

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES
Monday, August 19th, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Diane Collins. Pastor Steve Evers 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, Larry Ridgway, Eric Bassett, Ron Jones; Mike Barth and Ron Beverly; Administrator Kent Miller; Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith; and Solicitor Troy Essex.

Minutes from the August 5th Regular Council Meeting were presented. Ron Jones made a motion to approve, second by Larry Ridgway. All voted yes.

The list of bills to be paid was presented. Ron Beverly made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Eric Bassett. Baker, Beverly, Bassett, Jones and Ridgway voted yes. Mike Barth abstained.

Haver Drive resident Dave Martin asked to address Council on the subject of sidewalks. He asked for clarification of the 3 options put out by the Sidewalk Committee. He said he is in favor of the current ordinance that makes each homeowner responsible for their own sidewalk. When he asked about the \$3.00 charge that could be levied to every home, he was told the income from that fee would not only fix existing sidewalks but install them where there are missing (ex: to the hospital and out to El Grande Trailer Park). He said when someone buys a home, they are aware of their responsibility and whether there is a sidewalk to maintain or not. Is Council going to put sidewalks in on Haver Drive? Ron Beverly said no – there is no place to put them.

Jim Slattery said he understood there is no ordinance requiring sidewalks. He is in favor of the current ordinance with each homeowner responsible for their own sidewalk. He would like to see the ordinance enforced.

Richard Fox walks a lot and appreciates when the sidewalks are in order. He thought this issue was resolved already. How did it come up again? The mayor said the discussion came up during the latest Nuisance Board meeting.

Taylor Klepper said good sidewalks increase “walkability” which makes Hicksville a more desirable place to live. Property values also increase with well maintained sidewalks. He feels a \$3.00 per month charge is very economical when compared to having to replace a sidewalk. He realizes Council gets opinions for and against, but they have to ultimately vote for what is in the best interest of the Village. They can’t please everyone.

Mike Barth, Eric Bassett and Ron Beverly each reported having conversations with several residents with a mix of opinions. Some like it the way it is now, with others opting for the \$3.00 charge per month. The “quadrant” plan was confusing to some people. They don’t understand how it works so they don’t have an opinion on it.

Bob Fisher said he thinks the \$3.00 a month plan is the way to go. Anytime the sidewalks are maintained in a uniform manner, they look better. He thinks some people won’t fix them even when directed to do so by the Village.

Troy Essex said as it stands, each homeowner “owns” his sidewalk and must maintain it. It was also pointed out that if the Village chooses to take over installation and maintenance of sidewalks, they will incur all liability as well.

Boards & Commissions:

Minutes from the **Board of Zoning Appeals** meeting August 7th were submitted. The Board approved a Conditional Use Permit for 118 W. Cornelia St. to be run as an AirBnB. (Bed & Breakfast)

Minutes from the **Nuisance Board** meeting held August 6th were submitted.

Council Committees:

The **Water/Sewer Committee** met August 8th to take a tour of the Water Plant. No minutes were submitted.

The **Water/Sewer Committee** met August 15th and submitted minutes at tonight’s meeting. They discussed operations and maintenance at the Wastewater Treatment Plant with WWTP Supervisor Jeff Rumble. The Committee will revisit the plant in the near future to follow-up. WTP Supervisor Randall is working on EPA mandated lead & copper sampling throughout the village. If you are submitting a sample from your property, remember to call Randall as there is a 6-hour window for testing. When the Asset Management Plan has been completed the

committee will be discussing rate increases. An increase in Refuse Rates is also needed. Mike Barth would like a Special Council meeting to put together a calendar of projects.

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 outlining future projects, possible funding and timelines.

Solicitor's Report:

Final reading of **Ordinance 2019-09** by caption only amending the Annual Appropriations Ordinance. Ron Jones made a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

First reading of **Resolution 2019-05** by caption only to assess delinquent utility bills 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 Resolution 2019-05 by caption only. Mike Barth made a motion to approve, seconded by Larry Ridgway. All voted yes.

First reading of **Resolution 2019-08** by caption only to rehire Troy Essex.

First reading of **Resolution 2019-09** by caption only to assess delinquent weed cutting bills and declaring an emergency. Eric Bassett made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mike Barth. All voted yes. Second and final reading of Resolution 2019-09 by caption only. Mike Barth made a motion to approve, seconded by Larry Ridgway. All voted yes.

First reading of **Resolution 2019-10** by caption only to accept the amounts and rates as set by the Defiance County Budget Commission and declaring an emergency. Mike Barth made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes. Second and final reading of Resolution 2019-10 by caption only. Mike Barth made a motion to approve, seconded by Ron Jones. All voted yes.

First reading of **Resolution 2019-11** by caption only authorizing the execution of a CRA Agreement with Karen Schmidt Ltd. 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 Resolution 2019-11 by caption only. Ron Jones made a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

- *Mayor Collins had asked Essex to look into the village's options concerning a revolving loan that was approved but the business has not made any move to begin improvements.*
- *Essex was to bring legislation to this meeting for the sale of property to Haynes Enterprises.*
- *Neither issue was addressed at this meeting.*

Department Heads:

Police: *Chief Denning spoke about the hardship caused when the electricity was down for 4 hours. He is asking council to approve his purchase of a generator. Not only was the station without power, but the garage doors didn't open.*

Resident Richard Fox asked Chief Denning to watch for drivers making Bryan Street a "drag strip".

Chief Denning has been asked by the Ohio Association of Police Chiefs to serve on the Patrolling Chiefs Committee.

Fire/EMS: *Chief Cramer had no report.*

Park Director: *Val Shull reported the pool is closed but will remain filled until the leak inspector comes (tentatively August 30th). It loses approximately 3600 gallons a day.*

Fiscal Officer Report: The following reports were submitted:

- Fund Status.
- Henry County Newspaper article about Holgate sidewalks (Ron Beverly).
- Division of Liquor Control list of businesses licensed in Hicksville.
- OML Bulletin concerning ongoing lawsuit opposing a provision in HB 49.
- Invitation to an Ethics Seminar to be held at the EMA Building October 2nd.
- Updated Personnel Manuals and Ethics Overview for each Councilperson.
- Smith requested council vote to approve making the Assistant Clerk position part-time.
- Smith requested council vote to approve changing the payment for waiving insurance from 2 tiers to 4 tiers so it will be in keeping with the Aetna policies offered to employees. This was referred to the Insurance Committee which will meet Monday August 26th at 3 pm to discuss details. Some council member feel we should offer more money to employees as an incentive to waive their insurance.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Collins asked Council to approve naming Brad Oury and Bobbi Sinn to the Planning Commission in place of outgoing members Allen Hilbert and Linda McMahon. Mike Barth made a motion to approve the new members, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

At 7:20 pm Ron Beverly asked for an Executive Session to discuss a Certain Personnel Issue, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

Council returned to Regular Session at 7:40 pm.

Ron Jones made a motion to approve making the Assistant Clerk position part-time instead of full-time due to lack of consistent work, seconded by Larry Ridgway. Jones, Barth, Bassett, Beverly, Ridgway voted yes. Baker voted no.

Mike Barth introduced Hannah Sulfridge from the News Tribune. She will be taking notes for the paper at council meetings from now on.

Larry Ridgway made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm

Mayor

Fiscal Officer