

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of Meeting Form 6101

BARRETT BROTHERS - DAYTON, OHIO

Held _____

VILLAGE OF HEBRON

COMBINED COUNCIL COMMITTEES MEETING MINUTES

July 19, 2023

6:00 pm

This meeting was held both remotely and in person.

Call to Order

Interim Village Administrator/Fiscal Officer Deborah Morgan called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Mrs. Morgan asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Councilmembers in attendance: Council President Dr. Valerie Mockus, Councilmembers Stacy Stoner, Kenney Nauer, Randy Wolf, Paige Seymour and Annelle Porter.

Others in attendance: Mayor James Layton, Interim Village Administrator/Fiscal Officer Deborah Morgan, Police Chief Larry Brooks, Police Sergeant Anthony Oliver, and Clerk of Council/Administrative Assistant Christina Furbee.

Others in attendance remotely: None

Visitors: Tyra Roberts, Mark Johns, Brittany Misner

Visitor Comments

None

Pending Legislation

None

Committees:

Finance - (Dr. Valerie Mockus-Chair, Randy Wolf, Stacy Stoner)
None

Economic Development-(Stacy Stoner-Chair, Randy Wolf, Paige Seymour)
Comprehensive Plan Discussion

Mayor Layton said we have received a low response to the Comprehensive Plan survey that was posted online for public input. He said we want to obtain more responses before we hold a public meeting and discuss the proposed plan.

Police Committee-(Paige Seymour-Chair, Annelle Porter, Dr. Valerie Mockus)
Golf Carts/Side-by-Sides

Mayor Layton said the Village Attorneys have provided information about golf carts and side-by-sides. He said state law has regulations in place for golf carts, such as required licensing, inspections, and operating at a speed under 35mph. Mrs. Seymour noted some areas in Hebron have speed limits that are higher than 35mph. Chief Brooks said it is hard to comment about laws that currently do not exist in the Village. He said the state has allowed golf carts and side-by-sides, but each municipality has to pass a law to approve it, if they choose. There was discussion about the licensing process.

Dr. Mockus said the Licking County Sheriff's office offers to inspect the vehicles, and the Village could make this a requirement and the Village could require the drivers of these vehicles to be licensed and insured. Chief Brooks said his understanding is that the Sheriff's office is only doing the inspections for unincorporated areas. Dr. Mockus said if the Village conducts the inspections, she feels the cost should be passed to whomever is requesting the licensure. She said she has been told that at times, children have been seen driving the vehicles.

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Mrs. Seymour said she has been weighing pros and cons about allowing these types of vehicles in the Village. She said she finds some safety issues with children not only driving the vehicles, but riding on the laps of others. She said sharing the roads with larger, faster vehicles can also pose safety concerns, though she does not hear of a lot of accidents or injuries involving golf carts. Ms. Roberts said she feels golf carts are safer than mopeds and scooters that may also share the streets with larger, faster vehicles. Mrs. Porter said she understands a possible need for golf carts but she feels the name speaks for what they are meant to be used for, as they have very little structural support and weigh much less than trucks and other vehicles. She said she feels allowing golf carts would be introducing a hazard. Dr. Mockus if this would indeed be introducing something new. Chief Brooks said golf carts are not currently allowed on the road at all. Mr. Nauer asked how golf carts compare to farm equipment on the roads. Chief Brooks said there are laws allowing farm equipment, which is not used for leisurely driving. He said the Village may consider making laws to allow golf carts to cross certain roads from one neighborhood to another, but not to allow them to be driven on certain roads. Dr. Mockus said there are some neighborhoods and streets that do not have back streets access. Mrs. Morgan suggested the Police Committee schedule a meeting to discuss this issue. Chief Brooks suggested the Village Solicitor be invited to that meeting.

Mr. Johns asked what gives Village of Hebron staff permission to drive their side-by-side through the village to water flowers, etc. There was some discussion about the use of side-by-sides and golf carts for work purposes. Mrs. Seymour said she will schedule a meeting and report back to Council at the next Combined Council Committees Meeting.

Ms. Roberts asked if the Lake Forest Subdivision is private property and who handles the streetlights in the subdivision. Mayor Layton said he believes the responsibility lies with the Homeowners' Association and the service is provided by American Electric Power. Mrs. Morgan said she will confirm with the Village Solicitor. Dr. Mockus said a resident reported large gaps between light fixtures in Lake Forest, and low lighting makes it hard to see in the evening. She said the resident asked if we could upgrade the bulbs to LED lighting. Mr. Wolf said tree roots have also caused damage to some of the sidewalks in the Lake Forest subdivision. Mrs. Morgan said she will reach out to the Lake Forest representative to see what can be done. Dr. Mockus said residents are not getting clear answers when asking about issues in Lake Forest. She asked if the Village can assist with helping to direct residents to the proper contact and make it known to residents that the responsibility does not belong to the Village of Hebron.

Water, Wastewater Committee –(Kenney Nauer-Chair, Annelle Porter, Paige Seymour)
None

Parks, Recreation, Public Works Committee-(Annelle Porter-Chair, Kenney Nauer, Dr. Valerie Mockus)

Mrs. Porter said Mr. Ward plans to increase the amount of flowers in the downtown area next year, which she thinks will be an asset to the Village. She said she thinks the flowers are attractive. Mrs. Morgan concurred and said the Village plans to use available funds to purchase more flowers next year. Mr. Johns said a friend complimented the flowers while visiting from out of town.

Ms. Roberts said there are weeds, trash, etc. on SR 79 coming into town from Buckeye Lake. Mrs. Morgan said she will talk to Mr. Ward about the mowing contract for that area. Mr. Nauer asked how long it will take to see wildflowers blooming in the park. Mrs. Morgan said she will check with Mr. Ward.

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Dr. Mockus said a Newark Advocate article about the Main Street bus route in Newark mentioned three more routes to be added soon, and Hebron was mentioned. Mayor Layton said the Chairman of the Licking County Area Transportation Study (LCATS) has been discussing options to expand the route. He said the plan is to cover a lot of areas including Hebron. Dr. Mockus said would like to see it extended from Hebron to Buckeye Lake, for the benefit of Hebron residents.

Dr. Mockus said she heard again that the back of the Firehouse on Basin Street has not been weed whacked. Mrs. Morgan said she will talk to Mr. Ward and the Fire District to determine the best approach to taking care of the issue going forward. She said she's sure the issue will be handled quickly.

Mrs. Seymour said if residents are not allowed to use golf carts and side-by-sides in the Village, she feels we should not allow the Public Works Department to use them either. Mayor Layton said Village staff uses them for business purposes, not leisure. Mrs. Morgan said she will talk to the Solicitor about it.

Mr. Wolf said a bump in the asphalt on SR 79 was ground down and is no longer an issue. Councilmembers were grateful this was done.

Personnel, Annexation, Insurance Committee-(*Randy Wolf-Chair, Stacy Stoner, Kenney Nauer*)

Mr. Wolf said he read Governor DeWine awarded more money to state grant funds. Mrs. Morgan said the Village would have to apply for the funds and she is researching it.

Mr. Wolf said the West Licking Fire District will swear in new Firemen on August 3rd at 10am at the Pataskala office. He said some of the new Firefighters came from the Refugee-Canyon Joint Fire District.

Other items not listed

Village of Hebron Walking Map

Mrs. Morgan said she and Mr. Ward have been working with the Licking County Health Department to create a walking map of Hebron. She presented a copy of the proposed map to Councilmembers for review and said the Health Department is offering up to \$1000 to cover printing costs. She said this item will be on the next Council Meeting agenda for approval. She said Pal Printing quoted \$350 to print pamphlets. Mrs. Seymour asked why the Hebron Elementary School was included on the walking map, as the school is no longer active. Mrs. Morgan said the school building is a historical building. She said the map can be updated over time as needed.

Open Discussion

Mrs. Porter asked about the proposed Comprehensive Plan for the Village. Mayor Layton said we are waiting to receive more community response. Mrs. Porter said she has things she would like to address. Mayor Layton asked her to put it in writing for discussion.

Mrs. Seymour asked about work on Main Street near her home, where the Ohio Department of Transportation marked the asphalt but no work was done. Mrs. Morgan said she will check with Mr. Ward.

Dr. Mockus thanked Mrs. Morgan for all of the work she has been doing for the Village of Hebron. She said she knows it has been stressful and she is carrying a lot of weight handling multiple roles, but it is important work and she knows others appreciate it. Mrs. Seymour said Mrs. Morgan has been very thorough and kind during this transition. Councilmembers agreed.

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Visitor Comments

Mr. Jones, 802 W. Main Street, presented a petition signed by fifteen residents who request the traffic signal at the intersection of SR 40 & 8th Street be removed because Hebron Elementary is no longer open. He said traffic speeds up to get through the changing light, and vehicles blast their music while sitting at the light. He said many cars have bad or no exhaust systems, rev their engines, and there are diesel trucks that travel through town and sit at that light. He said maintaining traffic enforcement will help the flow of traffic. He said he can get more signatures if needed. Mrs. Morgan said she and Mr. Ward reached out to ODOT who said the Village of Hebron owns the light, but the function of the light is under the control of ODOT. She said they were informed in order to change the light function, a warrant study would be needed. Mrs. Misner said the school building will be going up for public auction and then the schools will determine how much that corner will be used as a bus pickup. Mrs. Porter warned all to be cautious when removing a light, as it may be harder to get it replaced if needed in the future. Chief Brooks said putting up stop signs to regulate speed does not appear to be the best option. He said that issue came about when putting in a stop sign on Hamilton Road. Dr. Mockus asked if Council wants to pursue having the warrant study done. Mrs. Morgan said she will find out the cost of the study. Dr. Mockus said public feedback would be helpful as well.


Ms. Roberts asked if there is an estimated time frame for dealing with the golf cart situation. Mrs. Seymour said she will be out of town next week, so she cannot schedule a meeting until the following week. She said there is also a process of directing the Village Solicitor to draw up legislation if desired, then presenting it to Council and the public for three readings. She said the three readings are typically only suspended in the case of an emergency. Mrs. Morgan said the entire process could take a few months to complete, if Council chooses to do so.

Adjourn

Mrs. Porter moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:15pm, second by Mrs. Stoner. A roll call vote was taken with all Councilmembers present voting in favor.

Attest:


Deborah Morgan, Village Fiscal Officer


Mayor James Layton