

VILLAGE OF HEBRON

COMBINED COUNCIL COMMITTEES MEETING MINUTES

February 16, 2022

6:00 pm

This meeting was held both remotely and in person.

Pledge of Allegiance

Village Administrator Mr. Trujillo asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Councilmembers in attendance: Council President Dr. Valerie Mockus, Councilmembers Paige Seymour, Kenney Nauer, Stacy Stoner and Rich Moore.

Councilmember Annelle Porter was excused from this meeting.

Others in attendance: Mayor James Layton and Clerk of Council/Administrative Assistant Christina Furbee.

Others in attendance remotely: Village Fiscal Officer Deborah Morgan.

Visitors: Randy Wolf, Mike McFarland, Jeff Sharps, Chris Clancy, Brandon Morgan

Visitor Comments

Randy Wolf, 107 Sands Drive, Hebron, said he also on Refugee-Canyon Joint Fire District Board. He said the Fire District Board members received a letter from Granville resident Patty Costello about dissolving the Refugee-Canyon Joint Fire District. Mr. Wolf read the letter aloud. He said the Fire District Board has not had a discussion yet about the letter. Mayor Layton thanked Mr. Wolf for sharing the letter.

Pending Legislation

RESOLUTION 22-01- A RESOLUTION CERTIFYING DELINQUENT PROPERTY MAINTENANCE BILLS TO THE LICKING COUNTY AUDITOR FOR COLLECTION-Third Reading

Committees:

Finance/Audit (*Valerie Mockus-Chair, Stacy Stoner, Rich Moore*)

Dr. Mockus said she is trying to understand when grant proposals must go in front of council, and when they don't. She said last week, Council voted to approve having Mrs. Nicodemus move forward with pre-applications for ARP funds, but the ARPA Grant that was submitted on January 4th was not voted on by Council. She said it was her understanding that if the Village will have matching funds, the grant application request should be brought before Village Council. Mayor Layton said if the grant is approved, it will be brought before Council with all the information. Dr. Mockus said she is surprised that the Village can apply for large amounts of funds without Council approval. Mayor Layton said Council voted to approve the Waterline West project. He said the Village applied through the County but didn't get it, and we also applied for a loan through the EPA, and Council voted to approve that. Dr. Mockus said it would be helpful to have documentation on that.

Dr. Mockus said a resident complained online about a change of policy in regard to warning residents if they have a potential water leak. She said the resident was informed that no notification was provided because the Village did not have staffing in the water billing office to provide that courtesy. She asked if the Village had a change in policy. Mr. Trujillo said there has not been a change in policy, but there is a new employee and if that was missed, it was probably because that person is still in training. Dr. Mockus said if the Village is looking for grace for not being able to meet our normal standard of service, can we extend grace to residents to give them a larger percentage off their bill, because that is a lot of money for some of our residents? Mr. Trujillo said the Village waived a portion of the sewer bill, as the Village allows a sewer adjustment every five years on leaks. He said the notification calls are

not a policy, but a courtesy. There was some discussion about how the sewer portion of the bill is adjusted when a leak adjustment request is made. Dr. Mockus said she feels it is unfair for the residents if they are not treated the same as previous residents with leaks because the Village has a staffing issue. She asked the Village to reconsider this scenario and in future scenarios. Mayor Layton said the Village tries to handle each situation individually. Mrs. Seymour said she appreciates that the Village does courtesy calls, but it would be good if a designated employee is more thorough in checking for leaks. There was discussion about who handles the leak reports, and what is typically done when an adjustment request is made. Mayor Layton said to have the resident come in and talk to us and we will try to find a fair resolution to the problem. He added that if a Councilmember would like to submit a proposed policy, he would be willing to look at it.

Safety (*Kenney Nauer-Chair, Rich Moore, Paige Seymour*)

Fire District

Mr. Moore said the Fire District is working on some serious issues and it is going to be a long process. Dr. Mockus said her interest is in what the Village of Hebron and Council has to say, what we think the residents of the Village want, what we are going to do as a Council to move forward, and what is negotiable and nonnegotiable. She said if we go in unclear on these things, we will never get what we want because we don't know what we want.

Dr. Mockus said without surveying residents, it is hard to know how people feel. She said Village Council members need to be out in the community asking these questions. Dr. Mockus said she spoke to Mrs. Porter who suggested doing a survey to determine what residents are willing to vote for. Mayor Layton agreed. Dr. Mockus said with 33% of the vote, the Village will need to create alliances and negotiate on some things in order to move forward. She provided stats from previous elections. She said of the two levies Hebron participated in last year, Hebron was 39% of the voters in the May ballot, and only 23% of the voters in the November ballot.

Dr. Mockus said representatives from the Village and the Township serve on the Fire District board and those organizations should be informing the representatives of what they want and giving them feedback, so they know how to proceed. Mayor Layton suggested putting a Safety Committee meeting together. He said there are a lot of options for the Fire District, and either way, it is going to cost money.

Mike McFarland, 133 Hamilton Avenue, said there is a long, rich history of Fire and EMS in Hebron. Mr. McFarland said his personal feeling about a survey is that it is not a bad idea, but the people want to dial 9-1-1 and have an emergency vehicle show up where they are. He said in a moment of crisis, they don't care about the budget or cost of equipment, etc. Mr. McFarland said years ago, Union Township would pass levies and provide money for the Hebron Fire Department, and Hebron would also pass levies and provide for the Fire Department. Then the County said as Hebron is located in the Township, Hebron should pay Union Township taxes. Then Union Township started questioning what they are getting for their money and as things were getting more expensive, Hebron wanted to find another way to work together with the Township. However, because they were separate entities, each decided what millage they wanted, so though we are all getting the same service, we are not paying the same thing. Then when the County decided Hebron should pay taxes to Union Township, those taxes were added to the Village taxes and now Hebron residents are paying much more than Union Township residents. Mr. McFarland said he believes Hebron residents have no idea that this is happening.

Mr. McFarland said we have to work together with the Union Township in good faith into determine how to go forward without going back to the previous circumstance.

Mr. McFarland said we also have to recognize the Fire District may not survive and it is our responsibility to have a plan for this. He provided some ideas to consider:

- Conform the boundaries and get out of the Township and become our own entity outside of the Township.
- Develop a detailed plan of how we would go about having a Fire District that serves only Hebron.
- Take a good look at the contract with the Fire District. If it doesn't work, then what is the impact of the distribution of equipment, the assumption of debt, and the employees.
- With the support of Council, have discussions with West Licking Fire District

Public Works/Utility Services *(Annelle Porter-Chair, Kenney Nauer, Paige Seymour)*

Hamilton Avenue Culvert

Mr. Trujillo said there were some questions at the last meeting about the Hamilton Avenue culvert. He said the answer from Mrs. Nicodemus was that we were looking into Community Development Block Grant funds but this project was not selected. He said currently, the Village is looking into a hazard mitigation grant, with an original cost of \$498,000 and a match of approximately \$125,000. He said the sidewalk project was \$41,230 and that was funded. Mr. Trujillo said the Village does not know what the hazard mitigation grant funds will be, but we are still moving forward.

Mrs. Morgan clarified that during the budget discussions, it was decided \$100,000 would be put into this project, not \$125,000. She said we don't know when it will get funded. If it is not funded this year, the money will go back into the Public Works fund for reappropriation next year. Mrs. Nicodemus noted part of the hazard mitigation fund application includes flooding retention at Canal Park, so it includes good sources of flood mitigation in the Village. Mr. Trujillo said the Village recently acquired property near Canal Park and can use it for natural retention to help mitigate flooding.

Planning & Visioning *(Stacy Stoner-Chair, Valerie Mockus, Annelle Porter)*

N/A

Other Items not listed

Mr. Trujillo said a property adjacent to Arrowhead Drive has asked to be annexed into the Village. He said the Planning & Zoning Board are working through the request and will forward their recommendation to Council. He distributed information about annexation. There was some discussion about rezoning, a nearby property, and access to the property.

Mr. Trujillo said there will be funds coming in to make street crossings more ADA compatible. He said the curb aprons point to the middle of the intersection so the radius will need to be fixed, and alarms will be installed for those who are hearing impaired. Mr. Trujillo said paving from High Street to Enterprise Drive will also be included. He said they are now extending the paving up to the THK parking lot. Mr. Trujillo said High Street intersection crash reports have been studied and as a result, they are looking at installing a turn lane and better lighting. Mr. McFarland said he has spoken to some residents who have said they do not want to do anything that may encourage semis coming into the downtown area. He said they are asking for No Thru Trucks signs to be installed. Mayor Layton said the Village is in the process of working with ODOT to install a No Trucks sign on 79 at the bypass. Mayor Layton said he has seen that a specific trucking company often travels through the area and he will contact the trucking company and ask them not to cut through Hebron.

Open Discussion

Mr. Trujillo said the Village is looking to get rid of a 2004 Impala and purchase a replacement vehicle. He said there was availability on a 2021 state bid contract; however, this year, they did not fill the bid as vehicles are not available. Mr. Trujillo provided quotes from Coughlin Ford Store and Coughlin Chevrolet. He said they do get bid assistance from the factory, and for a new Ford Explorer, GM was able to supply 4600 in bid assistance which came out to

roughly \$29,000. He said Ford got \$1500 bid assistance and the total price was approximately \$42,000.

Mr. Trujillo said the cost to make repairs to the 2004 Impala in 2020 was \$2600. He said McDonald Auto recommends another \$1500 in repairs, and Blue Book for this vehicle is about \$536. Mr. Trujillo said he will ask Council to approve a replacement vehicle. Mrs. Seymour suggested looking at a lightly used vehicle. Mr. Trujillo said used vehicles do not have warranties, or they are not very good. Mrs. Seymour asked about getting bids from other dealers. He said he also tried to get bids from John Hinderer, but they do retail sales, not government fleet type pricing.

Visitor Comments

None

Mrs. Seymour said the Annual Pie Fest will be held on August 20th from 12pm-6pm. Mrs. Morgan said \$7,000 is still in Hebron's budget for this event. Dr. Mockus said discussions will need to be had with the various departments, and area businesses to align usage of utilities, parking, lots, etc.

Adjourn

Mrs. Seymour moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:31pm, second by Mrs. Stoner. A roll call vote was taken with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

_____(on file)_____
Mayor James Layton

Attest:

_____(on file)_____
Deborah Morgan, Village Fiscal Officer