

Regular Council

October 7, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Larry Haver.

The Pledge of Allegiance was repeated by all present.

Present were: Council members Mark Haver, Mike Barth, Ron Jones, Mike Headley, Mick Pocratsky and Ron Beverly; Solicitor, Troy Essex; Administrator, Kent Miller; and Clerk/Treasurer, Diane Collins. There were 7 visitors present.

Haver moved to approve the September 16 minutes. Jones seconded. Barth, Headley, Haver & Jones voted yes. Beverly and Pocratsky abstained.

Beverly moved to approve the bills. Barth seconded. All voted yes.

Income Tax Administrator, Zoe McMaster was present to ask council for permission to do a community outreach program. She proposed offering a tax workshop to low income residents that would show them how to prepare their own tax returns so that if they get a refund they get to keep it themselves rather than give it to a tax preparer. She would familiarize the residents with the Federal free on-line filing then the State's, the school's and then help them file the Hicksville income tax return. McMaster spoke to Mrs. Dangler at the school about teaching students how to do the same and Mrs. Dangler seemed excited about it and offered to help. McMaster looked at this as an extension of her job. Council was concerned about an equal protection issue and about liability if someone decided to hold her/village responsible if they make a mistake on their return. Headley applauded McMaster for her desire to help others. They wished to have the solicitor check it out.

Zoe McMaster also asked council to allow her to use a different collection agency than she is currently using with the hopes of collecting more delinquent taxes. Council was agreeable to her using RBC Inc. in addition to the current agency.

Insurance Committee: Headley mentioned that the committee will meet after Collins attends the next BORMA meeting to see what is decided about the rates.

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Finance Committee: Jones will get with the committee to audit the books.

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Park Board: The September meeting minutes were in the packet for review. Beverly stated that Sandi Brown deserves a big "thank you" from the Village for the great job she has done with the Summer Playground Program all these years. Council was all in agreement.

It was noted in the minutes that the park board would be looking for a pick-up truck to replace an old one they are currently using. Several options for using other municipal trucks were thrown out there for discussion.

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Miscellaneous:

Ordinance 2013-09 authorizing the Clerk/Treasurer to transfer funds was read for the third reading. Pocratsky moved to approve. Jones seconded. All voted yes.

Ordinance 2013-11 prohibiting the manufacture, sale and distribution of synthetic drugs was read by caption only for the second reading. Beverly moved to suspend the rules. Headley seconded. All voted yes. Ordinance 2013-11 was read by caption only for the third reading. Barth moved to approve. Pocratsky seconded. At this time Mark Haver pointed out that our legislation makes it a misdemeanor level offense but he spoke to the MAN unit and the Prosecutor's office and he is being told they want felonies for this type of stuff and the State is not far behind in having a mirror statute. He was told our proposed legislation does not suffice. Haver wanted to know if our police officers are going to be out there attempting to enforce this particular ordinance. If we actually charge someone with a misdemeanor and they are smart enough to go down and plead to it as a misdemeanor that would be double jeopardy if the State had a corresponding felony charge available so we would actually be letting the people off the hook with the lesser offense. Essex reported that it is his intention that we just amend ours to make it identical with the State as necessary. As a Village we are not able to make it a felony. Mark Haver urged the Police Dept. to run anything through the prosecutor's office before charges of this variety are filed against anyone. Beverly feels we need to get something on the books. All voted yes.

Resolution 2013-15 authorizing an Enterprise Zone Agreement between the County of Defiance and A&P Tool, Inc. and NW Partnership, LLC was read by caption only for the second reading.

Police/Fire/EMS: Mayor Haver recommended Brad Hall be hired as the full-time EMS Chief pending good physical and drug screen. His pay will be \$30,385.00, with fifty-cents less per hour during his six month probationary period. Pocratsky moved to approve the Mayor's recommendation. Haver seconded. All voted yes. Second shift will be covered by part-time EMT, Amy Baker who works on first shift. We are currently down to 8 EMT's and one is on medical leave.

The Fire Dept. was reimbursed \$920 from Defiance County for a Haz-Mat cleanup. The new grass unit is complete and in service. The Fire Dept. will have a carnival from 5 p.m. – 8 p.m. on October 26.

Clerk/Treasurer's Report: The MTD/YTD Income Tax Report and Cash Report was put in council packets. Collins asked the following committees to meet for the reasons stated:

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

- First Federal meeting & investment proposal
- Work on 2014 Budget
- Reconcile Bank Statements

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE:

- We need to update the personnel manual. Mayor and Dept. heads have proposed some changes

INSURANCE COMMITTEE:

- Bidding out insurance
- Do you want to make any changes to reduce premiums?

CABLE TV COMMITTEE:

- Possibility of Medical Insurance expenses and the future of the cable station if insurance is taken

Mayor's Report: Mayor Haver reported Stoett Industries is having an Open House on October 25. A signed License Agreement between the Village of Hicksville and the Hicksville Community Service Center was in the council packets. The September Mayor's Court Report was shared. Kudos to the football team and all fall sports programs.

Beverly moved to adjourn. Headley seconded. All voted yes.

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Mayor	Clerk/Treasurer