

Minutes of Regular Council

November 2, 1009 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Larry Haver.

The Pledge of Allegiance was repeated by all present.

Present were: Mayor, Larry Haver; Council members, Ed Foster, Bruce Hart, Ron Jones, Amy Haver, and Ron Beverly; Solicitor, Troy Essex; Administrator, Kent Miller; Clerk/Treasurer, Diane Collins. Mick Pocratsky was absent.

Foster moved to approve the October 19 minutes. Hart seconded. Beverly & Haver abstained. Jones, Foster, & Hart voted yes.

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

Marilyn Hite of the Defiance Public library passed out bookmarks listing the hours the Johnson Memorial Library is to be open. A large reduction in hours had been hard fought by Hicksville residents. The current cuts due to the State budget woes are to run through June of 2011. The Board of Trustees promises the community they will reassess the budget every six months. Currently the board is a municipal library board appointed by the Mayor of Defiance. County residents are insisting it be made a county library board instead.

Insurance Committee: Bob Miller and Cindy Stever of Huntington Insurance were present prior to this meeting to explain the Medical Mutual transition to the employees. They answered questions and explained about the Medical Mutual network, should council vote in favor of it. During the council meeting Bob and Cindy proposed revising the 2009 rates if council decided to join the Medical Mutual Network using Preferred Providers Organization. Jones moved to approve. Beverly seconded. All voted yes.

Sidewalk Committee: Beverly reported the changed blueprints have been on display for two weeks and it is time to make a decision if we go with them or not. Beverly moved to approve the second set of prints and go forward. Jones seconded. All voted yes. When a question was asked the cost, Mayor Haver responded that there should not be any additional costs above the grant funds of \$140,000.

Police/Fire & EMS: Foster reported there was a meeting on October 26 and another one is scheduled for November 9 at 6:30 p.m. Foster stated the committee makes a recommendation to eliminate the full time EMS position as of July 1, 2009 unless we are in dire need of it and putting a moratorium for one year for the \$1 per hour on call pay of EMTs. They predicted this would save \$35,000 - \$45,000 per year.

HIXTV: Foster reported the next meeting will be November 14 at 8 a.m.

Park Board: Their minutes of the October meeting were in the council packets.

Finance Committee: Jones reported a meeting was held Monday, October 26 at 5:30 p.m. and tonight prior to this meeting.

Personnel Committee: Jones reported the committee met October 26 at 5:30 p.m. and prior to this meeting. He passed out committee recommendations to cut costs. It was noted the original suggestions were made by department heads. The park board had made a list of recommendations for the park which the committee was also supporting. The suggestions are as follows but perhaps not inclusive: eliminate one holiday; reduce work force to 35 hour per week; eliminate 2 personal sick and other earned bonus days; make the water and sewer superintendents positions salary to save on overtime; council wages cut to level of two years ago; if spouse has insurance offered through their employer, they must go through their employer; eliminate mayor's court clerk position; replace fire levy; sell Oak Park property; eliminate chipping except after major storms; RIF 1 street dept. employee and one water dept. employee; reduce sick leave accumulations to 10 per year; set park wages at \$30,000 per year; close pool for the summer of 2010; no special park lighting after dark; no summer playground program; reduction in park capital projects; charge school and various associations for field preparations.

Beverly moved to go into executive session to discuss personnel. Hart seconded. All voted yes. (7:40 pm to 8:15 pm) Beverly moved to return to regular session. Foster seconded. All voted yes.

Jones moved to enact all suggestions. Foster seconded. Haver, Foster, Hart & Jones voted yes. Beverly voted no.

Administrator's Report: Miller did not have anything to report.

Miscellaneous:

Ordinance 2009-11 authorizing the administrator to sell the 1995 garbage truck was read by caption only for the second reading.

Essex reported that the two fire levies can be combined to do a replacement levy if for the same purpose. A reduction in council pay needs to have action taken at least five days prior to the filing deadline. A solution may be for council members to donate part of their money back. Troy is going to round up the necessary easements to start the West High Street water line project that will be done with CDBG funds.

Clerk/TreasurerŐs Report: Collins informed council the department heads went over a proposed personnel policy manual and are ready to go forward. The personnel committee set up a meeting at 6 p.m. on November 16 to go through it. The MTD/YTD Cash report and Income Tax reports were shared. The income tax collections are down 15% compared to last year.

Police Report: No report was given.

Fire Department: Chief Miller did not have a report.

EMS Department: Chief Wendy Goeltzenleuchter was not present.

MayorŐs Report: Mayor Haver invited council to the Chamber Business After Hours, reminded residents to vote tomorrow and showed the Healthy Ohio Award that Hicksville received. The MayorŐs Court report was passed out.

A motion was made and seconded to adjourn. All voted yes.

MAYOR

CLERK

Larry Haver

Diane Collins