

Seneca Village Council held a regularly scheduled Council meeting at Seneca Village Hall on March 16, 2021 and the meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Mayor Olson and Commissioners Callahan, Higgins, Victor and Weber

Absent: None

Also Present: Village Attorney Robert Russo, Village Engineer Casey McCollom and Village Clerk Jennifer Peddicord

All stood for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

A motion was made by Comm. Higgins and seconded by Comm. Weber that the Council approve the March 2, 2021 council meeting minutes as presented.

Roll Call: Ayes: Olson, Callahan, Higgins, Victor and Weber

Nays: None

A motion was made by Comm. Weber and seconded by Comm. Victor that the Council approve the February Treasurer's report, payroll and payment of bills as presented.

Roll Call: Ayes: Olson, Callahan, Higgins, Victor and Weber

Nays: None

**BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT PRESENTATION:**

None.

**COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, REPORTS AND ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS:**

None.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**COMMISSIONER HIGGINS:** Comm. Higgins thanked the Planning Commission and Clerk Jennifer Peddicord for all of their work on the mobile home zoning ordinance. The mobile home zoning ordinance was last changed in approximately 2010. Comm. Weber had questions regarding the addition of the skirting requirement and Attorney Russo advised that existing mobile homes would be considered "grandfathered in" and the skirting requirement might not apply to them. Mayor Olson advised that if anyone wants to come in with an older mobile home, they can request a variance from the council.

A motion was made by Comm. Higgins and seconded by Comm. Weber to approve the adoption of Ordinance 21-10, Ordinance Amending the Seneca Code of Ordinances Pertaining to Mobile Homes.

Roll Call: Ayes: Olson, Callahan, Higgins, Victor and Weber

Nays: None

**MAYOR OLSON:**

A motion was made by Comm. Callahan and seconded by Comm. Victor to approve the adoption of Ordinance 21-11, An Ordinance Adopting a 2021 Zoning Map.

Roll Call: Ayes: Olson, Callahan, Higgins, Victor and Weber

Nays: None

With regard to downtown development, Mayor Olson advised that he has been in contact with the local chamber of commerce and is working on setting up a meeting to look further into a façade program.

**COMMISSIONER'S REPORT AND NEW BUSINESS:**

**PUBLIC PROPERTY, WATER & SEWER:**

A motion was made by Comm. Victor and seconded by Comm. Higgins to approve an expenditure to Hawkins, Inc. in the amount of \$2,070.00 for chlorine gas leak detector for water treatment plant.

Roll Call: Ayes: Olson, Callahan, Higgins, Victor and Weber

Nays: None

A motion was made by Comm. Victor and seconded by Comm. Weber to approve an expenditure to Cummins Sales & Service in the amount of \$6,261.56 for five-year maintenance agreement for village hall generator. This amount will be broken down on an annual basis.

Roll Call: Ayes: Olson, Callahan, Higgins, Victor and Weber

Nays: None

A motion was made by Comm. Victor and seconded by Comm. Higgins to approve an expenditure to Vortex Technologies in the amount of \$1,835.00 for calibration of meters at water and wastewater treatment plants. This is an annual calibration of the meters.

Roll Call: Ayes: Olson, Callahan, Higgins, Victor and Weber

Nays: None

A motion was made by Comm. Victor and seconded by Comm. Callahan to approve an expenditure to Seneca Ace Hardware in the amount of \$1,999.00 for dug-out benches for Graves Park softball and baseball fields. Four quotes were obtained and Seneca Ace Hardware was the lowest.

Roll Call: Ayes: Olson, Callahan, Higgins, Victor and Weber

Nays: None

A motion was made by Comm. Victor and seconded by Comm. Weber to approve an expenditure to All Types Fence, Inc. in the amount of \$3,290.00 for fence gates at Graves Park softball and baseball diamonds. Discussion took place with Melissa Klicker, Park Board President, regarding future expenses at Graves Park to correct the fencing that was initially installed.

Roll Call: Ayes: Olson, Callahan, Higgins, Victor and Weber

Nays: None

A motion was made by Comm. Victor and seconded by Comm. Higgins to approve an expenditure to Automatic Door Authority in the amount of \$3,634.00 for replacement of Crotty Park concession stand roll-up door and stainless steel countertop.

Roll Call: Ayes: Olson, Callahan, Higgins, Victor and Weber

Nays: None

A motion was made by Comm. Victor and seconded by Comm. Callahan to approve an expenditure to Miller Tree Service in an amount not to exceed \$10,000.00 for removal of trees at boat launch, clearing property line by Claggett property, removing trees, leveling and seeding of city hall lot for community garden and butterfly garden. Discussion was held regarding the necessity to remove the trees on the city hall lot to make the lot level.

Roll Call: Ayes: Olson, Callahan, Higgins, Victor and Weber

Nays: None

Comm. Victor announced that the Park Board will be putting in a community garden and butterfly garden at the village hall lot on Main Street, and a dog park will be opening at the boat launch.

#### **ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE - CALLAHAN:**

A motion was made by Comm. Callahan and seconded by Comm. Higgins to approve an expenditure to Wex, Inc. in the amount of \$3,521.65 for fuel expenses.

Roll Call: Ayes: Olson, Callahan, Higgins, Victor and Weber

Nays: None

Comm. Callahan requested the following year-end transfers:

A motion was made by Comm. Callahan and seconded by Comm. Higgins to approve the transfer of \$10,500.00 from Water & Sewer, each, to Public Affairs and Accounts & Finance.

Roll Call: Ayes: Olson, Callahan, Higgins, Victor and Weber

Nays: None

A motion was made by Comm. Callahan and seconded by Comm. Victor to approve the transfer of \$175,000.00 from Illinois Funds to General Checking.

Roll Call: Ayes: Olson, Callahan, Higgins, Victor and Weber

Nays: None

A motion was made by Comm. Callahan and seconded by Comm. Victor to approve the transfer of \$18,000.00 from ePay accounts to General Checking.

Roll Call: Ayes: Olson, Callahan, Higgins, Victor and Weber

Nays: None

A motion was made by Comm. Callahan and seconded by Comm. Higgins to approve the transfer of \$314,000.00 from Investments to General Checking.

Roll Call: Ayes: Olson, Callahan, Higgins, Victor and Weber

Nays: None

#### **STREETS - WEBER:**

Comm. Weber advised that he has been talking to the guys in the Street Department regarding hiring summer help. The village will be advertising for one summer worker in the near future.

Comm. Weber announced that funds are not available to do all of the street repair projects that are needed in the village. A choice has to be made between doing six small projects or one large project. The large project would be doing the cul de sac and entire circle of Village Court. Discussion took place regarding drainage issues in that area and the retention pond causing some of the drainage problems.

Comm. Weber stated that he is looking into a sidewalk replacement program and will be making an announcement in the next month.

#### **PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY - HIGGINS:**

A motion was made by Comm. Higgins and seconded by Comm. Weber to approve an expenditure to Watch Guard for purchase of body cameras in an amount not to exceed \$20,000.00.

Roll Call: Ayes: Olson, Callahan, Higgins, Victor and Weber

Nays: None

Comm. Higgins presented an Ordinance Amending Chapter 9 of Title 6 of the Village of Seneca Code of Ordinances to Include Annual Renewal and Inspections for review. This change would require annual inspections of ATVs for renewal by the police department. The ordinance will be brought back for approval at the next meeting.

Comm. Higgins presented an Ordinance Amending Title 10 of the Seneca Municipal Code (the Zoning Ordinance) Pertaining to Adult Use Cannabis. The Planning Commission has approved the zoning changes related to cannabis businesses. This ordinance will be adopted at the next council meeting.

Comm. Higgins advised that the collective bargaining agreement with the police union will be ready for approval at the next council meeting.

A motion was made by Comm. Higgins and seconded by Comm. Callahan to approve the re-hiring of Andrew Armitage as a part-time police officer at the rate of \$21.38.

Roll Call: Ayes: Olson, Callahan, Higgins, Victor and Weber

Nays: None

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS - OLSON:**

Mayor Olson presented an Ordinance Repealing Chapter 7 of Title 3 of the Seneca Code of Ordinances Regarding Recycling Service and Waste Removal Contractors for review. This ordinance will be brought back at the next meeting for adoption.

Mayor Olson presented the council with an Ordinance Repealing Articles 2 and 3 of Chapter 1 of Title 4 of the Seneca Code of Ordinances Regarding Ambulance Service Rates and Fire Protection Outside the Village for review. The fire and ambulance are their own district now, so there is no need for this language in the code.

A motion was made by Comm. Victor and seconded by Comm. Callahan to approve an expenditure to EarthPlanter in the amount of \$4,707.00 for planters, hanging baskets and brackets for downtown beautification. Mayor Olson advised that the Beautification Committee worked hard on this project.

Roll Call: Ayes: Olson, Callahan, Higgins, Victor and Weber

Nays: None

Mayor Olson announced that there is a Park Board vacancy and letters of interest are being accepted.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A motion was made by Comm. Callahan and seconded by Comm. Weber to enter into executive session at 6:38 p.m. to discuss personnel.

Roll Call: Ayes: Olson, Callahan, Higgins, Victor and Weber

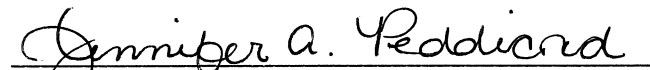
Nays: None

The council returned to regular session at 6:56 p.m.

A motion was made by Comm. Victor and seconded by Comm. Higgins to adjourn the March 16, 2021 council meeting at 6:57 p.m.

Roll Call: Ayes: Olson, Callahan, Higgins, Victor and Weber

Nays: None

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Jennifer A. Peddicord, Village Clerk