

Newberry Village Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2018
302 East McMillan Ave.
6:00 p.m.

Present: President DeWitt, Trustees: Brown, Downey, Hendrickson, Medelis.

Absent: Hardenbrook (arrives at 6:02)

Also Present: Village Manager - James-Mesloh, Assistant Village Manager - Vallad, Clerk - Schummer, Superintendent WWTP - Blakely, Director of Human Resources & Community Engagement - Watkins, Superintendent of Water & Light – Perry, Fire Chief - Wendt, Jim Diem, Steve Stiffler, Don Jones, Eric Buckler, Mike Schnorr, Don Ratliff, Bruce Lane, Mike Needha, Ken Stokes, Lori Stokes, Michael Winn, Deb Singleton, Casey Cook, Robert Stevens, Lloyd Martindale, Carolyn Martindale, Mary Overby, Jessica Korenich, Ian Stokes, Mary Archambeau, Julie Craig, Daryl Boerigtor, Jean Simi, Charlie Mesloh, Paul Lahti, Chuck Lawson, Lewis Hitts, Chuck Pipes, Charly Pipes, Greg Whalen, Duane Kisro, Byron Kisro, Dave Fall.

Call to Order: President DeWitt 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 Brown, support by Hendrickson, **CARRIED**, to approve the agenda. Ayes: All. Absent: Hardenbrook.

Minutes: Moved by Brown, support by Downey, **CARRIED**, to approve the February 19, 2018, regular session minutes as written. Ayes: All. Absent: Hardenbrook.

Hardenbrook arrives – 6:02.

Village President’s Announcements: DeWitt stated that residents can call or email him.

Public Comments on Agenda Items: Comments heard from: Eric Buckler – 412 W. Ave. C, Michael Winn – 607 Newberry Ave, Mike Schnorr – 306 E. Truman, Mary Archambeau – 103 W. Helen, Ken Stokes – 301 W. John St., Lori Stokes – 301 W. John St., Don Jones – 514 E. Ave. B, Carolyn Martindale – 306 W. John St. – Lewis Hitts – 403 W. John, Lloyd Martindale – 306 W. John, Mary Overby, Duane Kisro – 215 E. Ave. C, Scott Ouellette, Don Ratliff – 309 E. Truman, Paul Lahti – 412 E. John.

Submission of Bills and Financial Updates:

- 1.) Village of Newberry – Monthly Bills. Moved by Brown, support by Medelis, **CARRIED**, to approve the February 2018 bills as presented, in the amount of \$253,432.18. Discussion followed. Ayes: All.
- 2.) Village of Newberry - Cash Balance – January 2018. Reviewed.
- 3.) Water & Light monthly bills for February 2018. Moved by Brown, support by Hardenbrook, **CARRIED**, to pay February Electric Fund in the amount of \$139,280.62. Discussion followed. Ayes: All. Moved by Brown, support by Downey, **CARRIED**, to pay February Water Fund in the amount of \$3,939.36. Discussion followed. Ayes: All.
- 4.) Water & Light – Cash Balance – January 2018 - Reviewed.
- 5.) Treasurer’s Report - Accepted by Council as presented.
- 6.) Request for Disbursement of Funds – Drinking Water Revolving Fund (DWRF) and Clean Water State Revolving Funds (SRF/SWQIF)

- a. Moved by Brown, support by Medelis, CARRIED, to approve payment of Request #26, in the amount of \$55,047.00, reimbursement to Village. Chuck Lawson of C2AE explained the invoice, discussion followed. Ayes: All.
- b. Moved by Downey, support by Hardenbrook, CARRIED, to accept Change Order #7 (#4 Arch) in the amount of \$10,000.00. Ayes: All.

Petitions and Communications: Communications addressed to the Village Council are distributed to all members and are acknowledged for information, or are referred to a committee or staff for follow-up.

Letters from: Don Jones – inquiry about Planning Commission, Ronald Brown – Inquiry about Village Manager & Utility Billing, Eric Buckler – Inquiry about Planning Commission, Eric Buckler – Inquiry about Budgets for Water, Electric, Wastewater, Eric Buckler – Inquiry about Accounting & Cost Allocation, Lloyd & Carolyn Martindale – Inquiry about Utility Billing.

FOIA Requests: Lori Stokes – Inquiry about Gary Moulton, Lori Stokes – Inquiry about emails of Jennifer James-Mesloh, Buck Vallad, AllisonWatkins, Michelle Baynton, Mary Jordan & Matt Perry, Lori Stokes – Inquiry about hours worked & work logs, Kenneth Stokes – Inquiry about Allison Watkins, Kenneth Stokes – Inquiry about Mary Jordan, Kenneth Stokes – Inquiry about Michelle Baynton, Kenneth Stokes – Inquiry about Buck Vallad, Kenneth Stokes – Inquiry about Jennifer James-Mesloh, Kenneth Stokes – Inquiry about bills approved on 2-13-18, Kenneth Stokes – Inquiry about bills approved on 2-19-18, Kenneth Stokes – Inquiry about customer accounts, Kenneth Stokes – Inquiry about vendor invoices, Kenneth Stokes – Inquiry about Buck Vallad, Kenneth Stokes – Inquiry about audit, Kenneth Stokes – Inquiry about Jan. 2018 W&L bills, Kenneth Stokes – Inquiry about budget at W&L Meeting, Kenneth Stokes – Inquiry about Michigan Rural Water Association, Kenneth Stokes – Inquiry about video footage, Jessica Korenich – Inquiry about stipend of Council and W&L Board, Ian Stokes – Inquiry about Attorney Fees, Eric Buckler – Inquiry about budgets for General, Water, Electric, Wastewater & Amendments for 2016-2018.

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances and Resolutions: None.

Reports of Boards:

- 1.) Water & Light Board Meeting from Tuesday, March 13, 2018: Medelis gave the report.
- 2.) Planning Commission Meeting: Minutes from the February 26, 2018 meeting presented.

Reports of Village Officers and Management:

- A.) Fire Chief: Wendt gave the report.
- B.) Ordinance Enforcement Officer: None
- C.) Director of Human Resources & Community Engagement: Watkins gave a verbal as well as written report.
- D.) Superintendent of Wastewater Treatment Plant: Blakely gave a verbal as well as written report.
- E.) Superintendent of Water & Light: Perry gave a written as well as a verbal report.
- F.) Superintendent of Parks and Recreation: James-Mesloh gave verbal report.
- G.) Assistant Village Manager: Vallad gave a verbal report and presented charts.
- H.) Village Manager: James-Mesloh gave a written as well as a verbal report.

Committee Reports:

- 1.) Save the Bells: The Save the Bells fund balance is now at \$16,320.55.

Unfinished Business:

- 1.) SAW Grant Kick-off: Chuck Lawson explained the SAW (Sewer and Wastewater) Grant, which was awarded to Newberry and is for \$91,000.00. Moved by Brown, support by Medelis, CARRIED, to allow the Village Manager to act on the Council's behalf and choose the lowest bid, given all the firms are equal, of up to \$80,000, for aerial flight photography, to

make a topiary map of the sewer system when weather permits, with the caveat that the Council can revisit this at the next meeting if the snow is still present. Ayes: All.

New Business:

1. **Trustee Vacancy:** Moved by Brown, support by Downey, **CARRIED**, to accept the recommendation of Village President DeWitt to fill the vacancy on the Village Council with Lewis Hitts. Ayes: Brown, DeWitt, Downey, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson. Nays: Medelis. Lewis Hitts was administered the Oath of Office by Clerk Schummer.
2. **2018 Budgets:**
 - a. Moved by Brown, support by Medelis, **CARRIED**, to accept the recommendation of the Water & Light Board and approve the 2018 Water Budget. Ayes: Brown, DeWitt, Downey, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Medelis. Abstain: Hitts.
 - b. Moved by Medelis, support by Downey, **CARRIED**, to accept the recommendation of the Water & Light Board and approve the 2018 Electric Budget. Ayes: Brown, DeWitt, Downey, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Medelis. Abstain: Hitts.
 - c. Moved by Brown, support by Hardenbrook, **CARRIED**, to accept the 2018 Sewer Budget as presented. Ayes: Brown, DeWitt, Downey, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Medelis. Abstain: Hitts.

Public Comment: Comments were heard from: Carolyn Martindale – 306 W. John, E. Buckler – 412 W. Ave. C, Michael Winn – 607 Newberry Ave., Don Jones – 514 E. Ave B, Paul Lahti – 412 E. John, Ian Stokes – 316 W. John, Lori Stokes – 301 W. John, Brian Link – 508 E. Ave. A, Mike Schnorr – 302 E. Truman, Scott Ouellette, Ken Stokes – 301 W. John, Steve Stiffler - 202 Newberry Ave., Mary Archambeau – 103 W. Helen, Don Ratliff – 309 E. Truman, Chuck Pipes – 210 W. Truman, Terese Schummer – 214 W. Truman.

Comments by Council Members: Comment heard from: Hendrickson, Downey, Medelis, Brown, Hardenbrook, Hitts.

Move to Closed Session: Moved by Downey, support by Brown, **CARRIED**, to go into closed session to discuss an attorney client privileged memo. Roll call vote: Ayes: Brown, DeWitt, Downey, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Hitts, Medelis. Nays: None. Council entered into closed session at 9:02 p.m.

Reopen Regular Meeting: Moved by Downey, support by Hitts, **CARRIED**, to reopen the regular session at 9:25 p.m. Roll call vote: Ayes: Brown, DeWitt, Downey, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Hitts, Medelis. Nays: None.

Council Action: Moved by Downey, support by Hitts, **CARRIED**, to instruct our attorney to initiate communication with attorney Todd Millar and further that President DeWitt is authorized to sign a contract with attorney Todd Millar for purposes of assisting with a harassment complaint. Ayes: All.

Adjourn Meeting: Moved by Hardenbrook, support by Brown, **CARRIED**, to adjourn the meeting at 9:28 p.m. Ayes: All.

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

Terese Schummer, Clerk

John DeWitt, Village President