

Newberry Village Council
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 18, 2017

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

Absent: Hardenbrook.

Also Present: Village Manager - James-Mesloh, Assistant Village Manager - Vallad, Treasurer - Kisro, Clerk - Schummer, Superintendent WWTP - George Blakely, W&L Superintendent - Perry, Ordinance Enforcement Officer - Fossitt, Director of Human Resources & Community Engagement - Watkins, Jim Diem, Laverne Haggart, Tim Newhouse, Charlie Mesloh, Donald Wright, Mike Schnorr, A. J. Downey.

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 Medelis, support by Hendrickson, **CARRIED**, to approve the agenda. Ayes: All. Absent: Hardenbrook.

Minutes: Moved by Hendrickson, support by Baynton, **CARRIED**, to approve the August 21, 2017, regular meeting minutes as written. Ayes: All. Absent: Hardenbrook.

Public Comments on Agenda Items: Some of the comments made are as follows:

- Laverne Haggart, 404 W. John - Stated she couldn't see how the Village justified the flat rate. She said seniors with fixed income and leave for the winter shouldn't have to pay when shut off. She also advised that she had put her name on a list to have her sidewalk fixed 14 years ago and is still waiting.
- Tim Newhouse, 6670 Center Ave., rental at 412 Washington - Wanted to know why he had to pay the flat rate if he doesn't use the service, his water is shut-off.
- Mike Schnorr, 306 E. Truman - Asked, again, how many employees there are in the Village, wanted to know when he would get an answer. He believes the Council should also read the Village Mission Statement before each meeting.
- Donald Wright, 8258 Co. Rd. 387 - He wanted to know what programs were out there to help people who can't pay their bill, what will happen to them.

Assistant Village Manager Vallad gave a presentation as to why the rates had to be raised and charged to a flat rate. He demonstrated what percentage of the \$75 water flat rate is used for: Loans, bonds, interest and USDRA Reserve - 46%, - Capital Improvement Projects -19%, - 18% Labor & Benefits - 9% Operational Expenses - 6% Depreciation Fund - 2% Equipment Replacement General. Vallad stated that if we did not do anything, the water fund would be broke by March. A lengthy discussion followed.

Village President's Announcements:

- 1.) Rahilly's IGA, in support of the Save the Bells Project, will match donations made at the store for up to \$50.
- 2.) 12th Annual Legislative Luncheon is October 6th.
- 3.) President DeWitt will be making Committee Appointments soon.

- 4.) Announced the Village was just awarded a \$593,242 DEQ - S.A.W. Grant (Storm Asset Management and Wastewater).

Submission of Bills and Financial Updates:

- 1.) Village of Newberry – Monthly Bills. Moved by Hendrickson, support by Brown **CARRIED**, to approve the August 2017 bills as presented, in the amount of \$111,439.10. Ayes: All. Absent: Hardenbrook.
- 2.) Village of Newberry - Cash Balance – July 2017. Reviewed.
- 3.) Water & Light monthly bills for August 2017, Moved by Brown, support by Baynton, **CARRIED**, to pay August payables in the amount of \$133,569.99. Ayes: All. Absent: Hardenbrook.
- 4.) Water & Light – Cash Balance - July 2017 - Reviewed.
- 5.) Treasurer’s Report - Presented by Treasurer Kisro and accepted by Council.
- 6.) Bacco - TORC paving - Request for DNR portion only. Moved by Brown, support by Hendrickson, **CARRIED**, to approve payment of Bacco Construction Company bill for paving done outside Part 201, for the amount of \$33,941.96. Ayes: All. Absent: Hardenbrook.

Petitions and Communications:

- 1.) Letter from Mary Nutkins and Nancy Barkat.
- 2.) Letter from Fred Dunkeld.

Introduction and Adoption of Ordinances and Resolutions:

- 1.) Water & Light Board - Vacancy: Moved by Brown, support by Baynton, **CARRIED**, to adopt the Village of Newberry Water and Light Board, board member vacancy resolution. Ayes: All. Absent: Hardenbrook.

Reports of Village Officers and Management:

- A.) Fire Chief: None.
- B.) Ordinance Enforcement Officer: Fossitt gave a verbal report.
- C.) Director of Human Resources & Community Engagement: Watkins gave a verbal report.
- D.) Superintendent of Wastewater Treatment Plant: Blakely gave a verbal as well as written report (attached).
- E.) Superintendent of Water & Light: Perry gave a verbal as well as written report (attached).
- F.) Superintendent of Parks and Recreation: James-Mesloh gave a verbal report.
- G.) Assistant Village Manager: Vallad gave a verbal as well as written report (attached).
- H.) Village Manager: James-Mesloh gave a verbal report. She presented a letter from the Village Attorney, Jeffrey Jocks, regarding the Freedom of Information Act requirements and procedures. Also presented was a letter from the Pentland Township Clerk, regarding the Sanitary Sewer Agreement. McMillan Township has indicated they are planning to put in a well to water the cemetery and will disconnect from the Village. A memo regarding sewer and water bills for rental properties was also given to the Board.

Reports of Boards:

- 1.) Water & Light Board Meeting from Tuesday, September 12, 2017: Medelis gave the report. He stated that there is an opening on the Board that needs to be filled. Restoration of the grass, by Oberstar, has taken place.
- 2.) Planning Commission Meeting: Reviewed the draft Master Plan. There is a vacancy on the Commission.

Committee Reports:

- 1.) DPW/WWTP Committee: None.
- 2.) Finance Committee: None.
- 3.) Fire Committee: None.
- 4.) Management Committee: None
- 5.) Ordinance Committee: None
- 6.) Project Rising Tide: James-Mesloh gave a verbal report.
- 7.) Strategic Health Alliance: Watkins gave a verbal report.
- 8.) Safety Committee: None.
- 9.) Save the Bells: James-Mesloh gave a verbal report.

Unfinished Business: None.

New Business:

1. Letter of Interest to Fill Trustee Vacancy, President's Recommendation: Moved by Brown, support by Baynton, **CARRIED**, to support the President in his appointment of A.J. Downey to the Village Council, he will finish-out Harold Dishaw's term. Ayes: All. Absent: Hardenbrook. Clerk Schummer administered the Oath of Office to Downey.

Public Comment: Diem asked what was happening with the recycling grant. Brown stated she is worried we will lose the grant because of the lack of interest from other communities.

Comments by Council Members: None.

Adjourn Meeting: Moved by Medelis, support by Baynton, **CARRIED**, to adjourn the meeting at 8:03 p.m. Ayes: All. Absent: Hardenbrook.

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

Terese Schummer, Clerk

John Dewitt, Village President