resumes to the Personnel Committee as well. Mrs. Morgan said the Village Solicitor's office will also help interview and research the applicants.

#### **COUNCILMEMBER'S REPORTS**

Mrs. Porter asked who will install and erect the new bleachers. Mrs. Morgan said she is not sure how they will arrive but the Public Works Department will take care of it.

Mrs. Porter complimented the Police Department. She said there was a vehicle parked in front of the funeral home on North 7<sup>th</sup> Street with no plates on the front or back. She discussed it with Sergeant Oliver and the car was gone about 3 days later.

Mrs. Seymour said there was a resident who reached out on social media and said they heard the residential trash company is changing. Mrs. Furbee said she spoke with Adkins Disposal and they confirmed their company was bought out. She said they are still considered Adkins Disposal at this time, and they plan to reach out to residents when the change is made, which they anticipate to happen in about 90 days. Mrs. Furbee said she requested to be informed before they let residents know, so the Village can reach out to residents as well to show their knowledge and support.

Mrs. Seymour said there is a guardrail out at Canyon and Refugee Roads. She said she texted Mr. Ward and he said he is waiting to hear back from the insurance company. He said the incident was caused by a semi truck.

Dr. Mockus said she met with Union Township representatives, legal counsel, and two representatives from South West Licking to let them know the Village is no longer pursuing the Waterline West Project as we weren't able to get adequate participation from land owners along the corridor, and we faced challenges securing land to place a tower. Mayor Layton and Mrs. Furbee made phone calls to inform the land owners. Dr. Mockus said she is sad the project is ending but the Village put up a good fight and felt it would be good for the school district and tax payers, and the project would have qualified for a 50% refund on federal funds. She said the Village did its due diligence with the Commissioners, the School District, etc. Dr. Mockus said the Village now needs to decide if we are going to get along with our neighbors in Union Township, as she feels it's the right thing for the residents of our community. Mr. Nauer asked why not run the water lines down the right of way. Dr. Mockus said there is not enough return to justify the costs, and some potential customers pulled out. Mrs. Porter said the Village has the water capacity that we have, and it may be good that we still have the water for the Village's needs in the future. Mayor Layton said we held a meeting to discuss the project at least every two weeks and we did what we thought was right for the Village of Hebron.

Mr. Wolf said the West Licking Fire District is holding an Open House at the Hebron Fire house tomorrow from 10am-1pm.

#### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Layton said he had nothing to add.

#### **REVIEW OF EXPENSES**

Councilmembers acknowledged review of the list of expenditures. There were no questions or concerns about the expenses.

#### **MEETING/EVENT SCHEDULE**

March 23, 2023-West Licking Fire District Open House, 10am-1pm, 111 Basin Street

April 3, 2023-6:30pm, Planning & Zoning Meeting, Council Chambers

April 7, 2023-CLOSED for Good Friday

April 12, 2023-6pm, Council Meeting, Council Chambers

April 19, 2023-6pm, Combined Council Committees Meeting, Council Chambers

April 26, 2023-6pm, Council Meeting, Council Chambers

Mrs. Morgan said she will be on vacation April 5-12, but she will attempt to attend the April 12<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting remotely.

Mr. Wolf said Licking County Framework will be holding two open houses. Mayor Layton said all Councilmembers are invited.

**ADJOURN**

Mr. Wolf moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 pm, seconded by Mrs. Porter. A roll call vote was taken with all councilmembers present voting in favor.

\_\_\_\_\_(on file)\_\_\_\_\_  
James Layton, Mayor

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_(on file)\_\_\_\_\_  
Deborah Morgan, Village Fiscal Officer