
Village of Hesperia, Michigan
Regular Council Meeting
February 14, 2022
7:30 PM

Call to Order: President Farber called this Regular Council Meeting to order at 7:30 PM in the Village Hall. Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Roll Call was taken and a quorum was present.

Roll Call: Members Present: Stephanie Halverson, Dan Herin, Joyce McDonald, Jackie Slocum, Jim Smith, Sara Walker, Mike Farber

Also present: Clerk Burrell, Mike Stanaway, Miriam Reyna, Tracy Sumner, Nicole Curtis, Jason Curtis, Anna Dukes, Racheal Valdes, David Huntley, Cathy Webster, Steve Styx, Chad VanHuizen, Patti VanHuizen, Scott Rumsey, Debra Pagan, Tammi Nguyen, Sharita Prowant, Mike Maynard, Tony Garza, Juanita Garza and others not listed.

Set the Agenda:

Motion by Slocum **Seconded** by Herin (motion CARRIED)
Motion to set the agenda as presented
ALL IN FAVOR

Brief Public Comment on Agenda Items only:

The question was asked if we had a police department. President Farber said that at this time, we did not but were continuing to look to fill the positions. He explained that we have been advertising and only received one application and it was from out of state. It was asked if we offered any incentives or thought about using an outside agency to help with filling the positions. Sara Walker stated that she had reached out to the Newaygo County Sheriff and Sheriff Mendham said that they are having the same issues of attracting and keeping officers. President Farber stated that we had received a proposal from the local counties to provide police services to Hesperia in the past and would be contacting them again to get an updated proposal. It was asked if we had any part time officers. President Farber stated that they were not working currently because there was no full time officer to go to court or run warrants.

Motion by Slocum **Seconded** by Halverson (motion CARRIED)
Motion to accept the minutes of the Work Session held on January 6, 2022.
ALL IN FAVOR

Motion by Herin **Seconded** by Walker (motion CARRIED)
Motion to accept the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on January 10, 2022.
ALL IN FAVOR

Motion by McDonald **Seconded** by Herin (motion CARRIED)
Motion to approve payment of invoices for January 2022 in the amount of \$39,212.64, including an additional \$295.00 for Terry's Flooring.
Discussion: Walker inquired about the invoice for Wagenmaker Farms. Clerk Burrell told her it was to replace the soil for the flower pots that were accidentally emptied.
ALL IN FAVOR

Correspondence: President Farber introduced Nicole Curtis and she gave a presentation on Hidden Heroes Communities. She stated that there are a lot veterans in our area and not a lot of support for them and their caregivers. She is asking the village council to sign the resolution in favor of becoming a Hidden Heroes Community. Nicole said that she would be happy to be the point of contact and coordinate with the Elizabeth Dole Foundation. Walker and Slocum inquired what type of support they would need from the council. Nicole said the first step would to adopt the resolution and assign a point of contact. She said it would be as simple as having flyers or pamphlets available in our office and possibly placing an ad in the paper or on our website stating that we are a Hidden Heroes Community.

Announcements:

McDonald announced that RMS Disposal had been purchased by Republic Services. She contacted them and they would be sending out letters the residents. The current fee for garbage removal would be locked in for one year.

President's Report: President Farber state that a letter of support was given to Newfield Township for a recycling center located at the Newfield Township hall. He also mentioned that he is looking into out sourcing the Zoning Administrator position and ordinance enforcement. Herin voiced his support.

Committee Reports:

Buildings, Grounds & Equipment: Herin reported that he received a quote to repair the bell tower and village entrance signs and is waiting on another quote. Once he receives it, he will call a committee meeting.

Finance & Personnel (Legal & Insurance):

Marihuana: President Farber reported that a committee meeting was held inquiring about allowing the sale of Recreational Marihuana. At this time, there is an ordinance prohibiting it. He said that he checked with Oceana County about having it put on the ballot later this year and was told that a municipality could not have it put on the ballot, but the public could go through the steps & procedures to get it put on the ballot.

Ordinance:

Parks: Walker reported that she supported the Oceana Community Foundation, Fremont Area Foundation and the White River Shed Collective about doing an assessment of the White River.

Streets, Sidewalks & Dam:

Technology & Grants: Walker reported that there is now WI-FI in the parks provided by NCATS. She reported that West Michigan Broadband had contacted the village in the past and they were granted permission to proceed with offering services in the village. She also reported that she is working with Julie Burrell, from the Right Place, on applying for a Public Spaces Grant that will replace the boardwalk at the dam and to create two fish cleaning stations in the park.

Water & Sewer:

DPW Report: D.P.W. Director, Mike Stanaway reported on water distribution. There were 3 Miss Digs completed. He reported that the new site sampling plan for EGLE was filed and approved by them. Trouts Unlimited reached out to him for his continued support of another White River clean up in the spring. He told them that we would provide whatever help is needed. He reported that his team has started to replace old street and stop signs. 15 signs were replaced thus far. Well inspections were performed by Northern Well. Trace Labs supplied the quarterly PFAS results in January and they showed a Non Detect. Well #3 has been chlorinated & flushed. An E-Coli test was performed and the results were negative. He is awaiting approval from EGLE to bring the well online.

Motion by Walker Seconded by Slocum (motion CARRIED)

Motion to adopt Resolution #2022-01 in support of being a Hidden Heroes Community

Discussion: Herin asked if the counties would be asked as well. They will be asked.

Yeas: Halverson, Herin, McDonald, Slocum, Smith, Walker, Farber

Nays:

Motion by McDonald Seconded by Herin (motion CARRIED)

Motion to move forward with advertising for and obtaining police officers & protection and to pursue temporary contracts with the counties.

Discussion: Slocum asked about getting a permanent contract. McDonald said that she would ask for one for three to six months and also ask for a permanent one. Herin said that he knew of a few communities that went to full time police support from the county level. President Farber stated that he had spoken to Oceana County and Walker state that she had spoke with Newaygo County. President Farber said that he had reached out to past Hesperia Interim Police Chief, Bob Farber and he said that he was not interested in working.

Yeas: Halverson, Herin, McDonald, Slocum, Smith, Walker, Farber

Nays:

Public Comment: Tony Garza inquired about outdoor wood burning furnaces. Council replied that they will look at the ordinances. Debra Pagan spoke regarding our lack of a police department. She suggested working with a third party recruiter and to offer more money and something to incentivize officers to stay with our community. Racheal Valdes inquired about allowing Recreational Marihuana. President Farber encouraged her to contact Oceana County and get the matter put on the ballot for the residents to vote for it. Clyde Crawford inquired about some of the reasons we do not have a police department. Miriam Reyna stated that she was concerned about the lack of police. Mike Stanaway asked the council to consider how to handle the 4th of July festival without a police department. President Farber said that was looking into coverage for the event. Tammie Nguyen inquired about the Streets Administrator pay. It was asked if all of the council meetings were open to the public. Yes, all meetings are open to the public and are posted in advance. Slocum encouraged residents to continue to come to the council meetings. Walker also stated that the names and numbers of the council members are available on the website and to reach out to them with any questions or concerns.

Miscellaneous:

Motion by McDonald Seconded by Herin (motion CARRIED)

Motion to adjourn

ALL IN FAVOR

Meeting adjourned at 8:35 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Vicki R. Burrell
Hesperia Village Clerk

“Village of Hesperia is an equal opportunity provider and employer”