

Held

VILLAGE OF HEBRON
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
August 9, 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 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, Police Chief Larry Brooks, Police Sergeant Anthony Oliver, and Clerk of Council/Administrative Assistant Christina Furbee.

Others in attendance remotely: Kristy Hawthorne

Visitors in attendance: Clifford Mason, Rose Mason, Dana Lawson, Andrea Chapman, Sandra Kline

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

July 19, 2023 Combined Committees Meeting

Mrs. Porter moved to approve the July 19, 2023 Combined Council Committees Meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Dr. Mockus. A roll call vote was taken with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

RIVER ROUND UP PROCLAMATION

Mayor Layton read a proclamation in support of the Licking County River Round Up. Mr. Ward accepted the proclamation on behalf of Kristy Hawthorne, District Program Administrator of Licking County Soil & Water, at her request.

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORT-Public Works

Public Works Superintendent Cliff Ward Jr. provided his report to Council. He said the flower baskets on Main and High Streets and near Canal Park were replaced by Wilsons' Garden Center after some issues with flowers dying. He said they are now thriving and outgrowing their containers.

He said after a delay due to an ABS chip recall, the Public Works Department's new Chevy 5500 dump truck was picked up on June 29th.

Mr. Ward said Equipment Operator II Jason Smith put in his 2 week notice and has decided to pursue other opportunities with the City of Heath. His last day will be August 18th.

He discussed storm water projects and said Hamilton Avenue seed has taken root and filled in nicely.

Mr. Ward said Dreams Excavating and Paving LLC was awarded the resurfacing projects for 2023. They are scheduled to begin drainage construction of Evans Parking lot on August 21st and then proceed to street paving. Once street resurfacing is completed, they will begin resurfacing at Evans Park.

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He said a walking map project is finished and was fully funded by the Licking County Health Department. The map is available at the Hebron Municipal Complex, Evans and Canal Parks, and at the pergola in the downtown greenspace.

Mr. Ward said Premier Arborist services removed three trees within Village rights-of-way. The trees posed imminent threat to pedestrians and public utilities. The Public Works Department crew also removed a hazardous Buckeye tree in the right-of-way at the southbound bypass off ramp and E. Main Street.

Paul Petersen Co. repaired the guardrail at Canyon and Refugee Roads. Once the invoice is received, it will be forwarded to the insurance company.

Mr. Ward said the wildflowers at Evans Park are starting to bloom and the landscaping at the Municipal Complex is supposed to start in mid-September.

Mrs. Porter said a repair at North Street and N. High Street looks good.

Mrs. Seymour said holes in the curb at 9th Street were repaired before she could even report them.

Mr. Wolf said he talked to Saundra Brockway Gartner, who wrote a book about mile markers along National Road in Licking County. She said a bush blocks the view of the mile marker on Main Street in Hebron. He asked if the Village can trim the bush back so it can be more visible.

Mr. Nauer said the stop signs at Mound and 4th Streets are blocked by overgrown trees. He mentioned a water pump that was not included on the surplus list.

Mrs. Seymour asked what will happen to the old bleachers that were removed from the parks. Mr. Ward said they will probably be scrapped, as it would take quite a bit of lumber to bring them up to code. Mayor Layton suggested Mr. Ward talk to the National Trails racetrack to see if they have more bleachers they are looking to get rid of. Mr. Ward said benches from the football field area will be used for soccer, etc.

VISITOR COMMENTS

None

LEGISLATION

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Dr. Mockus moved to go into Executive Session per 121.22 to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official at 6:15pm, seconded by Mrs. Seymour. A roll call vote was taken with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

Mrs. Porter moved to reconvene from Executive Session at 6:58pm, seconded by Mrs. Stoner. A roll call vote was taken with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

Dr. Mockus moved to adopt new language modifying the job description of the Community Development Coordinator and updating the title to Economic/Community Development Director and accepting the proposed language to modify the duties of the position and the salary range, seconded by Mrs. Porter. A roll call vote was taken with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS

July 2023 Bank Reconciliation

Mr. Wolf moved to acknowledge receipt and review of the June 2023 bank reconciliation, seconded by Mrs. Stoner. A roll call vote was taken with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

River Round Up Signs

Kristy Hawthorne said the topic of welcome signs to villages and cities was discussed at a previous Combined Council Committees Meeting. She said the Licking County Soil and Water District wants to create a sign to recognize communities that participate in the Licking County River Round Up, to include the River Round Up logo. She said Mr. Ward provided information

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to them about suggested size and material for the signs. Mr. Ward said there is room for the signs to be added to the Village of Hebron welcome signs at four entrances to the Village. She said the River Round Up Committee will take care of the expense. Mrs. Porter said she is concerned about setting a precedent. Ms. Hawthorne said she will send a draft to Council to look at, once it is available. She said the 2023 River Round Up is scheduled for September 9th and a preview luncheon and float will be held on August 18th.

Surplus Items

Mr. Ward said he will look into the value of the old water pump to determine if it should be included on the surplus list. Mrs. Stoner asked about street signs that are included on the surplus list. Mrs. Morgan said because of resident interest, Attorney Rose suggested the signs be included in the online auction. There was some discussion about listing individual signs versus combined lots.

Mr. Wolf moved to declare items surplus and not needed for any municipal purpose, as presented, seconded by Mrs. Seymour. A roll call vote was taken with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

Licking County Water Agreement

Mayor Layton said he sent a copy of the proposed Licking County Water Agreement to Councilmembers. He said they want to expand the current agreement to a 20-year agreement. He said the proposed agreement provides a .10% discount on 1000 gallons. Mrs. Porter said 20 years is a long time. Mr. Rose said the agreement is set up for 10 years with two 5-year extensions. Mr. Rose said the rate is tied to the village ordinance. Mayor Layton said there is also language about what happens if the Village needs to increase its capacity. Mr. Untied said the primary concerns are terms and rate. Dr. Mockus asked if someone on Council can participate in the negotiations with Licking County. Mayor Layton said that can absolutely be arranged.

Dr. Mockus moved to ask Mayor Layton to move forward with rounding up negotiations with Licking County Commissioners to identify final details of the Licking County Water Agreement to present to Village Council in the future, seconded by Mrs. Porter. A roll call vote was taken with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Interim Village Administrator/Village Fiscal Officer Deborah Morgan said at the last meeting, a resident expressed concern about wanting to mail a printed copy of the proposed Comprehensive Plan to all Village residents; however, the proposed Plan is 69 pages and there are approximately 800 households in the incorporated limits; so yesterday, Mayor Layton instructed office staff to mail postcards to all residents.

She said Mrs. Furbee formatted and printed labels and postcards, and through a team effort, the entire job was completed and mailed within 24 hours. Mrs. Morgan said the staff had not been given many options from Neighborhood Strategies on how to get information out to residents. She thanked the staff for getting the mailings out so promptly. Mrs. Porter said the Comprehensive Plan came into play through discussion of a comprehensive strategy by surrounding areas and development proposals and it becomes an integral part of the overall development plan. Mayor Layton said a public meeting will be held.

Mrs. Morgan said the Village received a quote for a Warrant Study for the intersection at 8th and Main Streets in the amount of \$2850. She said once completed, the study can be submitted to the Ohio Department of Transportation to see about changing the light at 8th and Main Streets.

Dr. Mockus moved to authorize the expense of \$2850 for a warrant study through the Ohio Department of Transportation for a traffic light at 8th and Main Streets, seconded by Mr. Wolf. Mrs. Seymour said the Village does not know at this time, what will be put into that area in the future. Dr. Mockus said residents are torn about what they want. Dr. Mockus said a warrant study would help determine what would be recommended for that space, and in the future, if there is new development, a new warrant study would need to be done. Mrs. Morgan said the light is owned by the Village of Hebron, but in order to get a permit from ODOT, a warrant study needs to be done. A roll call vote was taken with all Councilmembers present voting in favor. except Mr. Nauer who voted against.

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Mrs. Morgan said the lights in the Lake Forest subdivision are leased by the Homeowners Association who would need to reach out to AEP to make any changes to the lights.

Mrs. Morgan said Public Works Equipment Operator II Jason Smith issued a letter of resignation. She read the letter aloud.

Mrs. Porter moved to accept a letter of resignation from Jason Smith, with his last day being August 18, 2023. Seconded by Dr. Mockus. A roll call vote was taken with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

Mr. Ward said a pizza party will be held this Friday at the Public Works Facility to say goodbye to Mr. Smith. Mayor Layton said he would like for an exit interview to be done.

COUNCILMEMBER'S REPORTS

Mrs. Seymour asked if the Village is looking to draft legislation about golf carts.

Dr. Mockus moved to ask the Village Solicitor to draw up proposed legislation for golf carts that would include language discussed earlier this evening with the intention of review and mockup by Village Council, seconded by Mrs. Stoner. Mayor Layton said the Village may want to require insurance for golf carts if they choose to allow them. Attorney Rose said there is a section in the Ohio Revised Code about insurance. A roll call vote was taken with all Councilmembers present voting in favor. Mrs. Porter said she is not in favor of this but she does not want to restrict advancement on behalf of the people of Hebron so she supports having the Village Solicitor draw up the legislation.

Mr. Wolf said he forwarded information to Council about the Fire District swearing in 18 people. He said 7 of those people come from the Refugee-Canyon Joint Fire District.

Mr. Wolf said the back of Firehouse was power washed and cleaned up. He thanked Mr. Ward and the Public Works Department. Dr. Mockus said the resident who reported it was happy.

Mrs. Stoner asked about getting in contact with Mr. Lenner. She said she reached out to him and has not heard back from him. Mrs. Morgan said she also struggles to reach Mr. Lenner. Mayor Layton said he will try to reach out to him.

Dr. Mockus provided an update on Planning & Zoning issues. She said farm animal discussion continues and they are getting ready to ramp up discussion about Airbnbs.

Mrs. Chapman asked about the request for an extended stay hotel. Dr. Mockus said the variance was passed by the Planning & Zoning Board. They are getting the site plan development application together to bring to a future Council meeting. Mrs. Chapman said the people she spoke to were opposed to the request.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Layton had no report to share at this meeting.

VISITOR COMMENTS

None

REVIEW OF EXPENSES

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

Ms. Klein asked that the deadline for feedback for the proposed Comprehensive Plan be extended. Mayor Layton said it will be extended.

MEETING/EVENT SCHEDULE

August 9, 2023-5pm, Police Committee Special Meeting, Council Chambers

August 9, 2023-6pm, Council Meeting, Council Chambers

August 16, 2023-6pm, Combined Council Committees Meeting, Council Chambers

August 23, 2023-6pm, Council Meeting, Council Chambers

August 25, 2023-11:30am, Fellowship Friday/United Way luncheon, Council Chambers

September 4, 2023-CLOSED for Labor Day

September 11, 2023-6pm, Planning & Zoning Meeting, Council Chambers

September 13, 2023-6pm, Council Meeting, Council Chambers

September 20, 2023-6pm, Combined Council Committees Meeting, Council Chambers

September 27, 2023-6pm, Council Meeting, Council Chambers

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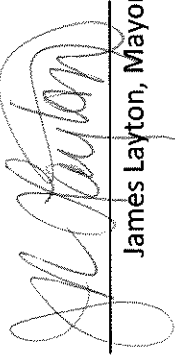
ADJOURN

Mrs. Seymour moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:37pm, seconded by Mrs. Porter. A roll call vote was taken with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

Attest:



Deborah Morgan, Village Fiscal Officer



James Layton, Mayor