

**VILLAGE OF HEBRON  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
December 28, 2022  
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, Randy Wolf and Paige Seymour.

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.

Visitors in attendance: None

Remote Visitors: None

**ACKNOWLEDGE VISITORS**

Mayor Layton said there were no 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**

December 14, 2022 Council Meeting

Councilmember Randy Wolf moved to approve the December 14, 2022 Council Meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Councilmember Annelle Porter. A roll call vote was taken with all Councilmembers present voting in favor except Councilmember Paige Seymour who abstained.

**VISITOR COMMENTS**

None

**LEGISLATION**

**ORDINANCE 28-22-** AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE EMPLOYMENT AND APPOINTMENT OF LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE VILLAGE OF HEBRON-**Third Reading**

Council President Dr. Valerie Mockus moved to adopt Ordinance 28-22 as presented, seconded by Mrs. Seymour. A roll call vote was taken with all councilmembers present voting in favor.

**ORDINANCE 29-22-** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND Fiscal Officer TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH V3 COMPANIES LTD, WITHOUT ADVERTISING, FOR CERTAIN PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE VILLAGE OF HEBRON, SPECIFICALLY, THE ROADWAY AND STORM WATER COLLECTION SYSTEM, WATER RECLAMATION UTILITY, AND WATER UTILITY ENGINEERING- **Third Reading**

Dr. Mockus moved to adopt Ordinance 29-22 as presented, seconded by Mrs. Porter. A roll call vote was taken with all councilmembers present voting in favor.

**ORDINANCE 30-22-** AN ORDINANCE TO PERMIT AN INCREASE IN THE CURRENT PAY RATE BY 3% FOR ALL EMPLOYEES OF THE VILLAGE OF HEBRON, TO AMEND CONTRARY AND INCONSISTENT ORDINANCES BY REPEALING AND AMENDING PARTS THEREOF- **Third Reading**

Mr. Wolf moved to adopt Ordinance 30-22 as presented, seconded by Mrs. Porter. A roll call vote was taken with all councilmembers present voting in favor.

**RESOLUTION 22-16-** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND FISCAL OFFICER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE LICKING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS FOR INDIGENT DEFENSE SERVICES IN THE MUNICIPAL COURT FOR THE VILLAGE OF HEBRON, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO- **Third Reading**

Mrs. Porter moved to adopt Resolution 22-16 as presented, seconded by Councilmember Stacy Stoner. A roll call vote was taken with all councilmembers present voting in favor.

**RESOLUTION 22-17-** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND FISCAL OFFICER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH NEIGHBORHOOD STRATEGIES LLC FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT SERVICES FOR THE VILLAGE OF HEBRON, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY- **First Reading**

**RESOLUTION 22-18-** A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND FISCAL OFFICER TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH BROSIUS, JOHNSON AND GRIGGS FOR CERTAIN LEGAL SERVICES FOR THE VILLAGE OF HEBRON, LICKING COUNTY, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY - **First Reading**

### **COUNCIL ACTION ITEMS**

#### Fire Department surplus vehicle

Mrs. Morgan said at a previous meeting, Mr. Wolf brought to our attention that the West Licking Fire District would like to surplus one of the vehicles that is in their possession but in the Village of Hebron's name.

Village Solicitor Wesley K. Unties said the procedure would be to declare the vehicle as surplus and note the Village's intent to donate the vehicle to the West Licking Fire District. Dr. Mockus said during the process of joining the West Licking Fire District, meetings included discussion about the equipment, and it was stated that the Village would not give the equipment to the West Licking Fire District, and the contract states the same. Mayor Layton said the intent is to donate the vehicle so they can surplus it. Dr. Mockus expressed concern about setting a precedent and said she is concerned about how this may be handled by future leadership. Mayor Layton said the vehicle is not serviceable. He said the Village can decide on a case-by-case basis and the Fire District will have to come to the Village to ask to declare a vehicle as surplus. He said the Fire District is refurbishing one of our trucks for \$50,000 and they are upkeeping the maintenance on it.

Mr. Wolf moved to direct the Village Solicitor to draft legislation declaring a 2003 Horton Ambulance as surplus and the Village's intent to donate the same to the West Licking Fire District, seconded by Mrs. Porter. There was some discussion about what would happen if the Village chose not to do this. A roll call vote was taken with all councilmembers present voting in favor.

### **ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

Mrs. Morgan said she has ordered a table for eight for the Licking County Groundhog Breakfast. She asked anyone interested in attending to let her know.

#### Zoning

Mrs. Morgan said the Village has received eleven applications for the open Community Development Coordinator position. She said three candidates have been scheduled to interview on January 6<sup>th</sup>. Also, four interviews for the open Equipment Operator I position have been scheduled for January 6<sup>th</sup> as well. She said twenty applications were received for that position.

Mrs. Morgan said a meeting with Attorney David Moser was held to discuss restructuring the site plan development process. She said it was found that the steps were already in place but have not been followed. Mrs. Morgan said she will work with the Community Development Assistant to create a flow chart to place on the Village website and to hand out to developers. She said a preconference will be held with prospective developers and a preapplication will be made and reviewed by the Planning & Zoning Board. With their blessing, with or without a recommendation, the developer will then move through the final application process with

another visit back through Planning & Zoning-so moving forward, the developer will go through Planning & Zoning twice. Mrs. Morgan said she believes this process will be better for all involved.

#### Public Works

Mrs. Morgan said the Public Works department was very busy over the holiday weekend and they did a good job in extreme weather conditions. She said there was some damage sustained to one Public Works Village vehicle that slid into a sign, and a repair estimate will be obtained on Friday. Mrs. Morgan said she heard no complaints from Village residents, but the Public Works Superintendent received a complaint about snow in front of a mailbox, and the situation was corrected.

Mrs. Morgan said one bid was received for mowing along the SR 79 corridor. She said Village representatives met with the company to discuss issues and improve communication, and it was agreed the owner will provide a report after each mow, noting what work was completed. She said the plan is to mow weekly if the weather permits. Mayor Layton said there is a provision in the agreement stating the Village can terminate the agreement if we are not happy with the services. Mr. Nauer expressed some concerns with previous work on SR 79. Mrs. Morgan said the Village met with the company owner to discuss those concerns. She said she expects things will be better moving forward, and she will follow up with an email about the Village's expectations. Dr. Mockus noted grass debris being thrown onto the roadway last year, which creates concern for motorcyclists. Mrs. Morgan said she will include that information in her email. Mrs. Porter said there are some residents who put their mowing clippings in the street as well.

Dr. Mockus moved to direct the Village Solicitor to draft legislation to enter into a three-year agreement with Mow-tivated Mowers for mowing services along the SR 79 corridor, seconded by Mrs. Stoner. A roll call vote was taken with all councilmembers present voting in favor.

Mrs. Morgan said information about the proposed Hamilton Avenue sidewalk project was distributed to Council along with a letter from Public Works Superintendent Cliff Ward. She said due to issues with utilities, trees, lack of right-of-way, and water issues, the final project plan showed the need for the sidewalk to be placed on the other side of the street, adding additional street crossings. She said Mr. Ward spoke to some residents in the area who said they are unhappy about the prospect of a sidewalk on Hamilton Avenue. Mrs. Morgan said she met with Community Development Specialist Adrienne Eskins who is the project lead for Licking County. Mrs. Morgan said she proposed instead the concept of a sidewalk in front of the cemetery which could tie into new proposed development east of that area, and Ms. Eskins thought this would be better use of the money; however, they were informed it is too late to switch the use of the funds to another project. Mrs. Morgan asked Council if they wish to continue with the project, and said Ms. Eskins needs an answer by January 4<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Morgan said the money already spent on the project has provided important information about drainage on Hamilton Avenue. She added that a portion of the sidewalk would have to be dug back up when the culvert is replaced. Mr. Nauer asked if the drainage at the corner of Warden Street will still go east and then north. Mr. Ward confirmed that is still the plan. Mrs. Stoner said there are a lot of residents that walk on Hamilton, including one in a wheelchair. She said it appears the Village wants to have sidewalks other places but is not wanting to move forward with this one. There was some discussion about sidewalks in the area and the feasibility of placing a sidewalk on Hamilton Avenue. Dr. Mockus said she is concerned the Village is not being consistent with what we are asking residents to do versus what we plan to do in our project.

Mr. Ward said he feels the sidewalk project is not the logical thing to do, as it is not aesthetically pleasing and not the safest plan with the crossings that jog across Hamilton Avenue. He said if a sidewalk is placed in the future, after the culvert project is completed, the sidewalk may not have to jog across the street.

Mrs. Stoner questioned when the Village received this information about the changes to the project. Mrs. Morgan said the County is going to bid on this project and they asked the Village for the final plans. The Village requested and received the final plans and realized the

differences from the original plan. She said Mr. Ward spoke to Ms. Eskins to see what our options are, and she just received an answer from the State today and informed the Village that an answer must be received by January 4<sup>th</sup>.

Mrs. Seymour said she feels the project should be stopped and reevaluated after the culvert is placed. Mayor Layton said it may be possible to combine the sidewalk with the culvert project. Dr. Mockus asked how many residents voiced their opinions. Mr. Ward said he spoke to 15-20 residents, and none of them wanted the sidewalk.

Mr. Wolf moved to proceed with the project. Mrs. Stoner asked if there is a way to proceed the way it was originally designed. Mr. Ward said the project cannot be done as it was originally designed. The motion was not seconded and did not pass.

Dr. Mockus said feels the project should be stopped and Council should speak to Hamilton Avenue residents to determine if they are in favor of a sidewalk. She said if it is determined that there is an overwhelming response in favor of the project, a Special Meeting can be called to discuss moving forward.

Dr. Mockus moved to not proceed with the project, seconded by Mrs. Seymour. A roll call vote was taken with all Councilmembers present voting in favor except Mrs. Stoner and Mr. Wolf who voted against. The motion passed.

#### Water Reclamation

Mrs. Morgan said things are progressing with the sewer line cleaning and televising, and when complete, a report will be brought to Council.

#### Water

Mrs. Morgan said Water Superintendent Jason Figgins is on vacation this week. She said he is still working on utility billing issues and things are moving in the right direction. She said most of the billing issues have been finalized and the Village has come to a satisfactory resolution with those customers. Mr. Figgins discovered an issue with the meter software program and the software company has since created a patch to fix the issue. Mrs. Morgan said the billing system as a whole has been reviewed, a lot of work hours have been devoted to this process, and she feels good about the results. She said Dr. Mockus met with her, Utility Billing Coordinator Kellsei Boyce, and Superintendent Figgins and she believes Dr. Mockus left the meeting with a clear picture of the work that has been done and ways to prevent similar issues in the future were established. She thanked Dr. Mockus for taking the time to meet to discuss the matter.

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

Mr. Wolf said the American Legion held a dinner with the Fire District. He said a teacher, Police Sergeant Oliver, and all Refugee-Canyon Joint Fire District staff who stayed with West Licking Fire District during the transition were recognized.

Dr. Mockus said she received a call from a resident who is concerned about parking on Lakewood Drive, as it is too narrow to navigate when cars are parked on both sides. She said there is a tremendous amount of overflow from the apartments, and there are cars on jacks that do not move. Dr. Mockus asked how plows and emergency vehicles are expected to get through there. Dr. Mockus suggested adding signage to make one side of the road no parking. Mrs. Stoner concurred. Mr. Untied said an ordinance would be needed to create this change.

Dr. Mockus moved to direct the Village Solicitor to draw up legislation to enact no parking on the west side of Lakewood Drive, seconded by Mrs. Stoner. A roll call vote was taken with all councilmembers present voting in favor.

Dr. Mockus said she reached out to the West Licking Fire District about holding an open house for area businesses, and they have stated they are open to it. She said they wanted to know when, and who (at a minimum) should be invited. Dr. Mockus said the public would be

invited, and she suggested inviting the Fire Marshall, the Fire Chief, Assistant Chiefs, the Administrator, and proactively reaching out to the area businesses.

Dr. Mockus said she and the Police Chief recorded a video about when speed limits take effect, and it has had 131 views on social media to date.

Dr. Mockus moved to convene to Executive Session at 7:16pm, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22, to conference with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes, action involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action, second by Mrs. Stoner. A roll call vote was taken with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

Mrs. Porter moved to reconvene from Executive Session at 7:38pm, second by Dr. Mockus. A roll call vote was taken with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

Mrs. Seymour thanked Dr. Mockus for her work with the waterline, Lakewood schools, etc.

Mr. Nauer said the Village received a check from the Refugee-Canyon Joint Fire District. He said the auditors divided up what was left in their fund. Mr. Wolf said there is still money in their account to pay bills. He said the audit will be complete in February and any remaining money will be split again.

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

Mayor Layton said the Public Works crew did an excellent job with snow removal this weekend.

He said there have been a lot of meetings held to discuss the Waterline West project. He said if anyone would like to include something in the State of the Village year-end report, please send it to him before the Annual Organizational Meeting. He said he sent the list of Committees to Councilmembers.

#### **REVIEW OF EXPENSES**

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

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

January 11, 2023-5:30pm, Organizational Meeting, Council Chambers

January 11, 2023-6pm, Council Meeting, Council Chambers

#### **ADJOURN**

Mrs. Porter moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:23pm, seconded by Dr. Mockus. 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