

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES

Monday, June 5, 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 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; and Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith; Administrator Kent Miller was absent.

County Commissioner Mick Pocratsky presented Defiance County Eagle Scouts Alex Post, Brandon Miller and Ethan Wilhelm with proclamations and flags that have flown over the Courthouse.

Pocratsky also announced "Commissioners on the Road" will be at the Club House on June 21st at 11:30. He invited the public as well as council to attend. It is a chance to voice any concerns to the commissioners or to discuss things going on in the county. (The Club House is the former restaurant at Hickory Hills Golf Course.)

Mayor Collins presented letters to the above-named scouts including Matthew Wiley and congratulated them on their achievements.

Minutes from the May 15th Regular Council Meeting and the May 22nd Special Council Meeting were presented. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve the May 15th minutes, seconded by Mike Headley. All voted yes. Ron Beverly made a motion to approve the May 22nd minutes, seconded by Ron Jones. All voted yes.

A list of bills to be paid was presented to council. Ron Beverly made a motion to approve the list, seconded by Eric Bassett. Baker, Bassett, Headley, Jones and Beverly voted yes. Barth abstained.

Boards & Commissions:

- Minutes from the May 17th Board of Zoning Appeals meeting were in the packets. The subject was a request for a variance for a set-back at the front of lots located at 304 Wendell Avenue.
- Minutes from the June 1st Planning Commission meeting were in the packets. The discussion was about an application for a lot split at 615 East High Street.

Council Committees:

Minutes from the May 17th Police & Fire meeting were in the packets.

The meeting discussed the renewal of contracts with the various townships the department covers. They also directed the issue of rising costs to the Finance Committee. The question of the advantage of having a full-time Fire Chief was discussed.

The EMS Chief expressed concerns about the number of hours she has to work in order to cover the schedule. She is not happy about having no coverage if she wants to take a vacation or sick day.

The Police Chief has asked the committee to approve his promoting Monica Herman to Sergeant.

Mike Barth announced the Water/Sewer Committee will meet Wednesday at 4 pm to discuss the bids Kent Miller received from refuse collection companies.

Barth also reported he is following up with Feller & Finch on the contract to construct the new restroom/concession stand at the park. He is also keeping up with the progress of the Natureworks grant and the grant from the State of Ohio. There should be something concrete to report by the end of this week.

Beverly asked for an Executive Session later in the meeting to discuss a Personnel Issue.

Administrator's Report:

In Miller absence, the mayor read his report to council. It covered a problem with flushing things into the sewer that should not be flushed. He is waiting for the OEPA to respond to his request for a meeting. The legislation tonight will need to be passed as an emergency so the paperwork for the WPCLF principal forgiveness can be in Columbus by June 6th. The water and street personnel were out on the S. Maple St. main break from 6 pm Tuesday until 3 am Wednesday and still ran their trash route as usual. They also had a good-sized sewer dig on Spencerville St. on June 1st.

Miller also included the results of the May 23rd bid opening for the 2-part sewer project on East Cornelia Street. Beverly protested hiring the recommended companies since their

names were unknown to the village. He also said the company that omitted an item from their bid, reducing it by \$6500.00, should have been thrown out of the bidding process immediately. The mayor said council could trust that Miller knows what he's doing by presenting companies already vetted by the engineering firm (Jones & Henry). Beverly responded that he was right before, about Cash Services, but no one listens to him.

Solicitor's Report:

- **Ordinance 2017-14** was read by caption only to approve the editing, inclusion and repeal of certain ordinances, and declaring an emergency. Ron Jones made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mike Headley. All voted yes. Ordinance 2017-14 was then read by caption only for a second and third time. Mike Headley made a motion to approve the ordinance, seconded by Mike Barth. 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 third time by caption only. Ron Beverly made a motion to approve seconded by Ron Jones. All voted yes.
- First reading of **Resolution 2017-09** authorizing mayor to enter contract for fire and emergency services with Hicksville Township.
- First reading of **Resolution 2017-10** authorizing mayor to enter contract for fire and emergency services with Mark Township.
- First reading of **Resolution 2017-11** authorizing mayor to enter contract for fire and emergency services with Milford Township.
- First reading of **Resolution 2017-12** awarding Part A of the East Cornelia Sewer Project to Zee Construction Company and declaring an emergency. Ron Beverly made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Eric Bassett. Baker, Barth, Jones, Headley, Bassett voted yes. Beverly voted no. Resolution 2017-12 was read for a second and third time by caption only. Ron Jones made a motion to approve the ordinance, seconded by Mike Barth. Baker, Barth, Jones, Headley and Bassett voted yes. Beverly voted no.
- First reading of **Resolution 2017-13** awarding Part B of the East Cornelia Sewer Project to Layne Inliner LLC and declaring an emergency. Eric Bassett made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mike Headley. Baker, Barth, Jones, Headley, Bassett voted yes. Beverly voted no. Resolution 2017-12 was read for a second and third time by caption only. Mike Barth made a motion to approve the ordinance, seconded by Mike Headley. Baker, Barth, Jones, Headley and Bassett voted yes. Beverly voted no.

Department Heads:

Police Chief Kirk Stickney asked council to approve Monica Herman being promoted from Patrolman I to Sergeant. The mayor made the recommendation. Mike Headley made the motion to approve the promotion, seconded by Mike Barth. All voted yes.

Fire Chief Scott Cramer presented a written report to council listing the pros of a full-time fire chief. He also handed out a job description as requested by the mayor. He also said 2 trucks will be worked on next week and have pump tests done.

EMS Chief Loni Kesler presented her monthly collections and activity report.

Park Director Val Shull was absent. The pool is open and reported to be full of happy kids.

Fiscal Officer Report:

- MTD/YTD Cash Report
- May HPD and Mayor's Court Reports
- April Mediacom Franchise Fee Report
- May Income Tax Report
- May Revolving Loan Report

Mayor's Report:

The mayor had the following announcements:

1. Jerry Hayes in the office of Economic Development in Defiance has lost both employees. He will be working alone until they are replaced, so if any businesses in the area have concerns, please contact the mayor's office and she will try to help them.
2. 2 Bandits Brewing contacted the mayor about the possibility of placing a bistro area under their awning out front. The area will be roped off. They have contacted the Liquor Control Commission on how to go about it. They will require a letter of permission from the village to go with the application. Discussion among council led to a vote against allowing it. Reasoning was the

area is too small; liquor out in the open is not a good idea; and it is only a first step to all kinds of businesses putting things out on their sidewalks as well. Eric Bassett made a motion to deny the request made by 2 Bandits Brewing, seconded by Mike Headley. Baker, Bassett, Headley and Beverly voted to approve the motion, Jones and Barth voted no.

3. The mayor and Fire Chief visited with the owner of a building across from the grain elevator that is empty and in bad condition. He told them he had plans to shore up the area in question.
4. Thank you to the Haver Drive residents who made a BBQ meal for the contractors working on their street. It was a very nice thing to do.
5. Mary Wann deserves a lot of credit for her hard work in organizing the village-wide garage sale that took place last weekend. Everyone the mayor talked to thought it was great, including many out-of-towners who came to Hicksville to buy and sell.
6. The mayor and Troy Essex have discussed a contract with Sherwood Telephone covering any liability or damage done during their installation process. Essex will be working on the proper legislation to protect the village.
7. From June 12 to August 10 the Summer Park Program at the Pavilion will be held, including a daily lunch. It is open and free to anyone from age 1 to 18. Please have your children sign up - it will be a fun time for everyone. The director is Darci Sprague (who previously volunteered as an EMT for the village).
8. There will also be a D.A.R.E. Camp from July 11 to July 13 at the Hicksville School building. It is for students in 3rd to 7th grades. There is a fee, but well worth it to the kids. If the cost is prohibitive, please let someone know so your child will not miss out.
9. The Slattery Benefit for the Hospice Center is on this weekend for the 24th year. Everyone should come out and participate. There will be music, food and an auction.

The mayor then asked the audience if anyone had anything they wanted to bring before council. No one spoke.

Ron Beverly made a motion to go into Executive Session (at 6:40 pm) to discuss a personnel issue concerning the need for new full-time position in the village. Mike Headley seconded the motion. All voted yes. At 7:35 pm council returned to open session.

Several options were discussed trying to answer concerns about the rising costs of the Fire Department and declining membership of the Rescue Squad. Cramer said they will need to replace vehicles in the not too distant future, as well as other equipment necessary to running an efficient department. The Auxiliary does great fundraising work but should not be depended on to cover the shortfall. Council is open to any suggestion but reminds everyone that there is no magic bullet. Other departments have the same problems that Hicksville does. Jones and Baker will speak with the commissioners about the possibility of a “west-end” department where all the smaller area departments join together to cover the whole area - similar to how Williams County does it, but on a smaller scale. It was mentioned that maybe an article in the paper informing the public would bring in their comments and suggestions as well. After all, this concerns the residents in a real way. It was agreed that there will not be a “quick-fix” but will take careful thought and planning. Jones asked if anyone thought the village should increase the income tax to help finance the Fire and EMS departments. Smith reminded council that if they asked for a higher income tax and the voters agreed, it could only be used for the fire department and rescue squad and for no other reason. Then if the village ever had the need to increase income taxes for another reason it would be a hard sell to the public. Essex was directed to bring legislation to rescind Ordinance 2017-01 and 2017-07 and write a new ordinance requesting a 4-mil tax levy to be decided by the voters.

With no other business to discuss Eric Bassett made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Shelia Baker. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Mayor

Fiscal Officer