

**VILLAGE OF HEBRON
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
June 14, 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, Village Solicitor Wesley K. Untied, Attorney Jarod Rose, and Clerk of Council/Administrative Assistant Christina Furbee.

Others in attending remotely: None

Visitors in attendance: 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

May 17, 2023 Combined Council Committees Meeting

Mr. Wolf moved to approve the May 17, 2023 Combined Council Committees Meeting minutes, seconded by Mrs. Seymour. A roll call vote was taken with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

May 24, 2023 Public Hearing, Council Meeting

Mr. Wolf moved to approve the May 24, 2023 Public Hearing and Council Meeting minutes, seconded by Dr. Mockus. A roll call vote was taken with all Councilmembers present voting in favor, except Mrs. Porter who abstained.

May 31, 2023 Special Council Meeting

Dr. Mockus moved to approve the May 31, 2023 Special Council Meeting minutes, seconded by Mrs. Stoner. A roll call vote was taken with all Councilmembers present voting in favor, except Mrs. Seymour who abstained.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORT- Utility Billing

Mrs. Morgan said Utility Billing Coordinator Kellsei Boyce is out today for a medical procedure, but her report was forwarded to members of Council. Mrs. Morgan said a notice was sent out in all residents' utility bills notifying them that there has been a change in the winter average program. She said the winter average program was implemented by a previous Administrator when the deduct meters were removed and was intended to be a temporary program; however, it was not established in a uniform manner and it created an unorganized, inconsistent and inefficient system that generated a considerable loss in sewer funds. Mrs. Morgan said it was determined that if the winter average program remained, a large increase in utility rates

would be needed to cover the loss of revenue. She said correcting the program will help to keep the recommended utility rate increase at a minimum. She said the new program offers a one-time pool credit and a one-time new home sod watering credit. Mrs. Morgan said in checking with other local areas, she found that most areas do not offer a credit to their residents, though the City of Heath offers a one-time pool fill credit that is identical to what Hebron is offering.

Dr. Mockus said she does not understand why the Village is collecting taxes from residents for water and redistributing that as a credit for those that are putting in a pool. She said she does not know that this is a great use of taxpayers' money; though she does understand making adjustments to the winter average program and she supports offering a sewer discount to residents during the transition.

VISITOR COMMENTS

None

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE 15-23-AN ORDINANCE WHEREBY THE VILLAGE OF HEBRON, OHIO AUTHORIZES THE CONVEYANCE AND EXCHANGE OF LAND KNOWN AS AUDITOR'S PARCEL NUMBER 075-344928-00.000 AND AUDITOR'S PARCEL NUMBER 075-344870-00.000-**Third Reading**

Mrs. Seymour moved to adopt Ordinance 15-23 as presented, seconded by Dr. Mockus. A roll call vote was taken with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

ORDINANCE 16-23- AN ORDINANCE DECLARING CERTAIN PROPERTY NOT NEEDED FOR ANY MUNICIPAL PURPOSE SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZING THE SAME BE SOLD TO ANOTHER POLITICAL SUBDIVISION WITHOUT BID (PER O.R.C. §735.053) - **Second Reading**

Mayor Layton asked Council to consider suspending the readings of this legislation, as the Village of Hartford needs this vehicle.

Mr. Wolf moved to suspend the readings of Ordinance 16-23, seconded by Dr. Mockus. A roll call vote was taken with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

Dr. Mockus moved to adopt Ordinance 16-23 as presented, seconded by Mrs. Seymour. A roll call vote was taken with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

ORDINANCE 17-23- 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, FOR A 21.43 ACRE PARCEL IDENTIFIED AS AUDITOR'S PARCEL #073-330558-00.000-**Second Reading**

Mayor Layton asked Council to consider suspending the readings of this legislation, as this issue needs to be moved forward.

Mrs. Seymour moved to suspend the readings of Ordinance 17-23, seconded by Mrs. Stoner. A roll call vote was taken with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

Mr. Wolf moved to adopt Ordinance 17-23 as presented, seconded by Dr. Mockus. A roll call vote was taken with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

ORDINANCE 18-23- 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-**Second Reading**

Mayor Layton asked Council to consider suspending the readings of this legislation as well.

Dr. Mockus said she is in favor of suspending the readings of this legislation because the annexation process and this particular annexation have been discussed a few times.

Dr. Mockus moved to suspend the readings of Ordinance 18-23, seconded by Mr. Wolf. A roll call vote was taken with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

Dr. Mockus moved to adopt Ordinance 18-23 as presented, seconded by Mrs. Stoner. A roll call vote was taken with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

ORDINANCE 19-23- 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 - **Second Reading**

Mayor Layton asked Council to consider suspending the readings of this legislation.

Dr. Mockus moved to suspend the readings of Ordinance 19-23, seconded by Mrs. Seymour. A roll call vote was taken with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

Dr. Mockus moved to adopt Ordinance 19-23 as presented, seconded by Mrs. Stoner. A roll call vote was taken with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

RESOLUTION 23-05- A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO EFFECT A GOVERNMENTAL *ELECTRICITY* AGGREGATION PROGRAM WITH OPT-OUT PROVISIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 4928.20 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, DIRECTING THE LICKING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO SUBMIT A BALLOT QUESTION TO THE ELECTORS- **First Reading**

RESOLUTION 23-06- A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO EFFECT A GOVERNMENTAL *NATURAL GAS* AGGREGATION PROGRAM WITH OPT-OUT PROVISIONS PURSUANT TO SECTION 4929.26 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, DIRECTING THE LICKING COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO SUBMIT A BALLOT QUESTION TO THE ELECTORS-**First Reading**

RESOLUTION 23-07-A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OF HEBRON TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE MAINTENANCE AND/OR REPAIR OF U.S. 40, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY-**First Reading**

Mayor Layton asked Council to consider suspending the readings of this legislation. Mrs. Morgan said the Ohio Department of Transportation is planning to do the work soon and the signed resolution needs to be delivered to them tomorrow.

Mrs. Seymour moved to suspend the readings of Resolution 23-07, seconded by Mr. Wolf. A roll call vote was taken with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

Mrs. Seymour moved to adopt Resolution 23-07 as presented, seconded by Dr. Mockus. Mr. Wolf asked if the Village of Hebron will be paying for the asphalt. Mayor Layton said yes, the asphalt is the only thing the Village will be paying for. A roll call vote was taken with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

Mr. Nauer and Mr. Wolf asked if the Village has a say in how the repairs are made, as they are concerned it won't last. Mayor Layton said a deep repair will be done and we will need ensure the work is done the right way.

COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS

May 2023 Bank Reconciliation

Dr. Mockus acknowledged receipt, review and approval of the May 2023 Bank Reconciliation, seconded by Mrs. Seymour. A roll call vote was taken with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

Paving bid award

Mayor Layton said the Village received five bids for miscellaneous paving in the Village. Mrs. Morgan said the Village engineering company recommends awarding the bid to Dream Excavating. She said she requested the engineering company do reference checks, as the Village is not familiar with their work. She said the reference check produced high recommendations.

Dr. Mockus moved to direct the Village Solicitor to draft legislation authorizing the Village to enter into an agreement with Dream Excavating & Paving, LLC for miscellaneous paving projects in 2023, second by Mrs. Stoner. A roll call vote was taken with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mrs. Morgan said at a previous Council Meeting, Mrs. Porter requested she reach out to owners at Crossroads Manor to see if something can be done about issues with holes in the pavement throughout the complex. Mrs. Morgan said she did reach out to them, and the regional manager stated the supplies had been purchased and the repairs would be completed last week. Mrs. Morgan said she drove through the complex today and counted only four holes that had been patched. She said she called again and left a voicemail stating there are many more repairs that need to be made; though it is private property and she does not have the authority to enforce the repairs.

Mrs. Morgan said in response to concerns with the microphones in Council Chambers, AlphaLink turned the microphone system volume up after moving a couple speakers further away from the dais, which helps to avoid feedback. She said with the speakers moved back, they were able to double the volume. Councilmembers agreed there was a considerable difference in the sound. Mrs. Morgan said if this does not fix the issues, AlphaLink will move forward with taking steps to replace the microphones.

Mrs. Morgan said the Village applied for Community Development Block Grant funds to make flood mitigation improvements. She said one is for a \$75,000 grant for a flood study to be done, and the other is a \$500,000 grant to replace culverts. She said there is a 6% cost share for both grants, totaling \$4,431.44 for the flood study grant, and \$30,000 for the Critical Infrastructure Grant (\$9,000 due this year, and \$21,000 due next year.) She said we have money appropriated for the Village's portions for this year, and we can appropriate funds for the remainder of the Village's portion next year. She said the grant for the flood study has already been approved by Licking County. She asked Council to consider authorizing the Village's share of the cost portion for the grants.

Dr. Mockus moved to authorize the expenditure of the Village's cost share of two Community Development Block Grants as noted above, seconded by Mrs. Seymour. A roll call vote was taken with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

Mrs. Morgan said she provided a list of Public Works updates at a previous meeting, and she has a few more updates to give.

She asked if Council if they feel Mr. Figgins' analysis of the 5th Street drainage issues is sufficient, or if they are interested in reaching out to V3 Companies for further review, as she is aware that Mr. Nauer spoke to Mr. Figgins about the information in his letter. Mr. Nauer said he does not want to reach out to V3.

Mrs. Morgan said the Public Works department hired Adam Daugherty for the full-time General Laborer position and Hank Beihl for the part-time General Laborer position. She said they are both scheduled to start work on June 26th. She said the Water Department hired Cody Sanford for the General Laborer position, starting on June 19th. She said all new employees will attend a future meeting to be introduced to Council. She said with these new hires, the Village will now be at full staff, with the exception of the Village Administrator position and seasonal positions that may not need to be filled.

Mrs. Morgan said she placed an order for Councilmember clothing last week.

COUNCILMEMBER'S REPORTS

Mr. Wolf provided the West Licking Fire District run report.

He said they just purchased a building for a new station at Refugee Road and Columbia Road. He said station 402 will be moved there, as it is closer to where the runs are. He said there will also be a new station on Taylor Road. It is under construction now.

Mr. Wolf said he believes the tornado siren cylinder may be having issues, as the siren is continuing to run, often. Mrs. Morgan said she will try to reach out to the Licking County Emergency Management Agency.

Dr. Mockus said a resident said the back of the firehouse needs power washed and weeded.

Mrs. Stoner said she previously asked whether the traffic light on US 40 will be removed since the Elementary School is moving outside of the Village. Mrs. Morgan said she worked with ODOT to get US 40 fixed, and a bump on SR 79. She said she has not yet discussed the traffic light at US 40 and 8th Street. Mayor Layton said he will contact the school to see if that corner will still be a bus stop. Dr. Mockus said the residents she spoke to do not want the light to be removed, and they do not want the school zone signs to be removed. Mrs. Stoner said some residents told her they liked when it flashed in the summer time. Mrs. Morgan said the light is used when I-70 is shut down and traffic is diverted down US 40.

Dr. Mockus said she was told the pedestrian blinkers on the south side at Main Street and 5th Street are not functioning. She said she tried to trigger it but it did not function, though she has not tried it since then. Mrs. Morgan said she will inform Public Works Superintendent Ward.

Dr. Mockus asked if residents are allowed to drive golf carts and side-by-sides in the Village. She said a resident said they were stopped by the Police Department. Mr. Untied said he will look at the laws and the issues. He said if Council wants to allow it, legislation would need to be passed. Mrs. Morgan said the Hebron Police Department should be involved in this discussion.

Dr. Mockus said a resident wanted to shoot groundhogs that were destroying their foundation. Mayor Layton suggested they hire a tracker. Dr. Mockus said the resident said that option is too expensive. Mr. Wolf said it is against the law to trap animals ourselves.

Dr. Mockus noted trucking issues at the end of Basin and Cedar Streets. She said the Village put up No Thru Trucks signs to attempt to mitigate the truck traffic. She said the resident who previously led the concern discussion had been told that because the company was sold and the Village did not know about it in the interim, they were grandfathered in and nothing could be done. Now that the company is up for sale again, the resident is looking for the Village to do something. She said the resident reached out to Community Development Coordinator Miller and is waiting to hear back from her.

Mrs. Seymour said as she was driving down High Street, she noticed bird nests in the lights on the lamp posts. Mrs. Morgan made a note of it to inform Mr. Ward.

Mrs. Seymour said she appreciates the Public Works department watering the flowers in the downtown area. Mrs. Morgan said there was a problem with the flowers and Wilsons Garden Center replaced them. She said Wilsons is investigating to see what caused them to die, as only one side of the flowers in each pot died.

Mrs. Porter asked if the property north of the Municipal Complex parking lot had been seeded for wildflowers, as there is no visible signs of growth at this time. Mrs. Morgan said the area was tilled a while ago, and was just seeded before it rained. She said the Public Works department timed it that way to encourage growth.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Layton said work on the rate study is continuing.

Mrs. Morgan said V3 Companies brought in a Planner who will present projects and provide a scope of services. She said his services would fall under current V3 fees unless rates are specific for certain projects, and in that case, he will provide the rates.

VISITOR COMMENTS

None

REVIEW OF EXPENSES

Council reviewed the current expenditures. There were no questions regarding the expenses.

MEETING/EVENT SCHEDULE

June 21, 2023-6pm, Combined Council Committees Meeting, Council Chambers

June 28, 2023-6pm, Council Meeting, Council Chambers

June 30, 2023-11:30am, Fellowship Friday luncheon, Municipal Complex

July 4, 2023-CLOSED for Independence Day

July 10, 2023-6:30pm, Planning & Zoning Meeting, Council Chambers

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

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

July 26, 2023-6pm, Council Meeting

July 30, 2023-11:30am, Fellowship Friday luncheon, Municipal Complex

ADJOURN

Mr. Wolf adjourned the meeting at 7:06pm, seconded by Mrs. Stoner. 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