

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES

Monday, April 17, 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 then recited by all present.

The following persons were in attendance: Council members Shelia Baker, Mike Barth, Eric Bassett, Ron Beverly, Ron Jones and Mike Headley; Solicitor Troy Essex; Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith; and Administrator Kent Miller.

Minutes from the April 3rd 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.

A Notice of Public Hearing was presented for an application to rezone 727 Ogen Street from M1 Light Industrial to R4 Single Family. The hearing will be held April 27th at 5 pm in the Zoning Office at 108 N. Main Street.

Boards & Commissions:

- Minutes from the April 18th HIX TV meeting were in the packets.
- Minutes from the March 27th Beautification Committee meeting were in the packets.

Council Committees:

The Police & Fire Committee met April 6th and minutes were in the packets.

Administrator's Report:

Miller was present but had no report.

Solicitor's Report:

- **Ordinance 2017-08** was read for the final time by caption only to repeal Section 343.14 of the codified ordinances regarding the use of bicycles and similar devices on certain sidewalks in the village.
- A spirited discussion was held with both sides of the issue vigorously defending their opinions. Those for repealing the ordinance stated their reasons as "going green", making Hicksville a friendlier place, removing all the rules that are impossible to enforce evenly, and encouraging everyone to get out and exercise. Those against the ordinance were uneasy about kids running wild on skateboards and other wheeled objects and knocking people down as they exited businesses. Everyone did agree that the sidewalk is safer than riding down High Street with cars backing out. The solicitor was asked his opinion which was if the ordinance was left to stand, it should be enforced evenly, which is difficult without an officer being stationed downtown at all times, or repeal it. Beverly had polled several law enforcement organizations around the area and of 16, ~~11 have no ordinance to follow and 5 did.~~ 5 have no ordinance to follow and 11 did. Mike Barth had suggested we go back to a line down the sidewalk marking the "riding" lane, but Headley responded that currently we have trees and large flower pots in that space so it would be hazardous to the bikers. Police Chief Stickney reminded council if they allow bicycles downtown they will need to provide bike racks. Limited hours were discussed as well as 24/7 rules, and even expanding the ordinance to cover the entire village. Mike Headley asked the solicitor to reiterate what a "yes" vote meant and what a "no" vote meant, then made a motion to approve the ordinance, seconded by Shelia Baker. Bassett, Beverly and Jones voted no. Headley, Baker and Barth voted yes. Mayor Collins had the tie breaking vote, and it was yes. The ordinance passed.
- **Ordinance 2017-09** was read for the final time by caption only amending Section 921.01 of the codified ordinances to amend the performance bond amount for curb and road excavation. Ron Jones made a motion to approve seconded by Mike Barth. Jones, Baker, Bassett, Headley and Barth voted yes. Beverly voted no.
- **Ordinance 2017-10** was read for the final time by caption only to increase the sewer rate. Mike Barth made a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Bassett. Jones, Baker, Bassett, Headley and Barth voted yes. Beverly voted no.
- **Ordinance 2017-11** was read for the final time by caption only to revise water rates. Mike Barth made a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Bassett. Jones, Baker, Bassett, Headley and Barth voted yes. Beverly voted no.
- **Ordinance 2017-12** was read for the first time by caption only to authorize the Fiscal Officer to transfer funds from the general fund to the Police Pension Fund and the Capital Projects Fund.

Department Heads:

- ***Police Chief Kirk Stickney*** brought forward 3 names for the mayor to recommend to council. She then recommended Jason Tate, Brandon Shuherk and Shane Bostic be hired as full-time police officers, pending good physicals and drug screens. Shuherk and Bostic are already part-time officers and only need to complete the paperwork required to move from OPERS to Ohio Police & Fire Pension. Mike Headley made a motion to accept the mayor’s recommendation, seconded by Ron Jones. All voted yes. The officers were introduced by the chief. The mayor will contact them on a time to be officially sworn in when the paperwork is done.
- ***Fire Chief Scott Cramer*** reminded everyone the Auxiliary is holding their annual Ladies Day Out on April 29th from 9 am until 2 pm. The mayor urged everyone to attend as it is a lot of fun.
- ***EMS Chief Loni Kesler*** reported on a new program the Rescue Squad is participating in called the “Community Safety Net.” The squad has been collecting donations from businesses to fund the program geared toward 4th and 5th graders. They now have enough to provide for 130 kids.
- ***Park Director Val Shull*** was absent.

Fiscal Officer Report:

- MTD/YTD Cash Report
- Mediacom Franchise Fee Report

Mayor’s Report:

The mayor and Councilman Barth met with Jerry Hayes from the office of Defiance County Economic Development, Dennis Miller from Maumee Valley Planning and several others to explore applying for a village-wide CRA (Community Investment Area.) The commissioners Mick Pocratsky and Ryan Mack were on hand to answer questions and state their support of the program. Jerry Hayes gave an overview of the project, its time-line and requirements. He also provided detailed information for each councilman to read. Basically, any home owner, business owner, industry or retailer can apply for a tax exemption on any improvement they do to an existing property that qualifies for the program. Once the village completes their part of the paperwork and sets up a CRA (6-8 months), any owner can apply. They will complete their construction/remodeling, and any increase in tax will be exempt for a set amount of time according to their individual contract. If you have a home/business/flower shop valued at \$100,000.00 and you do an addition/remodel adding \$50,000.00 in value, you will still be taxed at \$100,000.00 - not \$150,000.00. (This is an example of a 100% exemption - it varies with the individual project.) The first step in the process is to meet with the School Superintendent and Treasurer as well as the School Board. Council is in favor of moving forward.

N&K Holdings LLC was present (Anthony Nighswander and Justin Kuhn) to answer the rumors going around about their purchase of the Hickory Hills Golf Course and their plans for it. They wanted to speak directly to council and answer any questions or concerns the village may have. They had asked several others involved with the project to attend as well including the school superintendent Keith Countryman, Watson Well Drilling, builders Roger Delagrange and Dean Yoder, engineer Dave Brown and others. They passed out drawings of the project which will be completed in 2 phases. Nighswander explained that with area businesses expanding they must hire people to grow with them, and the area is limited in real estate availability. New families are moving to nearby communities but choose to school their children in Hicksville. Building in Hicksville is also limited by available land. After the overview by Nighswander and Kuhn, council asked many questions and voiced their reservations. They also concurred that growth is always a good thing. Their job is to make sure it has no adverse effect on the village. Council agreed to choose an engineer to work on behalf of the village with their engineer. They want assurances that it can be done, and if it is done, what is the cost to the village, since They need to know of any long-term effects, specifically water run-off and the effect on the aquafer with so many wells being dug in the area (one for each new house).

With no other business to discuss, Mike Headley made a motion to adjourn. Eric Bassett seconded. All voted yes. Council was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Mayor

Fiscal Officer