

The Village of Walton Hills
Committee of the Whole Meeting

Date: June 7, 2016

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Location of Meeting: Council Chambers

Mayor Hurst called the meeting to order. The roll call was taken by Katie Iaconis. Present: Councilpersons Denny Linville, Mary Brenner-Miller, Paul Rich, Gloria Terlosky, Don Kolograf, and Brian Spitznagel. Administration present: Katie Iaconis, Fiscal Officer; Bill Mason, Law Solicitor.

Discussion on Item C: Approval of the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes for April 5, 2016, is requested by Councilman Rich, seconded by Councilman Linville, and six ayes approved.

Discussion on Item D: Approval of the Committee of the Whole meeting minutes for April 12, 2016, is requested by Councilman Linville, seconded by Councilwoman Brenner-Miller, and six ayes approved.

Discussion on Item E: Approval of the regular council meeting minutes of April 19, 2016, is requested by Councilwoman Terlosky, seconded by Councilman Linville, and six ayes approved.

Discussion on Item F: Mayor Hurst opens up the opportunity for any residents who have concerns or questions to come forward and ask questions. None were offered.

Discussion on Poultry: Mayor Hurst begins discussion on Ordinance 2016-6, poultry regulations. Mayor reminds the audience that this has been dissected for over a year and it is on the third reading at the next council meeting. Councilman Rich brings up section D that states that all feed will be stored inside of the coop and he thanks them for that.

Audience member Bethany Majeski, resident at 7257 Dunham Rd. speaks. Sent email to all council members and Councilman Spitznagel responded. She does not think the yearly renewal fee for the keeping of chickens or the inspections are necessary. She feels the requirement of each chicken being mandated to have its own roosting pole does not make sense. The last concern is with fencing requirements. She does not understand the need to have a fence buried in the ground. Regarding netting overhead, she suggests not mandating this, due to the harm of birds of prey getting tangled. She is hoping council will take in consideration that not all people should own animals and thinks an education course on keeping backyard hens is needed. She is offering this course through Cleveland Metro Parks and will donate her time.

Audience member Henry Dzikowski, resident at 7135 Dunham Rd. speaks. He is not happy with requirements of keeping chickens. He does not think he will meet the requirements. He thinks some of the requirements are "out of sight."

Audience member Chuck Scalek, resident at 18748 Alexander Rd. speaks. He bought his house with an already built chicken coop. This coop would not meet the new requirements. He does not agree with the chicken wire requirements. He does not agree with the netting on top of the chicken runs. He is concerned about the fees and renewed licensing. Overall, he thinks there should be exceptions in the requirements, based on the resident.

Audience member Tim Wadle, resident at 7677 Dunham Rd. speaks. He has questions. Who will be the inspector and will that person be qualified? Thinks the ordinance is making it impossible to own chickens. Councilman Kolograf answers that they did their due diligence when writing the ordinance. He thinks the fencing being buried is not necessary.

Mayor Hurst opens up to council. Councilman Kolograf asks Tim if he would vote no to the ordinance. Tim states yes, he would vote no to the ordinance. Councilman Rich is concerned about extenuating resources for this ordinance. Ordinance is structured the same as various other communities resembling Walton Hills. At this point, should the ordinance be restructured or just voted on. Councilman Linville comments there has to be an ordinance, so there is something enforceable to make this work. Councilwoman Terlosky comments her concern for safety and states they have spent a year on information from multiple sources to make sure the people in the community are safe. She states there needs to be fees for the sake of safety of the chicken and for the residents of the community. She reiterates that chickens are illegal and three out of the four residents that spoke have chickens. Councilman Kolograf comments that chicken owners are the minority not the majority, and his job is to vote with the majority. Councilman Spitznagel comments that what is written in the ordinance is what they found in their research. He states that in the entire ordinance there is only concerns regarding permit fees, the roosting poles, the fencing, and the netting, and is willing to talk about those issues. Regarding the noted inspections, that word gives the village the opportunity to check the property if a nuisance call or call of neglect is made. He feels the renewal fee is essential to be sure people are not getting chickens on a whim. Multiple resources state recommendation for one roosting pole per chicken. States the burial of the fence is recommended for predators but is willing to talk about that. He is also willing to talk about the netting. That came from best practices. Main thing is sanitary and neighbors are happy. Does not want to make it impossible but wants to set standards. Councilwoman Brenner-Miller seconds everything her councilmembers have said. Mayor Hurst comments there is an ordinance that was passed in 2008 by prior administration that says no chickens. They have to find a resolve, or they will need to get rid of chickens. That is the law. Ordinance is for leverage for enforcement if a chicken owner becomes a nuisance. Ordinance was not made to be a burden for chicken owners. Councilman Spitznagel brings up the cost of the inspections. Suggests initial permit is one price and each renewal is less. He also suggests foregoing the netting on the top. Councilman Linville believes chickens would be preyed upon by hawks if netting is not required, but is willing to debate any ideas if they are in writing and willing to change things if necessary. He agrees with nominal fee or no fee after second or third year. Councilman Rich believes that all responsible owners that pay permit fees should be considered the same as well. Councilman Spitznagel suggests fencing not to be buried as long as the birds are kept sanitary and safe. Mayor Hurst wants wording to state staked, buried, or fixed for predators and rodent.

Discussion on Miscellaneous Issues: Mayor Hurst brings up a few issues. He signed a document for the CIC. He will also have a resolution at the end of the month on the bids for the parking lots. There is a planning commission meeting on the 16th, a Thursday. This is about a lot split on Dunham and Sagamore Road. There are several acres there, and they want to split it to build a home. Mayor Hurst reminded the need for adding approximately \$40,000 for the upper parking lot, and this will be addressed at the last council meeting with the appropriation's ordinance. They also need to add money for Route 8 and Alexander Road. This will be done in the month of July because money from the 50/50 grant from the state will be released in July. That would be approximately \$400,000 to roll over into their debt fund.

Mayor Hurst wanted to bring forward a few different variables and possible options for long-term sustainability funding for the Village of Walton Hills over the next five years. Options include raising inside millage. This will generate approximately \$400,000 a year. Have several different levees funding. They currently have no levees in the village. Roll back the percentage of credits for the working class from 75% to 50%. Borrow money at a bond at a low interest rate at this time. The bond can pay off the rolling debt and that money can be used for infrastructure improvements to the secondary roads that there is no funding for. He feels it is better to keep the savings account of \$3,000,000 and roll in some debt until the redevelopment of the Ford plant. Mayor Hurst wants to bring in someone to talk about bonds options and TIF districts.

Councilman Rich had questions regarding the financial report. Councilman Linville mentioned secondary

roadwork and feels they should continue on a conservative path. No other comments or questions.

Councilwoman Brenner-Miller motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Linville, and six ayes approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.

Katie Iaconis, Fiscal Officer