Town of North Hills

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Council meeting minutes
October 28th, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 7PM by Mayor Dale Baumgartner at the Ohio Valley University conference room. Present: Dale Baumgartner, Rachel Hensley, Cheney English, Fred Newberry, and Don Stemple (call in) Absent: Chris Nahley and Regina Smith. Also in attendance was Phil Shull (Assistant Project Manager) with Civil Environmental Consultants.

Minutes

A motion to approve the September 23rd minutes as amended was made by Rachel Hensley, seconded by Dale Baumgartner, approved by council.

A motion to approve the October 14th minutes as amended was made by Cheney English, seconded by Dale Baumgartner, approved by council.

Safety

Cheney English gave a presentation on Noise at Work and Home Safety. Our hearing is precious to us. Once we diminish or lose our hearing, we can never fully recover it. Both on the job and at home there are many ways to be overexposed to sounds that can damage our hearing. It is important to realize how loud is too loud

and how to protect yourself.

Noise At Work

Many tools, equipment, and processes in the workplace generate elevated levels of noise that will have a negative effect on the hearing of the exposed workers. According to the CDC, over twenty-two million workers are exposed to hazardous noise levels at work each year. Occupational hearing loss is one of the most common workplace injuries today in the United States. Damage to our hearing can happen over a brief time or over a longer extended period depending on the source of the sound. Short loud bursts of noise such as explosions or gunshots can damage our ears in a brief time of being exposed. Less hazardous noise such as woodworking equipment, heavy equipment, and machinery can lead to damage over an extended amount of time being exposed to the noise.

Noise At Home

While many people are overexposed at work, there are also many who are overexposed at home. Many of your hobbies may also be causing hearing loss. Activities such as listening to loud music, shooting guns, woodworking, using a lawnmower, riding a dirt bike, etc. will damage your hearing over time. It is important to understand what levels of noise will damage your hearing.
OSHA and NIOSH recommend staying under levels of eighty-five decibels over an 8-hour time-weighted average (TWA).
Here are the average decibel ratings of some familiar sounds:

- Normal conversation- 60 decibels
- Heavy city traffic- 85 decibels
- Motorcycles- 95 decibels
- Circular saw- 100-105 decibels
- Listening to music with headphones at maximum volume - 105 decibels
- Sirens- 120 decibels
- Firecrackers and firearms- 150 decibels

Hearing Damage Prevention
- The best way to protect yourself is to eliminate the exposure. That can be achieved by removing yourself from the area the noise is in or eliminating the excessive noise altogether.
- Engineering controls are the second-best choice in protection from noise. Sound barriers, enclosures, and noise dampening systems are examples of engineering controls that will bring down the level of noise in an area.
- Administrative controls such as training on using hearing protection, job rotation, breaks, and routine maintenance programs of equipment are some ways that protect workers from being exposed to hazardous noise.
- PPE is the last line of defense. It is important to know the levels of noise that remain after applying the other techniques mentioned above. For noises between eighty-five decibels and one hundred decibels on an 8-hour TWA, ear plugs will be enough to protect you if worn correctly. Over one hundred decibels then double hearing protection is needed, an example is earplugs and earmuffs. Your distance from the source of the sound and the length of time you are exposed to the sound are also crucial

factors in protecting your hearing. A good rule of thumb is to avoid sounds that are too loud, too close, or last too long.

Summary
Protect your hearing. Once it goes, it is gone. It is possible to regain some of your hearing back artificially through hearing aids, but it will never be the same as it was before it was damaged. Take hearing protection seriously.

Recorder's report

Eight liens were filled for delinquent Street User Fees

The American Rescue Plans first installment fund is depleted. Paid Bosley construction $153,733.76 for pond storm water reclamation.

Recorder will have a meeting with Suttle and Stalnaker next Thursday to prep the PSC report.

Building permits

N/A

Committee updates

Urban deer hunt – 4 deer harvested

Town Activities – Question about whether there would be a highway cleanup Saturday.

Town of North Hills

Town leaf collection starts Thursday November 4th and continue for one month.

Don Stemple to call and have the Porta John picked up.

Town needs to sign the snow contract with Lawns Unlimited. Dale will call Jason to set up a time.

Town business

Phil Shull presented an update on sewer project and will be looking at the town's funding options. CEC will be installing flow meters in the next two weeks for the I&I study which will last for thirty to sixty days. Dale will send a newsletter to residents explaining the flow tests that will be conducted.

Doug Blackwell will install rails on the pre pond bridge.

The pool structure/governance discussion will be on agenda for our next meeting. There are two options being discussed.

Cheney English made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:30PM, seconded by Rachel Hensley, approved by council. The next regular scheduled meeting will be November 11th, at the Ohio Valley University conference room at 7PM.

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