

The Village of Northfield

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

September 9, 2015

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

The Pledge of allegiance was led by Mayor Nehez.

ROLL CALL was read by Timothy Clymer. The following were present: Mayor Nehez, Councilpersons Beatrice Greenlee, Linda Bowen, Alan Hipps, Nicholas Magistrelli, Gary Vojtush, and Jim Daugherty. In addition, Law Director Brad Bryan, Engineer Richard Wasosky, Police Chief Mark Wentz, Fire Chief Jason Buss, and Service Department Superintendent Jason Walters were present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion to approve the August 26, 2015 Council Meeting Minutes was made by Council President Greenlee, and seconded by Councilwoman Bowen. All in favor, none opposed, motion passed.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND REMONSTRANCES: None.

REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS:

MAYOR JESSE J. NEHEZ - Reported that the Finance Department is caught up, and Diane Gacom, who has done an amazing job helping the Finance Department will no longer be needed. Tim Clymer will be taking over all of the Finance duties. Diane will still be doing the Sewer Billing and the Village website. Mayor Nehez asked for a voice vote to eliminate the Assistant with the Finance Department position. Law Director Brad Bryan advised by eliminating that position, it will save approximately \$2,500 a month in payroll. Mayor Nehez stated Diane knew this was a temporary position until the Finance office was caught up. Tim Clymer advised he is ready to take on all Finance duties. Councilwoman Bowen made a motion to eliminate the Assistant with the Finance Department position, which was seconded by Council President Greenlee. All in favor, zero opposed, motion passed.

FINANCE DIRECTOR TIM CLYMER - No Report.

Councilman Vojtush advised he has heard rumors in the Village that Finance Director Tim Clymer has applied for the Finance Director job in Aurora. He has also heard that he may be leaving before the end of the year. Councilman Vojtush wanted to know if this is true. Tim Clymer advised he has not taken any other job and has not submitted any letter of resignation. He has applied for other positions throughout the past few years and has not chosen to leave. Councilman Vojtush asked specifically about the job in Aurora. Finance Director Tim Clymer stated he would prefer not to talk about that matter in this setting.

ENGINEER RICHARD WASOSKY - Report Attached. The Cranbrook Road project is almost complete. Mayor Nehez asked if the previous Administration ever looked into getting a sidewalk on Ledge Road. Rich replied no, it did not. Brad Bryan asked about the sidewalk grant the School District applied for and whether they have heard anything? Rich said they have not.

LAW DIRECTOR BRADRIC BRYAN- No Report.

Councilman Vojtush asked if there has been any progress with the Police contract. Brad advised he talked to the police union attorney today, and they are not going to come to an agreement. They are in the process of selecting a fact finder and moving forward with that process.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Police Department, Chief Mark Wentz- Report Attached. Mayor Nehez stated he has hired two full-time Police Officers since he has been Mayor. Chief Wentz stated Ptl. Grams and Ptl. Olesinski were sworn in January 1, his first year as Mayor. One officer filled Ptl. McFeely's spot, and the other officer filled that spot for which we were down one officer for a number of years. Council President Greenlee asked about an incident that occurred yesterday at the park involving a weapon. Chief Wentz reported it was an air soft gun, and they have tried to up the Police presence at the park, but he only has two officers on afternoons. There was talk about installing a camera at the park, but someone would have to man the camera 24/7 and we do not have the manpower. Councilman Vojtush asked if we have looked into an internet based camera system where you can view it from anywhere in the world? Chief Wentz said he has not. Chief Wentz and Councilman Vojtush decided to discuss it after the meeting. Councilman Vojtush also asked Chief Wentz if anyone had had discussions with Chief Wentz about a pay raise for this year. Chief Wentz said no, it has not been discussed. Brad Bryan reminded Chief Wentz that he and the Chief spoke about that issue about a month ago, and Chief Wentz stated he wanted to wait to discuss his pay until after the Police Department contract was settled. Councilman Daugherty stated he lives close to the playground. If there is an incident at the playground and the Police are tied up with a call, can an adult hold the children there until Police can respond? Chief Wentz advised no, they cannot. Chief Wentz suggested if someone does see something happen, to see what direction they go, where they live, and give a description of the people and relay the information to the Police.

Fire Department, Fire Chief Jason Buss-Report Attached. Chief Buss was asked before the Council meeting why a green ambulance was seen at the playground? Chief Buss advised they are having maintenance issues with a couple of the vehicles and that is why they are using that ambulance. The other ambulances are in the process of getting repaired. Councilman Daugherty asked if we currently have two squads down. The Chief reported one squad is out of service because it needs repairs, and Ryan August (mechanic) advised it will break if driven. The other squad's AC unit is bad. With the hot temperatures, they have not been using it, but they can use it if needed. Councilman Vojtush asked if the Fire Inspections are going to be completed this year. Chief Buss reported they are on an annual schedule, and they will be completed. Mayor Nehez advised he is really proud of the Fire Department and their fire inspection program. With all the years they were not being done under the prior administration, he is very happy that they are now being completed on a schedule. Councilman Daugherty asked if there is a smoke detector program for residences. Chief Buss advised he does have a supply of smoke detectors if anyone needs them at no charge. Carbon monoxide detectors are not available at this time. The resident has to show their ID as proof of residency. If they need help installing the detector, the Fire Department will help the resident. Mayor Nehez asked Chief Buss to give a run down on the fire rating and how it has improved since he has been Chief. Chief Buss reported the biggest change was with the rate of our insurance. Before we were rated as a 6 (the lower the number the better). We are now rated a 3. This helps homeowners and businesses with the cost of their insurance. Chief Buss stated the Department has made many improvements moving forward in the past decade with more manpower, turning a volunteer department to a part-time department, and now having 3 full-time employees, better equipment, more training, mutual aid with three departments, and inspections. Mayor Nehez stated he does not think many residents realize the improvement that this Mayor, Council, and Chief Buss have made. It is an incredible benefit to the residents.

Service/Building Supervisor, Jason Walters- Report Attached. Mayor Nehez stated he would like one of the Service Department employees to be trained as an arborist so we have one on staff. Jason advised he will look into this. Councilman Daugherty stated he would like to meet with Jason and Brad to go over some of the legislation with sidewalks so residents know what are their responsibilities and not to expect the Service Department to do it. Brad stated we can do this, but we have to consistently enforce it. Councilman Vojtush asked how often does the Service Department go by and check the parks. He said he asks this because he noticed a lot of rocks in the playground area and would like to see mulch there so the kids don't hurt

themselves. Jason advised they can add mulch, but next year he would like to see something better there, maybe rubber playground mulch. Councilman Vojtush also said he has seen a lot of trash at the playgrounds. He picked up what he could, but he didn't get it all, and it usually happens on the weekends. Jason advised his guys go up there every morning to clean and check the playground. Jason said they also check it on the weekends. He told Councilman Vojtush to text him if he sees anything.

REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

PLANNING COMMISSION, ALAN HIPPS- There will be a meeting September 16 at 7:30.

RECREATION BOARD, MAYOR NEHEZ- There will be a meeting the first Thursday in December to discuss Christmas (December 3, 2015 at 7:30pm).

CEMETERY BOARD, BEATRICE GREENLEE- They will meet next month.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

FINANCE: LINDA BOWEN- They will have their next meeting September 23 at 6:30pm.

ROADS AND PUBLIC WORKS: JIM DAUGHERTY- Jim stated he would like to schedule a Roads and Public Works meeting pertaining to the bid for Heights and Magnolia. They will talk to Tim that morning about the funds and discuss what they can afford. The meeting will be Tuesday September 22 at 7:30.

HEALTH AND WELFARE: GARY VOJTUSH - No report.

WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS: NICHOLAS MAGISTRELLI- No report.

FIRE AND SAFETY: BEATRICE GREENLEE- No report.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS: ALAN HIPPS- No report.

LEGISLATION: None.

OLD BUSINESS; NEW BUSINESS; ANNOUNCEMENTS: Council President Greenlee reported there is an Alzheimer's walk coming up. She has forms if anyone would like to participate. She would like to make a motion to donate \$100 to this walk, which was seconded by Councilwoman Bowen. All in favor, zero opposed, motion passed. Councilman Daugherty asked Jason Walters if we have any Christmas decorations or signs that say Merry Christmas. Mayor Nehez stated no, we do not. Councilman Daugherty asked if we could get a sign or something that says Merry Christmas as well as Happy Holidays. Over the last few years he has not noticed anything that says Merry Christmas. Jason Walters stated because that offends people. We just use Happy Holidays because that covers all holidays. Brad Bryan stated we would then have to give an opportunity to all dominations and religions. Mayor Nehez stated we are getting new holiday banners for Route 8.

ADJOURNMENT - A motion for adjournment was made by Council President Greenlee and seconded by Councilman Vojtush. All in favor, zero opposed, motion passed.

Respectfully submitted by:

Timothy Clymer, Clerk of Council