

Regular Council Minutes

Monday April 18, 2016 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.

Present were: Mayor Diane Collins; Council members Ron Jones, Mike Barth, Shelia Baker, Ron Beverly, Mike Headley, Mick Pocratsky; Administrator Kent Miller and Solicitor Troy Essex. Absent: Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith; Senior Utility Clerk Dawn Hostetler recorded the minutes in her absence.

Ron Jones made a motion to approve the April 4th minutes, seconded by Mike Headley. All voted yes.

Shelia Baker questioned the line items for Defiance Publishing Co. and Village Players; Mayor Collins explained we advertise locally for open positions and ad space in Village Players playbill was charged to the Mayor but placed on behalf of Council. Ron Beverly questioned Shock Hardware miscellaneous (itemized on the actual invoice) approved by the Park Director. Ron Beverly made a motion to approve the current bills list, seconded by Mike Barth. Beverly, Jones, Headley, Baker and Pocratsky voted yes with Mike Barth abstaining.

Shelley Nighswander was to address council but was not present.

Architectural Review Board: The Board met at 7:45 am April 18th. Kent Miller handed out minutes. Board Member Tony Nighswander will be getting quotes on signage. It was felt a large sign with all businesses listed would be located at the SR 49 entrance and smaller sign would be put on the Meuse Argonne entrance. Mick Pocratsky questioned who would pay for the signs. It was determined to be the village. Kent stated the committee would review and share with council after figures on cost are available.

Park Board: Park Director Val Shull had no issues. She stated that the Wi-Fi will be hooked up tomorrow, April 20th.

Water/Sewer/Refuse Committee: The April 6th committee meeting minutes were in council packets. Interviews for new water tower engineering firms will take place Monday April 25th starting at 4:00 pm. Kent handed out the EMHT Hicksville Project update. Ron Beverly expressed concern about possibly losing a \$500,000.00 grant and \$500,000.00 loan for this project due to the time frame. Mike Barth stated that was a possibility due to all of the changes that have been made. A May 5th meeting is scheduled to discuss with OPWC in Columbus.

Ordinance Committee: The committee met prior to the Council meeting. They voted no on changing the ordinance concerning bicycle riding in the downtown area. Signage changes and open burning issues discussed. Comments were made to the enforcement of ordinances by the police department. Chief Ballinger responded to the concerns. Administrator Kent Miller reminded all of the cost involved with sign changes.

Street/Light/Property: Ron Beverly stated his questions as to Village involvement with the Veterans Memorial had been answered.

Kent Miller requested a decision from council on either painting or again using decals on parking spots that are being redone. Pros and cons discussed were the cost \$9000.00 for paint, \$13,000.00 for decals. Decals last longer; painting can be done sooner; and would the area where decals were removed need resealed? A motion to approve decals and discuss seal coat at a later date was made by Ron Beverly, seconded by Mike Headley. All voted yes.

Administrator's Report: The Administrator's Report is as follows:

General pick up generated 71.54 tons of trash.

The next three issues are all pay ordinance related. Whatever committee is designated to look it over can do so. I only ask it does not drag out for months. Mayor Collins stated she would like the Personnel Committee to look at this.

Ethan Hathaway and Austin Zeedyk have been employed for over a year and have done well. I would like council's ok to bump them up a bit in pay, but not to the full Grade I Laborer rate. I am asking council to amend the Grade II pay rate from \$14.61 to \$15.50. This would involve either amending the pay line item for Grade II Laborer, or making this rate Grade II pay, then making Grade III the current Grade II pay and making Grade III the new Grade IV pay range (see reverse for table). Either way it should be fairly simple. I am also asking council to amend the zoning position to include being assistant to administrator at \$14.00 per hour. Currently the zoning position pays \$10.93. I have been giving Mike more and more to handle and I think he deserves the raise. The job description can simply be amended with "and any additional duties as assigned by the administrator". But, you can add a new line if you wish in case future people don't want or need the assistant. Lastly, in order to absorb some of the increase, I am asking for a decrease in the administrator's pay from \$57,937 per year to whatever council wants to make it. I have no problem taking a decrease if I am benefitting from a lightened work load. I do believe the current budget can handle the increases without draining any account.

AEP reps were in town on April 13th to go over Industrial Drive lighting. The new technician assigned to do the work will get a lay-out and estimated cost as soon as he can.

Ward Construction is planning to start the paving work during the first week of May, pending weather.

I was in Perrysburg most of April 14th for a Comp Mgmt. meeting which satisfied our BWC training requirement for the year.

I will be gone part of April 19th for a meeting in Archbold and part of April 20 for a meeting in Bryan.

Lastly, I am taking the week of May 2nd off regardless of what may be going on. I have not been able to take a full week off since July 2015 and I need a break. Plus, I need to burn a couple weeks before my anniversary date in July or I will lose them.

Solicitor’s Report: Resolution 2016-04 to appoint Mike Bailey and Cheryl Smith to serve on the Defiance County Tax Incentive Review Council on behalf of the Village of Hicksville was read by caption only for the first reading. Ron Beverly moved to suspend the rules, seconded by Ron Jones. All voted yes. Resolution 2016-04 was read for the second and third readings. A motion was made by Ron Jones to approve. Mick Pocratsky seconded. All voted yes.

Ordinance 2016-05 amending certain sections of the personnel manual was handed out and will be reviewed by the Personnel Committee.

Police/Fire/EMS: Police Chief Monty Ballinger reported an officer still on probation had been let go. He requested Mayor Collins recommend part-time patrolman Monica Herman be hired full-time. Mayor Collins made the recommendation. A motion to approve the recommendation was made by Ron Beverly, seconded by Mike Headley. All voted yes. Chief Ballinger introduced Office Herman and her husband. Council was also informed that Sergeant Kirk Stickney is a certified Fire Arms instructor. Discussion was held on where they should do the training.

Fire Chief Scott Cramer asked the mayor to recommend Kelly Noto and Philip Karacson be taken off of probation. Recommendation was made. Mick Pocratsky made a motion to approve, seconded by Mike Headley. All voted yes. Chief Cramer also stated there are 3 new recruits starting soon.

EMS Chief Loni Kesler asked the mayor to recommend David Woodring as a new EMT-I. She did so, pending a good physical, drug screen and background check. Mick Pocratsky made a motion to accept the mayor’s recommendation, seconded by Ron Beverly. All voted yes. Chief Kesler also requested a committee meeting to discuss personnel issues.

Fiscal Officer Report: The Clerk submitted the MTD/YTD Cash Report and March Mayors Court report.

She requested Mayor Collins remove Tax Administrator Kim Forster from probation. Recommendation was given and a motion to approve was made by Mike Headley, seconded by Mick Pocratsky. All voted yes.

A discussion occurred on a request for approval to enter an agreement with Zimon LLC for HIPAA certification. A motion to approve the agreement was made by Ron Jones, seconded by Mick Pocratsky. All voted yes.

Mayor’s Report - The mayor reported that the Splash Pad project initiated by the Hicksville Rotary club has received \$50,000.00 from the State, which may now make this a Village project. She also discussed applying for a Nature Works Grant for this project. Councilman Ron Beverly made a motion to have the Village participate in the project. He was seconded by Mike Barth. All voted yes. A committee for the project is being formed. Kent Miller will represent the village and stated he would make sure we stayed legal.

5C’s Farm has inquired as to their loan balance.

Mike Barth had set up a meeting with CSX and the Beautification committee to work on cleaning up the railroad tracks in town. Mowing was discussed.

Mayor Collins met with Nemco Food representatives and toured the plant. She asked the WSR committee to look into standing water issues at the location.

She reminded all employees of the Health Fair at CMH this week.

Mike Headley moved to adjourn, seconded by Ron Beverly. All voted yes. Council was adjourned at 7:00 pm.