

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES

Monday, December 4, 2017 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.

The following persons were in attendance: Council members Shelia Baker, Mike Barth, Eric Bassett, Ron Beverly, Ron Jones and Mike Headley; Solicitor Troy Essex; Administrator Jim Brown and Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith.

Minutes from the November 20th Regular Council Meeting were presented. Ron Jones made a motion to approve, seconded by Mike Headley. All voted yes.

A bills list was presented to council. Ron Beverly made a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

Boards & Commissions:

- No meeting or minutes presented.

Council Committees:

- Finance Committee meeting minutes from November 20th were in the packets.

Administrator's Report:

- Report was in the packet.
- Bid opening for the Park Restroom Project had two possible bids. It was decided by council to accept the bid from a local contractor, Borderline Construction LLC. Essex will bring legislation to enter a contract to the next council meeting. There was also discussion about types of fixtures. The details will be spelled out in the contract as well as a 60 days construction deadline.
- Brown also had photos an STMA installation of fiber optic cable. It appears they are installing some cable very close to our utility pits, which could cause problems if we ever have to dig the pits for repair or replacement. Larry Ridgway was present and said he would contact the proper person so STMA is aware of this. The installers have to go by the prints supplied and do not have the option to deviate from them.
- Wednesday of this week will be the first Werlor pick up.

Solicitor's Report:

The CRA legislation has been submitted for approval by the School Board. They plan to vote on it at their next meeting.

A contract with the Village of Sherwood is pending signatures by Sherwood officials.

Essex reported that after studying the feasibility of accepting the current offer for the Verizon Tower Lease, he advised the village to stay with the current contract. The offer looks tempting right now, but is not in the best interest of the village for the future.

Department Heads:

Police Chief Kirk Stickney was absent. Patrolman Steve Stose had no report.

Fire Chief Scott Cramer had no report.

EMS Chief Cody Royer was absent. Chief Cramer reported Royer was working on the Christmas For Kids Project. It appears we will have another successful year thanks to donations - cash and toys. The mayor reminded everyone if they still want to donate, contact Chief Cramer or bring the toys to the Fire Hall.

Park Director Val Shull was absent.

Fiscal Officer Report:

- MTD/YTD Cash Report
- November Income Tax Report
- November Utility Collections Report

Mayor's Report:

- December 9th will be "Christmas in the Village." There will be a parade bringing Santa into town. The parade ends at the Huber where kids can have their picture taken with Santa. There will be all kinds of activities as well.

- Mayor Collins asked for two adjustments to the 2018 budget. (1) She would like to increase funds to the Defiance Area CIC to \$16,000.00. Mike Headley made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Ron Jones. All voted yes. (2) She asked to allot \$10,000.00 to tear down a nuisance property. The amount would then be assessed to the property. Ron Jones made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Mike Headley. All voted yes.
- The mayor reminded everyone of the Christmas Cruise Thru. You can drive through daily, and on the weekends there are crafts, food and tours. On December 10th there will be a fireworks display.

Ron Beverly said there will be a meeting at the EMA Building January 9th at 7:30 pm. Anyone from Hicksville is urged to attend and show support for the Christmas Cruise Thru Board. They are asking the Defiance County Fair Board for a new contract that is more equitable, and have not received any indication that the Fair Board will give them any consideration. The current contract reportedly is 25% profit to Christmas Cruise Thru and 75% profit to the Fair Board. The Cruise Thru Board is considering moving locations if they cannot get a better contract. If the move does take place, Hicksville as well as Defiance county will lose the revenue generated (sales tax, gasoline sales, restaurant meals, for example) by this event. It has grown so in size and reputation over the last five years that people drive in from other states to see it.

Mr. J. Winston Bodwell, a resident from Arthur Street, was present and asked to address council. He introduced himself and thanked everyone in town that made him welcome. He said he only had two complaints. (1) His sewer bill is outrageous. He cannot afford to pay that much every month on a fixed income. He has had a plumber come out and he has no leaks. He has even unhooked his water softener. He said he has demanded a new meter. He was advised to contact Mike Barth and discuss the issue with the Water Sewer Committee. (2) He is concerned with the sidewalks. He wonders why some people have got “X’s” marked on small cracks and some sidewalks are in such rough shape, he can’t roll his wheelchair over them. The mayor assured him we are aware of the bad spots. The owners have been advised to repair or replace them, but they have been given a time frame to do so. As far as marking smaller cracks, that is done to make the owners aware that a problem may be starting. She thanked him for coming to council and welcomed him to attend any time.

Ron Jones asked for a short executive session at 6:50 pm to discuss a personnel issue. Eric Bassett seconded. All voted yes. Council returned to open session at 7:15 pm.

Eric Bassett then made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ron Jones. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

Mayor

Fiscal Officer