

Minutes of a Regular Council Meeting of the
Village of Walton Hills, Ohio held Tuesday
July 17, 2018 in the
Village Hall Community Room at 7595 Walton Road

Mayor Hurst called the meeting to order. The Pledge of Allegiance is spoken. Mayor Hurst also asks for a moment of silence for our Military men and women as well as for the residents who have passed away since our last regular council meeting. This includes Mary Novak. The roll call was then taken by Katie Iaconis. Councilpersons present were Denny Linville, Mary Brenner-Miller, Jennifer Allen, Gloria Terlosky, Don Kolograf, and Brian Spitznagel. Mayor Hurst also would like the record reflect that we have our law solicitor, Mr. William Mason, as well as our Fiscal Officer and Clerk of Council, Ms. Katie Iaconis, present at this meeting.

Mr. Mason speaks first addressing a request from Karleen Dean asking that under the Sunshine Law pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22, Paragraph G1, she would like to discuss her employment following the council meeting on July 17, 2018. This is a public session, and if she would like to discuss it publicly, she is free to do so.

Item F: Persons having business before council.

Tom Nowicki speaks and addresses the council regarding dead trees near power lines. He would like clarification on when to start calling tree services to take them down. He also asks if we are getting any more of the camera towers like there is in front of the Community Center. Mayor Hurst addresses the camera towers to him.

Mitch Styndyl from 17357 Andras Drive stands. He addresses his viewpoint of the financial state of the Village. He asks if we are better off today than we were six years ago. Councilman Kolograf speaks and addresses this with him. Councilwoman Allen also speaks and addresses this with him as well.

Scott Dean from 7215 Dunham Road stands. He asks where the money is coming from, the City of Cuyahoga Heights or is it coming from the school. He would like to know who is asking for the money for the parking, for the turnaround. Mayor Hurst states that this would be the superintendant. Scott wants to know whether it is the school or the City asking for that money. Mayor Hurst clarifies that we are not asking for an money. They are offering us free transportation service. Discussion ensues on this.

Patty Allen from 6990 Walton Road stands. She wants to know why we have to spend \$25,000 when the Community Center where they are going to be picked up is so close. If the people are transporting their children to the Community Center, why can they not take them a few hundred more feet down the street, and they will be picked up there and we can save \$25,000. She also addresses the bills for the trash pickup. She paid these bills, yet she is hearing from others that they never received a trash bill. Mayor Hurst addresses both of these issues with her. Discussion ensues. Councilwoman Terlosky speaks and addresses the Community Center and the drive. She states it is too narrow for big trucks to get in there. It is not just for the school.

Marie Wareham from 18690 Dellwood stands. She states that we need the extra space for dropping off kids. She thinks we really need it for the safety of the children, besides other reasons. Councilwoman Allen speaks and addresses this.

Tim Wadle from 7677 Dunham Road stands. He comments about the mast arms versus cables regarding the cost and necessity of it. Mayor Hurst and Councilman Kolograf address this with him. Councilwoman Allen

addresses this as well. Tim also speaks regarding a memo written by the Mayor Hurst stating that they are always available to answer any questions or concerns the residents have and that he was never dishonest. He does not believe those are truthful statements. He also speaks on the traffic camera tickets and why some were liable and some were not liable. Discussion ensues between the Mayor and the resident.

Sarah Blondin from 16883 South Meadowpark stands. She states that she is a firm believer that we should invest in the community and the safety of the children, so much so that they had three giant sinkholes in their yard, and for a year-and-a-half she had to come to council meetings to have any action taken care of. She asks that they do invest in the village. Councilman Kolograf addresses Sarah's issues.

No further comments from the audience.

Councilwoman Allen says that under New/Old Business, she will be making a couple of motions about starting our meetings at 7 p.m. and having our department heads at the meetings from now on so we can talk with them directly. Councilman Kolograf addresses Councilwoman Allen about this.

Councilwoman Brenner-Miller speaks about a memo received on the 12th regarding a change internally. Katie Iaconis is also the assistant to the Mayor, and his memo states that he would like her to use her talents for the finance department. He is looking for us to approve a part-time person to help fill in her place. Discussion ensues on this.

Councilman Spitznagel addresses Mr. Wadle regarding the mast arms. He also addresses Sarah Blondin's concerns as well.

Councilman Linville speaks on the Blondin property and states he drove by there and it looks beautiful. He also speaks on the comment that the Mayor does not keep promises and eluding to the fact that he might be fabricating things. This is disturbing. He addresses this with Tim Wadle and discussion ensues.

Councilwoman Terlosky speaks to Sarah Blondin about the for sale sign on the Ford Property.

Councilwoman Allen speaks and addresses the resident who commented about Cuyahoga Heights and picking up kids since 2016. She states that last week's meeting is the first time she has ever had any information or been told anything about that.

Mayor Hurst states next is to go into Executive Session. He knows there are two ladies who have asked to discuss things publicly. He states they are more than welcome to come forward and say anything they would like to say. He explains that Executive Session is to discuss personnel, not specifically the two individuals, and also to discuss economic development. He opens the floor if they want to come forward and make a statement or say anything. He says that both ladies have given their resignations and we have accepted them. He will be posting the Recreation Director and Assistant Recreation Director positions, and these will be passed out in Executive Session. Councilwoman Allen points out that council did not accept resignations from either employee and Mayor Hurst accepted resignations from them. Mayor Hurst says that is his job.

Karleen Dean, the soon-to-be former Assistant Recreation Director, stands to give her rebuttal to the June 20 council meeting. She discusses the happenings surrounding her letter and the situation. Councilwoman Allen addresses the Mayor regarding some of these things as well. She asks why the council was not copied and informed about meeting with Carol and Karleen and Clay Morris. Mayor Hurst asks for Carol to speak and then he will answer the questions.

Carol stands and speaks. She states that she has loved her job here for 13 years and she truly respected the Mayor. She gives her version of the happenings surrounding this situation as well as other things that led up to

her resignation. Councilwoman Brenner-Miller addresses her about these things as well. Councilwoman Allen speaks to them and thanks them for their truthfulness. She addresses Carol about the lying by the Mayor. Carol responds and discussion ensues. Mayor Hurst speaks in regard to the situation with Councilman Linville. Councilman Linville speaks and defends himself in regard to the situation.

Ray Brenner from 7271 Connelly Road stands and says that the Mayor obviously cannot run a meeting. The councilmembers report to him and he needs to control what happens in the meetings.

Councilman Spitznagel speaks. He addresses the Mayor with some specific questions he has on the situations at hand. He also addresses Carol and Karleen with specific questions regarding their story and the situation. Councilman Spitznagel also asks if Nancy is in the audience, and as she is, he asks her some specific questions that he had as well. Discussion ensues. Councilman Spitznagel thinks that we need to have an unbiased company come in and do an audit and say what is happening, what is ended here, and what is needed managerially that need to pinpoint. Mayor Hurst says he is looking into OML about an outside source to come in and audit all of the HR files and to make recommendations.

Councilwoman Allen speaks and addresses Carol and Karleen. She states she spoke up about her \$1 raise at meetings prior. She states that she emailed the Mayor with questions that residents were asking her, and she was answered by the Mayor in an email telling me that I am not to say anything to the residents, and they should simply be referred to his office. She sent several questions to Katie about things going on at the Community Center, and the response from the Mayor was that I am not supposed to contact the department heads, and he will answer the questions. Discussion ensues on this. Councilwoman Allen asked Carol and Karleen if any other employees of this Village been directed not to come to the meetings and if they have ever had their jobs threatened. Carol says no. She asks if Mr. Nogalo is still here and whether he would like to come down. Mr. Nogalo said he does not want to be here, but he is here for Carol and Karleen. Councilwoman Allen addresses Mr. Nogalo about these situations. He explains his views on the situations and the situation around his dismissal.

Councilwoman Terlosky speaks and addresses Carol and Karleen. She states she enjoyed working with both of them. She also addresses Councilman Linville and states she does not think it was handled correctly. She states she does not know of a better family man as our Mayor. She states her opinion and feelings on the matters with Carol and her raise. She thinks many things were mishandled. Carol speaks and states that she asked for the raise in 2015 when we had the money, not now.

Councilman Spitznagel states that the money issue is not the important thing – it is all of the other important things that were brought up this evening.

Councilman Kolograf speaks and says that he agrees that something is not right and needs to be investigated.

Councilwoman Allen clarifies what Councilwoman Terlosky said about no one got any more money. She said that in 2016 and 2017, the newest employee in one department and another employee in another department that were part time were made full time and a whole new employee in another department was hired on. She says that she would like it noted for honesty and transparency, that it has been verified that both of these employees happen to be related to his daughter by marriage.

Mayor Hurst asks for a motion to go into Executive Session. Councilman Spitznagel makes a motion to go into Executive Session. Seconded by Councilman Linville. No further comments or questions. Six ayes approve.

Councilman Kolograf makes a motion to reconvene from Executive Session at 8:46 p.m. of July 17, 2018 Regular Council meeting. Seconded by Councilwoman Terlosky. No comments or questions. Six ayes approve.

New Business: Councilwoman Allen makes a motion that we begin meetings at 7 p.m. beginning when we reconvene after the summer session. She would also like to have the department heads available at the Council meetings. Councilman Spitznagel seconded. Councilwoman Terlosky disagrees and wants to know who it was who said that they wanted it later. She says the people sitting here did not want it to start later. Councilwoman Allen states that Josephine Wardle states that starting at 7 p.m. would be easier especially to get working individuals and not only retired individuals to the meeting. Councilwoman Terlosky said that she does not think, if we took a poll, that the majority would want it to start later. She also states that years ago, they changed the necessity for the department heads to be at the meetings. After working all day long, they do not need to sit through all of the council discussion on all of the other departments. Councilwoman Allen disagrees with this. Discussion ensues. Councilman Kolograf speaks and addresses Councilwoman Terlosky's comments. Discussion continues on this between council members. Councilman Spitznagel states he thinks it is worth a try and we can always go back if it does not work. Councilwoman Brenner-Miller states she is willing to try both of these to see how they work, both the department heads attending the meeting and starting the meetings at 7 p.m. Councilwoman Allen states that this is not for her convenience at all. Mayor Hurst clarifies that meetings in September will start at 7 p.m., and all directors and department heads will come to the council meetings, not the working sessions. Councilman Spitznagel says it would probably work well to have them come to the second COW meeting of the month, for budgets and things. Councilman Linville says to make it on request. Mayor Hurst says that the motion is to start the meetings at 7 p.m. and to have the directors attend the meetings on the second COW meeting. Four ayes approve, two nays. Passes four to two, and we will start the first meeting in September, the second meeting the directors will be there.

Old Business: None.

Councilman Spitznagel makes a motion to adjourn the Regular Council meeting of July 17, 2018, at 8:57 p.m., seconded by Councilwoman Brenner-Miller. No questions or comments. Six ayes approved.

Respectfully submitted,

Katie Iaconis
Fiscal Officer