

The Village of Northfield

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

February 22, 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 were Law Director Brad Bryan, Lt. Joe Zemek, and Service Director Jason Walters.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

A motion to approve the minutes of the February 8, 2017 Council Meeting was made by Ms. Domzalski, seconded by Ms. Noack. All were in favor of approval of the minutes from February 8, 2017 Council Meeting; none opposed.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, MEMORIALS, AND REMONSTRANCES: None.

REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS:

Mayor Jesse Nehez – No report.

Finance Director, Tricia Ingrassia – No report. Ms. Ingrassia requested a motion for payment of a \$4,900.00 invoice from Squire Patton Boggs for assistance with the legislation regarding the Hard Rock Rocksino net profit agreement. Ms. Ingrassia continued the purchase order is a then and now and because the expense is over \$3,000.00, it requires a motion from Council to approve the payment. A motion for approval of the payment was made by Mr. Magistrelli, seconded by Ms. Domzalski. All were in favor of approval, zero opposed.

Engineer, Rich Wasosky – Will be at the next Regular Council Meeting.

Law Director, Brad Bryan – No report. Mr. Bryan added there are code amendments in the legislation that he will review at the time the legislation is presented.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Police Department, Lieutenant Jamie Mackie – Will be at the next regular meeting.

Fire Department, Lt. Joe Zemek – No report.

Service and Building Superintendent, Jason Walters – Mr. Walters stated last meeting he was asked to look into recycling for the Village. Mr. Walters stated there are currently 18 months left on the current contract with Rumpke, and the process must be bid out. Mr. Walters recommended that the Village wait out the remainder of the contract and look into providing that service in

connection with the next contract. Recycling carts will be delivered to the Village to display what the options are for recycling. Mayor Nehez stated he would like to look into options for providing trash hauling to the residents.

REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

Planning Commission, Mr. Hipps – No report.

Recreation Board, Mayor Nehez – The Recreation Board will meet March 2, 2017 at 7:30pm in Council Chambers.

Cemetery Board, Beatrice Greenlee – Mr. Magistrelli reported he spoke with Mrs. Greenlee regarding the cemetery budget. The budget is not yet complete. The fence will remain around the cemetery and will be refurbished.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

Finance, Mr. Magistrelli – Mr. Magistrelli stated there was a Finance Committee meeting this evening, and the number of items to approve was rather small since the Village currently does not have a permanent budget.

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:

2017-15 – An Emergency Resolution Setting Forth the Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2017 and Submitting the Same to the County Fiscal Officer (First Reading). Mr. Vojtush requested that the budget be left on first reading, as he would like more time to review the changes. Ms. Ingrassia stated the changes to the budget were approximately \$412,000.00 for anticipated engineering costs she had reviewed with Mr. Wasosky and the requested \$10,000.00 from Mr. Hipps for the zoning overlay district. Mr. Vojtush stated all the changes he noticed from version three of the budget to version five and requested more time to review them. Mr. Vojtush stated he would make arrangements to come in to meet with the Finance Director to have any of his questions answered. Mr. Bryan stated the budget will be presented for a second reading at the next regularly scheduled Council Meeting.

2017-16 – An Emergency Ordinance Amending Chapter 1446 of the Codified Ordinances Relating to Rental Certificates for Rented Single Family Dwellings (First Reading). Mr. Bryan ex-

plained this amendment takes out old start date language in the ordinance that is now insignificant due to the program being in place for two years. Mr. Bryan continued the next significant change is to the amount of the late fee, which has been reduced from \$150.00 to \$50.00. Finally, Mr. Bryan stated the next significant change relieves owners of annual rental properties that do not have any violations based upon the first inspection to receive a rental inspection certificate that is valid for two years instead of one. Mr. Daugherty asked if this was the same issue that was discussed early last year. Mr. Bryan clarified that the issue was raised by a homeowner/landlord last year who complained that it is costly for him to have to pay these inspection fees annually. Landlords that maintain their properties violation free would receive this benefit. Those landlords are still required to fill out and file the application each year, but there would be no fee and no required inspection for the year after a clean inspection was received. Ms. Domzalski made a motion to suspend the three reading rule, seconded by Mr. Vojtush. All were in favor of suspending the three reading rule, zero opposed. A motion for passage was made by Ms. Domzalski, seconded by Mr. Vojtush. All were in favor of passage, zero opposed.

2017-17 – An Emergency Resolution Confirming the Mayor/Director of Public Safety's Appointment of Erica Gregg as a Full-Time Police Officer (First Reading). Mr. Bryan explained this resolution, if adopted, is effective March 8, 2017. Mr. Magistrelli made a motion to suspend the three reading rule, seconded by Ms. Domzalski. All were in favor of suspending the three reading rule, zero opposed. A motion for passage was made by Mr. Daugherty, seconded by Mr. Magistrelli. Mr. Vojtush noted the Police Department budget did not go up despite the hiring of this new full-time officer. Mr. Hipps clarified we are replacing a retiree, so the expense would be lower as the new officer will come in at a lower rate of pay. Mr. Vojtush stated the health insurance expense should go down because the new officer is single. Mr. Bryan clarified that fact is not one that is permitted to be considered in connection with a hiring decision. All were in favor of passage, zero opposed.

2017-18 – An Emergency Ordinance Amending Chapter 1482 of the Building and Housing Code Relating to Residential Exterior Lighting (First Reading). Mr. Bryan stated this code provision was adopted a few years ago to address lighting issues in residential neighborhoods. The present version of the ordinance requires a warning and permits ten days to correct a violation before a citation is issued. Mr. Bryan stated this ten day correction period is not working and allows people to manipulate the system. There have been instances when the light is redirected to be in compliance within ten days and then is adjusted back to the former position later. The ordinance requires the warning process to begin again. The proposed amendment would permit the officers or Zoning Inspector to have the discretion to issue a citation right away. In most instances, the officers will still issue a warning first, but people determined to be manipulating the system can now be cited right away. Mr. Daugherty asked which lighting issues are affected by this ordinance. Mr. Bryan stated this issue is when a light is shining from a person's property and creates a dangerous or nuisance condition for a neighbor, a motorist, or a pedestrian. A motion to suspend the three reading rule was made by Ms. Noack, seconded by Ms. Domzalski. All were in favor of suspending the three reading rule, zero opposed. A motion for passage was made by Ms. Noack, seconded by Mr. Magistrelli. All were in favor of passage, zero opposed.

2017-19 – An Emergency Resolution Authorizing Euthenics, Inc. to Complete the Preliminary Design Phase for the Houghton Road Reconstruction and Northfield Road Traffic Signals Up-

grading Project (First Reading). A motion to suspend the three reading rule was made by Mr. Hipps, seconded by Mr. Magistrelli. All were in favor of suspending the three reading rule, zero opposed. A motion for passage was made by Mr. Hipps, seconded by Mr. Magistrelli. All were in favor of passage, zero opposed.

OLD BUSINESS; NEW BUSINESS; ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Nehez stated he had old business and read a prepared statement that is attached.

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 7:53pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Tricia Ingrassia, Clerk of Council

I have a statement regarding my request to confirm Sergeant John Zolcus as the Northfield Village Police Chief:

I am confused, disheartened, and discouraged with regard to lack the of support for my proposed candidate to become the Village of Northfield's next Police Chief. I am disappointed that some cannot see the value in Sgt. Zolcus as an effective leader. It is my belief that Sgt. Zolcus has what the Village needs to move the Police Department forward. I feel Sgt. Zolcus has the motivation, mindset and management style that are exactly what the Village needs to unite our Police Department. It saddens me that I have been put in a situation that I am not able to appoint a leader that I trust and would be able to work with on a daily basis. However, every situation that I have faced during my tenure as Mayor has made me a better leader than I was the day before. Please know I will not let this situation effect me negatively because of the issues that have been brought before me regarding my decision. I will continue to work through these issues and not let our Village suffer despite them. I will continue to do what I do best and that is lead the Village forward. I will take a negative and turn it into a positive. I will be creative, brainstorm and come to a decision that will make the community proud. I insure that my decisions will be looked upon by our community in a positive light.