

The Seneca Village Council held its routinely scheduled Council meeting on August 18, 2009 at the Seneca Village Hall.

Council meeting was called to order at 7:00PM

Roll Call: Present: Victor, Lamb, Sears, Timmons, Spicer  
Absent: none

A motion was made by Comm. Victor and seconded by Comm. Lamb that the Council approves the August 4, 2009 Council meeting minutes as presented.

Roll Call: Ayes: Victor, Lamb, Timmons, Sears, Spicer  
Nays: none

Treasurer's Report:

A motion was made by Comm. Victor and seconded by Comm. Timmons that the Council approves the July Treasurer's Report and the payment of bills as presented.

Roll Call: Ayes: Victor, Timmons, Lamb, Sears, Spicer  
Nays: none

Seneca Business Spotlight Presentation

Communications, Petitions, Reports and Additional Agenda Items:

Additional Agenda items:

1. Parking Revisions

Old Business:

Public Health & Safety Sears:

Commissioner Sears stated there will be revisions to the current parking in front of the Howd Medical Center building on Main Street as well as adjacent to the Aubry Electric building on Williams Street. This will increase a total of 3 parking areas.

Streets Lamb:

Comm. Lamb spoke regarding the storm sewer project; on February 23, 2009, a Dawn Company employee struck a power line on the Connie Berguson property located at 130 Shipyard Road which was not properly located by the S M & P Company. It was noted that the incident created \$900.00 in damages to the Berguson property that will be withheld on the final payout to Dawn Company by the Village.

A motion was made by Comm. Lamb and seconded by Comm. Sears that the Council approves a pay request from Dawn Company for \$41,778.85, in relation to the Route 170 Storm Sewer Project: This amount excludes \$900.00 which will be released to reimburse Connie Berguson for damages incurred to her property during project construction.

Roll Call: Ayes: Lamb, Sears, Timmons, Victor, Spicer  
Nays: none

Comm. Lamb also gave a bridge report which included that asphalt was laid at the South Street entrance as well as the South Campus Grade School entrance which will be temporary.

A security system has been installed at the Crotty Park with the help of Village maintenance workers, Comm. Lamb, Mike Bordeaux, Skip Kraus and financially by the Seneca Port Authority. Thus far, the amount donated by the Seneca Port Authority to Seneca's Crotty Park is in excess of \$55,000.00.

Public Affairs Spicer:

Mayor Spicer stated a revision to the existing enterprise zone agreement and ordinance has been requested. The agreement will allow the relocation of tower placement due to an adjustment in the location.

A motion was made by Comm. Victor and seconded by Comm. Timmons that the Council approves the Mayor signing an amendment to the enterprise zone intergovernmental agreement between the City of Ottawa, the County of LaSalle, the City of Marseilles, the County of Grundy and the Village of Seneca.

Roll Call: Ayes: Victor, Timmons, Sears, Lamb, Spicer  
Nays: none

A motion was made by Comm. Victor and seconded by Comm. Lamb that the Council adopts ordinance #09-13, an ordinance amending ordinances which established and expanded an enterprise zone within the Village of Seneca; which encompasses contiguous portions of the City of Ottawa, the County of LaSalle, the County of Grundy, the City of Marseilles and the Village of Seneca.

Roll Call: Ayes: Victor, Lamb, Sears, Timmons, Spicer  
Nays: none

Mayor Spicer reviewed the O'Connor Variance request to build an additional detached garage on their property.

A motion was made by Comm. Sears and seconded by Comm. Victor that the Seneca Village Council adopts ordinance #09-14, an ordinance granting a variance to Mr. & Mrs. Jim O'Connor of 150 E. Lincoln Street.

Roll Call: Ayes: Sears, Victor, Lamb, Timmons, Spicer  
Nays: none

Mayor Spicer stated that at the August 4, 2009 meeting, a decision was made by Council to release certain executive session minutes.

A motion was made by Comm. Timmons and seconded by Comm. Victor that the Council approves the release of executive session minutes.

Roll Call: Ayes: Timmons, Victor, Lamb, Sears, Spicer  
Nays: none

Mayor Spicer spoke regarding the flooding conditions at the Valley View subdivision property. An invite will be sent August 19, 2009 to each property owner to attend a flood committee meeting on August 27, 2009 at 7:00 PM to discuss options, costs and improvement solutions.

Commissioner's Report and New Business:

Streets Lamb:

Comm. Lamb stated that a drainage problem exists at the Richards Street area; this is due in part to the size of the drainage pipe creating standing water in ditches. A larger pipe will need to be installed to alleviate this problem but it was noted that this will not transpire during the 2009 year.

Public Health & Safety Sears:

Commissioner Sears asked for everyone to be aware of the fact that school is now in session, traffic is heavier and the children's safety should be the utmost priority.

Comm. Sears asked Comm. Victor to review the possibility of changing the

billing system regarding water/sewer rates. Currently, the Village charges a surcharge to cover project costs; Comm. Sears would like increase water/sewer usage charges to cover the surcharge amount.

Comm. Victor stated that he will contact Chamlin & Associates to perform a water/sewer rate study which will compile the necessary information. Mayor Spicer asked that Comm. Victor verify the cost of the study prior to it being performed.

Comm. Sears also stated that although there is no water/sewer run to the houses located south of the river, the Village residents that have homes in that location are being assessed a tax related to that subject. Comm. Sears stated that he felt this should not occur and that the residents should be reimbursed their tax money. Mayor Spicer stated his residence is located south of the river and that as a tax payer; he would like the Village to set that money aside for water/sewer improvements relating to that area south of the river.

Comm. Sears asked Council for information relating to previous employee pay raises which occurred in April, 2009. All Union employees received the current CPI rate of 3.8% and all other non-union, full-time employees received a pay raise of 2.0%. It was stated by Comm. Timmons that at the time that the pay raises were administered, multiple factors were discussed by Council to determine the difference in pay raise amounts. It was also noted that a review of pay raises were to take place approximately six months after raises were given, therefore it was determined that this item will be brought up at the next budget meeting in October, 2009.

Public Affairs Mayor Spicer:

The Mayor announced that the Shipyard Festival review will be tabled until the next Council meeting.

A flag donation by Kathy Angelakos was given to be used at the Village Hall in memory of her mother, Betty Haralson for the month of September.

Mayor Spicer reviewed the item of extension of the Seneca I-80 Railport project. The project's Redevelopment Agreement contained specific deadlines; due to the economy, delays have occurred. Mr. Keating has asked for a one year extension. Mayor Spicer stated he had several people review Mr. Keating's request including consultant attorney David Silverman, Phil McKenna TIF writer, Village attorney Michael Mason, engineer Jason Wiesbrock and Village engineer Guy Christensen. This extension request will extend the deadline from June 1, 2009 to September 1, 2010. This allows one year for economy to turn around and attract interest in this project.

A motion was made by Comm. Sears and seconded by Comm. Victor that the deadlines of June 1, 2009, for certification by CSX, and September 1, 2009 for certification of all plans, drawings and bid documentation for milestones under the redevelopment agreement for the Intermodal facility, are both extended to September 1, 2010.

Roll Call: Ayes: Sears, Victor, Timmons, Lamb, Spicer  
Nays: none

It was also brought to the Mayor's attention that within the Redevelopment Agreement, once signed that the Village was to vacate Bluff Road to Mr. Keating. Currently, the township maintains the roads and provides snow

removal and it was determined that the Village would officially vacate Bluff Road at the next Council meeting.

Mayor Spicer announced an opportunity for the Village to create a Downtown TIF District which would include 2-3 blocks on either side of Route 170 and across the bridge for purpose of commercial and industrial development. This TIF would allow officials to create an improved downtown area with building renovations as well as landscaping. This would connect directly with the Keating project as the property would be contiguous. The cost of the initial study would be \$10,000 to \$15,000 which would make certain that the Village would be in compliance with the laws. Mayor Spicer reminded Council that the Village recently received \$12,000 from the vacating of West Street and this money could be used to cover the study cost.

A motion was made by Comm. Victor and seconded by Comm. Lamb that the Council approves the Mayor to sign an agreement with Kane, McKenna & Associates relating to establishing a Downtown Development TIF.

Roll Call: Ayes: Victor, Lamb, Sears, Timmons, Spicer  
Nays: none

Mr. Gary Hamilton gave an overview of the recommendation and findings of the Zoning Board of Appeals relating to a variance request by the Johnson family at 230 E. Lincoln Street to re-build an accessory building that would be larger and higher than current Village standards and to reduce the setback from alley. Public Hearing was held on August 12, 2009. It was noted there is an outstanding publication fee due to the Village of \$65.92. The Council agreed to table this item for each member to review the project, view the property and report back to bring up at next Council meeting.

A motion was made by Comm. Lamb and seconded by Comm. Timmons that the August 18, 2009 Council meeting be adjourned at 8:01 PM.

Roll Call: Ayes: Lamb, Timmons, Sears, Victor, Spicer  
Nays: none

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Theresa L. Russell, Village Clerk