

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES

Tuesday, September 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, Mike Barth; Mick Pocratsky; Administrator Kent Miller; Solicitor Troy Essex; and Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith.

Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting on August 15th were presented. Ron Jones moved to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Mike Headley. Everyone voted yes.

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

A Public Hearing was held to discuss rezoning on Antwerp Drive from Agricultural to Residential. The mayor asked for anyone in the audience who wished to speak to come to the podium.

Dawn Ish, who lives near the property in question, would like the zoning change to be suspended until the new sewer separation system is in place and proves to work stemming flooding in the area. She would also like to consider making it into a park area. Baker asked if Ms. Ish thought one additional house would cause a problem. She said the last time a building was put up some 10 years ago it did. The mayor reminded council and residents that with a building permit the grade has to be approved. Barth said the new line is 42"-48" providing more drainage and feels it will solve the flooding problem, barring rainfall/snow-melt above the threshold. Beverly asked if a park was built what would stop it from washing away? Pocratsky, who also lives in the area, said he would like to hold up the rezoning until we see that the new plan is effective. If the plan works he is all for rezoning.

Jim Slattery, the owner of the property in question, was next to speak. He wants to sell the acreage but that is difficult zoned as it is. He doesn't want to wait "25 years" for the plan to prove itself. He spoke on how the land lies with elevation dropping down by only 6" from one property to the next. He would like to see the rezoning happen as it will be nearly impossible to sell the land zoned as it is. He would be amenable to selling to the neighbors if they want to put in a park.

The mayor reminded everyone that tonight was the public hearing only and the official legislation to rezone the property would be presented at the next meeting.

Boards & Commissions:

The **HIX TV Committee** met August 13th and the minutes were in the packets.

The **Revolving Loan Committee** met August 17th and approved a \$200,000.00 loan to Gordon Creek Granite for expansion in Industrial Park. Council agreed with the decision. Dennis Miller is preparing the paperwork. Essex will bring legislation to the next council meeting.

The **Park Board** met August 17th and minutes were in the packets.

Council Committees:

The **Water/Sewer/Refuse** Committee met August 29th to discuss several items including the fairgrounds, the Ogen Street project and the general pick-up. Minutes were in the packets.

Street /Light/Property met August 29th to discuss the petition to change the speed limit on Spencerville. It was noted that even if the village spent money on a traffic study it would not guarantee the outcome desired. The police department was asked to step up enforcement on that stretch of road to curb speeders.

Street/Light/Property also met August 31st to discuss renovating the municipal building. Beverly reminded council that the changes have already been approved and there is money in the budget, but nothing has happened. The recommendation is to change the office locations, with the mayor moving to the back and the utility and tax offices moving up front. Beverly would also like to see the gate replaced with a door and have visitors buzzed in from the utility window. He would also close the back door to the public. There would be necessary repairs to the entry and restrooms, as well as cosmetic changes such as painting the hallway, replacing the flooring, and upgrading the baseboard heaters in the hallway and restrooms. Beverly was asked if everyone was on board with moving. The mayor said she was ok with it but the utility clerk was not wanting to move to such a small space. Alternatives were discussed but Beverly was not in favor of them. He said he was not going to argue about it and we could burn the \$16,000.00 any way we wanted. The mayor asked Smith to "go back to the drawing board" and bring a plan to council that everyone is ok with. Beverly said Smith was at the meeting and agreed to everything at the time. Smith replied

that she did not agree to everything. The mayor suggested tabling the discussion at this point until the next meeting.

Administrator's Report: The following report was in the packets:

The Village received the loan from Ohio Water Development Authority to cover part of the costs of the Antwerp Dr. and Ogen St. sewer projects. The loan is for \$1,072,086.50 at 0.2% interest, for 30 years. The estimated (their language) semi-annual loan payments will be \$18,418.44 starting on January 1, 2018. They will send a full loan agreement packet shortly.

General pick up is set to start on September 13. Notices have been at city hall for a few weeks, ads will be in the Tribune. We also set a record for a non-general pick up month of trash collection, as 93.71 tons were picked up in August. This is one record I don't like breaking. I am confident the upcoming general pick up will be a whopper as well.

Residents should be aware that maintenance work on the north water tower is planned to start on September 19. Some prep work will start the week before, but as of the 19th, the south tower will be in service. There will be low pressure issues in parts of town which will be in effect for a couple of weeks. The FD also needs to keep this in mind if there is a fire—the south tower holds only 150,000 gallons of water. We can't do the work on the large tower and keep it in operation, so as much as it will be a pain, there isn't anything we can do except hope the weather cooperates and work can be completed as quickly as possible.

The Village auction is September 10 at 9:00, at city hall. Since it appears there will be a lot to store overnight, I would welcome anyone wanting to help me maneuver some items on Saturday morning prior to the sale. The heavy things won't have to be moved, but there will be other items which will need jockeyed around inside and outside.

The third reading for the van will take place tonight—can you then suspend the rules and pass as an emergency? This will enable us to try and sell it at the auction on the 10th. If not, I'll get an ad around.

I spent 99% of August 30 in Toledo for a BWC class. The reason for my going was to get some of the required hours of training due to our claims of 2015.

Interviews for the janitor position will start on Sept 12. Interviews for the sewer position will start Sept 19.

Clearview Subdivision water/sewer project could be going out to bid within a week or so. I'll know more by the end of this week.

Insurance renewal is underway, there should be information coming your way to vote on shortly. We are re-upping with the Ohio Plan.

Cheryl and I will be gone all day on Sept 15 for a BORMA meeting in Sandusky.

I will be in Defiance for a late afternoon meeting on Friday, Sept 16.

Solicitor's Report:

Resolution 2016-13 final reading by caption only authorizing the sale of the 1999 Ford Cargo Van and declaring an emergency. This would allow the vehicle to be put in the auction Saturday, September 10th. Ron Jones made a motion to suspend the rules. Mick Pocratsky seconded. All voted yes. Mike Headley made a motion to approve the resolution and Mike Barth seconded. All voted yes.

Resolution 2016-17 second 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 2016-19 first reading by caption only to amend Resolution 2016-15 to assess delinquent utility bills and declaring an emergency. Mike Barth moved to suspend the rules, seconded by Mike Headley. All voted yes. Resolution 2016-19 was read by caption only for a second & third time. Mick Pocratsky made the motion to approve, seconded by Mike Headley. All voted yes.

Resolution 2016-20 first reading by caption only to amend Resolution 2016-16 to assess unpaid weed cut and grass mowing to the tax duplicate and declaring an emergency. Mick Pocratsky moved to suspend the rules, seconded by Ron Jones. All voted yes. Resolution 2016-20 was read by caption only for a second & third time. Mike Barth made the motion to approve, seconded by Mike Headley. All voted yes.

A **Motion** was presented to council to accept the Local Government Fund amount as presented by the Defiance County Budget Commission. Mick Pocratsky made the motion to accept with a second by Ron Jones. All voted yes.

Department Heads:

- Police Chief Monty Ballinger introduced Zach Erb (from Stryker) to replace Zach Miller, who resigned to take a teaching position. The mayor welcomed Officer Erb and recommended council hire him pending any physicals and other required paperwork. Mike Headley made the motion to accept the mayor's recommendation. Mick Pocratsky seconded the motion. All voted yes.
- Chief Ballinger also spoke to council about the difficulty in hiring good candidates and keeping them. He requested permission to hire part time officers Mason Hammond, Shane Bostic and Brandon Shuherk. They are all certified officers but will need uniforms and vests. The Chief would like part time officers to learn our department and then when a full time position opens, one of them can step in easily

and fill the vacancy. It will also be helpful to have experienced help when illness or injury occurs and a full-time officer needs to take extended sick leave.

- The Police Department had \$7,000.00 in the budget for a new hard drive but HP replaced one hard drive for free, and Bob Arend can fix the other for around \$350.00 plus parts. They should be good for another two years.
- The mayor reported appreciation by several residents who saw a police presence in the several areas of the village. Chief Ballinger said there should be increased activity in Mayor’s Court.
- Mick Pocratsky asked the Chief to consider some way to introduce the new officers to the public, barring any legal prohibitions.

- Fire Chief Scott Cramer was absent. Assistant Chief Hart was present to announce the annual BBQ to be held Saturday, August 10th. He invited everyone to come out and have dinner, which will include baked potatoes and cole slaw.

- EMS Chief Loni Kesler had no report.

Fiscal Officer Report:

Reports on the desk as follows:

- MTD/YTD Cash Report
- August Income Tax Collections Report
- Mediacom Franchise Fee Payments for July
- August Police Department Report of fines and fees
- August Mayor’s Court Report

Mayor’s Report:

- It was reported to the mayor’s office that people were parking on the Veterans Memorial space at the park during the football game. It was suggested that volunteers might be needed to direct traffic if people can’t respect the barriers already in place.

- Some residents are putting out their bulky trash too early. The general pick-up is not for another week. Out of town vehicles have been reported coming into Hicksville to dump their trash as well. The mayor is asking anyone who sees this happening to write down the license plate and turn it in to the police department.

Mike Headley made a motion to adjourn. Ron Jones seconded it. All voted yes. Council was adjourned at 6:55 pm.

Mayor

Fiscal Officer