

Regular Council

Monday, September 21, 2015 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Michael Headley.

A Prayer was given by Mayor Headley.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Present were: Council members Mick Pocratsky, Mike Barth, Ron Jones, Bruce Hart and Mark Haver; Solicitor Troy Essex; and Administrator Kent Miller and Clerk-Treasurer Diane Collins. Councilmember Ron Beverly was absent. There were 15 visitors present.

Jones moved to approve the September 8 minutes. Hart seconded. Barth, Hart, Jones & Pocratsky voted yes. Haver abstained.

Pocratsky moved to approve the bills list. Haver seconded. All voted yes.

Conrad Beck of Beck Insurance Agency was present to answer questions about the proposed insurance renewal and rates. He noted that there was an addition of Cyber Data Breach coverage because it is a common issue these days. There is also Lexipol training services available for law enforcement and fire/ems departments. There were no questions from council.

Park Board: Minutes of the September 16 meeting were in the council packets. It was noted that the cameras in the park have resulted in a downturn in vandalism. Park Director Val Shull was present but did not have anything to report.

Beautification Committee: The minutes of the August 17 meeting were in council packets.

Personnel Committee: Pocratsky reported the committee met prior to this meeting. He asked for job descriptions of the Utility Clerk, Income Tax Administrator, assistant to the Clerk/Treasurer and the future Finance Officer's position. Collins was asked if she is retiring regardless of the outcome of the Mayoral race. She responded yes. Collins is willing to step out of the position whenever someone new is trained although her current term ends March 31, 2016. Pocratsky would like to begin advertising the position and start the interviewing process to get someone hired and trained. Pocratsky asked Essex to change the ordinance to reflect the Village Fiscal Officer's position instead of a Clerk/Treasurer's position. Two weeks ago the committee also mentioned making the Village Administrator in charge of all the employees in the municipal building. Miller has voiced reservations because of what is already on his plate.

Police/Fire/EMS Committee: Haver reported the committee met prior to this meeting. His committee and the Police Chief did not feel it was necessary to hire a person at this time to monitor downtown parking by chalking tires. Chief Ballinger spoke to the committee about hiring two new employees he has chosen. The committee is fine with his suggestions.

Water/Sewer/refuse Committee: Barth reported that Chris Barnes from the University of Toledo asked if the Village of Hicksville is interested in piggybacking with them for a grant related to watershed. Barth stated Adam Voris agreed it would be a great project. \$300,000 was a ball park figure. Essex will tweak a letter for Mayor Headley to sign stating we are interested in participating but will not commit us to anything. Council was agreeable as long as it does not add any cost or slow up down the Antwerp Drive project. Barth was promised it would get completed in a timely fashion.

Administrator's Report: Miller reported 71 tons of trash was picked up during the general pickup last week. That amount is lower than the previous pick up. Miller passed out a Public Notice from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency as related to an Application for Anti-degradation Project.

Miscellaneous:

Ordinance 2015-11 to amend the annual appropriations ordinance was read by caption only for the first reading.

It was noted we do not have a contract with Mediacom yet. Mike Barth continues to try to make contact with Mediacom.

Essex plans to have the income tax ordinance changes completed and to council by the end of October. This is due to changes required by the State. He stated he has it 75% completed. The State provided a template.

Police/Fire/EMS: Police Chief Ballinger asked council to hire Nathan L. Allen from Montpelier OH and works full time in West Unity and Andrew W. Stewart who is working in Antwerp and Paulding part time. Mayor Headley recommended hiring both officers

pending good physicals, drug screens and background checks. Jones moved to approve the Mayor’s recommendation. Haver seconded. All voted yes.

Fire Chief Scott Cramer was not present but had EMS Chief Loni Kesler ask council to hire Phillip Karacson as a Volunteer Firefighter. He will need to go through training. Mayor Headley recommended hiring Phillip Karacson pending a good physical, drug screen and background check. Pocratsky moved to approve the Mayor’s recommendation. Barth seconded. Haver, Barth, Pocratsky & Jones voted yes. Hart abstained.

Clerk/Treasurer’s Report: Jones reminded the department heads and finance committee that we will begin working on the 2016 budget in early October.

Mayor’s Report - Mayor Headley announced that the council was invited to the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast put on by the Beautification Committee. He thanked all village employees and departments. He thanked all business and industry in town for their community support. Without them we can’t function very well. They pay taxes and provide employment.

Haver moved to adjourn. Hart seconded. All voted yes.

Mayor

Clerk/Treasurer