

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES

Monday, July 17, 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; Administrator Kent Miller and Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith.

Minutes from the July 5th Regular Council Meeting were presented. Ron Jones made a motion to approve, seconded Mike Headley. All voted yes.

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

A proclamation was presented by the Defiance County Commissioners naming July as "Parks and Recreation" month. The proclamation was read in its entirety by the mayor.

Boards & Commissions:

Minutes from the July 12th **Board of Zoning Appeals** were in the packets. They voted to allow the set-back variance requested by the Johnson Memorial Library.

The **Cemetery Board** met July 12th to discuss updating the Rules and Regulations for the cemetery. They will meet next October 11th at 6:30 pm in the council room.

Council Committees:

Minutes from the July 5th and July 12th **Police/Fire Committee** meetings were in the packets. The discussion centered around the resignation of the EMS Chief Loni Kesler and hiring another full-time EMT. They also discussed giving the Fire Chief a raise in salary and how to finance it.

Minutes from the **Water/Sewer Committee** meeting July 10th were in the packets. The discussion was mainly on the Clearview-Haver Drive project and the swales/driveways. Beverly disagreed with how the swales and driveways are being constructed. He said the stones are already washing out and the cement will begin cracking, and the village will have to replace all of them later after the construction crew is long gone. Barth answered that we must rely on the engineer's experience and expertise. Beverly said they are wrong. Resident Jim Slight, in the audience, wanted to know, since Beverly seemed to know a lot about everything, why he wasn't on the committee. The mayor said the committee members are determined by her and she is satisfied with her choices. Barth answered Beverly by saying no one wants problems and we rely on the engineer to do the project properly. Miller asked Beverly if he doesn't want aggregate or grass what does he want to see? Beverly suggested an apron similar to those in a subdivision he has seen in Bryan. Baker asked what was used originally. Headley answered that they were all different. Beverly and Bassett agreed concrete should be used. Jones asked what happens with the freeze/thaw problem? Will it still crack? Beverly said yes. Headley said he agrees concrete is a good idea but he wants residents to be able to landscape the area. He feels they all care about curb appeal for their properties. Beverly asked how would the village prevent a resident from filling in the swale in front of his property. Is there an ordinance? Miller said in all his years there has never been an official ruling that he knows of. Bassett said council had agreed the swale was to be left alone by the residents when the project is done. Beverly said with no ordinance, they can do whatever they want. Essex said council should decide about amending the ordinance. The swale is part of the utility department apparatus and any change by a resident would be "tampering", which is covered already. After more heated exchanges between council members, it was decided that Barth will contact Ken Kerns from EMH&T Engineering to try and find solutions to council's concerns. The Water/Sewer Committee will meet to study the current legislation and recommend any changes.

Administrator's Report:

Miller reported on his meeting with the EPA on July 12th. They have agreed to removing one meter on Antwerp Drive. They still require metering until all projects in Phase I are completed plus two years. They have agreed to push the Chicago Avenue project into Phase II.

The bid opening for the North Main waterline is at 2 pm July 18th in council chambers. The OPWC has awarded Hicksville \$150,000.00 towards the estimated cost of \$358,995.00.

The 2017 CDBG application has been approved, which is \$20,000.00 to be used for paving. Miller sends his appreciation and thanks to the Defiance County Commissioners who have increased that amount to \$24,500.00. The areas to be paved are West Cornelia and West Arthur with a cost of \$59,970.00.

He also reported that CSX has given their approval for the plan to bore under the viaduct for the North Main waterline installation. Miller was congratulated that he was able to get approval so quickly.

The mayor thanked Miller for his hard work applying for grants and loans. He has been able to save the village a lot of money over the years. She also thanked Cheryl Smith for her recordkeeping.

Solicitor's Report:

- Second reading of **Resolution 2017-14** by caption only to rehire Solicitor Troy Essex for another one-year contract.
- Second reading of **Resolution 2017-15** by caption only to enter contract with Poggemeyer Design for engineering and design of the new water tower siting plan.
- Essex reported he is finalizing a contract with Sherwood to collect their income tax.
- He had recommended the Ordinance Committee consider the Mayor's request that the village put restrictions on how a building may be torn down and disposed of. The concerns are EPA violations as well as possible land or groundwater contamination. It was also suggested that the demolition of property be permitted by the village. Ron Beverly made motion to have the solicitor bring legislation before council specifying how demolition will be allowed in the future. Ron Jones seconded the motion. All voted yes.
- Essex has been in contact with Werlor concerning the proposed contract. There were several revisions to be made, including the downtown trashcans. Essex estimates the service could begin January 1, 2018.
- Essex asked for an executive session later in the meeting to discuss possible land acquisition.

Department Heads:

- ***Police Chief Kirk Stickney*** had no report.
- ***Fire Chief Scott Cramer*** asked the mayor to recommend to council that they hire Bruce Silcott as a full-time EMT. Mike Headley made a motion to accept the recommendation, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes. Cramer also invited everyone to a Taco Bar August 6th from 11 am to 2 pm at the Fire Hall. The Ladies Auxiliary will be hosting the event. He also reported the department received a donation of a 5K generator from ARC Solutions. The Association has purchased an air conditioner for the equipment bus. The mayor thanked Chief Kesler for her service to the squad.
- ***EMS Chief Loni Kesler*** was absent.
- ***Park Director Val Shull*** had no report. Miller reported the park had a Risk Management inspection done. The 6 or 7 items found were minor and have been corrected.

Fiscal Officer Report:

- MTD/YTD Cash Report
- YTD Phase I Report
- Smith also reported that the Fire Levy and John Hart Petition paperwork have been filed with the Board of Elections.

Mayor's Report:

Collins reported a conversation she had with a member of the Humane Society Board. The shelter is having financial difficulties and may have to revert to being a dog pound. He asked if the village would consider paying for the dogs we send there. Police Chief Stickney reported that the village sent 22 dogs there in 2016. Council asked where the money collected from dog tags went? No one had an answer. The consensus was council would need more specific information before any kind of decision could be made.

The mayor is hosting a meeting with area Mayors, Fire Chiefs, EMS Chiefs, and representatives from the townships and the Defiance County 9-1-1 center on July 27th at 6 pm in council chambers. They will discuss the possibility of forming an EMS district in our area.

There will be a meeting August 3rd at 5 pm in council chambers for prospective members of the Community Reinvestment Area (CRA) Board. They will be given information about the CRA and what their role would be.

Jim Slight was in the audience and asked to address council. He has concerns about the wild cat population in Hicksville. He wanted to know if anything could be done. Miller

suggested Smith contact the OML to find out what other communities do, if anything. The mayor cautioned against feeding them. If you do, they will not go away. She said there is no magic answer. It's hard to hold anyone accountable since cats are not tagged and most do not have collars. She asked the public to be responsible and have their pets spayed or neutered.

Ron Beverly made a motion to go into Executive Session (at 7:17 pm) to discuss a possible land acquisition. Mike Headley seconded the motion. All voted yes. At 7:40 pm council returned to open session.

Ron Beverly reported that construction will begin in the morning on South Main Street. There may be detours soon.

Shelia Baker wanted to know what could be done about the “motion detector” security lights at Dollar General. They are very annoying to the neighbors. She was told this would be a civil matter between the neighbor and Dollar General.

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

Mayor

Fiscal Officer