

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

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

Absent: Higgins

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. Callahan and seconded by Comm. Victor that the Council approve the February 2, 2021 council meeting minutes as presented.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Higgins

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

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

Nays: None

Absent: Higgins

**BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT PRESENTATION:**

None.

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

None.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**COMMISSIONER VICTOR:** A motion was made by Comm. Victor and seconded by Comm. Weber to approve the adoption of Ordinance 21-03, An Ordinance Amending the Seneca Code of Ordinances Pertaining to Park Board Meetings.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Higgins

**COMMISSIONER HIGGINS:** Due to the absence of Comm. Higgins, Comm. Callahan presented his agenda items.

A motion was made by Comm. Callahan and seconded by Comm. Weber to approve the adoption of Ordinance 21-04, An Ordinance Repealing Section 3 of Chapter 1 of Title 5 of the Seneca Code of Ordinances Regarding Dog and Cat Licenses.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Higgins

A motion was made by Comm. Callahan and seconded by Comm. Victor to approve the adoption of Ordinance 21-05, An Ordinance Amending Article A of Section 2 of Chapter 1 of Title 5 of the Village of Seneca Code of Ordinances to Update Prohibited Animals.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Higgins

Attorney Russo advised the council that there is a need to amend Ordinance 20-08, which was passed in 2020 disconnecting certain territory from the village. The LaSalle County Assessor's mapping department discovered that there was a missing sliver of property from the legal description recorded with the ordinance. This amendment to the ordinance will add the missing section to the legal description. A motion was made by Comm. Callahan and seconded by Comm. Victor to approve the amendment to Ordinance 20-08, An Ordinance Disconnecting Certain Territory from the Village of Seneca (Justice and Terry).

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

Nays: None

Absent: Higgins

**MAYOR OLSON:** A motion was made by Comm. Weber and seconded by Comm. Victor to approve the adoption of Ordinance 21-06, An Ordinance Amending the Seneca Code of Ordinances Pertaining to Salaries. This amendment is with regards to the council no longer being eligible for IMRF.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Higgins

Mayor Olson advised the council that he is looking for ideas for downtown development. There is a potential buyer of residential/commercial property that is looking for a tax incentive for an apartment building with a possible commercial business on the first floor. Comm. Weber clarified the zoning requirement for commercial businesses and added that COVID is prohibiting new businesses from coming right now. Attorney Russo advised that tax breaks are usually based on the amount of business it could

potentially generate. Casey McCollom suggested a façade program is worth looking into and is usually a 50/50 program. Comm. Callahan suggested a façade program could be offered to existing businesses instead of a tax incentive. Mayor Olson will explore the façade program and other options and will bring this matter back for discussion at the next council meeting.

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

##### **PUBLIC PROPERTY, WATER & SEWER:**

A motion was made by Comm. Victor and seconded by Comm. Callahan to approve an expenditure to Ayers Electric in the amount of \$3,325.07 for replacement of motor starter at water plant and alternating relay at the lift station. This work was done approximately three weeks ago.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Higgins

Comm. Victor advised the council that he will be seeking approval of an expenditure to G.A. Rich & Sons, Inc. for vault rehab at the next council meeting. The vault is located on the north hill and was last replaced in 1993. Mr. Applebee did a lot of research on what other communities have done and what company they used and has determined that G.A. Rich & Sons, Inc. is the best company. When the work is done, the water will be shut off to the entire town overnight and there will be a boil order after the work is completed.

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

A motion was made by Comm. Callahan and seconded by Comm. Victor to approve an expenditure to Law Offices of Robert J. Russo, Ltd. in the amount of \$2,026.50 for legal expenses.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Higgins

Commissioner Callahan will present the establishment of a scholarship fund for discussion at the next council meeting.

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

Comm. Weber thanked the street guys for the wonderful job they did in keeping up with the snow we have received in the past week. There have been a few problems due to the snow, including residents blowing their snow into the street. He requested that snow be blown into the median or the residents' own yards, rather than the streets. There has also been a problem with parking cars on the streets, which

makes plowing difficult and sometimes impossible. Comm. Weber asked that residents park in their driveways until snow is plowed and then cars can be moved back into the streets. Hossack Street and Valley View are particular problems with parking. Comm. Weber is working on preparing an ordinance prohibiting parking on streets after a two inch snowfall.

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

Comm. Callahan presented Comm. Higgins' new agenda items due to his absence.

Comm. Callahan presented an ordinance amending the Seneca Code of Ordinances pertaining to open burning by implementing fines for discussion. The existing open burning ordinance does not include a fine and this proposed ordinance remedies that by adding a minimum \$75.00 fine.

Comm. Callahan presented an ordinance amending Section 4 of Chapter 3 of Title 7 Regarding Village Parks. This will update the minimum fine, which was missed when we updated minimum fines previously.

Police Chief George Lambole addressed the council and advised that Officer Matt Pagakis resigned and went to LaSalle County to work. Chief Lambole presented the council with quotes for body cameras and a server. He explained that body cams are required by 2025 in HB 3653 and he would like to get started with updating equipment before the deadline.

#### **PUBLIC AFFAIRS - OLSON:**

A motion was made by Comm. Weber and seconded by Comm. Callahan to approve the adoption of Resolution No. 583, 2021 Seneca American Legion Memorial Day Ceremony. This is required to close Route 170 for the ceremony.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Higgins

Mayor Olson presented the Seneca Code of Ordinances pertaining to Recycling Service and Waste Removal Contractors to the council for review. He advised that this section of the code needs serious scrutiny, as most of it has not been enforced and will most likely need to be amended.

Mayor Olson presented an Ordinance Amending the Seneca Code of Ordinances Pertaining to the Appointment of the Village Clerk and Treasurer for review. While reviewing the code, Clerk Peddicord discovered that the appointment of the office of Village Clerk is not consistent with what has actually been practiced. Accordingly, the ordinance will be amended to reflect that the appointment of the Village Clerk will be done every four years following the election. There was also nothing substantive in the code regarding the Treasurer's position. The amendment will include the appointment of the Treasurer every four years, together with a basic outline of the Treasurer's job requirements.

A motion was made by Comm. Victor and seconded by Comm. Callahan to approve the appointment of Anna Allison to the Seneca Park Board with a term to expire in April 2022.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Higgins

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

A motion was made by Comm. Callahan and seconded by Comm. Victor to enter into executive session at 6:40 p.m. to discuss the purchase or lease of real estate.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Higgins

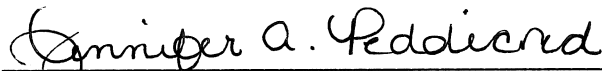
The council returned to regular session at 7:06 p.m.

A motion was made by Comm. Victor and seconded by Comm. Callahan to adjourn the February 16, 2021 council meeting at 7:06 p.m.

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

Nays: None

Absent: Higgins



Jennifer A. Peddicord, Village Clerk

