

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES  
Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Council met in Council Chambers - Governor DeWine's "Responsible Restart Ohio" guidelines were in effect. Everyone was asked to wear face coverings or sit where social distancing could be observed.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ron Jones. Pastor Steve Evers then gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

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

Minutes from the June 14<sup>th</sup> Regular Council Meeting were presented. Taylor Klepper made a motion to approve with corrections, seconded by Cory Wann. Wann, Ridgway, Barth, Bassett and Klepper voted yes. Beverly abstained. *(Corrections: Solicitor Troy Essex was absent, and Jerry Hayes spoke, not Dennis Miller)*

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

Hicksville resident Fay Sitton was present to address Council on the cat problem. There is a large cat population in her neighborhood. She would like Council to consider an Ordinance that required cat owners to purchase a license like dog owner's do. With the license would be the same restrictions (running loose, not contained). Ron Beverly responded that he also has a lot of cats in his area, but it is against the law to trap or injure cats. Also, feral cats are not easy to catch anyway. If you consider it a "health issue" you need to be able to prove it before any agency will step in. There is no cat catcher, like we have a county dog catcher. The problem cats usually have no "owner." It is difficult to legislate, and impossible to enforce. He asked the Solicitor to look into anything we can legally do.

**Boards & Commissions:** The **Planning Commission** met June 25<sup>th</sup>. Minutes were in the packets. The lot split application for 105 West Arthur was approved. The **Park Board** met June 17<sup>th</sup> and minutes were in the packets. The Park received a donation from the Eagles Auxiliary for \$200.00. Lindsey Thiel asked Council for permission to remove the playground equipment previously donated by McDonald's due to the condition and the inability to maintain it properly. It was recommended that the Board contact Mike Bailey about using a government website to sell the equipment. The Park Board would like to use the space for another purpose. Since the land is owned by the Defiance County Metropolitan Park Board, they will need to be consulted before any changes are made. The Adventure Alley restrooms are still locked. Port-a-Johns have been brought in.

**Council Committees:** The **Water/Sewer Committee** met June 24<sup>th</sup> and minutes were handed out tonight. The committee, the administrator, Troy Sargent from the Water Department, Jeff Rumble from the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Surveyor Tom Harvey met on-site behind Haver Drive. They were looking at the easement boundaries. Some have apparently been encroached upon. Mr. Henry was asked to do a survey to identify which Haver Drive properties have built into the easement. The second part of the meeting occurred on Chicago Avenue. The resident wants to fill in or build up the sides of his pond. Currently the overflow goes into our sanitary line. He was told any changes made are to a private property, so the village is not involved. He was asked to redirect the flow to the new storm sewer being installed soon.

*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:** A written report was included in the packets. The bid opening for the W. High/Chicago water and sewer projects will be July 10<sup>th</sup>. The pre-construction meeting for the E. Smith paving project will be July 7<sup>th</sup>. Attendance for both will be limited due to COV-19 restrictions. The water tower is still down. The contractor should return July 6<sup>th</sup> to finish the job. All 3 valves failed and must be repaired/replaced before he can continue. Taylor Klepper asked about valve maintenance - is there a schedule? Kent Miller will ask Jessi Randall (Water Superintendent). It is part of the Asset Management Plan. A copy of the Plan is available in the Fiscal Officer's office. Ron Beverly said the department has a tool for exercising valves.

After consulting the County Auditor and the Farm Bureau representative, it is not advisable to continue the CRP contract since local government entities are exempt from receiving any funds for not farming the land. Troy Essex will consult the County Auditor to make the change on our CAUV paperwork. We can lease the land to be planted with a crop like hay that doesn't require any chemicals added to the soil, or we can let it lie fallow. We will need to cut weeds as required.

**Solicitor's Report:**

- Final reading of **Ordinance 2020-06** by caption only adopting Chapter 922 setting rules for disposal of oil and grease in the sewer system. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve, seconded by Mike Barth. All voted yes.
- Final reading of **Ordinance 2020-07** by caption only adopting Chapter 924 setting rules regarding sewer usage in the Village. *At this point Taylor Klepper asked about Section C4 of the previous Resolution 2020-06, just passed. He is concerned with the time frame of "60 days" to empty and service grease traps. He said some applications (following manufacturer's instructions) call for this process to be done twice a year. He would like this section to be reworded to cover all possibilities. Larry Ridgway made a motion to rescind the previous vote. Eric Bassett seconded to "let it lie." No vote was taken on Resolution 2020-07. Both Resolutions will be read at a later date.*
- First reading of **Ordinance 2020-08** by caption only amending the Appropriations Ordinance and declaring an emergency. Ron Beverly made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Larry Ridgway. All voted yes. Second and final reading of Ordinance 2020-08. Mike Barth made a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.
- First reading of **Ordinance 2020-09** by caption only establishing the limited use of Coronavirus relief Funding and declaring an emergency. Ron Beverly made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Taylor Klepper. All voted yes. Second and final reading of Ordinance 2020-09. Larry Ridgway made a motion to approve, seconded by Mike Barth. All voted yes.
- Essex will be working on the agreement with Two Bandits to have more seating on the sidewalk in front of their business. He will also help construct a framework/license agreement to be used by any business downtown that wants to use the sidewalk area for events.

**Department Heads:**

**Police Chief: Mark Denning** asked the Mayor to lift Officer Rosston Becker's probation. He has completed 6 months and does good work. The Mayor asked Council to approve his recommendation. Ron Beverly made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Mike Barth. All voted yes. The Chief also reported the problem with the lights is fixed. Officer Chris Taylor did the repairs, which cost about \$40.00.

**Fire/EMS Chief: Scott Cramer** reported the Fireman's Breakfast was a success. The new ambulance is at Braun having some issues fixed. Stryker is giving us a loaner cot to use until our new cot is delivered. The Ohio Department of Health is sending postcards out to residents who want to participate in a Coronavirus Study. It is voluntary.

**Park Director: Val Shull** was absent. Lindsey Thiel spoke earlier.

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

Fund Status  
Income Tax & Utility Reports  
Mayor's Court Report  
Unemployment figures for Defiance County (May 2020 compared to 2018/2019)

**Mayor's Report:** (Other business) Larry Ridgway reminded Council they need to complete the Catholic Church alley easement legislation.

Eric Bassett made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Cory Wann. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

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Mayor

Fiscal Officer