

# *The Village of Walton Hills*

## *Committee of the Whole Meeting*

Date: November 1, 2016

Time: 6:35 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.

Approval of the Committee Of the Whole meeting minutes for September 6, 2016 – Councilman Kolograf makes a motion to approve the Committee Of the Whole meeting minutes of September 6, 2016, seconded by Councilwoman Terlosky and six ayes approved. Minutes are approved.

Approval of the Committee Of the Whole meeting minutes for September 13, 2016 – Councilman Spitznagel makes a motion to approve the Committee Of the Whole meeting minutes of September 13, 2016, seconded by Councilwoman Terlosky and six ayes approved. Minutes are approved.

Approval of the Special Council meeting minutes for September 13, 2016 – Councilman Rich makes a motion to approve the Special Council meeting minutes of September 13, 2016, seconded by Councilman Linville and six ayes approved. Minutes are approved.

Persons having business before Council – Mayor Hurst states that he sees no one in the audience so they will move on to the next item on the agenda. Councilman Spitznagel makes a motion to excuse Mr. Mason from the rest of the meeting as he does not think there is anything on here that is going to require his presence. Seconded by Councilman Linville. Mayor Hurst asks for a verbal vote and six ayes approve. Mayor Hurst states that if there is nothing he cannot talk about tomorrow or later on in the week, he is welcome to leave at his own time.

Council Comments – Mayor Hurst asks for any comments that the Council may have at this time. Councilman Linville does not have any comments, but he does inquire about the reports from the engineers regarding cutting out the curves, etc. Mayor Hurst approved it because it was under \$25,000 and it was \$18,900. The work is being performed now. Mayor Hurst put out a memo stating this and asked for permission to spend the money, and the Council approved it. Councilman Linville realizes this and apologizes. Councilman Rich brings up that he has noticed some "distasteful" signs around the Village and there is one close-by that has caught his eye and there have been others that I have seen in the Village that he does not think are in good taste. He is inquiring as to what repercussions we would have as far as a government entity, but he simply wanted to voice his displeasure as some people have already done. Mayor Hurst states that he has received a couple of calls about two different addresses, one on Alexander and one on Dunham Road, and they have been fair-warned by the law department that there is freedom of speech and with the last seven days left, it is not really worth the fight. This has happened in the past with people putting out banners and Mayor Hurst has also been accused of things like this. Mayor Hurst states that with Bill Mason's advice, knowing of these situations, he recommended that we try and be tolerant with the last few days. Now, he did state that if this was at the beginning of the month, we would probably send out a legal letter and follow up, but unfortunately, it has just happened this last weekend. Councilman Linville remarks that he has read several reports, though, that freedom of speech in our country is disappearing and that our right to free speech is disappearing either through suasion or force. Councilman Linville states that you cannot legislate against free speech and enforces that "inappropriate" is opinion and there are no facts here. Councilwoman Terlosky speaks on behalf of the children's safety of Trick-Or-Treat

Street in the Village and she thanks the Mayor Hurst and the recreation department for all they do for that. No other comments are noted.

Discussion on Item H – Mayor Hurst reminds everyone that this will be on the agenda for the Council meeting in the month of November about the Lights Out for Hunger at the church by the high school and the money goes towards the Meals On Wheels and things like that. Mayor Hurst states that in the past we have given them \$250 and that is what we will give them again instead of wasting our time with calculations and things.

Discussion on increasing the court costs – Mayor Hurst states that he basically copied the old ordinance that was passed in 2012 and highlighted where it needed to be changed. On the last page is basically what he has already stated with his proposal. Mr. Mason has this and Mayor Hurst states that if he can get this done, he would like to put it on the agenda for the next council meeting. Mayor Hurst states that on the last page, it should be changed from \$100 to \$115 and change from \$10 to \$20 for every court case to go towards police cars. Then, we need to add a new section, or a new where-as (the Mayor thinks it is up to Mr. Mason on how the wording is) to add \$5 to offset some of our funding of our auxiliary police. The Mayor thinks that everyone agrees with this and he gave the numbers of what it would generate, which would be another \$16,000 or \$18,000 for police cars, which brings us almost to \$28,000 for police cars. The auxiliary would generate about \$7000. Mayor Hurst asks for questions and comments.

Other business – Mayor Hurst did run the numbers by the police chief and the packet that was handed out is marked with all the specifics that are going to be in the police cars. If the Councilmembers would like the police chief or mechanic to come here, the Mayor will ask them to come to the next meeting. It is not unusual for the directors or the staff to come here; we have done this in the past. This is passed out for the Councilmembers' discussion and for their input. The chief did mark it off that he does not want the ecoboost, he wants the other one (it is called a 3.7 six-speed automatic all-wheel drive). These specifications are a lot similar to what we had before with all of the different things. Mayor Hurst asks that the Councilmembers read through this and if they have questions, the Mayor can invite the police chief next week. The Mayor would like to open a P.O. (Purchase Order number) before the year is out. It takes three to four months to get the cars. Then they need to be outfitted because they changed the cars again. We do have some of the Ford Explorer's in stock here so some of the hardware will be interchangeable. The biggest problem is when they change it to aerodynamics and they change the modification of the hoods and things, and the interiors of the cars. Sometimes there is a little bit of cost to this and this is why the \$8000 is put to outfit each car and this also explains the \$108,000 for three new cars for 2017. We did purchase three cars in 2013 and we have purchased one car since. Mayor Hurst's hope is to eventually be able to get a brand-new car every single year and it is paid for by the courts. Unfortunately, we did not raise \$30,000, we only raised \$24,000, so it did not fully pay for a car. This is the Mayor's goal now – to pay fully for a car through the court system each and every year, instead of ordering three at a time. Mayor Hurst states that he will bet a break-down of all equipment, maintenance, and miles, etc. for Councilman Linville as requested. They will all be SUVs. Eventually our goal is to have all SUVs and eliminate the Taurus's because it is getting more difficult to get criminals in and out the back as criminals are very large and with the SUVs, we have the adversity of all-wheel drive to go up Dunham Road and off-road. It has a higher off-the-ground elevation and also it is easier to tow any trailers that we have with the SUVs and tow the flashing speed limit signs that we usually park by Chuck Victor's on Eggbert Road and by the Ford Plant a couple of times.

Mayor Hurst goes on to the next item, addressing a memo that is from the Village Engineer from the Mayor. This memo addresses a self-explaining letter and draft resolution that will need to be passed before the end of 2016. This is regarding a letter that the Mayor received from a group called "Soil and Water" and there is a draft of a resolution on the back that they want us to agree to. Mr. Sheehy have said that this needs to be done before the end of the year and also upgrade our storm water ordinances as well. Mr. Sheehy will attend the next COW meeting because there will also have that public hearing about the CDGB

grant and also about the other storefront grant through the county. Councilman Linville mentions that we all may want to check our water bill that they are presently. No questions or comments from the audience.

Mayor Hurst reports on NOPEC and FirstEnergy had some differences of opinion on Friday night at 8:30 and did not agree so now, everyone's energy costs could change by 6% and they are not going to be a supplier for NOPEC, and we are part of NOPEC. So, Mr. Mason is in court right now representing NOPEC so we do have the details. A copy of this letter that is going out to all of the businesses on our letterhead is passed out to the Councilmembers with a complete explanation of what NOPEC does. So, if a resident calls, it is not going to impact the electricity or change from getting the service, but there is a possibility that there may be a rate increase. They terminated their contract three years early with NOPEC. Mayor Hurst states that this is what the letter says. This letter is going to all of the businesses and all of the residents and is going out on Monday. He simply wants everyone to be aware of it and know what is going on. No questions or comments.

Mayor Hurst states that Councilwoman Brenner-Miller asked about our soliciting ordinance and he gave everyone a copy of the soliciting ordinance that was passed in 2012. This was also introduced by Councilman Kolograf. It is very specific and was done in April of 2012. The application fee of \$10 is on there and then the application for the solicitor to fill out before they get their actual permit and license, and there is a lot of details. The last page is the Mayor's draft of his conversation and he wants each of the Councilmembers to put in their conversations. He is asking that it be an Exhibit A as a procedure and policy for the employees to follow. The Mayor states that the police chief felt that this was a pretty good ordinance. He is the one who wrote this in 2012 and modified it. There are some things in there that the application is already being done. The police chief was concerned that I had that the photo ID is to be laminated and worn as a lanyard because he felt that since they are done here in Walton Hills, they are carrying around a lanyard and they can say, well I am an official person somewhere else, or come back six months later. No other questions or concerns.

Katie Iaconis, Fiscal Officer, explains the amount that we would lose if they do pass their extra half-percent (they are at 2.25% now and they are going to go to 2.75%, which would make them the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest in the state), that we would lose approximately \$6,000. So, thankfully, it would not be too big of a hit to us. Katie will have the first draft of the budget next week for everyone to start taking a look at. They will be rough numbers and then they can hone in on what they would like to do. Mayor Hurst explains that every community is going up and he just wants everyone to be aware that we are going to have to make some decisions. Mayor Hurst states that we still do not have the calls for the health insurance. Our proposal is for a 14% increase. That is another cost that we would have to absorb or we have to pass it along to employees. We need to talk about that as it is part of the budget. We need to talk about our dental and our vision that has stayed the same. That was not increased, it was the healthcare that increased. We are lucky as many communities are 25% and 45%, it is ridiculous, and we are all on the County plan. Katie says that we should have a better grasp by the end of this week if we are going to get a better quote from somebody else.

No other questions or comments from the audience or Council.

Councilwoman Terlosky motioned to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Councilman Linville, and six ayes approved. The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.