

Newberry Village Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 20, 2019
302 East McMillan Ave.
6:00 p.m.

Present: President Stokes, Trustees: Brown, Dishaw, Freese, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Hitts.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Assistant Village Manager – Vallad, Director of Human Resources & Community Engagement – Watkins, Superintendent WWTP – Blakely, Treasurer – Medelis, Fire Chief – Wendt, Ordinance Enforcement Officer – Fossitt, Clerk – Schummer, Ken Stokes, Sterling McGinn, Scott Ouellette, Rebecca Handa, Steve Stiffler, Kip Cameron, Carolyn Martindale, John Bergman, Daryl Boerigtor, Jean Simi.

Call to Order: President Stokes called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Village of Newberry Administration Building. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Agenda: Moved by Dishaw, support by Hardenbrook, **CARRIED**, to approve the agenda with the following addition: Under 17 Reports of Committees #4 - 41-Lumber. Ayes: Stokes, Brown, Dishaw, Freese, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson. Abstain: Hitts.

Minutes: Moved by Hendrickson, support by Hardenbrook, **CARRIED**, to approve the April 15, 2019, special session minutes as written. Ayes: All. Moved by Dishaw, support by Hendrickson, **CARRIED**, to approve the minutes from the April 15, 2019 Regular Session as written. Ayes: Stokes, Brown, Dishaw, Freese, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson. Abstain: Hitts. Moved by Freese, support by Hardenbrook, **CARRIED**, to approve the minutes from the April 18, 2019 Special Session as written. Ayes: All. Moved by Hendrickson, support by Hardenbrook, **CARRIED**, to approve the minutes from the April 24, 2019 Special Session as written. Ayes: Stokes, Brown, Dishaw, Freese, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson. Abstain: Hitts.

Village President’s Announcements: Stokes stated that she attended the MML’s Elected Officers Academy Advanced Leadership Weekender in May. She attended the following classes: Municipal Budgeting, Save MI City, Funding Community Projects, Financial Statements and Audits, Utility Rate Settings and Priority Based Budgeting. She stated that at the Save MI City presentation she learned that Newberry had lost over 1.2 Million dollars in revenue sharing. MML is leading the way for villages in educating residents on how revenue sharing works and what we can do to encourage legislators to fix the equations. To learn more go to saveMIcity.org.

Public Comments on Agenda Items: Rebecca Handa, Carolyn Martindale, Scott Ouellette, Kip Cameron.

Submission of Bills and Financial Updates:

- 1.) **Village of Newberry – Monthly Bills.** Moved by Dishaw, support by Hardenbrook, **CARRIED**, to approve the April 2019 bills, in the amount of \$48,209.23, with the exception of: Ordinance Officer 101-230-801-000 - Beckett & Raeder and Fire Revolving Fund 213-336-911-000 – Conference & Workshops. Discussion followed. Ayes: Stokes, Dishaw, Freese, Hardenbrook. Nays: Brown, Hendrickson, Hitts.
- 2.) **Water & Light monthly bills for April 2019:** Moved by Hendrickson, support by Brown, **CARRIED**, to accept the recommendation of the W&L Board to pay the April Electric and Water Funds in the total amount of \$119,739.73. Ayes: All.
- 1.) **Christmas Lights Fund** – as of 04/30/2019 - \$12,225.22.
- 2.) **Treasurer’s Report** – April 2019 – The Council accepted the report as presented. Motion by Brown, support by Hitts, **CARRIED**, 2019 Tax Resolution – The Village Council authorizes the Village Treasurer to spread the 2019 Tax Roll based on the Assessed Taxable Value of \$17,659,940.00 as designated by the McMillan Township assessor. Such tax to be levied with 11.2262 mills for general operation purposes and 4.4903 mills for streets and alleys and 1.3928 mills for trash (disposal/collection) and 2.0000 mills for residential fire protection for a total millage of 19.1093. Ayes: Brown, Dishaw, Freese, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Hitts. Nays: Stokes. Motion by Freese, support by Hitts, **CARRIED**, The Village Council authorizes the addition of a 1% administrative

fee, \$1 Minimum plus a 3% penalty (minimum \$2.00) if paid after September 15, 2019. In addition, a 1% per month interest charge will be added starting September 15, 2019 and will continue until tax is paid. The Village Council authorizes collection of taxes for 2019 beginning July 1, 2019 and continuing through February 28, 2020. Ayes: All.

- 3.) Request for Disbursement of Funds – Stormwater/Asset Management/Wastewater (SAW) Grant Program, pay when paid: Moved by Brown, support by Hardenbrook, **CARRIED**, to approve payment of Request #12, April 1, 2019 – April 30, 2019, C2AE Invoice #67979: \$6,511.02, C2AE Invoice #67980: \$544.92, Village Staff Labor: \$1,007.84, for a total of \$8,063.78. Discussion followed. Ayes: All.

Petitions and Communications:

- 1.) Letter from Christian Fellowship SBC: Motion by Brown, support by Hendrickson, **CARRIED**, to approve the request, to use Atlas Park on August 17, 2019, as we have in the past. Ayes: All.
- 2.) Letter from Terrie Warren regarding Railroad Crossings. Motion by Freese, support by Hendrickson, **CARRIED**, request administration to look into the railroad crossing issue. Discussion followed. Ayes: All.
- 3.) Training for Local Officials - FYI

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances and Resolutions:

- 1.) Moved by Dishaw, support by Hardenbrook, **CARRIED**, to adopt the Resolution Establishing Authorized Signatories for MERS Contract and Service Credit Purchase Approvals. Signatories being the following job positions: Village Manager, Assistant Village Manager and Director of Human Resources and Community Engagement. Ayes: All.

Reports of Boards:

- 1.) Water & Light Board Meeting from Tuesday, May 14, 2019: Minutes provided. Discussion followed.
- 2.) Planning Commission Meeting: Minutes provided from April 22, 2019 meeting. Hardenbrook gave a verbal report. There is still a vacancy on this Commission.

Reports of Village Officers and Management:

- A.) Fire Chief: Fire Chief Wendt gave a verbal report. The department did receive a check in the amount of \$1,876.87 from the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians for the Fire Pup Project. Discussion regarding the past practice of cleaning chimneys was held.
- B.) Ordinance Enforcement Officer: Fossitt gave a written and verbal report. He stated that he would only work on complaints that are in writing. Complaint forms can be obtained at the Village Office or from the Ordinance Office. The things he feels need to be done to restore pride in Newberry are: Take control of the blight problem, Get rid of junk and disabled motor vehicles, take control of grass, weeds, and other vegetation, enforce the burning ordinance and get control of barking and at large dogs. A discussion was held regarding bringing non-compliant residents to court and hiring a local attorney to represent the Village. Moved by Brown, support by Hitts, **CARRIED**, to make a budget amendment of \$500 to the legal line of the Ordinance Enforcement Officer's budget to bring the Ordinance issues to court. Ayes: Brown, Dishaw, Freese, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Hitts. Nays: Stokes. Fossitt stated he would like anyone in the community to contact him and let him know if they would volunteer, to help residents who have no means to move items to the dumpsters, during the upcoming cleanup weeks. He also stated that the dump area at the end of West Helen was supposed to be used for only grass, leaves and branches, but there's a lot more items that are being dumped there and it needs to stop.
- C.) Director of Human Resources & Community Engagement: Watkins gave a verbal as well as a written report.
 - a. FOIA Status Report – No new requests made.
- D.) Superintendent of Wastewater Treatment Plant: Blakely gave a verbal as well as a written report. He stated that Dan Puckett, of the WWTP department, had received the Jack Rydquist Award for 2019.
- E.) Superintendent of Water & Light: Joe Lively – Working Foreman, submitted a written report.

- F.) Assistant Village Manager: Vallad gave a verbal report along with presenting charts. Discussion regarding the recent outage was held.
- G.) Superintendent of Parks and Recreation: James-Mesloh submitted a written report.
- H.) Village Manager: James-Mesloh submitted a written report.

Committee Reports:

- 1.) Fire Advisory Committee: Stokes gave a verbal report. Minutes from the April 22, 2019 meeting were presented. The next meeting will be Oct. 22, 2019.
- 2.) Management Committee: Freese gave the report. Minutes from the May 17, 2019 meeting were presented. Moved by Dishaw, support by Hardenbrook, **CARRIED**, to send the Rules and Procedures draft to the Village Attorney for review. Ayes: Stokes, Brown, Dishaw, Freese, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson. Abstain: Hitts.
- 3.) Parks & Recreation Committee - TORC: Brown gave the report. A lengthy discussion followed which included the TORC final phase construction bids. The two bids that were submitted were too high.
- 4.) 41-Lumber: Dishaw gave a verbal report. Discussion followed regarding the insurance claim for the building.

Unfinished Business:

- 1.) Ordinance Enforcement Office – Desk Phone: Vallad will make sure the phone is shut-off.
- 2.) Budget Amendments: Moved by Dishaw, support by Hardenbrook, **CARRIED**, to approve the Electric and Water budget amendments/adjustments as presented. Ayes: All.

New Business:

- 1.) Spring Clean-up Days: Moved by Hardenbrook, support by Hitts, **CARRIED**, to add a budget line for the Spring Cleanup Dumpster from the General Fund, to do the cleanup annually, around the first 2-weeks in June. Ayes: All.
- 2.) Date Change of Monthly Council Meetings: Moved by Freese, support by Brown, **CARRIED**, to move the Village of Newberry Council meetings to the third Tuesday of each month beginning with the June 2019 meeting. Ayes: All. Meetings will still begin at 6:00 p.m.
- 3.) Committee Reassignments: Stokes will email new assignments to the Council members.
- 4.) Creation of Joint Committee between W&L Board and Council for Ordinance A and Policy Revisions: Discussed. No action taken.

Public Comment: Comment heard from: Kip Cameron, Scott Ouellette, Rebecca Handa, Terese Schummer and Carolyn Martindale,

Comments by Council Members: Brown made comments about the TORC project.

Adjourn Meeting: Moved by Freese, support by Hardenbrook, **CARRIED**, to adjourn the meeting at 9:38 p.m. Ayes: All.

These minutes are unofficial until voted on at the next meeting.

Terese Schummer, Clerk

Lori A. Stokes, Village President