

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES

Monday, February 18th, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Diane Collins, followed by the invocation by Pastor Steve Evers.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Roll Call was read with the following persons in attendance: Mayor Diane Collins; Council Members Eric Bassett, Mike Barth, Ron Jones, Shelia Baker, Larry Ridgway, and Ron Beverly; Administrator Kent Miller; Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith; and Solicitor Troy Essex.

Minutes from the February 4th Regular Council Meeting were presented. Ron Jones made a motion to approve, seconded by Larry Ridgway. All voted yes.

A list of bills to be paid was presented. Some items were questioned and answered satisfactorily. Ron Beverly made a motion to approve, seconded by Shelia Baker. Baker, Bassett, Beverly, Jones and Ridgway voted yes. Barth abstained.

Pastor Steve Evers from the Lifeline Connect Church addressed Council on the dangers of allowing medical marijuana businesses to open in Hicksville. It could be opening a door better left closed. He has done a lot of research on the subject and found scientific documentations showing good and bad effects almost in equal measure. He did find out medical marijuana is not listed as an approved drug by the FDA. He recommends talking to our legislators in Columbus and Washington as well as communities who have had to make this decision, especially those who approved such businesses in their community. How has it proven to be in reality? He is not against bringing businesses to Hicksville at all. He understands it could mean more jobs in the area. He also understands the possible benefits when used medically. In the past Hicksville has said no to an adult bookstore and a spice shop. We do say no when it is in the best interest of the Village. Now is the time to decide if we will or will not allow this type of business to come to Hicksville.

Police Chief Denning gave a view from the law enforcement perspective and feels this is not a beneficial thing. He reminded council that the marijuana of the 60's is not the same on the street today. It has been made much more potent on the way to becoming a mainstream "business."

Ron Beverly and Eric Bassett have both contacted the company from Arizona that has put feelers out for communities amenable to their opening a processing plant in our area. They both have the impression that the company doesn't have Hicksville in their sights at this time but is just researching area availability.

Troy Essex has done a lot of research also, having to deal with the subject of drug use as an attorney. He reminds council that marijuana being called a "gateway drug" is correct. Currently we hear a lot about opioids as a gateway to stronger drug use and marijuana is soft-peddled. While we fight against the opioid epidemic, medical marijuana comes in quietly and sets up shop. The next step is recreational marijuana. Don't be caught out because lobbyists for the industry are good at their job. The law enforcement angle must be considered. Marijuana is still an illegal drug as far as the Federal government is concerned. Banks cannot deal with the profit produced since it is "drug money." Transport of the plants, the assembly components, and finished products on highways has to be considered. If the Village wants to ban any growing, processing or distribution enterprises, council will need to update their Zoning Legislation to prohibit it. They also need to look at the Personnel manual for policies pertaining to employees use of "medical marijuana."

Ron Beverly asked Essex to write legislation prohibiting any marijuana enterprise from opening a business in Hicksville. In the meantime, village residents will be able to contact their councilmen and voice their opinions. They can also come to council and be heard in a public forum. Council can then decide by voting yes or no.

Boards & Commissions:

No Board or Commissions met during this time period.

Council Committees:

No Committees met during this time period. The Water/Sewer Committee will meet Wednesday, February 20th at 3 pm. They will be discussing possible sites for a new well.

NOTE: All committee meeting minutes are available in their entirety in the Fiscal Officer's office at 111 South Main Street, Hicksville or by email request to hixcs@defnet.com.

Administrator's Report:

Miller had no report. He did remind residents that limbs from the storm will be picked up as the weather permits. The only limbs to be removed will be those from storm damage, not pruning. Limbs are to be piled at the curb; Village employees will not go on to private property to pick them up.

Miller gave council copies of the Safety Study done by ODOT for the intersection of St Rt 2 and St Rt 18 completed January 10, 2019. It was selected due to a high number of crashes occurring there. The cover email also offered information and assistance to alleviate the problem, including funding for a parking study as well.

Solicitor's Report:

There was no pending legislation.

Department Heads:

Police: Chief Denning had no report.

Fire/EMS: Chief Cramer reported the Fire Department had to replace the tires on the tanker. They were the original tires (22 years old). He only had the 4 drive tires replaced at this time. He invited Council to attend "Jaws" training being held Saturday at 9:30 am. He also reported John Elwood has applied for the annual ODPS grant for the EMS Department.

Park Director: Val Shull was not present but let the mayor know she had no report.

Fiscal Officer Report: The following reports were submitted:

Fund Status Report
Cash Flow Summary
Purchase Order Report
Updated Contact List
January Mayor's Court Collections
January Police Department Collections

Mayor's Report:

The mayor had no report.

Larry Ridgway made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 6:40 pm.

Mayor

Fiscal Officer