

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES

Monday, April 1st, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Acting Mayor Mike Barth, followed by the invocation by Pastor Steve Eysers.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

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

No minutes or bills were presented due to lack of quorum. This council meeting was informational only.

Hicksville School Superintendent Keith Countryman was present to speak to council about the upcoming vote for a school levy. He outlined the reasons for requesting it and what it will be used for. There will be a new athletic center, elementary and intervention classrooms, and eventually a continuation of the drive to connect to State Route 18.

Lisa Weaner from the Fort Defiance Humane Shelter was on hand to answer allegations made by Police Chief Mark Denning. She said the organization has worked diligently to repair their organization and doesn't want any misunderstanding to damage what they have built up. The televised council meeting March 28th and the subsequent newspaper articles were detrimental to their reputation. She wanted council to know their side of the situation. She began by explaining that Fort Defiance is a private, non-profit organization not connected to the County except by contract. They are funded by private donations, grants and fees. They provide low cost spay and neuter clinics. The Dog Warden works for the County and is responsible for dogs at large, licensing, etc. He will bring them dogs that need quarantined. The Health Department, also a county agency, is called for any animal bite. Stacy Fedderke is an employee of Fort Defiance and is a law enforcement officer. She investigates animal abuse and neglect cases. She is governed by the Ohio Revised Code and the Governing Board of the Shelter.

In this specific case, an employee of Community Memorial Hospital called Chief Denning about the cat bite that came into the ER. He was unable to attend due to another case he was on. He called Fort Defiance and was told it needed to be turned over to the Health Department. He was upset with this response and their refusal to come to Hicksville and pick up the cat. He asked council to reconsider any funding due to this refusal. Officer Fedderke spoke with the hospital and left two messages for Chief Denning to call her back. She did not receive any return calls.

Finally, Ms. Weaner told council she would be more than happy to return any donation made if this situation made them regret their decision.

Troy Essex gave his opinion that it was a responsible pet-owner issue since the cat was a family pet - not a stray. The Health Department usually calls the Dog Warden to respond when necessary, they don't go out themselves.

Mike Barth said there would be a meeting with concerned parties at a later date. Ron Beverly said he was of the opinion that Officer Fedderke did her job as required.

Chief Denning was asked if he had anything to say. He said yes, he had a taped call from the dispatch center. He played it on his phone. It seemed to be between the dispatcher and Officer Fedderke with her telling them to call the Health Department since it was an animal bite. Officer Fedderke said the Chief could have called her back and she would have explained. He told her he was not calling her back.

Boards & Commissions:

The **Park Board** met March 20th and minutes were in the packets.

Council Committees:

No Committee minutes were presented to council.

<i>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.</i>
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Administrator's Report: Miller's report was included in the packets. The following was shared with council:

- Limb pick-up is concluded. Residents can still take limbs to the lot at Elm Street.
- OEPA will be compliance sampling at the sewer plant on the 1st and 2nd of April.
- Miller and Smith will be at the BORMA meeting on April 11th.
- Utility projects were updated:
 - Design work ongoing for the water tower, Industrial Drive water & sewer lines, W. High water line, W. High storm line, the Defiance Ave. and Ogen St. lift stations.
 - Asset Management is at a standstill at this time for unknown reasons.
 - The Alum Feed at the sewer plant is being worked on.
 - RFP's for the Cathodic Protection Project will be due May 8th.
- Miller included a 1st quarter report on payroll, overtime, and job duties (specifically weather-related issues.)
- Miller also reported the State of Ohio has updated the moderate-low (LMI) figures for Hicksville. This information is used when applying for CDBG grants.

Solicitor's Report: No report.

Department Heads:

Police: Mark Denning had no report.

Fire/EMS: Scott Cramer reported the department has received 10 portable and 4 mobile radios due to the MARC grant (approximately \$46,000.00). He is meeting with the Grant Writers Friday. He and Bruce Hart will be gone to Indianapolis for a seminar the next Thursday and Friday.

Park Director: Val Shull was absent. Park Board President Cory Wann was in attendance. He asked Council again if they would consider a beer truck during the "Day In The Park." No answer was available due to lack of quorum. He also had information on the Easter Egg Hunt to be held at the Park on April 13th. Registration begins at 1 pm. There are 16 bikes to be given away as well as about 7,000 eggs to find.

Fiscal Officer Report: The following reports were submitted:

- Fund Status Report
- March Utility Collections Report
- March Income Tax Collection Report
- March Police and Mayor's Court Collections Reports
- Update on the "Day In The Park" donations

At 6:50 pm Larry Ridgway made a motion to go into a short executive session to discuss a possible land purchase, seconded by Shelia Baker. Council returned to open session at 7:05 pm.

Mayor's Report:

Barth told council they are invited to the kick-off meeting for Defiance County's Active Transportation Plan being held April 4th, 10 am, at the Defiance County East building. He then read a Proclamation making April "World Autism Month"

Larry Ridgway made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ron Beverly. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Mayor

Fiscal Officer