

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES

Monday, November 21, 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; Solicitor Troy Essex; Administrator Kent Miller; and Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith.

Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting on November 7th were presented. Mike Headley moved to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Ron Jones. All voted yes.

The bills list was presented for approval. Ron Beverly made a motion to approve with Mick Pocratsky seconding. All voted yes except Mike Barth who abstained.

A Public Hearing was held tonight to discuss rezoning a lot on S. Maple Street from Residential to Commercial. No one was present to object.

A Public Hearing to discuss rezoning several lots on Wendell Avenue will be held December 9th in council chambers at 6 pm.

Jerry Hayes from the Defiance County Economic Development Council was present to speak about the upcoming expansion at Gordon Creek Granite in Industrial Park. The expansion will include more than \$200,000.00 in equipment and \$550,000.00 for a new building. In the next 24 months, an additional 4 jobs will be created to add to the current 18. The company asks the village to support an Enterprise Zone Agreement with a 70% tax exemption for 10 years. Ron Jones made a motion for council to agree to the exemption, with a second by Mike Headley. All voted yes.

Boards & Commissions:

The **Park Board** met November 16th. Minutes from the meeting are in the packets.

Ron Beverly, from the Firefighters Dependents Fund Board, is asking anyone who would like to serve to let him or any council member know. It is for a term of one year. Beverly would like council to approve the name at the next council meeting. The nominee does not have to be a councilman or fireman, just a resident who wants to serve.

Council Committees:

Shelia Baker, Chairman of the **Sidewalk Committee**, reported that she was having difficulty from all sides when trying to enforce an existing ordinance. She asked council why, if everyone is not in favor of it and refuse to back her up when she tries to enforce it, has it never been challenged, changed or repealed? She asked full council to give her some direction. It was decided to go ahead due to the ordinance being in effect at this time. Each case will be looked at individually. All residents are urged to contact their councilmen and/or mayor to give their opinions and suggestions. Council is concerned that if the village takes responsibility for all sidewalks the cost would be prohibitive. The village is currently doing all the sewer separation projects mandated by the EPA and can't afford another huge cost right now. There is the possibility of raising the income tax rate a quarter per cent. Everything will be looked at before any decision is made.

Tony Frigo, from E. Cornelia Street spoke to council about his specific situation. He had a very large tree in the easement. He asked the village on 3 separate occasions to do something about it. It had caused his sidewalk to buckle badly. The village came out and removed the tree, but the sidewalk was still buckled. Now he got a letter from the village telling him he has to fix his sidewalk. He would like council to consider that the problem was caused by the tree and not due to any negligence on his part. Council agreed to look at his situation and agreed he was able to have a waiver until a decision is made.

Ron Beverly reported back on what he found out about installing a **Splash Pad** at the Park. He had a display of brochures with several different applications. A Splash Pad that recirculates water would be in the range of half a million dollars. Even with the \$50,000.00 grant from the State, the cost is prohibitive. Ron Beverly made a motion council discontinue investigating splash pads. Mike Headley seconded the motion. All voted yes. Council decided to start a fund to upgrade the existing swimming pool instead.

Administrator’s Report:

The report was in each packet.

Solicitor’s Report:

Ordinance 2016-14 was read for the final time by caption only to amend Section 181.091 granting a filing exemption to retirees, disabled persons and persons under the age of eighteen. Ron Beverly made a motion to approve. Mike Headley seconded it. All voted yes.

The Annual Appropriations **Ordinance 2016-15** was read for the first time by caption only.

Ordinance 2016-16 establishing pay ranges for employees beginning January 1, 2017 was read by caption only for the first time.

The Solicitor asked for an executive session later in the meeting to discuss possible litigation.

He also reported that he has been in contact with Maumee Valley Planning about the upcoming expansion at 5 Acre Mill. They will be obtaining a new loan and will pay off the existing loan balance, on which the village is in second position. They ask that the village agree to remain 2nd position on the new loan as well. Council briefly discussed the situation and agreed. 5 Acre Mill has always paid on time for any revolving loans they have gotten from the village. Essex was given the “go-ahead” to complete whatever paperwork will be necessary for the subordination. Jerry Hayes said he had a discussion with Tim Becker, the owner of 5 Acre Mill, about annexing the property to the village.

Department Heads:

Police Chief Monty Ballinger had no report.

Fire Chief Scott Cramer had no report.

EMS Chief Loni Kesler reported that she and Cody Royer went to Columbus and were able to bring home over \$8,000.00 in equipment for the Fire and EMS Departments. A company had gone out of business and offered their equipment first come first serve and no charge. She also reported David Woodring has requested an additional 30 days’ leave. Drew Wort was released from the squad. While on probation for the same action, he was absent from a call while on duty. Kesler also reported on a meeting with a billing company specializing in EMS. They made some claims for performance that the mayor questioned. The matter was sent to the Finance Committee.

Fiscal Officer Report:

- MTD/YTD Cash Report.
- October Mediacom Franchise Fee Report.
- Open Checkbook Launch was November 15th. Hicksville is officially on-line.

Mayor’s Report:

- The mayor reminded residents that Christ Cupboard needs donations, especially this time of year.
- The Christmas Cruise Thru is up and running.
- December 3rd will be the parade bringing Santa to the village.
- Mick Pocratsky was elected as Defiance County Commissioner. He will take his oath January 1st. Council needs to replace him for the remainder of his term. If any resident is interested, please make your interest known in a letter to council and/or the mayor. December 1st will be the deadline for submitting your request.

At 7:14 pm Ron Beverly made a motion to go into executive session to discuss possible litigation. Mike Headley seconded. All voted yes.

At 7:30 pm Mike Headley made a motion to return to open session. Ron Beverly seconded. All voted yes.

With no other business to discuss, Mick Pocratsky made a motion to adjourn. Mike Headley seconded it. All voted yes. Council was adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Mayor

Fiscal Officer