

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES
and Annual Joint Meeting with the Hicksville Township Trustees

Monday, May 15, 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. From the Hicksville Township Trustees: Greg Collins, Jeff Green and Zane Zeedyk.

Mayor Collins presented a plaque to Officer Steve Talbott who is retiring from the Police Force after over twenty years' service. He received a standing ovation and thanks from council.

The Joint Meeting with the Hicksville Township Trustees was called to order. Zane Zeedyk recommended that Don Brown's term on the Cemetery Board be renewed for 3 years (from January 1, 2018 until December 31, 2020). Shelia Baker made a motion to approve the recommendation, seconded by Mike Headley. All voted yes.

Zeedyk then announced a new option to the public. They are able to sponsor a flag at the cemetery in memory of anyone they want for \$25.00. They will be set by Memorial Day and stay until after July 4th. At that time you can pick up your flag. Contact Zane Zeedyk, Shelia Baker or the Mayor if you are interested.

With no other items to discuss Eric Bassett made a motion to adjourn the joint meeting, seconded by Ron Beverly. All voted yes.

Rick Rostorfer, general manager of Sherwood Mutual Telephone Association (STMA) made a presentation to council about the company. They have purchased the Cline Grocery property to serve as their headquarters in Hicksville. They will begin with hiring 5 employees (3 have already been hired). They plan to install fiber optic cable throughout the village over a three-year period. The process will involve boring anywhere from 36" to 10 ft. or more. They will complete the project with the least disturbance possible to residents. They are currently in Sherwood and will move to Mark Center first and then on to Hicksville down 18 and Fountain Street Road. Letters will go out shortly to the populace to explain things. They will be offering broadband phone, TV and internet. There are no firm estimates of cost for residents who wish to sign up but he promises to be very competitive.

Minutes from the May 1st Council Meeting were presented. Ron Beverly made a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

A list of bills to be paid was presented to council. Beverly asked about the Poggemeyer bill and when the project will go to bid. Kent Miller expects bidding in July. Bassett asked about the Cable TV conversion cost. Bill Murphy explained that all the programming of HIX TV on VHS tapes were being converted to DVD. Baker asked where the fence repair was being done. Miller replied it was along E. Smith Street. Ron Beverly then made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Mike Headley. All voted yes.

A Public Hearing was held for council to hear any comments or discussion for a zoning change at 727 Ogen Street from M1 to R4. There was none. Essex will bring legislation to a Special Council Meeting for voting.

A Notice of Public Hearing was presented to hear an application for a lot split at 615 E. High Street. The meeting will be held by the Planning Commission June 1st at the zoning office, 108 N. Main Street, at 5 pm.

Boards & Commissions:

- Minutes from the May 13th HIX TV meeting were on the desks tonight

Council Committees:

- Minutes from the May 9th Water/Sewer/Refuse Committee meeting were on the desks tonight

Mike Barth reported that the committee met with department heads, village administrator, Maumee Valley Planning (Ellen Smith), Defiance Co. Economic Development (Jerry Hayes) and NK Holdings to discuss the findings of Poggemeyer engineers. The new subdivision will run their lines along 18 and tie in to Hicksville past the creek, bypassing Haver Drive. Ron Jones made a motion to approve this plan, seconded by Eric Bassett. Baker, Barth, Bassett, Headley and Jones voted yes. Beverly voted no.

- Minutes from the May 10th Street/Light/Property meeting were on the desks tonight

Shelia Baker reported the committee discussed the overall appearance of the village. They would like to see various eyesores cleaned up. Specific properties will be referred to the Nuisance Board for proper action. With guidance from the solicitor and ODOT they do not recommend a “Deaf Child” sign be placed at the corner of Hicks and S. Bryan. Such informational signs serve as a distraction to drivers reading the sign and then looking around for children instead of watching the road. It also provides a false sense of security to area parents. A sign will not keep your child safe - keeping them out of the street will. Baker also thanked everyone who is keeping up their sidewalks. They are looking good and she appreciates it. Baker asked for an Executive Session before the meeting ends to discuss a possible land purchase.

Administrator’s Report:

Miller reported he has placed parking blocks at Subway and Bob’s Auto per council decision. They have stopped people from parking over the sidewalk but are moving out of line. He asked council to decide if they wanted them pinned permanently. He does not want to break up perfectly good cement if council is going to reverse their decision in a few weeks. A heated discussion ensued during which various council people reported hearing conflicting reports about the blocks, and whether or not the blocks are on private or village property. They have heard from owners who like them, managers who do not, employees who have their opinions. During the shouting, people seated in the audience joined in. They wanted to know why 2 businesses get blocks, and Slattery get stripes painted? Are they getting preferential treatment? After more spirited discussion council began getting away from the original question. The mayor stepped in and told council they were “overthinking” the situation. Mike Barth made a motion to “place and pin” these blocks and any others in the future. Eric Bassett seconded the motion. Barth, Bassett, Jones and Headley voted no. Beverly and Baker voted yes. The motion failed.

Solicitor’s Report:

- **Ordinance 2017-12** was read for the final 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. Ron Jones made a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.
- **Resolution 2017-08** to oppose the State of Ohio’s proposal for a centralized collection of net profit tax returns was read for the second time by caption only.
- Essex is working on the contract with Sherwood to collect their income tax.

Department Heads:

- **Police Chief Kirk Stickney** asked council to approve Monica Herman being promoted from Patrolman II to Patrolman I. The mayor made the recommendation. Mike Headley made the motion to approve the promotion, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes. Stickney was asked if he had a Sergeant or Lieutenant yet. He said he would have something to report shortly.
- ***The Mayor read a Proclamation naming the week of May 14-20 as Police Week. May 15th was Police Memorial Day honoring all those officers who lost their lives in the line of duty.***
- **Fire Chief Scott Cramer** asked for a meeting of the Police & Fire Committee to discuss Township contracts.
- **EMS Chief Loni Kesler** announced the resignations of our 2 paramedics effective May 31st. When asked if she had anyone in class or interested in class, she said no. The mayor asked if she had spoken with students at 4-County and she said no, but she had spoken to an instructor. There is only 1 student from Hicksville.
- **Park Director Val Shull** was absent. The pool is being filled so the leak can be investigated.

Fiscal Officer Report:

- MTD/YTD Cash Report
- April HPD and Mayor’s Court Reports
- Current numbers on Phase I LTCP
- Letter from Mediacom removing a channel from the lineup

Mayor’s Report:

The mayor had the following announcements:

- The Beautification Committee plant sale was a success
- The school held an art show Friday - she congratulated all the talented kids who participated
- The village-wide garage sales will be June 2 & 3
- Council can now be seen on You Tube

The mayor then asked the residents if anyone would like to address council. Dave Martin took the podium to complain about a piece of construction equipment parked in front of his house for a long time. He asked the foreman about it already. It is used by the workers when trenching to prevent the sides of the hole from collapsing in on them. The work they are doing now doesn't require this piece of equipment to be used but they still need it on hand for safety reasons. Martin wants it moved. The mayor said she would see what she could do. He then criticized the mayor's treatment of his wife when she called to complain that her flowers had been removed by the cemetery.

The mayor apologized if she came off too harsh. She drove out to the cemetery after hearing stories about urns, statues, etc. all being removed. She assured the public that this was not the case.

Zane Zeedyk spoke to the issue reminding citizens that it was published in the paper twice, as every year, and a sign is posted at the entrance to the cemetery with the date to remove all flowers. Because of the social media outcry, he gave anyone 2 days to come and collect their flowers. After that he got rid of them. Besides an announcement in the paper, a sign on site and 2 extra days, he is not sure what else he could have done. He reminded Mr. Martin that person #1's flowers may appear old and faded, and person #2's will look new. He cannot pick & choose which flowers to collect. Person #1 might think her flowers are beautiful. In order to be fair, he has to collect them all. It is his job to maintain the cemetery so once a year this will happen. If it didn't in the past, it should have. The policy is not new. The Board is meeting in July and will see if they have any options to avoid the uproar that is going on this year. (Maybe banning Facebook, Twitter, and all social media from Hicksville) That's just me

Resident Chris Helf asked about the final legislation for his zoning change request. Essex told council they will have to have a Special Council Meeting because they only have 20 days to decide the issue. The next council meeting exceeds this time frame. They will inform Helf as soon as it is set up.

At 7:25 pm Shelia Baker made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss a possible land purchase. Mike Headley seconded the motion. All voted yes. At 8:00 Mike Barth made a motion to return to Open Session, seconded by Mike Headley. All voted yes.

With no other business to discuss Mike Headley made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

Mayor

Fiscal Officer