

The Village of Northfield

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

March 25, 2015

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited.

ROLL CALL was read by Timothy Clymer, Finance Director in Clerk of Council Lisa Rodriguez's absence. The following were present: Mayor Nehez, Beatrice Greenlee, Linda Bowen, Nicholas Magistrelli, Gary Vojtush, Alan E. Hipps and Ethan Miladinovic. In addition, Police Chief Mark Wentz, Fire Chief Jason Buss Service, Building & Zoning Superintendent Jason Walters were also in attendance. Law Director, Brad Bryan and Village Engineer Richard Wasosky were not present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Nehez asked for approval of the minutes for the Council meeting of March 11, 2015. A motion for passage was made by Linda Bowen and seconded by Beatrice Greenlee, passed with 6 ayes.

Mayor Nehez asked Council to add the Sagamore Hills Trustees to the Council Agenda. A motion was made by Alan Hipps and seconded by Linda Bowen, passed 6-0.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND REMONSTRANCES:

David DePasquale, Paul Schweikert and John Zaccardelli thanked Mayor Nehez for his participation and dedication to the joint collaboration on the Sagamore Rd. project. They wanted to openly acknowledge how humble Mayor Nehez is and thank him for all of his hard work, dedication and meeting he has attended. They said that on this 4.1 million dollar project without Mayor Nehez it wouldn't have gotten off the ground.

David DePasquale, trustee of Sagamore Hills spoke on behalf of all three trustees about funding. He said that Strongsville schools wrote a letter to Governor Kasich regarding the budget that they called "A Blueprint for a New Ohio". This proposed budget is going to take \$4.2 million dollars away from the Strongsville school district, and our district stands to lose an estimated \$2.2 million dollars. It rewards Charter schools that are failing to the tune of \$1 billion dollars. They were told that half of the money was going to Governor's rainy day fund, and that fund is at the legal maximum of \$1.5 billion dollars. He said even though money is coming in from the racino, the Village could be missing out on half of its government funds, which could be \$100,000. They said they would like to see a restoration of local government funds. Mayor Nehez asked if they had spoken with Kristina Roegner yet. They said that is what they are recommending everyone to do about H.B. 42 in the Nordonia Hills area. Mayor Nehez and Council offered any assistance they could give they are more than happy to support. Mayor Nehez suggested that a group letter from the communities of Nordonia Hills to get more attention. A resolution would need to be passed by June 30th in support of H.B. 42.

A motion to add Joe Jenkins, Government Affairs Specialist of NEORS to the agenda. A motion was made by Beatrice Greenlee and seconded by Gary Vojtush, 6 ayes. Mr. Jenkins left business cards available at the meeting and said he was there if anyone had any questions and just wanted to introduce himself and if he could be of help down the road.

Cranbrook resident Joe Buzalewski, spoke about how he asked to look into a stop sign at Milford and Ledge. Joe said that Rich Wasosky had a study done and that it wasn't warranted by the County and they denied it stating not enough traffic, but they found one necessary to be placed on Houghton. Joe said that the bridge on

Ledge will be done in Macedonia and they listed that Ledge was a main road according to the Akron Beacon Journal and when Rich did that sight study the bridge was closed.

Jason Walters said that it wasn't a traffic study, it was a sight line study on how much time you have to pull out from the stop sign. Chief Wentz said that they had two different speed limits years ago and they worked with Macedonia to lower it due to the school being in the Village. Chief Wentz said that the study years ago Macedonia side is County so they couldn't lower the speed limit from 35mph to 25mph, so we had to raise the Village's side from 25mph to 35mph. Chief Wentz stated that it was sight distance for the need for the stop sign on Houghton. Jason said the only reason to put a stop sign on Ledge would be for speed and you are not allowed to use it for that. Joe agreed.

Joe did ask Mayor Nehez and Council if they could ask Rich Wasosky, Village Engineer if something else could be done, such as a traffic count etc.

REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS:

A. MAYOR JESSE J. NEHEZ reported that he went to Columbus on Tuesday, met with the six other communities that have Racino's and they are writing a joint letter regarding the house bill to get the \$500,000 that was promised. Mayor said he will keep everyone up to date.

Gary Vojtush said thanked Mayor Nehez for going to the meeting in Columbus, that it was something that he asked about awhile ago.

Gary said that he was upset about March 18th News Leader, Mayor Nehez stated that they received two \$1 million dollar checks last year, and they need to make a correction. Gary said along with Mayor Nehez that the Village received \$1 million in 2013 and \$1 million in 2014.

B. FINANCE DIRECTOR TIM CLYMER thanked Council for their cooperation during the budget process. Tim asked Council to add Action Door for a repair in the service dept. to the pay resolution, it was left off by accident. Revised amount \$163,445.51. A motion was made by Linda Bowen and seconded by Gary Vojtush, 6-0. Tim said that next Wednesday and Thursday he will be in Columbus conference for state and local government finance.

C. ENGINEER RICHARD WASOSKY was not present.

D. LAW DIRECTOR BRADRIC BRYAN was not present.

E. DEPARTMENT HEADS:

1. Police Department, Chief Mark Wentz had no report.

2. Fire Department, Fire Chief Jason Buss gave his report. (See attached) Chief Buss did distribute his yearly report and will have Lisa Rodriguez put on the website shortly.

Chief Buss said that there has been a 30% increase in calls for 2014 with the Rocksino.

Easter party will be this weekend at the fire department. Chief Buss asked Gary Vojtush if he was able to get Sparky the dog for the Easter party. Gary Vojtush said that he would try to get it and he would call Chief Buss.

Concerned resident, Grace Incorvia, was concerned about excessive feeding of wildlife. Gary Vojtush said he would look this up. Jason Walters stated that there is no ordinance on this. Gary said do not approach any female deer or fawns, they are very protective. Gary said to move to the side of a deer if you do get attacked. Grace asked what would she do if the deer antlers get stuck in a fence. Nick Magistrelli said to call Jason. Chief Wentz said that police department and Jason Walters along with the Service Department handle these types of calls.

3. Service/Building Supervisor, Jason Walters, said that they had a pre-construction meeting with Perrin Asphalt for the Cranbrook Rd. project on Tuesday, and will be getting the letters out to the residents. Jason said that they have 10 days now to give us a start date, which could mean surveying or anything like that and they 120 days from when they start to finish. He said that road is going to be completely taken out including the base and rebuilt.

Mayor Nehez said that Mr. Wiegand asked when the mailboxes will be moved to work on the road, could they put on the side of the road where the fire hydrants are so people can park on the other side. Mayor Nehez said that would be easier. Jason said that the postmaster dictates where the mailboxes are placed. Jason said that he will look into that. Gary said that the mailbox can't be put within 5' of a fire hydrant on either side. Jason said that if a group of the residents would request it might work. Gary said if people park in front of the mailboxes you will not get your mail. Jason said it is post office rules, they post office driver doesn't have to get out of the truck, it is whatever is deemed safe to them.

Mayor Nehez asked where the mailboxes would be placed. Jason said they do not know yet. They will start at Milford Dr., the Ledge side and go to Huntington and then Huntington to Milford on the park side after. He said everyone is going to see some inconvenience. Gary asked if the aprons would be put back at the size they are now. Jason said what exists now is what will be put back unless it is a grade issue, but most likely not.

REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

A. PLANNING COMMISSION, ALAN E. HIPPS, had no report.

B. RECREATION BOARD, MAYOR NEHEZ, the easter party will be this Saturday March 28th from 4p-6p at the fire department.

C. CEMETARY BOARD, BEATRICE GREENLEE, no report.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

FINANCE: LINDA BOWEN stated that Resolution 2015-13, 1st reading, emergency Resolution for the payment of bills for the month ending March 2015 passed 6 ayes at the Public Budget hearing prior to tonight's Council meeting. A motion for passage was made by Linda Bowen and seconded by Beatrice Greenlee and passed with 6 aye votes. Next Finance meeting will be April 22nd at 6:30pm.

Finance Director, Timothy Clymer read Resolution 2015-12, 1st reading, emergency Resolution setting forth the appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2015 and submitting the same to the County Fiscal Officer. Mayor Nehez said the budget can be amended each year, this is just re appropriate when the time is right. A motion was made by Beatrice Greenlee to suspend the three-reading rule and seconded by Linda Bowen, carried 6 ayes. A motion for passage was made by Linda Bowen and seconded by Beatrice Greenlee, passed 5 ayes and 1 nay from Gary Vojtush.

Alan Hipps asked Gary why he voted no due to the fact they have gone through this numerous times and that Gary still has questions. Gary said he wanted to see police officers on the street at night time, he also would like to see more staffing. Gary said that he knows it was cut from the budget, but he personally feels it isn't safe for the officers or the residents being that if there is one call on the street at night time both officers are gone and it leaves the residents with no one, having to wait for mutual aid from a surrounding community. Alan said as he understood it, it was a change in part-time to full-time, not a change in the number of people on the road. Gary said that was correct.

Chief Wentz said that was incorrect, additionally there were more line items listing the part-time staffing, and to add two officer and bring their officer total to 20. Alan said correct, to add them but not to add more shift hours. Chief Wentz said it would have adding a third man to midnights. Gary said that they have already been working a third man on a split shift. Chief Wentz said correct. Gary said with the current situations in the

neighborhoods such as the Garfield Hts. incidents of that nature, he said he would love to see a couple of shifts added along with adding more personnel to the shifts.

Nick Magistrelli emphasized the importance of the Cranbrook Rd project as a priority. Nick said that the Village could have paid cash for the project, but the first four months that Gary was in office, that was all Council heard was how he wanted the Cranbrook Rd. project. Nick said they have done their due diligence on getting Cranbrook done. He said they have discussed putting another police officer on, but he said they will do this in the fashion that they are working on. Gary said he is ok with that, he is just voicing his opinion. Nick said opinions are great. Gary said he spoke with the Finance Director about this, and he said it would have been tight to do something like that. Nick said tight wasn't the word. Linda Bowen said they have had to cut a lot of things out, and hopefully when they have the money down the road they will be able to do that. Beatrice Greenlee agreed with Mrs. Bowen.

Gary said, like Mayor Nehez said they can revisit throughout the year, and if the money is available, hopefully they can add those personnel. He said he thinks that the safety of the patrolman that are out there now is paramount with the safety of the citizens. Nick said he feels that our neighborhood is not in that condition and that Chief Wentz and the Police Department has done a great job. Nick said that there has not been an increase in violent crime, and this is the protocol to keep the budget and this Village moving in the right direction. Gary said he is not trying to stop the budget. Nick said he is getting the impression that the Village is an unsafe neighborhood right now, and Nick said he disagrees with Gary.

Gary said that he believes that two officers on scene for the Village is not safe. Nick said that Chief Wentz is doing a wonderful job. Gary said that he agrees and that he didn't say that Chief Wentz was not doing a good job. Mayor Nehez also agreed with Nick Magistrelli in that Chief Wentz is doing a great job with the men that he currently has. Nick said that he doesn't feel the need to put on an officer if the Village doesn't have the money and they need to move forward. Nick said that right now at this time, the Village and the neighborhood is a lot safer than it has been in a very long time, especially with the amount of people passing through from Akron to Cleveland and vandalism from youngsters. Beatrice Greenlee said this is the most amount of part-time officers we have every had. Nick said that he feels that Gary is putting a damper on the situation.

ROADS/PUBLIC WORKS: ETHAN MILADINOVIC had no report.

HEALTH AND WELFARE: GARY VOJTUSH had no report.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: ALAN HIPPS had no report.

WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS: NICHOLAS MAGISTRELLI had no report.

FIRE AND SAFETY: BEATRICE GREENLEE no report.

LEGISLATION:

Tim Clymer read Ordinance 2015-06, 2nd reading, emergency Ordinance amending Chapter 1446 of the Codified Ordinances relating to rental certificates for rented single family dwellings. Council President stated that Council decided to place on 3rd reading at the April 8th council meeting.

OLD BUSINESS; None

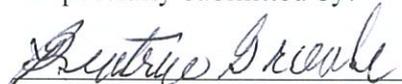
NEW BUSINESS; Linda Bowen thanked Chief Buss for the Block Watch presentation. Mayor Nehez stated that the other five communities invited him to go on the Columbus trip and contacted him to participate and Mayor said he could not say no. Gary Vojtush said he would like including in future meetings.

ANNOUNCEMENTS;

Alan Hipps said that he was awarded a botanical garden grant to construct two tree houses and that they will temporarily be his his back yard, then dismantled and put on display at the Cleveland Botanical Gardens.

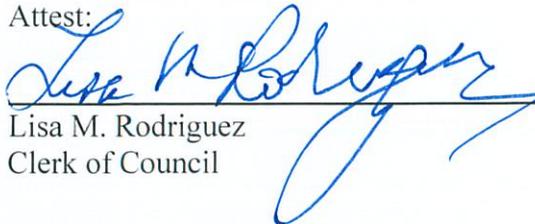
ADJOURNMENT - A motion for adjournment at 8:19p.m. was made by Beatrice Greenlee and seconded by Gary Vojtush passed with 6 ayes.

Respectfully submitted by:



Beatrice Greenlee
President of Council

Attest:



Lisa M. Rodriguez
Clerk of Council