

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES

Monday May 16, 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.

Roll call was taken with the following persons in attendance: Mayor Diane Collins; Council members Ron Jones, Mike Barth, Shelia Baker, Ron Beverly, Mike Headley, Mick Pocratsky; Administrator Kent Miller; Solicitor Troy Essex; and Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith.

Mike Headley made a motion to approve the May 2nd minutes, seconded by Ron Jones. All voted yes.

Ron Jones made a motion to approve the current bills list, seconded by Mike Barth. Jones, Baker, Pocratsky, Headley and Beverly voted yes. Barth abstained.

The Mayor introduced Steve Flory who will be a write-in candidate for Sheriff. He spoke on his desire to give the voters a choice as well as talking about his experience and qualifications.

Ryan Berger was also present and is a write-in candidate for County Commissioner. He spoke of his experience with management and budgeting, which he feels will be an asset to the Commissioners.

Anthony Nighswander was present to update council on signage for Industrial Drive. His presentation included pictures of what the signs would actually look like installed; technical information about the installation; and pricing. Harmon Signs and Spyker Construction will be doing the work for a combined cost of \$41,373.00. Mr. Nighswander cautioned council that this does not include any unforeseen costs. Electrical fees (meters, transformers, etc.) will not be known until after receiving the final drawing. Landscaping is not included. It was agreed by council that the signs look fine as they are and should be set without any landscaping. There will be a sign at the Industrial Drive/State Route 49 intersection that has each company name. Currently there are 8 to be listed. The remaining spaces will be set with contact information (for example: Village of Hicksville 419-542-6161 and Defiance Economic Council) and replaced as new companies move in. At the Meuse Argonne entrance there will be a marker sign as well as posts with blue signs naming the companies individually. The initial signs will be paid for by the village. As new companies come in they will receive their sign from the village. If they choose to make any changes after that, it will be at their cost. The timeline is 5 to 6 weeks. Kent Miller will send Mr. Nighswander the contact information at AEP. They will see if the installation of lighting along Industrial Drive and the new signs can be done as one project. According to the Mayor, the signs are to be paid from the Industrial Park Community Development Fund. Mr. Nighswander and the committee were praised by the mayor and council for their hard work as well as for the beautiful signs they have proposed. When installed they will be a proud addition to Industrial Drive.

Roberta Acosta from RCAP was present to discuss financing options and to hand out a current recommendation about rates. Since council dropped the base rate for sewer service from \$35.00 to \$15.00 per month, a deficit has occurred from what they had budgeted for the year. One way to make up the deficit is to raise the consumption rate from \$6.50 per 1,000 gallons to \$9.25 per 1,000 gallons. OWDA funding process begins after June 10th bid opening for Phase I (Columbia/Ogen/Antwerp projects). If all the paperwork is done it could be approved as early as the last Thursday in June when the OWDA meets. Council needs to commit to a timeline for repayment before paperwork can be submitted. Haver Drive can be submitted in 30-60 days depending on when the bidding process is completed.

Architectural Review Committee: The minutes from the May 9th meeting were in the packets.

Park Board: Park Director Val Shull was present. She announced that the pool would open May 31st if all goes well. Arman Haver was recommended by the Park Board and Mayor for part-time park laborer. Mike Headley moved to accept the recommendation pending a good physical and drug screen and Mike Barth seconded. Jones, Headley, Barth, Baker, Pocratsky voted yes. Beverly abstained. It was also noted that the council, at the last meeting, had approved free pool passes on any day the temperature was 95 or higher.

Ordinance Committee: The May 9th minutes were in the packets. They will meet again to discuss and recommend changes to the open burning ordinance.

Water/Sewer/Refuse Committee: The committee met May 5th to discuss wages and salary rates for the Superintendents. Council protested this discussion and said it was under the purview of the Personnel Committee. No action was taken and the issue was referred to the Personnel Committee.

Street/Light/Property Committee: The Administrator had asked for a ruling on the “15 minute’ parking time limit signs in the downtown area. It was the consensus of council that they were no longer necessary. Ron Beverly made a motion that they be removed. Mike Headley seconded it. Jones, Barth, Baker, Beverly, Headley voted yes. Pocratsky voted no.

Administrator’s Report: The report in the packets is as follows:

Solicitor’s Report: **Ordinance 2016-05** to approve changes to the Personnel Manual was read by caption only for the final reading.

Ordinance 2016-06 to restructure the street, water, sewer and refuse departments was read by caption only for the second reading.

Ordinance 2016-07 to implement a fire levy was read by caption only for the first reading.

Resolution 2016-05 establishing a new pay rate for the Zoning Inspector was read by caption only for the second reading.

Police/Fire/EMS: Police Chief Monty Ballinger asked council to approval moving Sgt. Kirk Stickney to Lieutenant. He offered an official letter citing his reasons for the promotion and his personal opinion as chief of the department, that Sgt. Stickney is qualified and will be an asset in his new post. The mayor made her recommendation, Mike Headley made a motion to accept the recommendation. Mick Pocratsky seconded the motion. All voted yes.

Fire Chief Scott Cramer asked to hire Cody Sanders as a new fireman. The mayor asked if he would require training. He does. She recommended him pending a good physical, drug test, and BCI. Mike Headley made the motion to approve the hiring. Mick Pocratsky seconded it. All voted yes.

EMS Chief Loni Kesler reported AEMT David Woodring has completed his physical, drug screen and BCI check and will begin immediately.

Fiscal Officer Report: The Clerk submitted the MTD/YTD Cash Report. Also included as a copy of an article sent out by the State of Ohio Ethics Commission concerning nepotism and the hiring process.

- **Mayor’s Report:** -
The Mayor announced the Village-wide garage sale will be June 3rd & 4th. If anyone wishes to participate they can call May Wann at 419-542-7237.
- She received an email from the Defiance County Senior Services stating they are looking for a driver. The job is approximately 28 hours a week.
- The Village received a thank-you letter from the HHS Superintendent for the donation made to Boys Baseball in honor of Stan Pocratsky.
- A new business has opened in the downtown area called the Country Petal.
- The Beautification Committee would like to make a plan for the Rain Garden and submit it to council with their approval.

Troy Essex asked for an executive session to discuss possible litigation concerning a Revolving Loan. Ron Beverly made the motion and Mike Headley seconded it. All voted yes. The council went into executive session at 7:30 pm.

Mick Pocratsky moved to return to regular session. Mike Headley seconded. All voted yes. Council returned to regular session at 7:49 pm.

Ron Beverly made a motion that the solicitor, on behalf of the village, pursue litigation involving personal guarantees from the owners of 5 C’s. Shelia Baker seconded. All voted yes.

Mike Barth moved to adjourn, seconded by Mike Headley. All voted yes. Council was adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Mayor

Fiscal Officer