

Newberry Village Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
August 20, 2018
302 East McMillan Ave.
6:00 p.m.

Present: President DeWitt, Trustees: Brown, Dishaw, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Hitts, Medelis.

Absent: None.

Also Present: Village Manager - James-Mesloh, Assistant Village Manager – Vallad, Superintendent WWTP - Blakely, Ordinance Enforcement Officer – Fossitt, Director of Human Resources & Comm. Engagement – Watkins, Clerk – Schummer, Steve Stiffler, Bruce Lane, Lori Stokes, Chuck Pipes, Tina Pipes, Sterling McGinn, Rebecca Handa, Robert Stevens.

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 Hardenbrook, support by Hendrickson, **CARRIED**, to approve the agenda as presented, with one amendment, under New Business – 1.) Verizon Cell Tower –site plan, this will be discussed during the Water and Light report. Ayes: All.

Minutes: Moved by Hardenbrook, support by Hendrickson, **CARRIED**, to approve the July 16, 2018, regular session minutes as written. Ayes: DeWitt, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Medelis. Abstain: Brown, Dishaw, Hitts.

Village President’s Announcements: None.

Public Comments on Agenda Items: Comments heard from: Robert Stevens – 112 ½ E. John.

Submission of Bills and Financial Updates:

- 1.) Village of Newberry – Monthly Bills. Moved by Brown, support by Hitts, **CARRIED**, to approve the July 2018 bills as presented, in the amount of \$90,787.57. Discussion followed. Ayes: All.
- 2.) Village of Newberry - Cash Balance – June 2018. Reviewed.
- 3.) Water & Light monthly bills for July 2018: Moved by Brown, support by Hendrickson, **CARRIED**, to pay the July Electric Fund in the amount of \$111,656.38. Discussion followed. Ayes: All. Moved by Brown, support by Hitts, **CARRIED**, to pay the July Water Fund in the amount of \$7,826.54. Discussion followed. Ayes: All.
- 4.) Christmas Lights Fund – as of 7/6/18 - \$15,071.43.
- 5.) Water & Light – Cash Balance – June 2018 - Reviewed.
- 6.) Treasurer’s July 2018 Report - Accepted by Council as presented.
- 7.) Request for Disbursement of Funds – Stormwater/Asset Management/Wastewater (SAW) Grant Program. Moved by Brown, support by Hardenbrook, **CARRIED**, to pay request #4 for, in the amount of \$13,621.82. Discussion followed. Ayes: All.

Petitions and Communications: None.

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances and Resolutions: None.

Reports of Boards:

- 1.) 1.) **Water & Light Board Meeting from Tuesday, August 15, 2018:** Medelis gave the report. He stated that the end date for residents requesting lawn repair due to the water project is set for August 31, 2018. The Verizon proposal for a cell tower, to be located next to the Village water tower was discussed.
- 2.) **Planning Commission Meeting:** Next meeting is scheduled for Monday, August 27, 2018.
 - A.) Larry Vincent, Planning Commission Chairperson, gave a presentation titled: Judicial Review of Planning and Zoning.

Reports of Village Officers and Management:

- A.) **Fire Chief:** Absent.
- B.) **Ordinance Enforcement Officer:** Fossitt gave his report and asked direction from the Council as to what to enforce in regard to burning receptacles in town. It was decided the receptacle issue would be brought to the ordinance meeting on August 24th.

- C.) Director of Human Resources & Community Engagement: Watkins gave a verbal as well as a written report.
- D.) Superintendent of Wastewater Treatment Plant: Blakely gave a verbal as well as written report.
- E.) Superintendent of Water & Light: Joe Lively – Working Foremen, submitted a written report.
- F.) Superintendent of Parks and Recreation: James-Mesloh gave a verbal and written 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. She stated that there is going to be an Audit Presentation at a Village Council, Special Session, scheduled for October 3, 2018 at 6:30 p.m. in the school auditorium. Representatives from the Department of Treasury and Plante Moran will be doing the presentation. The Village has been awarded a grant for \$2,500 for conducting an electronics collection event, which is tentatively scheduled for November 3rd or 10th.

Committee Reports:

- 1.) Project Rising Tide: The next meeting is Monday, August 27, 2018.
- 2.) Save the Bells: The next meeting is to be determined.

Unfinished Business:

- 1.) Payment of Delinquent Utility Accounts: The Village Manager gave an update.

New Business:

- 1.) Verizon Cell Tower: Removed from agenda.
- 2.) Personnel: President DeWitt asked the persons subject to discussion whether they would like the discussion to be in open or closed session. Both individuals advised they would like the discussion to be in closed session.

Council Goes Into Closed Session: Moved by Brown, support by Medelis, **CARRIED**, to go into closed session to consider and discuss a personnel matter concerning Jennifer James-Mesloh and Buck Vallad and to hear Council Member Hendrickson’s recommendation, pursuant to Jennifer James-Mesloh’s and Buck Vallad’s request to go into closed session under the authority of MCL 15.268(a). Roll call vote: Ayes – DeWitt, Brown, Dishaw, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Hitts, Medelis. Council goes into closed session at 7:36 p.m.

Council Comes Out of Closed Session: Moved by Hardenbrook, support by Brown, **CARRIED**, that we come out of closed session and return to open session. Roll Call Vote: Ayes – DeWitt, Brown, Dishaw, Hardenbrook, Hendrickson, Hitts, Medelis. Council returned to open session at 8:01 p.m.

Council Action: Move by Brown, support by Hitts, **CARRIED**, that the Village Council accept the finding in Mr. Hendrickson’s report. Ayes: DeWitt, Brown, Dishaw, Hardenbrook, Hitts, Medelis. Abstain: Hendrickson.

Public Comment: Comments were heard from: Bruce Lane – 406 E. Ave. D, Terese Schummer – 214 W. Truman, Lori Stokes – 301 W. John, Rebecca Handa – 108 E. Ave. B.

Comments by Council Members: Comments heard from: Dishaw asked permission from council, and received it, to talk to local law enforcement to discuss better enforcement of laws on Newberry Ave., M-123 and McMillan Ave.

Adjourn Meeting: Moved by Hardenbrook, support by Dishaw, **CARRIED**, to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m. Ayes: All.

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

Terese Schummer, Clerk

John DeWitt, Village President