

Regular Council Meeting

December 1, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Acting Mayor Michael Headley.

The Pledge of Allegiance was repeated by all present.

Present were: Council members Mick Pocratsky, Mike Barth, Ron Jones, Mark Haver and Ron Beverly. One council seat is vacant at this meeting. Solicitor, Troy Essex; Administrator, Kent Miller and Clerk/Treasurer Diane Collins.

Larry Haver gave the Oath of Office to Michael Headley. Acting Mayor Headley thanked Larry Haver for his service to the community.

Jones moved to approve the November 17 regular council minutes. Barth seconded. All voted yes.

Pocratsky moved to approve the November 24 special council minutes. Haver seconded. All voted yes.

The Approved Bills List was discussed. Pocratsky moved to go into executive session for possible litigation. Beverly seconded. All voted yes. (6:05 p.m. – 6:25 p.m.) Haver moved to return to regular session. Barth seconded. All voted yes.

Barth moved to approve the bills including the one for Cash Services. Jones seconded. All voted yes.

Acting Mayor Headley opened the meeting up for nominations for President of Council. Haver nominated Jones. Barth seconded. Pocratsky moved to close the nominations. Barth seconded. Pocratsky moved that Jones be elected Council President. Barth seconded. Haver, Pocratsky & Barth voted yes. Jones and Beverly abstained.

Resident, Vicki Stanley was present to address council regarding utility billing concerns. Previously she asked council to remove the \$35 flat sewer rate from the bills. She quoted village financial information to council and stated council chose to ignore EPA requests to do sewer work on Haver Drive. She stated it has come to her attention that the Village does not pay for any water or sewer fees and that it should.

Insurance Committee: Haver stated the Committee met to discuss three options proposed for the Village medical insurance. BORMA voted to increase the rates by 19.9%. Along with keeping our current deductibles, two other options were presented for review. Both options would increase the deductibles and lower the cost. The committee recommended changing the employee deductibles to \$750 per Individual/\$1500 per family in network. This option would only be a 5.5% increase to the current premium. Beverly moved to approve. Pocratsky seconded. All voted yes.

Park Board: Park Board member Cory Wann was present. Minutes of the November meeting were in council packets.

Beautification Committee: Meeting minutes from November were in the council packets.

Administrator's Report: Miller reported leaf pickup will be completed Dec. 5. The recycle lot will not be operating with "winter" hours.

Miscellaneous:

Ordinance 2014-18 Annual Appropriations Ordinance was read by caption only for the second reading. Ordinance 2014-19 to amend the Annual Appropriations Ordinance was read by caption only for the first reading. Jones moved to suspend the rules. Beverly seconded. All voted yes. Ordinance 2014-19 was read by caption only for the second and third reading. Pocratsky moved to approve. Barth seconded. All voted yes.

Indigent burial fees were discussed. Essex advised Council to make it a policy instead of an ordinance and also recommends not putting a flat fee in the policy. After reviewing case law it is his opinion that it is illegal to put a dollar amount in. Haver stated that if Essex feels a dollar amount is meaningless we should negotiate for the service. Essex suggested we negotiate annually. Pocratsky asked Essex to e-mail a policy the next day with and without a dollar amount inserted.

Police/Fire/EMS Reports: Police Chief, Monty Ballinger was present but had nothing to report.

EMS Chief, Loni Kesler was present but had nothing to report.

Fire Chief, Scott Cramer was present and asked council to approve Cody Royer to the Fire Dept.

Cody is currently in Firefighter II level training and is already an EMT for us. Acting Mayor Headley recommended Royer to the dept. Barth moved to approve the Mayor’s recommendation. Pocratsky seconded. All voted yes.

Clerk/Treasurer’s Report: Collins shared the MTD/YTD Cash report and Income Tax Report.

Mayor’s Report – Mayor Headley reminded everyone of the Annual Christmas Parade and Tree Lighting Ceremony this coming Saturday. Cramer informed everyone that the parade is going to start from the “Old” Dollar General parking lot behind the Hicksville Bank instead of the Fairgrounds.

Beverly asked how it was going to move the back offices to the front. Collins stated she has not had time to worry about it this time of year. She is first seeking information for a new telephone system. Some council members are still requesting a “footprint” of the plans prior to doing it. Mayor Headley also says he wants to be available to the public and may prefer that front office.

Beverly moved to go into executive session to discuss personnel. Jones seconded. All voted yes. (7:03 p.m. – 7:25 p.m.) Beverly moved to go into regular session. Jones seconded. All voted yes.

Mayor Headley stated there were several applicants to fill the vacant council seat while Headley is completing the unexpired term for Larry Haver through December 31, 2015. Blank sheets of paper were passed out for council members to write their choice of applicants. Five ballots had Bruce Hart’s name written down. Hart was present, sworn in and congratulated.

Barth moved to adjourn. Haver seconded. All voted yes.

Mayor

Clerk/Treasurer