

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES

Monday June 6, 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, Shelia Baker, Ron Beverly, Mike Headley, Mick Pocratsky; Administrator Kent Miller; Solicitor Troy Essex; and Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith. Mike Barth was absent.

Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting on May 16th and Special Council Meeting on June 1st were presented. Mayor Collins asked, if there were no objections, they be approved together. Ron Jones made a motion to approve both minutes, seconded by Mike Headley. All voted yes.

Mike Headley made a motion to approve the current bills list, seconded by Mick Pocratsky. All voted yes.

There will be a Public Hearing by the Board of Zoning Appeals June 15th at 4 pm in the zoning office. It is for a conditional use permit for Adel Davenport, 121 Columbus Street, to have an accounting business in her home.

Park Board: Minutes from the May 18th meeting were in the packets. Ron Hard was present and reported the pool has opened with record attendance on opening day. He also said the paving of the drive went smoothly and looks great. He invited everyone to take a drive through the park.

Cable TV Committee: Beverly asked if Bill Murphy could find out what is going on with the audio during council meetings and how to fix it. Murphy will contact the manufacturer and get a quote to upgrade the system.

Ordinance Committee: The May 14th minutes were in the packets. They are still working on amendments to the open burning ordinance.

Shelly Nighswander was present to voice concerns about the open burning being done in Hicksville and specifically her neighborhood. She has numerous allergies and is unable to spend time outside due to the pollution caused by the burning. She asked council to consider a "Share the Air" proposal. She has been frustrated by citizens who burn things not sanctioned by village ordinance, and the lack of consequences when it does occur. She was asked by Beverly what she would like to see happen. Mrs. Nighswander feels specific guidelines, stricter rules, enforceable penalties and education would go a long way to working on the problem. These things will not be a cure-all, but a step in the right direction. It was suggested to send out newsletters to the general public, put ads in the paper, or having the mayor write a column for the paper. The mayor thanked Mrs. Nighswander for her willingness to bring awareness to council. Hopefully, legislation can be presented at the next meeting that will take all viewpoints into consideration.

Police Chief Ballinger was asked for his opinion. He said he has seen people cooking over open fires during the day. The practice is to stop and let the person know that they cannot do this and they have to put the fire out. In most cases they comply and are unaware there was even an ordinance against it. If he has to go back, they are cited and could be assessed a fine of up to \$150.00. There are very few repeat offenders.

Personnel Committee: Mick Pocratsky presented minutes from the June 1st meeting. He asked council to approve a contract renewal for the solicitor for 1 year at \$18,000.00. He has been without a contract since 2013, and has had no raise since May 2010. His current salary is \$16,800.00 and he does not take village-offered insurance. Legislation will be available at the next council meeting for a vote.

Pocratsky also asked the mayor to recommend April Allen to become the new Assistant Clerk with a salary of \$13.00 per hour. The mayor agreed pending a good physical, drug screen and background check. Mick Pocratsky made a motion to accept and was seconded by Mike Headley. All voted yes.

Administrator's Report: The Administrator had no report.

Solicitor's Report:

Ordinance 2016-06 to restructure the street, water, sewer and refuse employee classifications was read by caption only for the final reading. Ron Jones made a motion to approve, seconded by Ron Beverly. All voted yes.

Ordinance 2016-07 (revised) to implement a fire levy was read by caption only for the second reading.

Ordinance 2016-08 amending the Section 921.03 to increase sewer rates and declaring an emergency was read by caption only. Ron Jones moved to suspend the rules. Mike Headley seconded. All voted yes.

Before the vote was taken, Smith reminded council that this step would make the village eligible for funding of sewer projects, but it would not fix the budget shortfall. She had given them a spreadsheet using real-time figures of current revenue and projected revenue by raising the base rate versus the usage rate. Council will take it under advisement.

Ordinance 2016-08 was read by caption only for the second and third readings. Ron Jones made a motion to approve the ordinance, seconded by Mike Headley. All voted yes.

Resolution 2016-05 establishing a new pay rate for the Zoning Inspector was read by caption only for the third reading. Ron Beverly made a motion to approve, seconded by Mick Pocratsky. All voted yes.

Resolution 2016-07 authorizing the village to enter into a contract with Ward Construction for paving projects and declaring an emergency was read by caption only. Mick Pocratsky made a motion to suspend the rules. Mike Headley seconded. All voted yes. Resolution 2016-07 was read by caption only for the second and third readings. Mick Pocratsky made a motion to approve, seconded by Mike Headley. All voted yes.

Police/Fire/EMS: Police Chief Monty Ballinger reported that Justin Kuhn from Hicksville Helping Hicksville has a huge amount of donated clothing at the Mission 9-1-1 building. If anyone needs some or knows someone who does, please contact Justin Kuhn. He also reported the Safety Grant was approved and Hicksville will be receiving 14 portable radios, and the Fire Department will receive 17 radios.

Fire Chief Scott Cramer had a report for council updating them on the village's ISO rating as well as the testing done on both pumpers.

EMS Chief Loni Kesler was absent but had a written report for council. As of May 31st, there were 165 emergency calls made. The squad is at 9 active members, with 2 in class until about July 31st. The squad will be hosting a First responder class, taught by Darrell Rock, to begin in July.

Fiscal Officer Report: The Clerk submitted the MTD/YTD Cash Report, the MTD/YTD Income Tax Report, and the May Mayor's Court Report. There was information included in the packets on the newest FSLA ruling concerning overtime pay. The OhioCheckbook.com program information included was been sent to the Finance Committee to explore. A letter from Mediacom and their April Franchise Fee Report was in the packets as well.

Mayor's Report: -

- The mayor asked the community to bring their plastic grocery bags to any village office to be used for commodities. Be sure they are in good shape with no holes in the bottom.
- She asked the public to help keep Hicksville clean. There has been some trash and paper thrown out, possibly from cars. If you see it, please pick it up.
- The mayor commended the street guys for their work painting and maintaining public areas of town. She also thanked the Beautification Committee for all their hard work. The mayor also called for more volunteers to help keep all the flower beds in shape and watered this summer.
- The mayor said the Memorial Day Parade was wonderful. She thanked Karen Smith from Smith-Brown Funeral Home for supplying food & drinks afterward. The free-will offering was substantial and was donated to the Hicksville Veterans Memorial Fund.
- Finally, she congratulated the graduates of 2016 and wished them well in their future endeavors.

Ron Beverly made a motion for an executive session at 6:57 pm to discuss possible litigation. Mick Pocratsky seconded it. All voted yes.

Ron Beverly moved to return to regular session. Ron Jones seconded. All voted yes. Council returned to regular session at 7:28 pm.

Mike Headley made a motion to put the water tower project on indefinite hold due to fiscal concerns. Ron Beverly seconded. Headley, Beverly, Pocratsky and Jones voted yes. Baker voted no.

Mike Headley moved to adjourn, seconded by Ron Jones. All voted yes. Council was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Mayor

Fiscal Officer