

VILLAGE OF HEBRON
VILLAGE BOARD MEETING
AUGUST 19, 2019

President Martinez called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Trustees Shepherd, Ritzert, Wagner, Lange, and Peterson answered aye to roll call.

Discussion and Vote to Approve minutes of July 15, 2019 Village Board Meeting

Trustee Lange made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 15, 2019 Village Board meeting. Trustee Peterson seconded the motion. Trustees Lange, Peterson, Shepherd, Ritzert, and Wagner approved the motion by answering aye. Motion carried.

Discussion and Vote to Approve July/August 2019 Accounts Payable

Trustee Shepherd reported that there were add-ons to both Streets and Sewer. General Fund total with an additional \$1,724.63 was \$31,672.92. The Water/Sewer Fund with an additional \$1,577.30 was \$142,579.96, which gives a combined total of \$174,252.86. Trustee Shepherd made a motion to approve July/August accounts payable as presented. Trustee Ritzert seconded the motion. Trustee Shepherd, Ritzert, Wagner, Lange, and Peterson approved the motion by answering aye. Motion carried.

President's Report

President Martinez gave an outline for the protocol for Public Comments and asked all to follow them carefully.

Public Comment 1

John Vole, of 10008 Main Street, stated that he was concerned for Hebron business owners that have worked hard to build their business in the Village. He added that Hebron police pulling people over are out all day writing tickets, and he feels that people are afraid to drive through Hebron, which in turn hurts the businesses. He stated that the new officer is in a lawsuit with a town he worked for previously. This also concerned him.

Brooke Maule, 10916 IL Route 47, was asking the Board for approval to run a raffle for the Bears/Packer game benefiting the Hebron Little League. She stated that the event would be held on September 5th. President Martinez asked the Board for a consensus vote. Trustee Peterson made a motion to approve the application for a charitable raffle on September 5th, 2019. The motion was approved by unanimous consensus.

Debbie Mindham, 11614 Prairie Avenue, stated that she is the owner of Hazel's Restaurant and she continued to explain that the parking situation is not good, especially for her elderly clients. She asked that neighboring businesses use parking somewhere else and not in front of Hazel's. President Martinez asked Chief Donlea and Superintendent Dan Nelson to discuss this with the neighboring business owners.

At this time, discussion ensued regarding handicapped parking.

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Michael Von Bergen, 9719 IL Route 173, mentioned that his concern was regarding the Hebron police department. He feels that the ticketing is out of control regarding trucks. He stated that the truck drivers in their trucks are taken to the scale in Richmond even when the scales are not open. He feels that the truck drivers are being harassed. He asked the Board for a resolution to this problem as soon as possible. He asked where the money is coming from for all the police officers hired in the Village.

Casie Baran, 12107 McKinley Avenue, stated that her water bill is outrageous. She has stopped using her washer and dishwasher to save money. Her bill is \$125 a month. She feels that the money used to hire police officers and the purchase of police cars should be used to pay back the water/sewer loan instead.

President Martinez addressed the concerns from public comments. She stated that social media often gets out of control and the facts get lost in the process. She feels that the police are doing a good job for the Village and are doing their job. The trucks they are pulling over are over the allowed weight. She went on to say that the state maintains Routes 47 and 173, but the infrastructure below those streets are the Village's responsibility. She added that trucks over 80,000 pounds can damage that infrastructure costing the Village much more. The officers are trained and certified by the state regarding over the weight limit trucks. She stated that the safety of the residents and the infrastructure are most important. She mentioned that the cost of the police department per rooftop is \$.18 per day, \$8.47 per month and this is for 24/7 coverage.

Chief Donlea state that year to date the police department has had 1,074 service calls.

President Martinez stated that sales tax revenues for the Village keep going up with \$4,358.28 in May, \$6,271.92 in June, and \$7,583.37 in July. She mentioned that Beaner's is doing well and added that Hazel's and the Dari are always crowded. She told Casie Baran to speak with Trustees Lange and Peterson regarding her water bill. Regarding water costs, President Martinez negotiated the interest from 2 percent down to 1 percent. She also mentioned that the new treasurer is working on the possibility of securing a grant to help pay for failing infrastructure. If approved, it would be done in phases working on the oldest water mains first.

There were no further comments.

Discussion and Vote to Approve and Waive fees for Liquor License for the Hebron Alden Greenwood Fire Departments Annual Pig Roast

Trustee Ritzert made a motion to approve and waive fees for a one-day liquor license for the Hebron Alden Greenwood Fire Departments Annual Pig Roast. Trustee Wagner seconded the motion. Trustee Ritzert, Wagner, Shepherd, Lange, and Peterson approved the motion by answering aye. Motion carried.

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Discussion and Vote to Approve Request from Dawn Higgins to House Chickens on her Property

Dawn Higgins handed out packets of information and photographs to the Board members. Her son explained that their owning of chickens began as a gift to his mother. Before he began the project, he had checked with the Village and was told that there were no ordinances against it. He also checked with their neighbors and they were all ok with it.

Dawn stated that they only owned hens and that they were of the quietest breeds. She gave an overview of what Ohio State recommended and they have exceeded this recommendation. They installed a one-inch chicken fencing to keep rodents out and the yard is surrounded by a six-foot fence. No one can see them from outside their yard. She also explained the benefits of fresh eggs.

Trustee Peterson asked when they came to the Village asking for permission and Dawn's son stated that it was back in January of 2018. Discussion ensued over the size of their yard and it was determined that it was over 6,000 square feet. The discussion went on regarding how many chickens would be allowed in 6,000 square feet and if the keeping of chickens would be handled on a case by case basis. At this time, Dawn asked if their keeping of chickens could be grandfathered in. Trustee Ritzert gave examples of other communities that allow chickens on smaller lots.

President Martinez stated that the Village could not set a precedent after her discussion with the Attorney Smoron. She asked the Board to reconsider the animal control ordinance allowing chickens keeping in mind the amount of chickens allowed, roosters prohibited, no slaughtering of chickens on property, and a chicken keeping license fee once a year which the building inspector would inspect.

Trustee Peterson was ok with keeping of chickens if residents follow the complicated rules set forth by the Board and are inspected annually. Trustee Lange stated that it could be a case by case decision with neighbor's approval and that they prove they will comply with the rules. President Martinez clarified that they would have to follow the rules set forth in the proposed ordinance. Trustee Wagner feels that this should not have come before the Board again and that his vote is still no. Trustee Ritzert stated that her vote would still be a yes, but she questions if they would be allowed to keep their eight existing chickens. Trustee Shepherd felt that the maximum of 50 lots that could obtain a license to house chickens may need to be reduced.

President asked all Trustees to send any request for changes to the ordinance to her and the Village Clerk and a final vote will be taken at the next Board meeting on September 16. At this time, the vote to approve the Animal Control Ordinance was tabled until the next Village Board meeting.

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Discussion and Vote to Approve an Ordinance Amending Section 6A-2-2-H and Section 6A-3-3 of the Hebron Municipal Code

President Martinez stated that this is required to be included in the Village Code mandated by the IEPA. After brief discussion, it was decided to table this proposal until the next Village Board meeting on September 16.

Discussion and Vote to Approve Title 4, Chapter 1, Page 1 as a Code Revision to Add 2015 International Existing Building Code

President Martinez explained that Dick Ackerman, Building Inspector, has been working hard to bring the code up to speed. Trustee Shepherd questioned the code for fire sprinklers and President Martinez stated they are only required for businesses and not for residents as they are cost prohibitive.

Trustee Peterson made a motion to approve the Ordinance as presented. Trustee Lange seconded the motion. Trustee Peterson, Lange, Shepherd, Ritzert, and Wagner approved the motion by answering aye. Motion carried.

Discussion and Vote to Approve the McHenry County Bus Grant Submission of Application 2019-2020

President Martinez confirmed that this was a grant for the Tuesday bus that picks up residents at the Village and at their homes.

Trustee Ritzert made a motion to approve the Ordinance as presented. Trustee Shepherd seconded the motion. Trustee Ritzert, Shepherd, Peterson, Lange, and Wagner approved the motion by answering aye. Motion carried.

Discussion and Vote to Approve the Appointment of Sue Fotland as the new Village Treasurer

President Martinez stated that Pat Syens resigned as of August 5. Prior to this, Sue Fotland was interviewed bringing with her 30 years of experience which the President listed. Sue was hired as the treasurer assistant on July 22, 2019. At this time, President Martinez recommended appointing Sue as the new Village Treasurer.

Trustee Shepherd made a motion to approve the appointment of Sue Fotland as Village Treasurer. Trustee Wagner seconded the motion. Trustee Shepherd, Wagner, Ritzert, Peterson, and Lange approved the motion by answering aye. Motion carried.

Department Head Reports

There were none.

Public Comments 2

Steve Cook, 12003 Third Avenue, recommended that residents have their water meters inspected. He also felt that a license to house chickens should be a fee of \$20 and no more. He went on to state that a case by case basis for the housing of chickens sounded selective.

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Sherry Harrington, 9704 Jean Drive, asked where President Martinez lived. She asked for confirmation of her residence.

Anthony Rajkowski, 9619 Main Street, he questioned why the Village President was not allowed to join local Facebook groups. He asked residents to act appropriately at the Village meetings.

There were no further comments.

In response to Village resident comments, President Martinez gave her address as 9619 Main Street, Hebron. She also stated that the job as Village President is not a 9 to 5 job and is a part time position making \$9,000 annually. She holds three jobs and travels quite a bit for work.

Attorney Report

None

Board Comments

Trustee Ritzert expressed concern about the rumor mill going around town with such nasty comments. She feels it is out of hand and that people should be more constructive with their comments.

Trustee Wagner mentioned that he does not feel that the truck drivers going through town should be pulled over as much as they are.

Trustee Lange asked the public to find out which rumors are false before spreading information.

Trustee Peterson asked that residents speak to the person that they have a problem with and talk to the people that can make the change. She stated that the Board is willing to discuss issues.

President Martinez stated that the next Village Board meeting on September 2nd will be cancelled, leaving the next Board meeting on Monday, September 16th at 7:00 p.m.

Trustee Wagner made a motion to adjourn at 8:41 p.m. Trustee Lange seconded the motion. Motion carried by all voting aye.



Jean Attermeier,
Village Clerk



Kimmy Martinez,
Village President