

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES

Monday, January 16, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Diane Collins, followed by the invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Roll call was taken with the following persons in attendance: Mayor Diane Collins; Council members Ron Jones, Shelia Baker, Ron Beverly, Mike Barth, Eric Bassett; Solicitor Troy Essex; Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith; and Administrator Kent Miller. Mike Headley was absent.

The agenda was amended to include Ordinance 2017-04. Ron Jones made a motion to approve the change. Ron Beverly seconded. All voted yes.

Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting on January 3rd were presented. Ron Jones moved to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Shelia Baker. All voted yes.

A list of bills to be paid was presented to council. Ron Beverly made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes, with Mike Barth abstaining.

Boards & Commissions:

- *Cable TV* meeting minutes from December 17th were in the packets. Shelia Baker asked Station Director Bill Murphy about our contract with Mediacom. It was explained that we have a contract with them for a specific length of time, and unless they choose to discontinue service with Hicksville, we are unable to look around for another carrier. The franchises are granted and approved by the State of Ohio.
- *Park Board* minutes from the December 14th meeting were in the packets.

Council Committees:

- Water & Sewer minutes from the January 3rd meeting were in the packets.
- The Cemetery Board met January 11th - no minutes were available at this time.
- The Sidewalk Committee presented minutes from their January 12th meeting. They also met at 5 pm tonight - minutes will be available at the next meeting.
- The Revolving Loan Committee met January 9th - minutes will be available at the next meeting.

In a discussion about the state of the village's sidewalks, the committee has been meeting to find a way to fix, replace or install sidewalks village-wide, without residents being unduly burdened. They are also trying to find a way for the cost to be fairly distributed, knowing some homes have no sidewalk at all, and some residents have already paid to have their sidewalks fixed. There is no perfect solution, and inevitably some people will have complaints about the way the situation is ultimately handled. Everyone agrees the ordinance could be updated/improved. The committee recommended 2 to 1 that a \$3.00 charge be added to each utility bill to be set aside in a new fund designated for sidewalk installation, repair and maintenance only. (This would include any tree removal/trimming necessary as well). It was suggested that Essex bring legislation, which will then be read over the span of 3 meetings (a month and a half) and for the village to also hold 2 public meetings with residents to hear their ideas. During this time frame, the ordinance can still be tweaked to consider all input. It would not go into effect until 30 days after the last reading.

Administrator's Report:

Miller asked council if they had any wish to actively pursue a roadway from 18 to 2 over the next four years at a possible budget of \$750,000.00. This would involve finding the land and money for the project. Secondly, he would like council to consider work on the N. Main Street viaduct to allow trucks better access. If they wish to do anything in this area it will be critical to get approval from CSX and this is notoriously time consuming and difficult. Council agreed they are interested in both projects with the 18/2 road more important.

Solicitor's Report:

- **Ordinance 2016-18** extending the time for longevity pay was read for the final time by caption only. Ron Jones made a motion to approve, seconded by Mike Barth. All voted yes.
- **Ordinance 2017-01** had the first reading by caption only to levy a tax for fire protection
- **Ordinance 2017-02** had the first reading by caption only to rezone Lots 33, 34 & 38 Central Place Addition from MHP to R4. Ron Beverly made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes. Ordinance 2017-02 was read for the third & final times by caption only. Ron Jones made a motion to approve, seconded by Mike Barth. All voted yes.
- **Ordinance 2017-03** had the first reading by caption only to rezone Lots 35-37 and 39-40 Central Place Addition from MHP to M1. Ron Beverly made a motion to

suspend the rules, seconded by Ron Jones. All voted yes. Ordinance 2017-03 was read for the third & final times by caption only. Mike Barth made a motion to approve, seconded by Ron Jones. All voted yes.

- **Ordinance 2017-04** was read for the first time by caption only to authorize a sewer project contract between the village and OWDA and declaring an emergency. Ron Jones made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes. Ordinance 2017-04 was read for the third & final times by caption only. Ron Jones made a motion to approve, seconded by Mike Barth. All voted yes.
- **Resolution 2017-01** was read for the first time by caption only to present Police Chief Monty Ballinger his badge and service weapon upon his retirement.
- **Resolution 2017-02** was read for the first time by caption only to authorize a substitution of collateral on a Revolving Loan to Gordon Creek Granite and declaring an emergency. Ron Jones made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mike Barth. All voted yes. Resolution 2017-02 was read for the second and final times by caption only. Mike Barth made a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Bassett. All votes yes.
- Essex asked for an executive session later to discuss possible litigation involving real estate.

Department Heads:

Police Chief Monty Ballinger is on medical leave and had no report.

Fire Chief Scott Cramer submitted a year-end 2016 report for the department.

EMS Chief Loni Kesler reported the Rescue Squad will host a breakfast this Saturday (the 21st) at the Fire Hall. The time is 8 am until noon and the cost is a free will offering. She also asked council to rehire Paramedic Jason Zimmerman and hire Paramedic Crystal Schmitz. The mayor recommended both. Schmitz will be hired pending a good physical, drug screen and background check. Zimmerman is not required to get these as he is being rehired and has only been gone about 3 months. Ron Beverly made a motion to accept the mayor's recommendation. Ron Jones seconded it and all voted yes.

Fiscal Officer Report:

- MTD/YTD Cash Report.
- MTD Mayor's Court Report
- December Mediacom Franchise Fee Report
- Notice to Department Heads, Boards & Commissions and Council Committees guideline for open meetings/minutes
- Information for online training in Ethics and Open Records.

Mayor's Report:

The mayor announced the Defiance County Commissioners meet in Hicksville the first Thursday of each month in council chambers at 9:30, and welcome any resident with a question or concern. Everyone is invited to come and listen as the commissioners conduct their business.

The Mayor also submitted her first State of the Village 2016 Report, as follows:

Here we are in 2017 already. My first year as mayor has flown by! The Ohio Revised Code says that each year I must report on administrative activities, operations of the village departments, office, boards and commissions under my direction. I'll try to cover my bases without turning this into a book. My predecessor, Michael Headley, told me he found it helpful to keep daily notes on discussions and activities in the mayor's office. That has been some of the best advice I have received. The notes have helped me to see where I started and what has gotten done in one year. Reality Check! Not everything got accomplished. During 2016 I made it a point to visit some of the industries around town, introduce myself, and make it known that the council and I were there to support them in any way possible. Hicksville was fortunate to have several new businesses open in the downtown area with a few more planning to open soon. Several industries are in the process of expanding their operations. Industrial Park roadway and signage was completed. I am in the process of updating the brochure on Hicksville which is used to entice business and industry to Hicksville. APT received a lot of state and national attention for their high school training center where students gain college credit for spending two hours per day in APT's facility. We are very thankful for our business and industries. Getting properties cleaned up around town was a major concern to me. I think some progress was made but we have a ways to go as there are still many eyesores. The county commissioners offered us funds to tear down a couple houses and it was disheartening to me that we only got one accomplished. Some of the dilapidated homes are tied up in bankruptcies or defaults etc. The park is in the process of making improvements with upgraded dugouts and expanded parking lots. The old Waterworks Building at Adventure Alley has been torn down to improve parking and to make room for a new restroom. New restrooms and a concession stand are in the planning stages for another area in the park. We will apply for grants to help pay for the expense. Thank you Park Board members and Park employees. Water and sewer projects are continuous. We are well underway with our Phase I Long Term Control Plan projects mandated by the EPA, but have a lot more to do. We have received some grants and loans towards these projects. We have also used income tax revenue to help with the cost to avoid increasing water and sewer rates. We continue to try to find a way to have more recycling in Hicksville. I know a lot of residents would prefer curbside but we have yet to find a company willing to do it at a price we feel we could afford without raising garbage rates.

The Police, Fire and EMS departments are doing a great job providing protection and safety for our residents. A new fire truck and ambulance will certainly be in our future. Maintaining these departments with properly trained personnel, vehicles and equipment is very costly, but necessary. Thank you to our safety personnel.

We will continue to work on a plan to get our sidewalks repaired and expanded in the community. Many repair notices have been sent to residents and some have complied with the request. The sidewalk committee has worked diligently to try to find a solution that will extend sidewalks in places where people must walk in the street. This does not necessarily mean in subdivisions.

The village is in good financial condition in my opinion. Council and the department heads have been conscientious about spending over the years. I believe they are very responsible with your money. Personally, I do not believe in going into debt for our projects just because we can. I do not want the future generations of Hicksville to be burdened with debt. We have to borrow money for the sewer projects but I would prefer to keep it at that.

A great job is being done at the cemetery. It is well maintained and neat in appearance. Thank you to the Cemetery Board members and employees.

Hicksville is fortunate to have our own cable TV channel thanks to some progressive thinking people that negotiated the deal with Mediacom several years ago. We have our council meetings broadcast live and we have a lot of coverage for the school board meetings and other activities around the school and community. It is rare for a community our size to have a cable channel and live broadcast meetings. Thank you to station director, Bill Murphy and the HIXTV committee.

The Hicksville Community Service Center (HCSC) Is not under our jurisdiction but I feel it is an important part of the community. It continues to provide office space to county service agencies. Under the HCSC umbrella are Helping Hands, the Beautification Committee (which includes the Farmers Market and coordinating the volunteers who plant and maintain over 20 flower beds throughout Hicksville) and the Veterans Memorial Committee. The Center has regular visits from NOCAC (Northwest Ohio Community Action) and, beginning in February, Ravens Care, which provides emergency services to those in need. Hicksville Helping Hicksville was organized by Justin Kuhn to help residents in need. The ministerial association has reorganized. This is not a committee of council but it is very important to the community so thank you to everyone that contributed time and money to these groups.

There are a lot of people that serve on committees and boards that were not specifically mentioned in this State of the Village Address. All of these people spend hours of their time serving without pay. Their time, service and ideas are very much appreciated. We value the hospital, school, churches, stores, commuters, and residents alike.

We've lost friends and family members this past year that will be missed. Thank you for your thoughtfulness to check on your neighbors and be helpful to one another.

May you have a Blessed 2017.

Mayor Diane Collins

Dave Martin, a resident on Haver Drive, was on hand to ask council for any updates on the water/sewer project being set in motion on Haver Drive. He specifically asked about the swales that will be used for storm water. He was told the contractor would be working 30 feet in each direction from the center of the street. All the work done in this area will then be maintained by the village. Residents will not be able to fill with rocks, dirt, flower beds, grass or to grade the elevation in any way. Mr. Martin volunteered to notify residents of a Town hall meeting January 23rd to answer any questions they may have. It will be in council chambers at 6 pm.

Administrator Kent Miller reported on an item brought up during the pre-construction meeting. The street lights on Haver drive are not anchored securely enough to remain standing while the ground is dug up next to them. It is suggested that they be removed all at once, along with their wiring, during construction and then replace them with new lighting as part of the overall project. The downside is the residents will be without street lights for the duration of the project; the upside is that they will have new, updated lights and poles, securely installed when the project is done. If the existing poles are left in place, each increment of the project will be put on hold until AEP arrives to hold the light pole during construction and then securing it back. Each increment of construction will require calling AEP out (in their time frame, not ours) to secure the pole, thus adding weeks to the construction time. If the residents can collectively use their porch/garage lights for the few months involved, the project can move along in a timely manner. This can be explored in more depth at the Town Hall Meeting January 23rd. The village is aware this is asking a lot of the residents, but the end result will make it worthwhile.

Resident Dave Moore was on hand to ask council to look at his utility bill for an adjustment. He was referred to the Water/Sewer committee for an answer.

Water Superintendent submitted a report on water department projects for 2016.

At 7:15 Ron Beverly made a motion to go into executive session to discuss possible litigation involving real-estate. Eric Bassett seconded it. All voted yes.

At 7:25 Eric Bassett made a motion to return to open session, seconded by Ron Jones. All voted yes.

With no other business to discuss, Eric Bassett made a motion to adjourn. Shelia Baker seconded. All voted yes. Council was adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Mayor

Fiscal Officer