

The Village of Northfield

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

January 22, 2020

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Nehez at 7:30 p.m., and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Nehez.

The **ROLL CALL** was read by Finance Director Jennifer Potvin. The following officials were present: Councilpersons Nick Magistrelli, Jenn Domzalski, Alan Hipps, Renell Noack, Gary Vojtush, and Keith Czerr. Also present for the meeting were Law Director Brad Bryan, Fire Chief Jason Buss, Police Chief John Zoligus, Finance Director/Clerk of Council Jennifer Potvin, and Service Director Jason Walters.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A motion to approve the Minutes for the January 8, 2020 Council Meeting was made by Ms. Noack and seconded by Ms. Domzalski. All were in favor of approval; none were opposed. The January 8, 2020 Minutes were approved.

PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS, MEMORIALS, AND REMONSTRANCES:

Chief Buss notified Council the Fire Department was awarded a \$26,936 grant for new turn out gear from the Firehouse Subs Public Safety Foundation. Chief Buss stated the Department's current gear is about 9 years old. The Village will be able to replace 26 sets of gear with the grant money.

Caitlin Albright from NOPEC attended the Meeting to present Jason Walters with a Service Director Excellence Award from NOPEC.

Mr. Vojtush asked about the human trafficking sting operation that was recently conducted in the Village by the County Sheriff's Department. Chief Zoligus stated the Sheriff's Office worked with the Highway Patrol and Ohio Investigation Unit, and he was required to keep the operation secret so it could operate as planned. Chief Zoligus assured everyone the Village is a safe place, and there are no known human trafficking issues in the Village. All of the persons that were apprehended were lured to the Village as a result of the operation; they were not operating in the Village. Chief Zoligus stated the Sheriff's Department took care of all the paperwork involved but that our Law Director, Brad Bryan, will need to handle some of the court prosecutions in connection with the operation. Chief Zoligus mentioned the Sheriff's Department is happy with the results of the investigation.

REPORTS OF MUNICIPAL OFFICERS:

Mayor Jesse Nehez – No Report.

Finance Director, Jennifer Potvin – Ms. Potvin stated she is currently working on closing out the year, budget planning, preparing projections, and reviewing budgets with department heads.

Engineer, Rich Wasosky – Mr. Wasosky will be present at the next Regular Council Meeting.

Law Director, Brad Bryan – No Report.

DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Police Department, Chief John Zolgus – No Report.

Fire Department, Chief Jason Buss – Chief Buss mentioned the Fire Department had an extra ambulance on standby during the Sheriff's Department investigation.

Chief Buss stated Sgt. Zambach will be attending a school officer training seminar with University Hospitals on January 23, 2020. The schools will receive in classroom supplies as part of the project. Chief Buss stated the Fire Department has been working on this project for 2 years, and he's glad to see it come together.

Chief Buss stated the Fire Station Expansion and Renovation Project is on schedule to be put out for bid.

Mr. Vojtush asked Chief Buss about the Department member who got injured at the December 15, 2019 Santa on the Fire Truck Day. Chief Buss stated the fire truck was leaving the parking lot before the event started and one of the fire fighters slipped and was pinched by one of the front truck tires. The firefighter was taken to the hospital and released the same day. Complications later arose as a result of a possible misdiagnosis by the hospital that later required surgery. The firefighter is expected to be back to full duty in April of this year.

Service Dept., Jason Walters– Mr. Walters mentioned the new traffic light poles were delivered, but one pole was missing. Signal Service is working on locating the missing pole.

Mr. Walters and Ms. Domzalski met on the budget, and they will meet with Ms. Potvin in the near future. Mr. Walters knows there is a lot that they are trying to work into the budget and is aware that everything will not be able to be kept in the budget. They will have to prioritize matters in deciding on what needs to stay in the budget and what does not.

Mr. Walters discussed the building repairs to Village Hall. He stated the contractor has completed the work, and the building looks much better. He said the next building item that needs to be addressed is the steps behind the building. Mr. Walters stated the architect may have some suggestions. The Project will most likely need to be put out for bids.

Mr. Walters stated he received several phone calls from residents during the last snow storm. The callers were upset that the streets, including Rt. 8, were still snow covered. Mr. Walters advised that ODOT maintains Rt. 8, not the Village.

Mr. Vojtush stated he received some calls on MLK Day asking why the senior driveways were not plowed yet. Mr. Walters stated senior snow plowing does not come before the roads. He mentioned when the residents filled out their applications for senior snow plowing, the application states the driveways will be plowed after 4" of snow is down and the roads have been cleared. Mr. Walters stated that the Village has nearly 200 driveways on the list this year. He asked residents to be patient. The Department is trying its best to accommodate everyone. If a resident has an urgent need, they should let Mr. Walters know, and they will be taken care of.

REPORTS OF THE MUNICIPAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

Planning Commission, Mr. Hipps – Mr. Hipps stated the Planning Commission met on January 15th to review the final plans and the additional variances that were requested in connection with the Zaremba/Dollar General development. Mr. Hipps stated the Planning Commission recommended approval of the final plans and the four additional variances that were requested. He provided a general description of the plans and the requested variances and the Commission's justification for granting the requested variances. With respect to the buffer zone landscaping, he

stated the adjoining residents preferred the arborvitaes provided in the plan over the plant materials required by the Village plant material chart. He presented the motion the Council as follows:

A motion to approve the final site plans, on the condition the Village receives an approval letter from Summit Soil & Water and a compliant lighting plan, and the additional variances as follows: (1) the elimination of the parking lot landscaping island and parking lot interior landscaping; (2) the location of the enclosed waste facility on the rear west side of the building rather than the south side of the building; (3) permitting one tree along Rt. 8 rather than two trees with the additional required tree to be placed on west side of the property; and (4) the approval of the landscaping plan plant quantities and layout shown in the project plans in lieu of the Quantity of Plant Material Chart and requirements in Section 1267.05(b)5.C(3) of the Overlay Area Ordinance.

The motion was made by Mr. Vojush and seconded by Ms. Noack. All were in favor; none were opposed. The final site plan and additional variances were approved with the stated conditions.

Recreation Board, Mayor Nehez – Mayor Nehez reminded everyone the next Board meeting will be February 5, 2020, at 6:30 p.m. at Village Hall.

Cemetery Board, Mayor Nehez – Mayor Nehez stated he is now on the Cemetery Board’s email list. He mentioned there are now signs at the cemetery stating glass vases are not permitted and flowers and arrangements in such vases will be removed. Mr. Vojtush asked about the cemetery fence. Mayor Nehez advised no decision has been made on that issue. It will be discussed at the next meeting.

REPORTS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES:

Finance Committee, Mr. Magistrelli – Mr. Magistrelli mentioned the Committee needed to review several months of payments this evening. He thanked Ms. Potvin for doing such a great job and having everything organized.

Roads/Public Works, Ms. Domzalski – Ms. Domzalski stated Mr. Walters already touched upon what she wanted to discuss.

Health and Welfare, Mr. Czerr – No Report.

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

Fire and Safety, Ms. Noack – No Report.

Buildings and Grounds, Mr. Hipps – No Report.

LEGISLATION:

2020-03 – An Emergency Resolution Authorizing Advertisement for Bids for Furnishing the Materials and Performing the Labor for the Construction of the Fire Station Addition and Renovation Project (First Reading) A motion to suspend the three reading rule was made by Mr. Hipps and seconded by Ms. Noack. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion

was adopted. A motion for passage was made by Mr. Vojtush and seconded by Mr. Hipps. All were in favor; none were opposed. The Resolution was adopted.

2020-04 – An Emergency Resolution Authorizing Certain Amendments to the 2019 Appropriation Resolution and/or Transferring Items Already Appropriated in that Resolution (First Reading) A motion to suspend the three reading rule was made by Ms. Domzalski and seconded by Mr. Vojtush. All were in favor; none were opposed. The motion was adopted. A motion for passage was made by Mr. Vojtush and seconded by Ms. Noack. All were in favor; none were opposed. The Resolution was adopted.

2020-05 – An Emergency Ordinance Amending Section 258.04(a) of the Codified Ordinances Relating to Holidays for Full-Time Employees (First Reading) Mr. Vojtush stated he would like to further discuss this legislation in a Wages & Working Committee Meeting on February 12, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. That meeting was scheduled. The Ordinance will advance to a second reading at the next Regular Council Meeting.

OLD BUSINESS; NEW BUSINESS; ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ms. Noack stated she received a call from a concerned resident about the lighting of the Village Hall flagpole. Ms. Noack thanked Mr. Walters for immediately taking care of the issue.

Mr. Vojtush asked if anyone had a chance to go out to Parma to look at the playground equipment. Mr. Walters stated he had not. Mr. Walters recommended if the Village purchases the equipment, that a professional company be hired to take the equipment down, deliver the equipment, and set the equipment back up so there are not any safety issues. Mr. Vojtush reminded everyone the address of the location of the playground equipment is 12212 Snow Road in Parma.

Executive Session – None.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion to adjourn was made by Ms. Domzalski and seconded by Mr. Magistrelli. All were in favor; none were opposed. The Meeting was adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Approved by Council.

Jennifer Potvin, Clerk of Council