

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES  
Monday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Diane Collins. Ron Jones 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.

Ron Jones made a motion to amend the agenda to include Ordinance 2019-13, seconded by Larry Ridgway. All votes yes.

- Resident **Megan Cover** asked to speak to council about their sidewalk discussions. She reminded them everyone who purchases a house does it knowing if it has a sidewalk or not, and if it does, they are responsible for it. She would like the Ordinance to stay as-is so each property owner is responsible for their own sidewalk. Larry Ridgway made a motion to let the Ordinance stand, seconded by Mike Barth. Baker, Beverly, Barth, Ridgway and Bassett voted yes. Jones voted no.
- **Roberta Streiffert** from RCAP was present to answer any questions Council might have about the Water Asset Management Plan. Mike Barth thanked RCAP for their hard work completing the Plan. It has been studied at length and hopefully will be adhered to. Once the Ordinance for amending water rates is approved it will be emailed to RCAP to be included in the report.
- **Mike Brown** from the American Legion Post 223 was present to address Council. He gave a short speech on the history of the American Legion in general and Hicksville in particular. The Legion has purchased the apartment house next door and plan to demolish it to expand their parking lot. They are planning more improvements including windows and items to become handicap accessible. They would like to be able to rent space to the public in the future.
- Mr. Brown also reminded everyone there are boxes around town to put damaged or old flags. The Legion will hold a flag burning ceremony on October 19<sup>th</sup>.
- The Honor Guard rifles used in ceremonies are from 1903 (WW I) and are being replaced with more modern ones (from WW II).
- He passed out pictures of an example of a Veteran's Memorial similar to ours, but with the addition on a helicopter suspended in the background. He would like the Village to consider adding this to our memorial. Eric Bassett reminded everyone that a strip of land behind the memorial belongs to the school so they will need to be consulted as well.

Minutes from the September 16<sup>th</sup> Regular Council Meeting were presented. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve, seconded by Shelia Baker. All voted yes.

Minutes from the September 26<sup>th</sup> Special Council Meeting were presented. Mike Barth made a motion to approve, seconded by Larry Ridgway. Barth, Baker, Beverly and Ridgway voted yes. Jones and Bassett abstained.

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

**Boards & Commissions:**

**The Nuisance Board** met October 1<sup>st</sup> and minutes were presented.

**The Park Board** met September 18<sup>th</sup> and minutes were presented.

**Council Committees:**

**The Ordinance Committee** met September 23<sup>rd</sup> and minutes were presented. They discussed UTV's being driven on public streets and also the current noise ordinance. The noise ordinance is recommended to stay as written. The UTV issue will be revisited after more investigation.

**The Police & Fire Committee** met September 19<sup>th</sup> and minutes were presented. They interviewed prospective officers.

**The Finance Committee** met October 3<sup>rd</sup> and minutes were presented. They examined and signed the financial statements. They also discussed the refuse shortfall and recommend to council an increase of \$2.00 in 2020.

**The Water/Sewer Committee** met October 3<sup>rd</sup>. Minutes were submitted tonight. The Committee, Administrator and Water Superintendent met with Jones & Henry Engineers to discuss their findings on the possible wellfield site. It appears the site is suitable so the village can pursue purchasing the land.

*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](mailto:hixcs@defnet.com).*

**Administrator's Report:** Miller submitted a report to council on current projects and a breakdown of employee hours. Columbus Day is not a holiday for the village and trash pick up is not affected. No word yet on when Meuse Argonne will be opened by CSX. RCAP Operator Field Day October 1<sup>st</sup> went well. About 60 people came for the training.

**Solicitor's Report:**

First reading of **Ordinance 2019-13** by caption only vacating a portion of Edgerton Street and declaring an emergency. Ron Beverly made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Ron Jones. All voted yes. Second and final reading of Ordinance 2019-13 by caption only. Ron Jones made a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

Essex submitted a written report to Council. He updated the members on several issues he has been working on. These are 1) the Haynes Trucking property in Industrial Park; 2) 5 Acre Mill RLF; 3) The St Rt 49/St Rt 2 property annexation; 4) the Oak Park property; and 5) the updated Park Contracts. He should have any pertinent legislation to present for a vote soon.

**Department Heads:**

**Police: Chief Denning** reported 444 call last month, with 210 cases. He then asked the Mayor to recommend Rosston Becker be hired as Patrolman II. He is a resident of Defiance and recently completed the Police Academy. He was interviewed by the Police & Fire Committee earlier. The Mayor made a recommendation for council to hire Mr. Becker upon a good physical, drug screen and background check. Mike Barth made a motion to accept the mayor's recommendation, seconded by Larry Ridgway. All voted yes. Officer Steve Stose worked his last day on October 5<sup>th</sup> and has moved on. The Mayor asked Chief Denning about any noise complaints he has received. He said if his officers answer a complaint and there is no noise there is really nothing they can do. The Mayor said some people listen to police scanners and probably turn down the music when they hear the call.

**Fire/EMS: Chief Cramer** reported the Reverse Raffle was a success. October 12<sup>th</sup> (during Hoptoberfest) there will be a breakfast at the Firehall from 7 am to 11 am. On October 26<sup>th</sup> the Halloween Carnival will be from 6 pm to 8 pm. Feather Bingo will be held November 9<sup>th</sup> – doors open at 4 pm. Updated EMS Bylaws were in the packets, but the mayor asked for more time to read them before approval.

**Park Director: Val Shull** had no report.

**Fiscal Officer Report:** The following reports were submitted:

- Fund Status.
- September Utility and Income Tax Collections
- September Mayor's Court Collections
- Reminder for flu shots next month at the Pharmacy
- Open enrollment for employee insurance is the month of November

**Mayor's Report:**

- The Mayor reminded everyone Halloween Trick or Treating will be October 26<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 7 pm.
- She asked Council what they would like to do with the lot gifted to the village at the corner of Main & Arthur. After much discussion it was decided to find out if it can be sold. The garage is not in proper condition to have water and electricity added to it for the Beautification Committee to use. If the lot is kept, Superintendent Randall will look into installing a frostless faucet on the lot. The Committee was going to use a \$1,000.00 grant to buy trees for the lot. They will be asked to check with the Park instead.
- Mark Young from Two Bandits is having a tent erected in the alley between his building and ours for visiting craft beer vendors to show samples of their beers. The main street will not be blocked off.

At 7:25 pm Ron Beverly made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a possible land purchase, seconded by Ron Jones. All voted yes. Council returned to regular session at 7:35 pm.

Troy Essex was directed to complete any paperwork, contract or legislation necessary to purchase the land for the wellfield.

Eric Bassett made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Larry Ridgway. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

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Mayor

Fiscal Officer