

JULY 7, 2021

**REGULAR MEETING – 6:00 PM**

**Present:** Mayor Grimshaw, Trustees: Linerode, Hotchkiss, Harter and Emery, John Power, William Hamacher, Attorney Graham Seiter, Amanda Magro, Nancy Weber, Sam Weber Jr., Bonnie Loforte, Kristin Hueber, Elizabeth Passer, Jodi Whitney, Lucinda Brown, Nick Chapin, Doneita Whitney, Don Hadcock, Al Humbert, Jeff & Donna Beardslee, Daniel Yawman, Courtney Yawman, Sandra Souva, Mike Mowry, Eric Behling, Randy Ladd and Bill Benjamin

Mayor Grimshaw opened the public hearing at 6:00 pm to discuss proposed Local Law #3 of 2021 entitled “imposing a six (6) month moratorium regulating the harboring of farm animals within the Village of Mexico”. There was a lengthy discussion from the public in regards to what prompted the board to feel we needed a local law and the wording in the local law.

The general consensus from the public was they are against this local law in its current form.

Nancy Weber read the following statement to the village board:

MEXICAN PRIDE FARM

795 TUBBS RD

MEXICO, NY 13114

315-963-7311

Village of Mexico Board of Trustees

3236 Main St.

PO Box 309 Mexico, NY 13114

Re: Local Law #3 of 2021

## Public Statement

Mexican Pride Farm is a 3rd generation farm, with livestock, owned and operated by the Weber family.

However, this land has been in continual farming since Mexico was settled in the 1700's. Approximately 30 acres of our farm is within the Village of Mexico boundaries. Our farm is also enrolled in the Agricultural District #11.

We would like to take this time of public comment to make our remarks regarding Local Law

While you may not realize it when driving down Main St., Mexico is a village comprised primarily of farmland. Some of the open acres are in crops and some are fallow. While the 2004 zoning ordinance of the Village largely ignores agriculture, Section 403.3 Uses Permitted #3 states "customary agricultural operations" are allowed. Animal husbandry is a part of agriculture. #3 also goes on to say that "no storage of manure or odor or dust producing substance shall be permitted within 100 feet of any property line." That is it. Agriculture is not even included in the definitions.

So here we are, debating a moratorium on the harboring of farm animals in the Village. We have several questions: 1) is the Village being overrun by farm animals listed?

- what precipitated this moratorium? Are neighbors squabbling?
- we find no mention of the moratorium in the published Village board minutes except to announce this hearing. When was this document created, why was it created by whom and where? And why is it not in the minutes? We would have thought that such a far-reaching law would have warranted some mention.
- you have failed to grandfather existing farm animals, their offspring, and replacements. Why? And no, we are not harboring our farm animals, we are raising them.
- why are you subjecting existing owners to petition for permission to keep their animals and then subjecting them to a public hearing. This is unreasonable. While those acres enrolled in Agricultural Districts are protected from such ordinances, there are many other taxpayers in this Village who would be affected. Many have had their

farm animals for decades. You cannot cavalierly impose such an ordinance without due cause.

We feel that this Local Law #3 be voted down by the Village Board of Trustees and we request that this statement be recorded in the minutes of this hearing.

Sam and Nancy Weber

Kristin Hueber read the following statement to the village board:

Local Law No. 3 Proposal



Dear Village of Mexico Board of Trustees,

July 7

2021

There are a few issues that I would like you to address:

I a.) What are the Actual concerns Specific to each animal listed in Section 3: Definitions Farm Animals. with their existence with in the village?

I b.) How could these things be remedied in a safe and healthy manor for people and animals without banning them completely?

- What are the advantages/disadvantages of zoning solutions for the above?
- What are the advantages/disadvantages of local law solutions for the above?
- Explain completely what is meant by the 6 month moratorium. What can or can't be done? Can it go longer then 6 months?
- Though I was told by the Village Mayor that I am grandfathered in, I would like that to documented.

Thank you for your help in these matters. I am looking forward to your responses.

Sincerely

Kristin Hueber

70 North Street

PO Box 596

Mexico New York 13114

The mayor thanked the public for all of their input. On motion of Trustee Hotchkiss, seconded Trustee Linerode, all aye, the public hearing was closed at 6:52 pm.

Mayor Grimshaw opened the public hearing at 6:52 pm to discuss proposed Local Law #4 of 2021 entitled "establishing new water rates by the Village of Mexico". After a brief discussion from the mayor Lucinda Brown stated that the utility bills were very high already and Elizabeth Passer wanted to know if we were going to give the village residents an example of how much their water bill would be increasing due to the fact it is a substantial increase. Mayor Grimshaw and John Power both gave the reason for the increase in the water rates and stated that the information will be on the village website. The public hearing was closed on motion of Trustee Linerode, seconded Trustee Harter, all aye at 7:24 pm.

Mayor Grimshaw called the regular meeting to order at 7:24 pm.

On motion of Trustee Hotchkiss, seconded Trustee Linerode, all aye, the Board amended the agenda to move proposed Local Law #3 of 2021 to the first item of Procedural Matters.

On motion of Trustee Emery, seconded Trustee Harter, all aye, the board has tabled Local Law #3 of 2021 until the September Village Board meeting. The Village Board would like to take time to analyze all the input from the public and meet with the village attorney to make changes before holding another public hearing.

The Minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 2, 2021 were approved on motion of Trustee Harter, seconded by Trustee Linerode, all aye.

The following claims were approved for payment on motion of Trustee Hotchkiss seconded by Trustee Harter, all aye:

General Fund Abstract:

1C: \$38,520.57

2A: \$90,306.18

Water Fund Abstract:

1C: \$13,780.64

2A: \$5,429.77

Sewer Fund Abstract:

1C: \$71,407.97

2A: \$8,020.42

WWTP Upgrade Project Abstract:

2A: \$135,497.54

Reports were given by William Hamacher Zoning/Code Enforcement officer and John Power/Village Administrator.

On motion of Trustee Harter, seconded Trustee Linerode, all aye, the board passed Local Law #4 of 2021, entitled "Establishing new water rates by the Village of Mexico".

On motion of Trustee Emery, seconded Trustee Harter, all aye the board gave John Power permission to use the County of Onondaga/Division of Purchase contracts for the tree and stump removal and trimming of trees in the village's right of way with a cost not to exceed \$20,000.00.

John Power presented the village board with information in regards to sidewalks for the village to look at to develop an updated program.

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 pm on motion of Trustee Linerode, seconded Trustee Harter,  
all aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Traci Wallace

Village Clerk