

Newberry Village Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 17, 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. All Board members identified as calling in remotely via ZOOM from Newberry, MI.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Village Manager/Director of Human Resources & Community Engagement – Watkins, Clerk – Schummer, Newberry News - Sterling McGinn. Public - Vickey McCormick

Call to Order: President Stokes called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. via Zoom.

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

Moment of Silence: President Stokes asked for a moment of silence in memorium of retired Village Police Chief William “Bill” Labadie.

Minutes: Moved by Hendrickson, support by Cameron, **CARRIED**, to approve the minutes from the October 20, 2020 regular meeting as written. Ayes: Stokes, Cameron, Freese, Hendrickson, Puckett. Abstain: Hardenbrook.

Public Comments on Agenda Items: None.

Village President’s Announcements: Lori Stokes thanked everyone on the Council for working with her during her tenure as Village President. She is looking forward to continue working with everyone as a Trustee.

Submission of Bills and Financial Updates:

- A.) **Village of Newberry monthly Bills:** Moved by Puckett, support by Hardenbrook, **CARRIED**, to approve payment of the October 17, 2020 – November 13, 2020 bills, in the amount of \$95,443.98. Ayes: Stokes, Cameron, Freese, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Puckett.
- B.) **Water & Light monthly bills:** Moved by Hendrickson, support by Freese, **CARRIED**, to pay the Electric and Water Fund bills for October 10, 2020 – November 6, 2020, with a total amount of \$49,189.14. Ayes: Stokes, Cameron, Freese, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Puckett.
- C.) **Christmas Lights Fund** – as of 10/31/2020 - \$14,673.33. Hendrickson stated that people are putting non-metal items in the recycle bin. The Bin’s profits are being donated to the Save the Bells project and when a non-metal object is put in, it costs money to be disposed of, and takes away from the profit.
- D.) **Treasurer’s Report:**
 - a.) October 2020 – N. Moulton submitted 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 Freese, support by Puckett, **CARRIED**, to pay Request #28 – 10/01/2020 to 10/31/2020
 - 1.) C2AE invoice #70582 for \$12,982.19
 - 2.) ESRI invoice #93925976 for \$2,860.82
 - 3.) Amazon invoice #10-30-2020 for \$546.94for a total of \$16,389.95. Ayes: Stokes, Cameron, Freese, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Puckett.

Petitions and Communications: Complaint received from Alvin and Vickey McCormick. Lengthy discussion held. Moved by Freese, support by Hendrickson, **CARRIED**, to grant the McCormick's request for removal of a tax lien on a property they recently purchased within the Village. Ayes: Stokes, Cameron, Freese, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Puckett.

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances and Resolutions:

- 1.) 2020-11-17 Resolution Relating to Public Act 152: Moved by Hendrickson support by Freese, **CARRIED**, to adopt Resolution 2020-11-17. Discussion followed. Ayes: Stokes, Cameron, Freese, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Puckett.
- 2.) 2020-11-20 Resolution Declaring Trustee Vacancies Due to Lack of Elected Candidates: Moved by Freese, support by Hendrickson, **CARRIED**, to adopt Resolution 2020-11-20. Discussion followed. Ayes: Stokes, Cameron, Freese, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Puckett.

Unfinished Business:

- 1.) 2019 Audit Update: Watkins gave an update.
- 2.) New Maintenance Building Update: Watkins gave an update.
- 3.) New VON lobby space update: A lobby area was constructed on the north side of the Village office building for use by the public, which will provide safety for both the public and employees. This was funded by a COVID-19 grant.
- 4.) W&L Board Appointments:
 - 1.) Appointment of Customer, non-electror seat: The Board was presented with a 2nd questionnaire received from Kirby Wendt, showing interest in the vacant seat on the Water and Light Board. The Village President is the one who nominates for this seat. Stokes nominated Kirby Wendt. Moved by Freese support by Cameron, **CARRIED**, to appoint Kirby Wendt as the 'At Large Customer Non Elector Member' of the W&L Board. Ayes: Stokes, Cameron, Freese, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Puckett.
 - 2.) Appointment of two Council seats: Stokes nominated Freese and Hendrickson. Moved by Cameron, support by Hardenbrook, to appoint Freese and Hendrickson to W&L Board, **motion withdrawn** as Freese declined appointment. Moved by Cameron support by Hardenbrook, **CARRIED** to appoint Hendrickson to the W&L Board. Ayes: Stokes, Cameron, Freese, Hardenbrook, Puckett. Abstain: Hendrickson. Stokes nominated herself to sit on the W&L Board as a Council Representative. Moved by Hardenbrook, support by Puckett, **CARRIED**, to appoint Stokes to the W&L Board. Ayes: Cameron, Freese, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Puckett. Abstain: Stokes.
- 5.) Public Comment Follow-Up from previous meeting: None needed.

New Business:

- 1.) Letter of support for HNJH USDA Grant Application: Moved by Freese, support by Hardenbrook, **CARRIED**, to approve the submission of a letter of support for Helen Newberry Joy Hospital for a USDA Grant Application. Ayes: Stokes, Cameron, Freese, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Puckett.
- 2.) SAW Grant final paperwork:
 - i. Approval of Wastewater Certificate of Completeness: Moved by Freese, support by Hendrickson, **CARRIED**, to approve the Wastewater Certificate of Completeness. Ayes: Stokes, Cameron, Freese, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Puckett.
 - ii. Approval of Stormwater Certificate of Completeness: Moved by Freese, support by Puckett, **CARRIED**, to approve the Stormwater Certificate of Completeness. Ayes: Stokes, Cameron, Freese, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Puckett.
- 3.) Reducing Trustee Numbers from 6 to 4: Moved by Freese, support by Stokes, **CARRIED**, to request Village Manager Allison Watkins to place consideration of whether to reduce the number of Village Trustees on a future Village Council meeting agenda and properly notice a public

hearing pursuant to the General Law Village Act for that purpose. Ayes: Stokes, Cameron, Freese, Hardenbrook. Nays: Hendrickson, Puckett.

- 4.) Advertising Village Council Trustee positions: Moved by Puckett, support by Hardenbrook, **CARRIED**, to advertise for the two vacant Village Trustee positions. Ayes: Stokes, Cameron, Freese, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Puckett.
- 5.) Set time for 2021 Public Budget Hearing: Moved by Hardenbrook, support by Freese, **CARRIED**, to set Tuesday, December 15, 2020, at 5:30 p.m. Ayes: Stokes, Cameron, Freese, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Puckett.
- 6.) Discussion on process for swearing in of elected officials: All that need to take the Oath of Office should contact Clerk Schummer to set that up.

Reports of Boards:

- 1.) Water & Light Board: Regular electronic meeting minutes for October 13 and November 10, 2020, were presented to the Board. Freese gave a verbal report.
- 2.) Planning Commission Meeting: Meeting minutes for October 26, 2020 meeting were presented. Hardenbrook gave a verbal report.

Committee Reports: No committee meetings were held between October 17 and November 17, 2020.

Reports of Village Officers & Management:

- A.) Fire Chief: No report submitted.
- B.) Superintendent of Wastewater Treatment Plant & DPW: Blakely submitted a written report.
- C.) Water & Light: Written report submitted by Working Superintendent Kucinkas. Watkins gave a verbal report. Discussion followed.
- D.) Village Manager: Watkins gave a verbal as well as written report.

Public Comment: Sterling McGinn, who is the Chair for the Save the Bells group, stated that due to COVID-19 no work was done this year. His plan is to get the group together to work on the stars in the spring. McGinn also stated the W&L Board was formed in 1895 and would hate to see it disbanded, as has been suggested.

Comments by Council Members: Comment heard from Freese and Hendrickson who thanked Puckett for his service. Puckett thanked the Board for their statesmanship during the meetings and thanked the Village crew as well.

Adjourn Meeting: Moved by Puckett, support by Freese, **CARRIED**, to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 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