

Regular Council

March 3, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Michael Headley in Larry Haver's absence.

The Pledge of Allegiance was repeated by all present.

Present were: Council members Mark Haver, Ron Jones, Ron Beverly, Mike Barth and Mick Pocratsky; Solicitor, Troy Essex; Administrator, Kent Miller; and Clerk/Treasurer, Diane Collins. There were 5 visitors present.

Haver moved to approve the February 17 regular council minutes. Jones seconded. Barth abstained. Haver yes. Pocratsky voted yes with the following change: amend the minutes to reflect an addition to the Water/Sewer/Refuse Committee Report. He would like it mentioned that he and Headley voiced concerns about the cost to the Village if residents let their water run on cold days. Jones & Beverly voted yes.

Beverly questioned the reason behind the very high electricity sewer bills. The exact reason was unknown. Pocratsky moved to approve the bills after pointing out a typo on the Galls bill and asking the sewer charges be looked into. Barth seconded. All voted yes.

Park Board: Board representative Stephanie Mazur was present to update council. They have one new board member and are looking for a second. Headley reported that Kent Miller has ordered a new truck and the park board will take the old truck Miller will no longer need. The minutes from the February meeting were in the council packets.

Water/Sewer/Refuse Committee: The current Refuse collection codified ordinance was placed in the council packets at the request of councilmember Barth. He wanted everyone to have a chance to review prior to going into executive session for possible litigation. Beverly asked if there was anything in the legislation that would prevent a resident from moving refuse from one dwelling to another. It does not appear so.

Administrator's Report: Miller reported the following:

- Miller will be going to the Public Officials Conference in Columbus on Tuesday afternoon (March 4) and should be back in town Thursday night. He plans to take a few things to work on at night, including a sewer use and/or oil & grease use ordinance. We are again having issues with grease being dumped into the sewers, and we have nothing in our ordinance to address the problem. He hopes to get enough ideas from other communities to incorporate into a document for our use.
- Miller is waiting for an updated estimate from EMH&T for the Haver Drive sewer project. During the week of February 17-21, the lift station and manholes overflowed, creating an SSO incident which we had to report. As such, we will be hearing from OEPA about that and what steps we will take to resolve the problem. Miller feels that regardless of what our Long Term Control Plan turns out to include, this line will be on the list. Beverly asked if we would be keeping the front ditches and swales. Miller said they would stay. It was noted that in the past there had been some resistance to do the project. Beverly and Barth both stated they think we need to look at a bigger picture out there. There was no resistance tonight. Miller plans to proceed.
- He has been getting a lot of calls about pot holes and has filled quite a few. Some are not considered pot holes and cold patch will not fix them. Miller has called a company about taking care of those problems.
- The recycling lot is reverting back to the spring/summer hours. It will be open Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays. It was closed today, however, because of the snow.
- Residents may notice trees around town being marked with yellow dots or red x's. Asplundh is marking trees for removal or trimming for AEP later this year. Door hangers are being placed at houses alerting folks to what is going on. The trees involved are both in our tree lawn and on private lawns which have trees under power lines. Miller has not received a complete list yet of how many of "our" trees will be affected, but know of two for sure as of this writing.

Miscellaneous:

Ordinance 2014-03 to approve the codified ordinances was read by caption only for the second reading.

The Deed to some property at the old elementary school site was given to Mayor Haver incorrectly. Essex said someone at the school was supposed to be sending a corrected version. This relates to the corner of North Bryan and West Arthur Streets where a war memorial is being planned. We have a Deed for five acres of land the County Commissioners are purchasing for ARC Solutions. The Planning Commission needs to meet and approve the lot split from the Village then stamp and record the Deed.

Collins had forward an e-mail request from the Chamber of Commerce to place new banners uptown. The banners would be purchased by businesses that would then place their own logo on the top of the banner. The banners would be similar in appearance and still contain the Village’s logo “A Proud Past A Bright Future”. Council was agreeable. Pocratsky suggested the Village fill in the empty spaces with our own banners.

Police/Fire/EMS: Headley explained to everyone that prior to Mayor Haver leaving on vacation he, and the Mayor met with Lt. Monty Ballinger to discuss the process to replace Police Chief Willis should Willis turn his resignation in while the Mayor was on vacation. The committee met tonight prior to this meeting and unanimously agreed to offer the Chief’s job to Lt. Monty Ballinger. Essex stated “same as before is applicable”. There is no need to advertise for an opening as our policy states because this is a promotion. Beverly moved to promote Lt. Ballinger to Chief of Police. Jones seconded. All voted yes.

Lt Ballinger placed a written request in the council packets to give retiring Chief of Police Doug Willis his service weapon and his badge due to his exemplary service to the Village of Hicksville. Essex stated that legislation needs to be brought before council before that can happen.

Clerk/Treasurer’s Report: Collins shared the MTD/YTD Cash Report and Income Tax Report with council. She passed out the Cash Basis Annual Financial Statement and reminded the finance committee that they are responsible for its accuracy. Collins asked council to write off some income tax accounts that are over 20 years old and are past the statute of limitations for collection. Pocratsky moved to approve. Jones seconded. All voted yes.

Mayor’s Report: The February Mayor’s Court Report was in council packets. Headley commended the village employees on an excellent job removing snow.

Barth moved to go into executive session for possible litigation and Beverly wanted to go into executive session for possible land acquisition & economic development. Beverly moved to approve. All voted yes.
(6:35 p.m. – 7 p.m.) Beverly moved to return to regular session. Pocratsky seconded. All voted yes.

Haver moved to adjourn. Pocratsky seconded. All voted yes.

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Mayor	Clerk/Treasurer