

****The minutes corrected that the June 16, 2020 meeting.**

Newberry Village Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
May 19, 2020 – 6:00 p.m.
Electronic Public Meeting – Due to COVID-19 Virus

****NOTE – All votes were done by Roll Call Vote**

Present: President Stokes, Trustees: Cameron, Freese, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Puckett.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Interim Village Manager/Director of Human Resources & Community Engagement – Watkins, Clerk – Schummer, Sterling McGinn, Larry Vincent, Jeremy Gagnon.

Call to Order: President Stokes called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. via Zoom.

Approval of Agenda: Moved by Puckett, support by Hardenbrook, **CARRIED**, to approve the agenda as presented. Ayes: Stokes, Cameron, Freese, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Puckett.

Minutes: Moved by Hendrickson, support by Freese, **CARRIED**, to approve the minutes from the April 21, 2020, regular meeting as written. Ayes: Stokes, Cameron, Freese, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Puckett.

Public Comments on Agenda Items: None.

Village President's Announcements: President Stokes thanked the staff and Interim Village Manager Watkins for keeping things up and running at this difficult time.

Submission of Bills and Financial Updates:

- A.) **Village of Newberry – Monthly Bills.** Moved by Hendrickson, support by Freese, **CARRIED**, to approve payment of the April 18, 2020 – May 15, 2020 bills, in the amount of \$26,180.31. Roll call vote: Ayes: Stokes, Cameron, Freese, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Puckett.
- B.) **Water & Light monthly bills for April 9, 2020 to May 7, 2020:** Moved by Cameron, support by Puckett, **CARRIED**, to accept the recommendation of the W&L Board to pay the Electric and Water Funds in the total amount of \$83,391.28. Roll call vote: Ayes: Stokes, Cameron, Freese, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Puckett.
- C.) **Christmas Lights Fund** – as of 3/31/2020 - \$12,221.44.
- D.) **Treasurer's Report** – March 2020 – N. Moulton gave a written report. Council accepted the report as presented.
- E.) **Request for Disbursement of Funds:**
 - a.) Stormwater/Asset Management/Wastewater (SAW) Grant Program, pay when paid: Moved by Puckett, support by Cameron, **CARRIED**, to pay Request #23 – 04/01/2020 to 04/30/2020 –C2AE invoice #69690: \$1,682.86. Discussion followed. Roll Call Vote - Ayes: Stokes, Cameron, Freese, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Puckett.

Petitions and Communications: None.

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances and Resolutions:

- 1.) **Redevelopment Ready Program:** Larry Vincent discussed the Redevelopment Program and answered questions from the Council. Moved by Hendrickson, support by Hardenbrook, **CARRIED**, to adopt the Resolution to proceed with the Redevelopment Ready Communities (RRC) Program of the Michigan Economic Development Corporation (MEDC). Ayes: Stokes, Cameron, Freese, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Puckett.
- 2.) **Ordinance 50:** Moved by Hardenbrook, support by Freese, **CARRIED**, to move forward with the adoption of Ordinance 50, to provide for the appointment of the Village of Newberry Village Treasurer. Discussion followed. Ayes: Stokes, Cameron, Freese, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson. Nays: Puckett.
- 3.) **Ordinance 51:** Moved by Freese, support by Hardenbrook, **CARRIED**, to move forward with the adoption of Ordinance 51, to provide for the appointment of the Village of Newberry Village Clerk. Discussion followed. Ayes: Stokes, Cameron, Freese, Hardenbrook. Nays: Hendrickson,

Puckett.

****CORRECTION:** Ordinance 51 had passed by a 4 to 2 vote, however after the close of the meeting, the Interim Village Manager was advised by the Village attorney, that because it did not pass with a 2/3 majority vote, Ordinance 51 failed.

Unfinished Business:

- 1.) Audit update:
 - a. Revenue sharing. Watkins gave an update, stated the audit was finally finished. She also discussed revenue sharing.
- 2.) New Maintenance Building: Jeremy Gagnon, of McGahey Construction, the contractor building the new Village maintenance building, was present to answer questions by the Council. Moved by Puckett, support by Hardenbrook, **CARRIED**, to approve up to an additional \$20,000.00 for the new Maintenance building. Discussion followed. Ayes: Stokes, Cameron, Freese, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Puckett.
- 3.) Former Employee Arbitration: Moved by Puckett, support by Hendrickson, **CARRIED**, to open up discussion about the possibility of a mediation team being selected in regards to a former employee arbitration situation. Discussion followed. Ayes: Stokes, Cameron, Freese, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Puckett. Moved by Hendrickson, support by Hardenbrook, **CARRIED**, to appoint Watkins and Puckett to the mediation team with Cameron as the alternate. Ayes: Stokes, Cameron, Freese, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Puckett.
- 4.) Review of Utility Billing Payment and Processing approach: Watkins discussed billing and payment issues. Discussion followed.
- 5.) Public Comment Follow-up from Previous Meeting: None needed.

New Business:

- 1.) Redevelopment Ready Baseline Report: Resolution was voted on earlier in the meeting.
- 2.) MBANK – Payroll and Tax Accounts: Watkins stated that both the payroll and tax accounts at MBANK had been breached at least 2 times. A police report was filed. Watkins will try to get a representative from MBANK to come to the next meeting to talk about the security measures they are taking regarding the Village accounts.
- 3.) 4th of July Parade: Discussed. Decided to let the organizers make the decisions regarding the parade for now.
- 4.) July 6, 2020 – Culpepper & Meriweather Circus: The Circus is cancelled for 2020 due to COVID-19.

Reports of Boards:

- 1.) Water & Light Board: Minutes provided from the May 12, 2020 meeting. Report by Freese.
- 2.) Planning Commission Meeting: April 27, 2020 meeting cancelled.

Committee Reports:

- 1.) Ordinance Committee: May 7th and 15th 2020, meeting minutes provided.
- 2.) 41 Lumber Ad Hoc Committee: May 14, 2020 meeting minutes provided.

Reports of Village Officers & Management:

- A.) Fire Chief: Wendt submitted a written report.
- B.) Superintendent of Wastewater Treatment Plant & DPW: Blakely submitted a written report. Watkins stated there was an incident at the Waste Water Plant on Saturday, May 16th. The pumps became clogged with plastic bags, as a result there was a sewage spill into the Tahquamenon River. Watkins discussed what would need to be done temporarily to help if this situation does happen again. Long term, we will need to have rails that come to the top of the pit installed and a lift mechanism to lift the pumps out of the pit. Discussion followed.
- C.) Water & Light: Written report submitted by Dan Kucinskis.
- D.) Interim Village Manager/Director of Human Resources & Community Engagement: Watkins gave a verbal as well as written report. Moved by Puckett, support by Hardenbrook, **CARRIED**, to approve the leave requests by Interim Village Manager Watkins, for May 26, June 19 and 22, July

6, 24 and 31, 2020. Ayes: Stokes, Cameron, Freese, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Puckett. Watkins stated the Village offices would be closed Monday May 25th and July 3, 2020.

Public Comment: None

Comments by Council Members: Comments heard from Hendrickson, Cameron and Puckett.

Adjourn Meeting: Moved by Cameron, support by Hardenbrook, **CARRIED**, to adjourn the meeting at 8:18 p.m. Ayes: Stokes, Cameron, Freese, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Puckett.

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

Terese Schummer, Clerk

Lori A. Stokes, Village President