

VILLAGE OF HEBRON

COMBINED COUNCIL COMMITTEES MEETING MINUTES

April 20, 2022

6:00 pm

This meeting was held both remotely and in person.

Pledge of Allegiance

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

Roll Call

Councilmembers in attendance: Councilmembers Paige Seymour, Kenney Nauer, and Annelle Porter.

Mayor Layton said Councilmembers Rich Moore and Stacy Stoner were excused from this meeting.

Others in attendance: Mayor James Layton, Village Administrator John Trujillo, and Village Fiscal Officer Deborah Morgan.

Others in attendance remotely: Council President Dr. Valerie Mockus

Visitors: Jim Lenner, Chris Clancy, Donard Myers, Emma Brown

Acknowledge Visitors

Mr. Trujillo said Mr. Jim Lenner is in attendance. He said Mr. Lenner plans to gather as much information from Council about what they would like to see included in our economic development program.

Visitor Comments

Mr. Jim Lenner gave a presentation with current migration data, people working and living in the 43025 zip code, population statistics, an economic overview, project update, housing inventory, workforce development, a marketing packet, and Council project ideas. Mayor Layton said he would like to improve the downtown area with restaurants and retail, and add new housing developments in Hebron. There was some discussion about needs, wants and options for the Village, including parking and a downtown attraction.

Pending Legislation

RESOLUTION 22-02- A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE UPDATE OF THE COSHOCTON FAIRFIELD LICKING PERRY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT MANAGEMENT PLAN-Third Reading

Mr. Trujillo said this legislation will be presented for a third reading at the next Council Meeting.

ORDINANCE 04-22- AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH V3 FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICE FOR THE SOURCE WATER ASSESSMENT AND PROTECTION (SWAP) PROGRAM AND A NEW PUBLIC GROUND WATER WELL (PW-7)-First Reading

Mr. Trujillo said Council will be asked to treat this legislation as an emergency and pass it on the first reading at the next Council Meeting. He said the idea was to get a new source water well (#7) and the SWAP program is part of that. He said the EPA is requesting the Village move forward with the SWAP program as soon as possible, as part of the waterline project. He said V3 Companies will be available at the Council Meeting to answer any questions.

Mrs. Porter asked if Well #1 will remain online, as it has not been working correctly. Mr. Trujillo said the plan is to keep it online, as Well #1 is permitted for sampling. Mrs. Porter expressed concern about sampling from a well that does not produce as much, or as often, as the other wells. Mayor Layton said the water all comes from the same aquifer and the sampling is the same as all the other wells. Mr. Trujillo said he will pose the question to V3 Companies.

Mr. Trujillo said he shared sample legislation with Council from Attorney Pete Griggs about conforming boundaries. He said it appears to be a fairly simple process-if Council passes the legislation, the Village would forward it to Licking County for

approval. Mrs. Porter said the Village should be cautious about conforming boundaries. She said the Village should really evaluate the value of conforming its boundaries, as it is a permanent venture and could have far-reaching financial implications. Mayor Layton said he has done some research and will concur with Attorney Griggs. He said being a part of Union Township does three things for the Village:

- Part of our property tax dollars go to the Township
- The Village has to pay any levy the Township passes
- It allows the Village to vote for the Township Trustees

He said he heard the Township plans to put a road and bridge levy on the ballot, and he would be surprised if the Village sees any return on that.

Dr. Mockus asked for a copy of the sample legislation. Mr. Trujillo said he just received it and will send it out.

Mr. Trujillo said there is another financial advantage of conforming boundaries. He said the Village is currently receiving very little of the property tax. He said so that the Township is not economically impacted all at once, there is a payout period of about 12 years, where the Village will slowly receive a percentage of the money up to the full value of the property taxes for the properties within the Village's conformed boundaries. Mr. Trujillo said that money is currently going to the Township.

Mrs. Seymour asked if there are any cons for conforming boundaries. Mr. Trujillo said if they go through the traditional process, we can conform our boundary to them; if they go through the expedited process we cannot.

Mayor Layton said there is also an option to annex property into the Village, or into another Township that we would control. He said he will need to find out more information about that.

Mrs. Morgan said depending on what happens with the Fire District, it may behoove Council to consider conforming the boundaries.

There was some discussion about levies and annexation, the processes involved, and other options. Mayor Layton and Mr. Trujillo said Mr. Griggs is in the process of getting answers for the Village.

Committees:

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

Water West Project

Mr. Trujillo asked if there are any questions about this project. Mrs. Seymour asked if the Village is just waiting on the SWAP legislation. Mr. Trujillo said that is the last piece of the EPA's requirements for this project. Once approved, the Village can then form bid packets to be submitted to the EPA so that we can go out for bid to select the lowest and best bidder. The Village's selection will be forwarded to the EPA for approval and funding. Mr. Trujillo said the Village is not indebted to the project and will not sign until it is clear there are no issues.

Dr. Mockus asked if we have any updated payback period information without a Joint Economic Development District. Mr. Trujillo said not yet-just what we've discussed. He said the metrics that Mr. Lenner presented about the zip code data he collected may be helpful in this aspect, to determine the actual need for the water lines and the planned service area. There was some discussion about when the project may begin and financial options to get the construction process started.

Employee Military Leave options

Mrs. Morgan said when this discussion took place at the Combined Council Committees Meeting, Council requested a rough estimate for the amount of pension funds the Village may need to pay Officer Logan Nethers if they choose the differential pay option when he is deployed. Mrs. Morgan said based on a year of deployment and figuring in the time Officer Logan has remaining, the Village's portion would be roughly \$11,576. She said she did speak to Chief Brooks about it and explained the Village's obligation and options. Mayor Layton asked if the Village's obligation continues if Officer Nethers were to remain deployed for a few years. Mrs. Morgan said she believes it caps at 24 months, as the Village is only obligated to pay his health insurance for 24 months. Mayor Layton said he spoke with Chief Brooks and he is concerned about hiring someone part-time while Officer Nethers is deployed, and he is concerned about having to supplement the overtime, as the pension funds would have to come out of the overtime pay. Mrs. Morgan said Officer Logan had 408 hours and has 328 hours remaining. She said the Village is obligated to pay the 328 hours. She said Council can choose to pay the differential pay, which is the difference between Officer Nethers' gross monthly salary here and his gross monthly salary through the military, not to exceed \$500/month. If Council chooses this option, when Officer Nethers returns from duty, he would request his service time be granted back for OP&F hours, and the Village would be responsible for its 19.5% that it pays in toward OP&F. She added the Village is required to pay what it is currently paying for his healthcare. Mr. Nauer and Mayor Layton expressed concern about setting a precedent. Mrs. Morgan said the Village also has the option to pay Officer Logan his full salary for up to two years at approximately \$59,000 per year, and the Village would still have to continue the employee withholdings, healthcare, and the

pension. Mrs. Morgan said when Officer Nethers was previously deployed, he was a part-time employee and he was deployed for less than a year so the Village's obligations were not the same.

Dr. Mockus asked if the Village could supplement the Police Department budget to partially cover if the Police Department goes over its original budget. She said she feels the Village should fully support any staff serving our Country. Mrs. Morgan said Officer Nethers' salary was already budgeted and appropriated this year so there would be no extra expense except for what Chief Brooks needs to cover his absence. Mayor Layton said it would be tough to hire someone to work for only a year, so he will most likely choose to cover the absence with current staff working overtime. Mayor Layton said he will see if Chief Brooks can put together a number reflecting the cost of the overtime pay so that the Village can possibly supplement the budget. Mrs. Morgan said considering the timing of the deployment, it would be good if Council can make a decision at the next Council Meeting.

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

Fire District

Mayor Layton said the Village is exploring its opportunities for Fire Service. He said we have not yet heard anything else from the Township. Mayor Layton said we have the proposal from West Licking Fire District.

Mrs. Seymour said she has only heard good things about the West Licking Fire District, from how it is run to how employees are treated. She said she is happy that the Fire House in Hebron will still be utilized.

Mayor Layton said the Village will need to consider all options and determine the best solution for Hebron residents. He said a public forum will be held to allow the public to give their input.

Fire Lieutenant Chris Clancy said a couple Fire District Board members informed that it is looking like things are leaning towards joining the West Licking Fire District. He said the Fire District staff are waiting to see what is going to happen and when. Mayor Layton said Council needs to make a decision and vote on it before we can determine those answers. Mrs.

Seymour said if the choice is to join the West Licking Fire District, they would also need to vote to approve the venture.

Mayor Layton said the Refugee-Canyon Joint Fire District would have to be dissolved and there are many things to consider so they are taking their time to research everything before making the best decision for the citizens of Hebron.

Hebron resident Donard Myers said he would like to see the Refugee-Canyon Joint Fire District be saved. Mayor Layton said the proposals he has are what Council directed him to go find.

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

LCHD Grant MOU-Burch St Crosswalk

Mr. Trujillo said a copy of a proposed Memorandum of Understanding with the Licking County Health Department for a grant for a crosswalk at Burch Street was sent to Council. He said if anyone has any questions, please contact Linda Nicodemus. Dr. Mockus asked which street the crosswalk will cross. Mr. Trujillo said it is a crosswalk to cross Burch Street. Mrs. Morgan said the current crosswalk directs people directly into traffic, and this crosswalk will point them in the right direction.

Mrs. Seymour asked if we have heard any more about creating a stormwater utility. Mr. Trujillo said he has not heard back from V3 Companies. He said he will get a response from V3 to share by the next Council Meeting.

Salt Contract

Mr. Trujillo said Public Works Superintendent Cliff Ward sent out information about ODOT's Winter Salt Contract for 2022.

Mr. Trujillo said Mr. Ward is researching to determine the amount needed and the cost and will bring the legislation to Council. Mr. Trujillo said it appears the legislation will not need to be presented as an emergency, as the deadline listed is only if the Village wishes to rescind from the participation agreement. Mrs. Porter asked if rescinding from the contract would allow the Village to enter into a contract with another company that is able to give us a better price. Mr. Trujillo said this contract agreement allows the Village to enter into contract with ODOT to get salt from them, similar to the contract the Village previously had with American Rock Salt. There was some discussion about the amount purchased versus the amount used and stored.

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

None

Other Items not listed

None

Open Discussion

Mr. Nauer asked if the extension from Hope Drive will be an open road. Mayor Layton said it will be open for use. Mr. Nauer said he is concerned about potential accidents on the corner. Mayor Layton said the road will have to meet the Village’s standards. Mr. Trujillo said there will be a fully-formed base and they will pave over that, so it will be built up high enough to be a real road.

Mayor Layton said a citizen complained about people cutting through her yard on Dennison Street, near the hammerhead. He said he asked Ohio Power how much it would cost to put a light pole there and they said it would cost \$10 a month for the light. Mayor Layton said he will talk to the resident about it to see if that helps solve her issue. Mayor Layton said Pulte is planning to put a sidewalk in behind Wooster Street, to Main Street, to the Lake Forest Subdivision. Mrs. Porter asked if the residents there are aware of this plan. Mayor Layton said he is not aware if they have been informed. He said he will make sure the residents are aware. Mrs. Porter said she does not feel that is a good area to add a sidewalk at this time.

Visitor Comments

Emma Brown said she has no comments, as she is here for school. Mrs. Porter said this meeting is not a regular Council Meeting; it is a Combined Council Committees Meeting to discuss the issues and no voting can take place.

Adjourn

Mrs. Seymour moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:45pm , second by Mr. Nauer. 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