

The Village of Northfield

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

February 24, 2016

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Nehez.

ROLL CALL was read by Tricia Ingrassia. The following were present: Mayor Nehez, Councilpersons Nick Magistrelli, Jenn Domzalski, Jim Daugherty, Alan Hipps, Gary Vojtush, and Renell Noack. In addition, Law Director Brad Bryan, Fire Chief Jason Buss, and Service Department Director Jason Walters were present. Village Engineer Richard Wasosky and Police Chief Mark Wentz were absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mayor Nehez reported there are no minutes tonight due to Lisa Thellmann being on vacation.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND REMONSTRANCES:

Charles Hawk, market specialist from RITA, spoke about the services RITA can provide for the Village and invited everyone to tour the facility located in Brecksville. Council thanked Mr. Hawk for the presentation.

REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS:

MAYOR JESSE J. NEHEZ –Mayor Nehez reported Nordonia Hills News is doing a drug awareness program for 2016 at the Nordonia High School auditorium on March 3rd from 7 p.m.-9 p.m. The Mayor will be speaking at this event. Victor Milani thanked Mayor Nehez for being the first person to agree to be on the panel. Mayor Nehez stated this is a great program.

Mayor Nehez also reported the Marotta Corporation and Charlie Marotta have agreed to sell the bank building next door to the Village for \$1. Law Director Brad Bryan added that the Mayor just received the proposed agreement today, and it is expected to be on the agenda for approval at the next Council meeting. There will be some other small costs related to the acquisition of the building for title insurance and escrow fees. Mayor Nehez stated he wants to form a committee to get opinions on what the building should be used for.

FINANCE DIRECTOR TRICIA INGRASSIA- CCA is scheduled to attend the March 9th Council meeting to give its presentation. Tricia asked Council if they have any interest in hiring a consultant to conduct a BMV audit. Tricia explained because the Village shares a zip code, when a driver's license is registered in those communities, there is a possibility the money is going to an incorrect community. Councilman Daugherty asked what the cost would be. Tricia advised it would be \$3.50 for each incorrect non IRP license registration and \$10 for each IRP truck registration. Councilman Vojtush asked if we have approached the other communities to share the cost. Tricia advised she has not but can. Brad Bryan stated it sounds like the other communities collaborating on this type of audit would straighten up having the money go to the right places, but because the cost is based upon the amount of incorrect registrations, the other communities being involved wouldn't necessarily save us money on the cost.

Mayor Nehez said he will contact Sagamore Hills and Northfield Center.

Councilwoman Domzalski asked what the deadline is if we switched to RITA. Tricia advised we would have to notify CCA by July 1, which gives us plenty of time.

ENGINEER RICHARD WASOSKY- No report.

LAW DIRECTOR BRADRIC BRYAN- Mr. Bryan reported that discussions have started again at Stow Court about eliminating preliminary hearings and handling all felony cases through direct indictments. The Village would have to contribute to hire a new employee at the County Prosecutor's Office who would gather all the information on the case and prepare the case to be presented to the Grand Jury. Brad advised that in the past, our and other Stow Court municipality's stances have been that our communities should not have to pay for something that is going to save the County money; the County should absorb this cost. Brad advised we would be saving some money because our police officers would not have to attend preliminary hearings and transport prisoners to those hearings. Brad will let Council know when the proposal is ready whether it will save the Village money or not.

Brad also reported Chief Wentz asked him to mention that he is asking for a part-time Police Officer candidate to be appointed at the March 9th Council meeting. Her name is Erika Gregg.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Police Department, Chief Mark Wentz-Not present.

Fire Chief, Jason Buss- Report attached.

Councilwoman Domzalski asked if they can plan CPR classes over spring / summer break for kids who would like to get certified. Chief Buss stated he will set it up.

Service/Building Supervisor, Jason Walters- Mr. Walters reported the salt truck is being fixed. It was done in house and saved the Village money. The repair should be complete tonight.

Councilman Vojtush asked Jason to thank Ryan August for all his time and effort repairing Village vehicles.

REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

PLANNING COMMISSION, ALAN E. HIPPS-No report.

RECREATION BOARD-, MAYOR NEHEZ- Meeting scheduled Thursday March 3rd. He will not be present due to the Drug Awareness Meeting.

CEMETERY BOARD, BEATRICE GREENLEE- No report.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES:

FINANCE, COUNCIL PRESIDENT MAGISTRELLI: Finance Meeting was held this evening.

The next Finance Meeting is scheduled for March 23 at 6:30.

2016-14-An Emergency Resolution Approving the Payment of the Bills for the Month of February in the amount of \$120,637.12. A motion for approval was made by Councilman Daugherty and seconded by Councilwoman Domzalski. All in favor of approval; none opposed.

ROADS/PUBLIC WORKS, COUNCILMAN DAUGHERTY: No report.

Councilman Daugherty thanked Jason Walters and the Service Department for the great job they do in keeping the roads clear from snow.

HEALTH AND WELFARE, RENELL NOACK: No report.

WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS, COUNCILMAN VOJTUSH: No report.

FIRE AND SAFETY, COUNCILWOMAN DOMZALSKI: No report.

Chief Wentz asked Councilwoman Domzalski to read his report to Council and let Council know an officer was involved in an auto accident. He was not at fault, and everyone is ok. There is significant damage to the cruiser. Report attached.

BUILDINGS & GROUNDS, COUNCILMAN HIPPS: No report.

LEGISLATION

2016-05 - A Resolution Authorizing Euthenics, Inc. to Complete the Preliminary Design Phase for the Ledge Road Reconstruction Phase 2 Project. Third Reading. Council was asked to table this and remove it from the agenda until Macedonia figures out if they can financially move forward with this project. A motion to table was made by Councilman Vojtush and seconded by Council President Magistrelli. All in favor, zero opposed.

2016-09 – An Emergency Ordinance Amending Sections 230.01 and 238.07 and Establishing Section 230.015 of the Codified Ordinances Relating to Monthly Financial Statements to Council, the Authority to Purchase, and the Payment of Claims. Third Reading. A motion to pass was made by Councilwoman Noack and seconded by Council President Magistrelli.

Councilman Vojtush commented that he thinks the last work session went great. When there was a problem with the service vehicle, it was brought before them, and it just shows everybody can work together. Councilman Vojtush stated he thinks if Council had two different Finance Meetings per month and payed bills at each meeting, we would not have a problem. He does not feel they need to re-invent the wheel at this time.

Approved by Councilpersons Noack, Magistrelli, Hipps, and Domzalski.

Councilmen Daugherty and Vojtush opposed. Passed 4/2

2016-13 – An Emergency Ordinance Amending Section 1262.05(f) of the Planning and Zoning Code Relating to Zoning Certificates. Second Reading. This Ordinance will be put on 3rd reading at the next Regular Council Meeting.

Councilmen Daugherty and Vojtush stated they would like to discuss this Ordinance at another work session. A work session was scheduled for Wednesday March 9th at 6:45pm.

OLD BUSINESS; ANNOUNCEMENTS; NEW BUSINESS.

Councilman Daugherty asked Sgt. Zoligus how the cruiser is coming and when will it will be back on the road. Sgt. Zoligus reported it will hopefully be back by the end of this week, or at the latest, the beginning of next week. Council President Magistrelli asked how bad the damage was. Sgt. Zoligus stated approximately \$9,200. Victor Milani asked who the officer was. Mr. Milani was told it was Officer Warren Olesinski.

Councilwoman Noack thanked Sgt. Zoligus and Ptl. Jones for speaking at the Block Watch Meeting.

Mayor Nehez thanked Victor Milani for organizing the upcoming Drug Awareness Meeting.

Council President Magistrelli asked Councilman Daugherty what exactly they will be going over at the work session for 2016-13. Councilman Daugherty said he does not think the \$8 per 100 square foot should be eliminated. Brad and Jason explained the proposed changes to the code section to Councilman Daugherty. They will discuss it further at the work session.

ADJOURNMENT –A motion to adjourn was made by Councilman Vojtush and seconded by Councilwoman Domzalski. All in favor, zero opposed. Meeting adjourned at 8:31pm.

Respectfully submitted by:

Tricia Ingrassia, Clerk of Council

The Village of Northfield Fire Department

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330-467-7139 ext 22 • 330-467-7152 FAX

Fire Chief Jason L Buss

330-523-9422 Business Cell

firechief@northfieldvillage-oh.gov

February 24, 2016

Activity Report

- A detailed copy of fire department activity is available upon request.
- As of *February 24, 2016* NVFD responded to a total of **105** incidents. We responded to a total of 777 incidents in 2015, which was a 17% increase of 2014 and a 55% increase since 2013. **77** of those incidents were EMS related and **28** incidents were FIRE related.
- NVFD has provided mutual aid for 4 incidents, provided automatic aid 9 times, and received mutual aid for 3 incidents and automatic aid for 0 incidents. (Total MA received in 2013 was 18, 2014 was 15, 2015 was 22)
- NVFD's average response time from time of call till time on scene is **3:52**
 - o As mutual and automatic aid has increased, our overall response time has been increased on average.

Fire Inspector / Prevention Report (As of February 24, 2016)

- 9 Annual Fire Inspections have also been completed
- 6 Hood/Duct/Alarm/Sprinkler tests have been completed
- 9 Standby events at Hard Rock Rocking

Department News

- **Full Time Employment Opening** – Testing and interviewing for the vacant firefighter position has been completed. Thank you for Lt. Mackie and Finance Director Ingrassia for their assistance. Robert Davet has been chosen and is completing the medical portion of the hiring process. I would like to swear him in at the March 9th meeting and he would start his regular shifts the week of March 20th.
- **Northfield Park Race Track Staffing** – We are currently processing candidates to help fill the staffing of the standby squad at NPRT. I would like to hire 2-3 EMTs by the end of March.
- **Alarm System Replacement** – The fire alarm at the fire station was replaced by Silco and is now in operation. We are now also using Silco as the alarm monitoring service with a 3G/4G connection.

"Our Family Protecting Yours"

Council Meeting

February 24, 2016

Chief Wentz will not be in attendance and is requesting Fire & Safety Chairperson, Councilwoman Jenn Domzalski, present the following Police Report to Council.

■ PERSONNEL:

- **Part-time Officer MICHAEL MALAK** has informed Chief Wentz that he will be testing for a full-time position with the Macedonia Police Department. Michael said that nothing is imminent, but wanted to make me aware that he is testing. He is taking the physical fitness test this coming Monday, February 29, 2016. The written examination is in March.
- **Part-time Officer SPENCER SABELLI** is a candidate for a full-time opening with the Garfield Hts. Police Department. No time-table is set for a final decision as to his selection.

■ POLICE PART-TIME CANDIDATE:

- **Police Candidate ERICA GREGG** has passed our background check and had an introductory interview with Chief Wentz, followed by a second interview with the Chief and Lt. Mackie.



Erica attended the Cleveland Hts. Police Academy. She graduated in November 2015. She is currently working in an unpaid, Reserve Officer position with the Newton Falls Police Department. Prior to attending the police academy she worked in the private sector with Conway Freight and as a server at several local restaurants in Parma and Brooklyn. She graduated from Parma Senior High School in 2013 and attended Cuyahoga County Community College prior to attending the academy.

Erica, age 21, is very athletic and received the Police Academy's *Physical Fitness Award*. One neighbor described her as "determined and driven." Others interviewed echoed those sentiments, along with saying they believe she will make an excellent police officer. Cleveland Hts. Police Academy Commander, Capt. Geoffrey Barnard, described Erica as "a physically fit individual who was a hard worker, who was in the top 10% in the class, shot well, and had great subject control."

Ms. Gregg is recommended for hire by Chief Mark Wentz based on the background report completed by Det. Matthew Grams and her one-on-one interview with Chief Wentz and Lt. Mackie. She is scheduled to take her polygraph and medical physical this week.

With her expected passing of the polygraph and medical physical and Council's approval, Chief Wentz would like to have Erica Gregg sworn in as a part-time officer at the March 9, 2016 Council Meeting. If the Fire & Safety Committee would like, Chief Wentz can arrange for a Meet-and-Greet prior to that date or

have her come early the evening of March 9th to meet Mayor Nehez and Council.

▪ **CALLS FOR SERVICE:**

- **January 2016** saw a substantial jump in Calls for Service over previous years. Typically, the police department responds to about 750 Calls for Service in January. This year, in the first month, we had **905 Calls for Service** and made 199 traffic stops. Follow-up Investigations (51), Foot Patrols (62), Disturbances (18), Lock-outs (31), Money Escorts (25), and Assist to Rescue Squad (38) accounted for a portion of the increase in call volume. Calls originating from the Rocksino were also significantly higher when compared to its first two years of operation.

▪ End of Report ▪

Respectfully submitted by Police Chief Mark C. Wentz