

Newberry Village Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
April 21, 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, John Bergman.

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

Adoption of Resolution: Moved by Puckett, support by Hardenbrook, **CARRIED**, to adopt 2020-04-1- the Resolution Establishing Rules of Remote Attendance by Village Council Members, Planning Commission Members, Village Committee Members, Water & Light Board Members, and members of the public at meetings due to COVID-19 Pandemic. Ayes: Stokes, Cameron, Freese, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Puckett.

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

Minutes: Moved by Hardenbrook, support by Freese, **CARRIED**, to approve the minutes from the March 17, 2020, regular meeting as written. Ayes: Stokes, Cameron, Freese, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson. Abstain: Puckett (was not present at the meeting).

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 Puckett, support by Freese, **CARRIED**, to approve payment of the March 14, 2020 – April 17, 2020 bills, in the amount of \$21,865.94. Roll call vote: Ayes: Stokes, Cameron, Freese, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Puckett.
- B.) Water & Light monthly bills for March 7, 2020 to April 9, 2020: Moved by Hardenbrook, support by Cameron, **CARRIED**, to accept the recommendation of the W&L Board to pay the Electric and Water Funds in the total amount of \$186,573.36. Roll call vote: Ayes: Stokes, Cameron, Freese, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Puckett.
- C.) Christmas Lights Fund – as of 3/31/2020 - \$12,118.46.
- 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 Hendrickson, support by Puckett, **CARRIED**, to pay Request #22 – 03/01/2020 to 03/31/2020 – C2AE invoice #69569: \$2,900.19. Roll Call Vote - Ayes: Stokes, Cameron, Freese, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Puckett.

Petitions and Communications: None.

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances and Resolutions:

- 1.) Resolution 2020-04-21: Addressed and voted on at the beginning of the meeting.
- 2.) Proclamation: Moved by Freese, support by Hardenbrook, **CARRIED**, to adopt the Newberry Nightly Neighborly Nod Proclamation. Discussion followed. Ayes: Stokes, Cameron, Freese, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Puckett.

Unfinished Business:

- 1.) Review of Utility Billing Payment and Processing approach used in April: Watkins discussed how the Village has been, and plans to, handle current and future unpaid debt from past due bills, at least through May. Discussion followed.
- 2.) Public Comment Follow-up from Previous Meeting: None needed.

New Business:

- 1.) Executive Order 2020-48: Temporary authorization of remote participation in public meetings. Information only.
- 2.) Executive Order 2020-28: Restoring water service to occupied residences during COVID-19. Information only. Copy of Water Service Report, submitted by Watkins to the Michigan State Emergency Operation Center, dated April 8, 2020, was presented as well.
- 3.) Utility Billing and Payments deadlines for month of May: Discussed in #1 under Unfinished Business.

Reports of Boards:

- 1.) Water & Light Board: Minutes provided from the April 14, 2020 meeting. Report by Freese.
- 2.) Planning Commission Meeting: March 23, 2020 meeting cancelled due to COVID-19.

Committee Reports: None.

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 is a problem with people using 'flushable wipes'. The wipes do not breakdown and are causing issues with the pumps.
- C.) Water & Light: Written report submitted by Dan Kucinkas.
- D.) Interim Village Manager/Director of Human Resources & Community Engagement: Watkins gave a verbal as well as written report. Discussion included update of the audit being done by the State and how our revenue sharing is being impacted by the audit not being done yet. Watkins stated that once the audit is completed and an F65 form is submitted, we should get our revenue funds. Discussion followed.

Public Comment: None

Comments by Council Members: Comments heard from the Board thanking the Fire Department for all they are doing for the Village during the Stay home - Stay Safe order. Hats off to the staff and Allison Watkins for guiding the ship, that is our Village, through these rough times.

Adjourn Meeting: Moved by Puckett, support by Hardenbrook, **CARRIED**, to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 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