

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES

Monday, February 20, 2017 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Diane Collins, who then gave the invocation.

The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited by all present.

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

Minutes from the February 6th Council Meeting were presented. Eric Bassett moved to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Mike Headley. All voted yes.

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

Mary Wann asked to speak to council about the village-wide garage sale she heads every year. (This is the 20th year.) She wants to put up a tent on either the lot on Smith Street the village owns or across the street on a lot that the Church of Christ owns. She also outlined all her preparation so far. Council is agreeable to let her use our lot. She will meet with Kent Miller on site to determine if it will work for her. She asked to have the village hang a banner across the street downtown. This was turned down because the buildings are not sturdy enough to hold a banner without damage. The mayor offered suggestions as to alternative locations. The sale will be held June 2nd and 3rd.

Boards & Commissions:

- *Park Board* minutes from the February 15th meeting were in the packets.
- *Cemetery Board* is scheduled to meet Tuesday, February 21st and 2:30 pm. Baker also announced the Board is still accepting applications for sexton.

Council Committees:

- *Water & Sewer* minutes from the February 8th meeting were passed out tonight.
- The *Police & Fire Committee* met February 13th - minutes are in the packets.
- The *Sidewalk Committee* presented minutes from their February 13th meeting.
 - Baker noted that although she is not for it, the other committee members are in favor of adding a \$3.00 per month charge to utility bills and change the ordinance to have the village become responsible for all sidewalks
 - Troy Essex reminded council the liability would be non-quantifiable. A discussion was already held with Conrad Beck, our contact for the Ohio Plan insurance the village has. He said the best scenario would be for the current ordinance to be applied and enforced. He also spoke of an option if a resident cannot afford to fix a sidewalk. The village would repair the sidewalk and assess the cost to the property tax. A program could be established to allow the resident a specific time period (2 years / 3 years) in which to pay the assessment. He is only giving a suggestion which would work for the village and the resident.
 - Baker would like the section banning bicycles, skateboards, etc. from the downtown area to be repealed. She feels strict enforcement of the existing ordinance would go a long way to solving current issues.
 - Richard Fox, a resident of the village, would like to remind the public that after a snowfall they have 24 hours to clean their sidewalks off. He is also concerned with semis using our side streets. He wondered if there is any law against it. Chief Ballinger said he is almost certain there is nothing we can do legally, but he will look into it.
 - Chief Ballinger stated he has never cited anyone for not shoveling, but his officers have spoken with residents and reminded them to do it. That has been enough in the past, but he can issue citations as it is a minor misdemeanor to ignore the ordinance.
 - Baker spoke to renters - they need to clean their sidewalks. It is not up to the landlord.
 - The mayor took this time to thank the person who cleans the long sidewalk to the school. It is greatly appreciated. A resident in the audience asked the mayor if he could tear out the section of sidewalk in front of his house. She told him no.
 - Another issue discussed was people parking their cars across the sidewalks. This is also covered in the existing ordinance. The police officers do stop and ask residents to move their cars whenever they see a violation. It was noted that in some places sidewalks and parking areas are indistinguishable from each other. Specific examples would be in front of Subway and in front of Bob's Auto.

Administrator's Report:

- Miller presented a letter from The Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) approving our \$150,000 grant for the N Main St water-line. That project will begin late summer and this grant will cover about half the cost.
- He also gave council a report from EMH&T outlining the recent bidding process for the Bryan/Main project. The contractor chosen is Vernon Nagel Inc. for \$1,879,417.00.
- Miller reminded residents that even though the weather is spring-like and many are doing yard work - the village is not doing any leaf sucking. It is still February. Headley asked if Miller would open the Elm Street lot early. He agreed and it will be open Thursday if anyone wants to bring in yard debris (leaves, twigs, etc.) General Pick up is in April. Until then, if any items other than regular 4 bags of trash is set out, the resident will be cited and charged.

Solicitor's Report:

- **Ordinance 2017-01** had the third and final reading by caption only to levy a tax for fire protection. Mike Headley made a motion to approve, seconded by Mike Barth. All voted yes.
- **Ordinance 2017-05** was read for the first time by caption only to repeal Chapter 909 and establish a new Chapter 909 addressing the sidewalk issues.
- **Ordinance 2017-06** was read for the first time by caption only authorizing a cooperative agreement with the OWDA for the CSO Project on Bryan/Main and declaring an emergency.
- **Resolution 2017-01** was read for the third and final time by caption only to present Police Chief Monty Ballinger his badge and service weapon upon his retirement. Mike Headley made a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.
- **Resolution 2017-03** was read for the first time by caption only authorizing a contract with Vernon Nagel Inc for the Bryan/Main Project and declaring an emergency. This will be charged to the Capital Projects line.
- **Resolution 2017-04** was read for the first time by caption only to enter a contract with EMH&T for engineering services and declaring an emergency. Note that the wording has changed from the original contract.
- **Resolution 2017-07** was read for the first time by caption only opposing Governor Kasich's 2017-2018 budget proposing changes to tax collection causing substantial revenue loss to local governments, and declaring an emergency.

Department Heads:

Police Chief Monty Ballinger thanked the village for giving him the privilege of serving for the past 36 years. He also presented the PD's annual report.

Fire Chief Scott Cramer was absent. Assistant Chief Hart proposed Blake Sholl to be hired as fireman. The mayor made the recommendation, with a good physical, drug screen and background check. He also needs to complete training. Mike Headley made a motion to accept the mayor's recommendation. Mike Barth seconded and all voted yes. Chief Cramer said there are additional open spots if anyone would like to apply.

EMS Chief Loni Kesler had no report.

Fiscal Officer Report:

- MTD/YTD Cash Report.

Mayor's Report:

- The mayor asked for the name of the Hicksville resident who has lived in town for the longest continuous span of time.
- There will be an open house for retiring Police Chief Friday at the Huber from 1 to 3 pm.
- The Defiance County Commissioners have funds to demolish abandoned properties again. If anyone has a prospect, let Mike Bailey know.
- The Great American Clean-up will run from March 20th to May 20th. If anyone or any group wants to have a "clean-up" project, they can get supplies provided and the trash picked up and disposed of. If you are interested, call city hall to get information.
- A copy of the minutes from the County Commissioners' meeting has been put into the packets. It is speaking to future development.
- The mayor attended a luncheon at 4 County and ate with students from Hicksville. They then gave her a tour of their classrooms. February is "Career and Technical Education" month.
- There was a letter from a concerned citizen for council to read concerning sidewalk issues. She also noted the article in the paper about Hicksville's spelling bee and math team. The mayor also congratulated Chelsea Taylor on her 1,000th basket.
- The mayor passed around letters from the third-grade class she spoke to. They were full of suggestions on how to make a better Hicksville, especially at the park.
- February 28th Congressman Latta's representative will be in the village to meet with the mayor and someone from Frontier Communications. They will be discussing all the problems we as a village have been having with Frontier service.

With no other business to discuss, Mike Headley made a motion to adjourn. Eric Bassett seconded. All voted yes. Council was adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Mayor

Fiscal Officer