

The Village of Walton Hills

Committee of the Whole Meeting

Date: April 5, 2016

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location of Meeting: Council Chambers

Persons Having Business Before Council – None.

Discussion on Item I: Mayor Hurst brings up a discussion about a resident on Alexander Road about nuisance abatement and yard decorations. Mr. Mason and Mayor Hurst looked at this and did clean up some of our yard maintenance when the rental agreement was passed. They have been very successful in keeping yards mostly up to par on a lot of levels. Mr. Mason expresses possibly creating legislation and how to handle this but he would like to discuss this a little bit deeper because of issues affecting free speech and religious freedoms, etc. Mr. Mason also goes into the Supreme Court and how it looks deeply on these issues. Councilman Spitznagel expresses his agreeance to Mr. Mason and his statements and goes on to discuss page 2 of the ordinance in 1492.05 paragraph B, under prohibitive conditions, and stating his concerns about the cars coming on Alexander Road and stopping in the middle of the night with no street lights, creating a hazard. He is wondering if there is any leverage that could be applied to that resident or any like residents. Mayor Hurst suggests that he will put signs that say “High Accident Area” and he will block any berm parking. He also states that if it becomes a real problem, he will post the auxiliary police in a car at Linda Lane and see if we can regulate it a bit better.

Discussion on poultry: Mayor Hurst shows legislation that Mr. Mason has put together that he color-coded and showing the changes that are required. Mr. Mason discusses the color coding system he used. He points out the one section in the codified ordinances that talks about prohibiting poultry. He states that if we are going to pass this, we are going to have to amend section 1252.02 to eliminate the poultry chickens. He opens the floor for anyone to ask questions or to make comments on directions to proceed. Councilman Spitznagel points out several grammatical changes. Councilman Rich also speaks on a few points in the handouts. He has recommendations for urban chickens and he also has some more information that he can share and email to the members. He summarizes a cross-section of small towns such as Walton Hills, etc. with a common theme in many articles of the safety of the chickens because it attracted coyote, fox, skunk, etc. We do have coyote in the Village that roam throughout the day and are infected by rabies. He is stating his concerns about what chickens would do to attract more coyote and more varmints. Another thing Councilman Rich brings up is the lack of money available in the municipalities in personnel to enforce and continually inspect. Councilman Kolograf mentions that Councilman Rich gave us pros and cons with a lot of opinion from a lot of people who are for it and also who are against it as well. No comments are made by the audience. Mayor Hurst is going to place this on next week’s agenda for discussion.

Discussion on Item K: Mayor Hurst states that Katie Iaconis, Councilwoman Mary Brenner-Miller, and Ms. Kainsinger had a meeting with the organization who made a proposal to scan all of our historical society information and put it on our website in another layer or another page on the website, and also give the hard copies back after everything is scanned. He states that he believes it comes out to approximately \$2256.20 and this is with them doing all of the work and no work left to the senior citizens or anyone else. This way, they will shrink the maps that are oblong in the books and make them into a PDF format to be on our webpage and computer system. So anyone around the world can access it and we will have the hard copies here. If you need to take down space and make space, we have this ability now to go electronic. If this works, then we may do some of our filing this way as well. Katie speaks on this project and explains the history of the company, etc. and explains what is included in the price. This price will include them pulling everything out of the sleeves, scanning them, indexing them, and also have OCR (Optical Character

Recognition) so that when someone is on the website and clicks on the PDF or if they search in the tab, it would search the whole document to find the words within the document. They will also do the large maps and bring them down to size and the website cost is fairly marginal. It would simply be their hourly rate to load the information on. No ongoing cost is involved. Mayor Hurst thinks this would be a good way to benefit the historical society, and he is not asking for any money. He states we will take it out of another account or something like this. Questions and comments were taken from Councilmembers regarding where this information will be located on websites and links to other sites. No comments from the audience.

Other Business – Mayor Hurst asks if appropriations could be made to add \$40,000 for the upper parking lot. He states that we already have the other half from the savings on the lower parking lot. Since we are going out for bids and the asphalt factories do not open until the end of April, it gives us an opportunity to get a fair bid for both parking lots for resurfacing and restriping. The recycle bins will probably be pushed off to the end of the parking lot on a concrete pad because the trucks are picking them up, moving them around, and tearing up the asphalt.

Mayor Hurst also passes out a copy of a letter approving us for the grant for Alexander and Northfield Road for the new traffic lights that coincides with the relationship we have built with First Energy for the telephone poles. He states that we have received another \$379,934 in free grant money. He explains that it was not put into the budget because it was not assured that we would get this grant. He explains that the traffic study that was done a year-and-a-half ago made us more eligible because it showed more traffic at those lights in that intersection. He is asking for another \$380,000 to be added to the budget and that it be rolled into debt because it is a long-term project and would not impact the \$3 million we have, but for us to wait until he has an exact number. Mayor Hurst then goes on to explain budget changes/additions further to the Councilmembers.

Mayor Hurst then states that we will not be going into Executive Session tonight and this will be done next week. He then goes on to talk about personnel issues including a police officer who is retiring that will add another approximately \$50,000 to our budget that was not anticipated. This will be discussed more in Executive Session. Mr. Mason has pointed him in the direction that Executive Sessions should always be done in council meetings and not in COW (working sessions). So, the format that will be used starting next week is that we will adjourn the COW next week and then have a special council meeting (advertising it this way) and then go into Executive Session simply to discuss personnel and things with no voting, etc.

Councilman Spitznagel expresses his concern regarding the increase in tax prices, etc. and this is discussed and explained further by Mayor Hurst.

Mayor Hurst states that he will be placing an advertisement in the Walton Hills Journal that we have a vacancy for zoning board of appeals and after he interviews the prospects from the applications, then he will have an executive session and talk to the council in private about this. Hopefully by the month of May or June, we can be ready to appoint someone in this position.

Mayor Hurst states that next week, someone from the law firm of Mr. Mason's department will be here to answer questions about the CIC (Community Improvement Corporation) with an approximately cost of about \$5,000.00 to \$6,000.00 and to qualify us through the proper legal definitions and language. Mr. Mason will prepare the ordinance for this. Hopefully, we will get this passed this month; if not, it may take until maybe next month. He states that [Mr. Millstein] has not paid Mayor Hurst, but he promised him \$10,000.00 already and states that he will give the Mayor another \$15,000.00. Mayor Hurst states that as soon as he gets the money, he will do the corner up here. This is probably one of the properties that we would put in the CIC.

Mayor Hurst states that there are a lot of new trees on Alexander Road in the middle island going towards

the railroad bridge and this was all done by Oakwood in our service garage. Oakwood owes us some money for payroll tax from the fire department that was negotiated in the contract. Once the Mayor gets an invoice, then they will pay the balance of what they owe us. Mayor Hurst told them he would work that deal out. He thinks it is about \$5,000.00 or \$6,000.00 for those trees. This is money that was never accounted for in the budget, but is another savings for us. He states that this was a hand-shake deal that he did as the Mayor and once he gets the invoice, if it is over \$5,000.00, he will notify the council. He does believe it is under this though. He states that he wants to put lighting there in the middle island so the trees are lit up at night. He also is getting prices for the railroad bridge to be painted. He is waiting on contractors to get back to him. This will also be paid for by Mr. Millstein and not the Village of Walton Hills, up to \$45,000.00.

Mayor Hurst reminds everyone that next week, they will have the COW meeting and then adjourn and go into executive session for our special council meeting, and then discuss personnel.

Councilwoman Mary Brenner-Miller announces that she is the trustee for Bedford in Northeast Ohio, and the Bedford Historical Society is hosting the Northeast Ohio Local History Fair on the 30th. This is going to be at Ellenwood and we have people from Sandusky and Moreland Hills, and there will be music and they are trying to get local historical societies to come in and have people walk through and discover things about towns, etc. It is free of charge and will involve the county arts and culture. Mayor Hurst says he will put the flyer on the web page.

Councilman Kolograf motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilwoman Brenner-Miller, and six ayes approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Katie Iaconis, Fiscal Officer