

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES

Monday August 15, 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, Mike Barth; Mick Pocratsky; Administrator Kent Miller; Solicitor Troy Essex; and Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith.

A vote was taken to approve the amended agenda. Ron Jones made the motion to accept with Mike Headley seconding. Everyone voted yes.

Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting on August 1st were presented. Mike Barth moved to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Ron Jones. Everyone voted yes.

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

The mayor announced a public hearing was held August 11th at the zoning office at 5 pm to discuss a lot split on Oscar Street. It was approved.

There will also be a public hearing August 18th in council chambers at 5 pm to discuss a zoning change from agricultural to residential on Antwerp Drive.

Mary Wann, a resident of Spencerville Street, addressed council at this time. She wanted to make them aware of an ongoing situation at her property. She has a wild animal/rat problem she credits to the vacant property next door. She has made a complaint to Mike Bailey, the Building Inspector, and he has been out and took pictures. He has also contacted the owner and she has arranged for a contractor to visit the site and repair any holes in the foundation. Mrs. Wann is upset that any "critters" left inside the property will find a way out and continue the problem. She can't let her grandchildren out to play for fear of being bitten by a rabid stray cat. She was given the name of a person to contact at the County Health Department who can address her concerns. A neighbor on Chicago Avenue also spoke and told council something is digging holes under his fence from the back side and letting his dogs out. The mayor expressed her concern and assured Mrs. Wann that the village is doing everything in its power to correct the situation.

Boards & Commissions:

The Architectural Review Board met this morning and presented written minutes at the meeting. They approved a request by Gordon Creek Granite to display their product outside their building.

Council Committees:

Shelia Baker reported for the Sidewalk Committee, which met at 5 pm before council tonight. They recommend repairs to all existing sidewalks. The village will divide the village into quadrants dissected by Main and High and each will be completed in order. Letters will be sent to the property owners first requesting they make the appropriate repairs, which must be approved by the Building Inspector. If the repairs are not done within the timeline the village will complete the work and invoice the owner. If the owner for some reason does not pay the invoice, it will be assessed to their property tax. Owners are reminded to get a permit from the Building Inspector at 108 N. Main Street. They are required and only cost \$1.00.

Mick Pocratsky was concerned about the backlash that will no doubt occur. Some properties in the village do not have sidewalks. Baker responded that right now we are only concerned with existing sidewalks as some have caused injuries recently. The issue of property with no sidewalk will be addressed, just not at this time.

The Water/Sewer/Refuse Committee is meeting August 29th. Meetings of the Finance Committee and the Street/Light/Property will be scheduled after council is adjourned.

Administrator's Report:

Miller had a written report in the packets. He also gave council a copy of a letter from the EPA concerning a violation at the Wastewater Plant. Jeff Rumble answered council's questions and reported that they are working closely with the EPA who seems pleased with the progress so far.

Miller asked the Water/Sewer/Refuse committee to look at the general pick up / recycling / trash collection situations and make recommendations - including "getting out of the trash business altogether." He also reminded residents to put syringes in containers and not to throw them directly into bags. There was a near miss recently with an employee who saw the syringe in time to avoid getting stuck.

Solicitor's Report:

Essex reported that due to a “snafu” and “misunderstanding” the Resolution for the Fire Levy did not get filed in time to be put on the November ballot. It will be added to the May ballot.

As to changing the speed limit on a section of Spencerville Street, he checked with Ohio Revised Code. Since ODOT sets the speed limit on “through” streets we would have to do a traffic study and submit it to ODOT with our request. They have the option to change the speed limit or leave it the same. It is up to the village to decide if they want to spend the money when it's not a sure thing. Mike Headley brought up purchasing a mobile sign that flashes oncoming cars' speeds as a deterrent.

Ordinance 2016-10 third reading by caption only to amend the open burning ordinance. Ron Jones made a motion to approve, seconded by Mike Headley. Mick Pocratsky abstained due to a conflict of interest. Jones voted yes; Baker, Headley, Barth and Beverly voted no.

Ordinance 2016-11 third reading by caption only authorizing the Fiscal Officer to transfer funds from the general fund to Police & Fire Pension Fund and the Capital Projects Fund. Mick Pocratsky made the motion to approve, seconded by Mike Headley. All voted yes

Resolution 2016-13 second reading by caption only authorizing the sale of the 1999 Ford Cargo Van. It was noted that another department in the village may have use of the van.

Resolution 2016-14 first reading by caption only accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and declaring an emergency. Ron Beverly moved to suspend the rules, seconded by Ron Jones. All voted yes. Resolution 2016-14 was read by caption only for a second & third time. Mick Pocratsky made the motion to approve, seconded by Mike Barth. All voted yes.

Resolution 2016-15 first reading by caption only to assess delinquent utility bills and declaring an emergency. Mick Pocratsky moved to suspend the rules, seconded by Ron Jones. All voted yes. Resolution 2016-15 was read by caption only for a second & third time. Ron Beverly made the motion to approve, seconded by Mike Headley. All voted yes.

Resolution 2016-16 first reading by caption only to assess unpaid weed cut and grass mowing to the tax duplicate and declaring an emergency. Ron Beverly moved to suspend the rules, seconded by Mick Pocratsky. All voted yes. Resolution 2016-16 was read by caption only for a second & third time. Mike Barth made the motion to approve, seconded by Mick Pocratsky. All voted yes.

Resolution 2016-17 first reading by caption only to enter agreement with the Defiance County Commissioners for recovery of monies expended providing legal defense to indigent persons - calendar year 2017.

Resolution 2016-18 first reading by caption only to assess street light millage and declaring an emergency. Mike Headley moved to suspend the rules, seconded by Ron Jones. All voted yes. Resolution 2016-18 was read by caption only for a second & third time. Ron Jones made the motion to approve, seconded by Mike Headley. All voted yes.

Department Heads:

- Police Chief Monty Ballinger had no report.
- Fire Chief Scott Cramer thanked everyone who came out for the breakfast the firemen had last Saturday during Summer Fest. He asked the mayor to recommend Tiffany Vollmer to join the fire department. She is currently an AEMT with the Rescue Squad. The mayor made the recommendation with her thanks for Vollmer's desire to volunteer for the village. Mike Headley made a motion to approve the hiring, seconded by Ron Beverly. All voted yes.
- EMS Chief Loni Kesler reported to council that the Rescue Squad will be covering the fairgrounds during fair week. The mayor asked if Kesler had heard anything from the Fair Board about possible payment but she has not heard yet. Kesler also reported the schedule is covered for the fair as well as the village/townships for the week.

Fiscal Officer Report:

Reports on the desk as follows:

- MTD/YTD Cash Report
- July Mayor's Court Report
- July Revolving Loan Fund Report
- Letter from Mediacom outlining a couple rate hikes
- List of liquor licenses in Hicksville village limits
- The Hicksville school is having their Back-To-School breakfast August 25th and have invited village employees to attend.
- The village employees are having an End of Summer Pot Luck in council chambers August 18th at 11:30
- A copy of an article about a small town (like Hicksville) in Ohio in real trouble due to sloppy bookkeeping - making the job of the Finance Committee more critical than ever to look over every facet of the accounting process

Mayor's Report:

- The mayor asked HIX TV Director Bill Murphy to update council on improvements to the audio system in the council room. He is having some work done at the school and will have that person look at the setup in council chambers as well.

- The mayor let council know that some improvements will be made soon to the municipal building. They will include painting the hallway and replacing the tile on the floor. She reminded council that it has been a long time since any type of maintenance has been done and it is looking shabby. Nothing will be done to the office areas as the employees have recently painted the Income Tax and Assistant’s offices. The mayor invited the Street/Light/Property committee to add their recommendations when they next meet.
- Mayor Collins announced that there will be a meeting of the Revolving Loan Committee Thursday, August 17th at 5 pm in council chambers.
- Finally, she gave the Water/Sewer/Refuse committee a letter from the Fair Board requesting they waive utility bills associated with the fairgrounds.

Mike Headley made a motion to adjourn. Ron Beverly seconded it. All voted yes. Council was adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Mayor

Fiscal Officer