

Regular Council Minutes

Monday, March 7, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Diane Collins.

A Prayer was given by the Mayor.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Present were: Council members Mike Barth, Shelia Baker, Ron Beverly, Mike Headley, Mick Pocratsky; Administrator Kent Miller; and Clerk-Treasurer Cheryl Smith. Solicitor Troy Essex and Council President Ron Jones were absent.

Ron Beverly made a motion to approve the February 15th minutes, seconded by Mike Headley. All voted yes.

Mick Pocratsky moved to approve the current bills list, seconded by Ron Beverly. All voted yes.

A representative of St. Michael's Catholic Church was to speak about vacating the alley on the west side of the church but did not attend. The Mayor explained that drivers are using it as a cut-through to Antwerp Drive and creating a nuisance as well as a potential liability issue. Kent Miller would like the representative and Troy Essex to meet and discuss the process of vacating an alley.

Planning Commission: A Notice of Public Hearing that was held March 3rd was in the packet (also emailed to each council member.) Minutes from that meeting were enclosed which stated the lot split at 605 Industrial Drive was approved by the Commission.

The minutes from the February 25th meeting were enclosed. A lot split at 322 Chicago Avenue was requested and approved.

Nuisance Board: A meeting was held February 23rd to discuss the demolition project offered by the County Commissioners. Zoning Inspector Mike Bailey had a list of 14 potential properties, with 4 meeting the criteria to possibly tear down. A follow up meeting will be held March 8th at 9 am in the council room.

Beautification Committee: A meeting was held February 15th in council chambers. Minutes cover discussion of financials, town plantings, the summer plant sale, and possibly signs for the beds. Susan Mack spoke about the "Hicksville Helping Hicksville" organization and the need for a volunteer database. Donia Anderson reported her 4-H club does projects and referred to some, notably at the nursing home. The next meeting will be March 14th at 3:30 pm in council chambers.

Park Board: A meeting was held February 17th to discuss the summer program and replacing a Board Member who resigned. Park Director Val Shull reported on upcoming events and Mayor Diane Collins spoke about possible park projects. Minutes were in the packets. The mayor recommended Rick Belton to replace Marlin Eicher. Mick Pocratsky made a motion to accept the mayor's recommendation. Mike Headley seconded it. All voted yes.

Cemetery Board: The mayor reported that the Board has asked her to recommend Don Brown to replace Lois Daniels on the Board. The mayor expressed our condolences to her husband Ron and spoke of our appreciation for Lois's work on behalf of the Cemetery Board. Mike Headley made a motion to accept the appointment of Don Brown to the Cemetery Board. Mike Barth seconded the motion. All voted yes.

Administrator's Report: Kent Miller reported Steve Nye's last day is March 11th. He has advertised for a replacement. The Recycle Lot is now on summer hours. General Pick up will be April 5th and 6th. He also included a list of classes and seminars coming up over the next few weeks and the personnel who will be attending.

Miller asked council to make a decision as to whether we pursue rehabbing the old water tower or build a new one. He has taken preliminary steps to gather information on building a new tower based on previous discussion by council. He needs a direct answer as he is under time constraints as well as budgetary ones. It was decided to go back to committee again. They are meeting Thursday, March 10th at 4 pm.

Miscellaneous: Ordinance 2016-03 to rezone 205 and 209 Wendell Avenue from Residential to Light Industrial was read by caption only for the first reading. Mike Headley moved to suspend the rules. Ron Beverly seconded. All voted yes. Ordinance 2016-03 was read by caption only for the second and third readings. Mike Barth moved to approve. Mick Pocratsky seconded. All voted yes.

Resolution 2016-02 to authorize the mayor to apply for a safety grant was read by caption only for the first reading. Mick Pocratsky moved to suspend the rules. Mike Headley seconded. All voted yes. Resolution 2016-03 was read by caption only for the second and third readings. Ron Beverly moved to approve. Mick Pocratsky seconded. All voted yes.

A draft of the proposed changes to the personnel manual was given out. It was decided to send it to the Personnel Committee for discussion. They will meet Wednesday, March 9th at 3 pm.

Police/Fire/EMS: Police Chief Monty Ballinger had no report. Fire Chief Scott Cramer reminded everyone about the Pancake & Sausage Breakfast March 19th at the Fire Hall from 7 to 11 am. EMS Chief Loni Kesler reported they were working together to make a list of items for purchase using the safety grant they are applying for.

Mike Headley announced a meeting for the committee on March 21st at 5 pm in council chambers. They need to discuss the fire levy as well as applying for available grants.

Clerk/Treasurer’s Report: The Clerk submitted the MTD/YTD Income Tax Report, noting that last month collections were up 29% over last year, and 18% over-all for 2016. Included in the packet was a copy of a letter from the Defiance County Budget Commission. A Notice of Legislation Authority from the State was also included to notify the village council of a liquor license transfer. The deadline for a hearing is March 18th. An updated Open Records Policy was submitted to council for approval. Mick Pocratsky made a motion to approve the policy. Ron Beverly seconded. All voted yes.

Mayor’s Report - The mayor reported she has been approached by Lifeline Connect Church concerning a mission group coming to Hicksville this summer that would like a small project to do. She asked the Park Board and they were not interested. She also has had inquiries about community service projects that may be available for a local business. If anyone has any suggestions, please contact her office. Mick Pocratsky reminded council we should have a signed waiver before anyone does volunteer projects in the village.

The mayor has spoken with the new Rotary president about a project at the park. The project discussed is construction of a “Splash Pad” for the kids. The mayor has spoken with the Park Board who did not show any interest. Council is of a collective opinion that a sizeable project has not been done for the Park in quite some time. They would like more information about the construction and maintenance of a “Splash Pad” so they can make a decision about committing to the project.

The mayor has had a complaint from a resident about a neighbor. She would like to be able to fix the problem and asked Police Chief Ballinger if he is able to handle it. He will talk to the person but legally he cannot do anything. There would have to be a change to our ordinances.

Council Member Shelia Baker would like to remind residents burning in the village is “for entertainment only.” If you use a fire pit it is for clean wood only - not trash or garbage. She also asked council about rescinding the “no bicycles” downtown; removing all the signage; and installing water fountains. It was decided that these questions need to be addressed by the Ordinance Committee. When Ron Jones returns from vacation a meeting will be set up.

The February Mayor’s Court Report and February PD Fines and Fees were in the packets.

Mike Headley moved to adjourn, seconded by Ron Beverly. All voted yes. Council was adjourned at 7 pm.