

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES
Monday, June 17th, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Diane Collins. Mike Barth gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

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

Sixth Grader Jacob Beverly was present to receive a Proclamation from the Mayor on behalf of the Village for winning the Hicksville School "Shake" contest.

Proclamation

On behalf of the Hicksville Mayor, Village Council and Residents of the Village of Hicksville, we are pleased to recognize

Jacob Beverly

for winning the Hicksville and Defiance County Shake competition, and;

WHEREAS, the Shake contest encourages students to practice social, conversational and professional skills throughout the school year, and;

WHEREAS, Jacob Beverly did an outstanding job swaying the judges with eye contact while speaking, firm handshake, effective conversational skills, and speaking skills, among other things, and;

We, the residents of the Village of Hicksville, do hereby proudly express sincere and heartfelt congratulations to Jacob for a job well done and recognize the importance of all those that encouraged and supported Jacob in this endeavor.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 17th day of June 2019.

Diane Collins, Mayor

Defiance County Commissioner Mick Pocratsky was also on hand to offer a Proclamation and congratulations to Jacob for winning the Defiance County competition as well. Winning both contests was a quite an achievement.

Jacob told Council he learned and practiced his skills at home as well as school. He will take what he has learned and use it as he grows up.

Next on the Agenda was to be a representative from Werlor, but no one was present.

Ed Mendez addressed Council concerning his residence on Meuse Argonne. He has lived in his house for 28 years and has one of the 9 wells grandfathered in before everyone was required to be on the village water supply. The existing ordinance states that no new wells may be drilled; existing wells may be maintained. Mr. Mendez asked Council for a waiver to drill a new well as his system is going out. Mrs. Mendez has an aversion to chlorine, so they do not want to tap into the village system. Eric Bassett told him there are filtration systems that can remove the chlorine from the water. Mr. Mendez feels this would be too costly. He thinks drilling a new well will be less expensive than tapping into the village supply plus purchasing a filtration system. Beverly and Ridgway both voiced their sympathy for the situation but do not want to see any changes to the ordinance. Shelia Baker made a motion to keep the ordinance as written, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

Minutes from the June 3rd Regular Council Meeting were presented. Larry Ridgway made a motion to approve, second by Mike Barth. Baker, Barth, Ridgway and Beverly voted yes. Bassett abstained.

The list of bills to be paid was presented. Ron Beverly made a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

Boards & Commissions:

No Boards or Commissions met.

Council Committees:

Mayor Collins is finishing minutes from the Police & Fire Committee meeting. They will be presented at the next meeting.

The Ordinance Committee met at 5pm tonight to discuss possible sanctions when residents mow grass into the street. Essex will revise the ordinance and present it to council.

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 submitted a report to council:

- The digs being done around town have been completed. The current projects consist of paving in several areas.
- The Meuse Argonne project is finished and open. It has been widened a little.
- The Street, Water and Sewer departments will be short periodically in the coming weeks due to vacations.
- "No Thru Trucks" signs will be installed at the end of Haver Drive. With the closure of Indiana 101, trucks are now cutting across by taking Haver Drive as their detour.
- Werlor's route on N. Main includes a turn around at the Adventure Alley parking lot. Since the gate has been modified to prohibit trucks from using the lot, the garbage can no longer fit under. Ron Beverly responded that Council decided "no trucks" meant "all trucks", which includes garbage trucks. Werlor will need to revise their route.

Solicitor's Report:

First reading of **Ordinance 2019-07** by caption only to rezone 407 W. High Street and declaring an emergency. Ron Beverly made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes. Second and final reading of Ordinance 2019-07 by caption only. Mike Barth made a motion to approve, seconded by Larry Ridgway. All voted yes.

Essex has been in contact with Hayne Enterprises concerning their "Land for Jobs" agreement in Industrial Park. They were primarily to provide a certain number of jobs per year for 5 years in order to be given the land at no charge. This has not happened. The land was valued at \$50,000.00, or \$10,000.00 per year for 5 years. Ron Beverly made a motion to ask Haynes to pay half (\$25,000.00) for the land because he understands the problems encountered by trucking companies in this area. He is of the opinion the Rodney Haynes has done his best and is not trying to do anything underhanded. This was seconded by Mike Barth. Beverly and Barth voted yes. Ridgway, Bassett and Baker voted no. Eric Bassett made a motion to offer a sales price of \$40,000.00, seconded by Larry Ridgway. This figure is because Bassett felt at least the 1st year should be forgiven. Baker, Beverly and Barth voted no, with Bassett and Ridgway voting yes. Ron Beverly then made a motion to split the difference and offer \$35,000.00 for the land, seconded by Eric Bassett. Baker voted no. Bassett, Barth, Ridgway and Beverly voted yes. Essex will convey the offer to Rodney Haynes this week.

Department Heads:

Police: *Chief Denning reported he is against the petition presented to Council tonight to decriminalize marijuana use in the village. He has the opportunity to send an officer (Brandon Shuherk) to a class to learn electronic forensics. He would attend with the MAN Unit from Defiance County. The class is fairly expensive and will take a large piece of his training budget. The Mayor said he is free to send his officer as long as he knows funds are limited. He said he may have to come back to Council later in the year so he can send his other officers for training. He can't run his department efficiently without proper training. Beverly echoed the Mayor concerning using his funds wisely. Eric Bassett asked if the officer being given this opportunity has been asked to sign a contract similar to the ones Firemen and EMT's sign when their education is being paid for by the Village. He has not.*

Fire/EMS: *Chief Cramer was absent. Asst. Chief Bruce Hart had no report.*

Park Director: *Val Shull was absent. Council is still waiting for information about LED lighting at the Park as well as any possible program available from AEP.*

- *Mike Barth gave an update on "Day In The Park." The Pavilion has been rented for a private party. The parking lot will be roped off for guests only. If any parking will be allowed where "No Parking" signs are now, they will be covered. Entry to the Park will be from Spencerville, and parking will be near the Soccer Field. The hours are 8 am to 8 pm and the events/details are on Facebook and the Village Website.*
- *Water Superintendent Jessi Elson asked Chief Denning to keep her driveway to the water plant open as she has to have access in and out that day. Elson also thanked Council for supporting the Well Ordinance as written.*

Fiscal Officer Report: The following reports were submitted:

- Fund Status.
- May Mayor's Court Collections Report.

- Agenda from Fiscal Officer’s Conference last week.
- Agenda from OWWA Workshop at which Utility Clerk Dawn Hostetler was a speaker.
- Copy of Citizen’s Initiative Petition asking to put on the ballot in November which would amend Village Code 513.17 changing the fine for a minor misdemeanor drug offense to \$0.00.

Mayor’s Report:

Rick Rostorfer from SMTA was in attendance and reported to council that his company decided just today to extend the fiber optic cable 4 additional miles, extending beyond the village limits. His contractor doing landscaping will only be in town for one more week. If anyone has an area of concern, please call immediately.

Ron Beverly made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Larry Ridgway. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 6:45 pm

MayorFiscal Officer