

The Village of Northfield

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

January 11, 2017

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Nehez at 7:30p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Nehez.

ROLL CALL was read by Tricia Ingrassia. The following were present: Mayor Nehez, Council Persons Nick Magistrelli, Jim Daugherty, Jenn Domzalski, Alan Hipps, Renell Noack, and Gary Vojtush. Also present was Law Director Brad Bryan, Engineer Rich Wasosky, Lt. Mackie, and Service Director Jason Walters. Lt. Zemek was present before the meeting, but had to go on a call.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

A motion to approve the minutes for the December 28, 2016 Council Meeting was made by Mr. Hipps, seconded by Mr. Magistrelli. All were in favor of approval of the minutes, zero opposed.

APPOINTING OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT:

Mayor Nehez announced that per the Village Charter, at the first Council Meeting of the year, a Council President must be appointed. Mr. Bryan stated the Council President must be appointed by a two-thirds majority of Council, which is four votes. Mr. Bryan asked if there were any nominations. Mr. Hipps nominated Mr. Magistrelli, seconded by Ms. Noack. Mr. Bryan said while that motion is on the floor, whether there were any other nominations for Council President. Mr. Daugherty stated he thought everyone would like to have a turn, and he nominated Mr. Vojtush. Mr. Vojtush seconded his nomination. Mr. Bryan said there are two votes on the floor. Mr. Bryan called the roll for the motion to appoint Mr. Magistrelli. Ms. Noack; yes. Mr. Daugherty; no. Mr. Vojtush; no. Mr. Magistrelli; yes. Mr. Hipps; yes. Ms. Domzalski; yes. Mr. Bryan congratulated Mr. Magistrelli on his appointment as Council President for 2017. Mr. Bryan continued that Mr. Magistrelli should make his appointments to the Council Committees and distribute them to Council. Mr. Magistrelli stated he would have the Committees prepared promptly. Mr. Magistrelli thanked his colleagues for the nomination and his election as Council President. Mr. Magistrelli added he hopes that Council continues to move forward as they had for the last three years.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, MEMORIALS, AND REMONSTRANCES:

Mr. Benjamin Raubenolt of 242 Steeple Chase Run addressed the Council about several traffic concerns that he felt needed attention. The first issue Mr. Raubenolt addressed was the addition of a left turn signal at the intersection of Sagamore Road and State Route 8. Mayor Nehez stated this concern would be addressed by Engineer Rich Wasosky. Mr. Wasosky stated the Village has had this request previously, and the signal is up by permit from the State Department of Transportation. Mr. Wasosky continued that the State Highway Department mandates that if a turn signal is added, an additional turn lane would be required at the intersection. Mr. Wasosky added further that the State Highway Department is not in favor of adding the turn lane or a turn signal. Mr. Raubenolt stated he has personally been in an accident at that intersection for lack

of a turn signal and turn lane because you cannot see what vehicles are coming in the curbside lane. Mr. Raubenolt stated his next issue is at the entrance of the Village from the South, heading North on State Route 8 at the intersection of State Route 8 and Meadow Lane. Mr. Raubenolt said the signal is very bright because it has LED lights, and you cannot see beyond it when you are approaching the intersection. Mr. Raubenolt would like to see a street light added at this intersection on the Northeast corner. Mr. Wasosky said he would talk with the State Highway Department to see if they concurred with the need for a street light, as they are the ones from which the Village must seek approval. Mr. Raubenolt stated his next issue is at the Hard Rock Rocksino's entrance for the horsemen and trailers heading North on Route 8. Mr. Raubenolt stated he would like this entrance and exit to be a "right turn only" exit because it creates a dangerous intersection between the entrance and Lowrie Boulevard. Mr. Wasosky said there was a thorough traffic study when the Hard Rock was built, and no suggestion was made for the entrance to bear any further signage or traffic instructions. That concluded Mr. Raubenolt's suggestions, but he added that there were a couple deep potholes on Lincoln Drive and Steeple Chase Run and Lowrie Boulevard. Mr. Walters stated he would rectify this situation.

REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS:

Mayor Jesse J. Nehez – No report.

Finance Director, Tricia Ingrassia – Report attached.

A motion for acknowledgement of receipt of the December 2016 reconciliation was made by Ms. Domzalski, seconded by Mr. Magistrelli. All were in favor of this motion, zero opposed.

Ms. Noack asked Ms. Ingrassia if the 2016 open purchase orders had all been closed since the year's financials were complete. Ms. Ingrassia stated that the open purchase orders that were approved at the December 28, 2016 meeting were still open. Mr. Daugherty asked Ms. Ingrassia about the end of the year "carryover." Ms. Ingrassia replied the Village closed 2016 with a little over \$3,000,000.00.

Engineer, Rich Wasosky – Report attached.

Mr. Wasosky requested an alternate member of the Village be appointed to the Akron Metropolitan Area Transportation Study (AMATS). Mr. Daugherty made a motion to appoint Council President Nick Magistrelli to the AMATS Committee as an alternate to Mayor Nehez, seconded by Ms. Domzalski. All were in favor of the motion, zero opposed.

Regarding the lot consolidation for Mr. Salemi, a motion to approve this consolidation was passed at the December 28, 2016 Council Meeting.

Law Director, Brad Bryan – Mr. Bryan stated Council needed to accept the monthly disbursements for Mayor's Court for December 2016 (report attached). A motion to accept the December 2016 monthly disbursements from Mayor's Court was made by Mr. Daugherty, seconded by Ms. Noack. All were in for of the motion for acceptance, zero opposed.

Mr. Bryan stated the search for a new Chief of Police is underway. Eight applications were received. Mr. Bryan added that Former Chief Canter (Maple Heights, Village of Richfield,

and Village of Moreland Hills) agreed to assist with the interview process. Mr. Daugherty asked whether the committee members have been assigned. Mr. Bryan answered the committee members are the Mayor, Chief Buss, Ms. Domzalski of the Fire and Safety Committee, Mr. Vojtush of Wages and Working Conditions, and Chief Canter. Mr. Bryan added he and Ms. Ingrassia would be present for the interviews but not official committee members. The members of the committee can expect to be contacted regarding the interviews shortly.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Police Department, Lieutenant Jamie Mackie – Report attached.

Mayor Nehez asked for an update on the properties that were brought up at a prior meeting. Lt. Mackie detailed the follow-ups to the complaints in his report.

Fire Chief, Jason Buss – Will be in attendance at the next regularly scheduled Council Meeting. Lt. Zemek was on a call and unable to deliver the Fire Department's report.

Service and Building Superintendent, Jason Walters – Mr. Walters stated the Village has approximately 350 tons of salt left from the order at the end of 2016. Mr. Walters continued that the new salt loader is working well, and he thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing that purchase. Regarding snow plowing, Mr. Walters stated the Presidential Subdivision is in very bad repair, but the Service Department will start cold patching the potholes. Mr. Walters added that he is aware that asphalt is piling up on tree lawns and has already begun clean-up of that debris. Mr. Walters stated the trucks and equipment have been working well. Regarding unkempt properties in the Village, Mr. Walters said it is nice to be able to work with the Police Department to get the properties cleaned up.

REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

Planning Commission, Mr. Higgs – No report.

Recreation Board, Mayor Nehez – Mayor Nehez stated the Recreation Board will have legislation appointing new members at the January 25, 2017 meeting, and there will be a meeting on Thursday, February 2nd at 7:00pm in Council Chambers.

Cemetery Board, Beatrice Greenlee – Mr. Magistrelli reported on behalf of Beatrice Greenlee that the Cemetery Board met at the end of the year and discussed the 2017 budget. Mr. Magistrelli continued that the Board is in good standing. The Cemetery Board thanked Mr. Walters for the leaf collection by the Village's Service Department.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Finance, Mr. Magistrelli – Mr. Magistrelli stated he did not have a report from the Finance Committee, but he wished to thank Ms. Ingrassia for the smooth operations in 2016 from the Finance Department. Mr. Bryan added that the next Finance Committee meeting will be at 6:00pm on January 25th due to the Budget Meeting at 6:30pm.

Roads/Public Works, Mr. Daugherty – No report.

Health and Welfare, Mrs. Noack – No report.

Wages and Working Conditions, Mr. Vojtush – No report.

Fire and Safety, Mrs. Domzalski – No report.

Buildings and Grounds, Mr. Hipps – No report.

LEGISLATION:

2017-01 – An Emergency Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Tax Credit Agreement with Northfield Park Associates, LLC. (Third Reading) An amended version of the agreement was distributed. Mr. Bryan indicated the only change to the agreement was in section three increasing the time commitment on the part of Northfield Park Associates, LLC to six years. A motion to amend Ordinance 2017-01 as indicated was made by Mr. Vojtush, seconded by Mr. Hipps. Mr. Vojtush thanked Mr. Milstein for considering the thoughts of Council with regard to the amended time commitment. All were in favor of amending the ordinance, zero opposed. A motion to pass the ordinance as amended was made by Mr. Vojtush, seconded by Mr. Magistrelli. All were in favor of passage, zero opposed.

2017-02 – An Emergency Resolution Confirming the Mayor/Director of Public Safety's Appointment of Joseph Zemek as a Full-Time Lieutenant with the Fire Department (First Reading). Mr. Vojtush asked Council President Magistrelli that this resolution be placed on second reading so that Lt. Zemek can be present for the appointment. Mr. Magistrelli agreed. Ms. Domzalski stated the resolution needed to be changed to correct the spelling of Lt. Zemek's name. Mr. Bryan apologized for the error and said he would make the correction for the next meeting.

2017-03 – An Emergency Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the City of Macedonia for the Boarding of Prisoners (First Reading). A motion to suspend the three reading rule was made by Ms. Domzalski, seconded by Ms. Noack. All were in favor of suspending the three reading rule, zero opposed. A motion for passage was made by Ms. Domzalski, seconded by Ms. Noack. All were in favor of passage, zero opposed.

OLD BUSINESS; NEW BUSINESS; ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mr. Magistrelli thanked Mr. Fisher and Mr. Bryan for their diligence and time they spent preparing the agreement between the Village and Northfield Park Associates. Mr. Magistrelli thanked Council and the Mayor for the conversations and time they took in considering the measure. Mr. Magistrelli added he looks forward to continuing the relationship with Mr. Milstein and watching the Rocksino grow so that the Village can grow with him.

Mayor Nehez thanked all the department heads for the amazing year in 2016.

Mr. Daugherty asked Ms. Ingrassia if there is a possibility for savings in 2017. Mayor Nehez stated we are going to try and prepare something for the 2017 budget.

Mr. Vojtush stated two meetings ago he spoke about the Village's baseball fields. Mr. Vojtush stated he spoke with the Nordonia Hills Athletic Association President and the mainte-

nance supervisor. Mr. Vojtush stated the association has a meeting to discuss utilizing both of the Village's fields. Mr. Vojtush continued that new dirt and sand will make those fields more playable for the children. Mr. Vojtush stated they will be conducting a survey of what improvements can be made to give to the Village.

Mr. Vojtush stated at the last meeting there was discussion about a 20-some percent raise. Mr. Vojtush stated the legislation outlines only a three percent increase that was approved by Council. Mayor Nehez stated everyone in the Fire Department did receive a three percent increase, except Lt. Zemek who received a 27 percent increase. Mr. Vojtush stated Lt. Zemek didn't receive a pay raise but rather a new position. Ms. Domzalski said the 27 percent was not a raise but a status change from part-time to full-time. Mr. Bryan clarified that when the department added full-time members, Lt. Zemek was added as full-time but with the responsibilities of a lieutenant. Mr. Bryan added that Lt. Zemek kept his status of lieutenant but was receiving the same compensation as the other regular full-time firefighters who were not supervisors. Mr. Bryan continued he will now receive wages commensurate with his responsibilities as a full-time lieutenant.

ADJOURNMENT –

A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Domzalski, seconded by Ms. Noack. All were in favor of adjournment, zero opposed. Meeting adjourned at 8.30pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Tricia Ingrassia, Clerk of Council