

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES  
Monday March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Council met using "GoToMeeting" due to the COVID 19 pandemic. Information to join the meeting was published on the website: [www.villageofhicksville.com](http://www.villageofhicksville.com).

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ron Jones. Pastor Steve Eyers followed with 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, Mike Barth, Eric Bassett, Cory Wann, Taylor Klepper; and Ron Beverly; Administrator Kent Miller; Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith; and Solicitor Troy Essex.

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

A list of bills to be paid was presented. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve, seconded by Taylor Klepper. Ridgway, Wann, Bassett, Klepper, and Beverly voted yes; Barth abstained.

A **Notice of Public Hearing** was announced. It will be held virtually March 18<sup>th</sup>, at 6 pm. It is for a Lot Split application by PDM Rentals LLC for 216 West High Street.

**Boards & Commissions:**

**The Park Board** met by Zoom February 17<sup>th</sup>. Minutes are in the packets. 2021 elections were held with Lindsey Thiel being named President and Laura Wofford Secretary. The main topic discussed was the requirement for coaches to have their background checks done before the first practice of the year. There will be a special Park Board meeting with the Ball Associations to iron out the details. Solicitor Troy Essex said the Village has the final authority to require background checks. The Associations should be accountable and police themselves. Council asked for parameters to be set and brought back for final approval.

The mayor made a recommendation to approve appointing Adam Gubernath to the Park Board. Taylor Klepper made a motion to approve the nomination, seconded by Cory Wann. All voted yes.

**Council Committees:**

No meetings were scheduled.

*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:**

- Kent Miller asked Mayor Jones to recommend Lucas Brown be hired for the Wastewater Treatment Plant to replace Austin Zeedyk. The mayor made the recommendation to council. Mike Barth made a motion to accept the recommendation with a good physical, drug screen and background check, seconded by Ron Beverly. All voted yes.
- Miller also submitted the following report:

Administrator's Report February 26, 2021  
Following are updates on current and pending projects.  
**Wellfield:** we are still waiting to hear about the CDBG Critical Infrastructure Grant. Once that answer is known, we will get started on the bid process.  
**Defiance Ave. lift station/sewer:** we recently met with Andy S.; he is still looking into options. Another piece of the puzzle to figure out is how to eliminate clear water from the remaining spots in the eastern part of town (the "L" formed by Meuse Argonne to Defiance Avenue) which end up at the lift station. While most of the streets in this quadrant are separated, there are many catch basins in non-separated areas which need removed from the system to eliminate their flow through the lift station. We need to show OEPA a very good reason the new lift station and piping will still be sending combined flows to the plant. Perhaps this work can become part of a Part 2 of the project at some point if OEPA will accept that explanation when the time comes. Right now, it is felt that a PTI for the new lift station could be denied if we are still running clear water through it and ultimately to the plant. OEPA is interested in CSO reduction, not just us having a new non-headache lift station.  
**2021 CDBG Allocation application:** at the moment I am mulling over possible projects. These applications are due in April and construction would be in 2022. This program is for smaller sized jobs.  
**2021-2022 OPWC Applications:** for 2021, I will not submit an application for any 2022 construction. Instead, I am using the funds we would have received to pay for our portion of paving Meuse Argonne from Elm to the corporation through the County Engineer in 2022. This will be the most painless way to do the job as we will have no out of pocket expense. The County will handle this as part of their Hicksville-Edgerton Road work next year. In 2022, we can apply for a project with 2023 construction using a roughly double share versus what we would possibly have gotten for the 2021 application/2022 job. Right now

we're looking at doing only the new tower and the Defiance Ave sewer job in 2022 as they are both very high dollar jobs. However, since other funding sources for these won't be known before the application is due, I think passing on money this year to get around double the amount for a 2023 project makes better sense. There should be a good scoring project in 2023 for which the grant would be of help.

**W. High/Chicago storm and water line:** first, to refer back to the above paving of Meuse Argonne, I could have allowed the balance to increase thru 2021 and used our Permissive Tax fund (money held by the County to use on specified streets) to pay for Meuse Argonne. However, since I had a feeling the road restoration costs when the sewer/water job was finished would be more than estimated, I decided I would use that fund to help pay for the extra expense. As it turns out, my hunch has proven correct due to W. High basically falling apart and needing a lot more full depth repair. And Chicago, Spencerville and W. High are streets which fit into the permitted use areas. On the work in general, things came to a halt during the deep freeze then major snow events. The contractor plans to be back the first week in March. Initially, the intersection of Chicago/High will be torn out, so traveling will be more of a headache than it currently is, but it can't be helped. During the week of March 8, weather and other factors permitting, Ohio Gas will be in the SR 49/High area as the gas main needs repositioned. This will then allow the new storm sewer (which also needs readjusted) to be connected to the storm line on Antwerp Drive. Right now all the water in the storm line is sitting inside the capped off line and is pumped out every now and then. This relocation work is being done by Ohio Gas and the contractor at NO EXTRA cost to the Village.

**Tower/Antenna meeting:** I contacted the parties involved and said we would try to do an on-site meeting in either late March or early April when warmer. By meeting on site we can stay apart but also be where folks need to see what exists, what can be moved, etc.

**NE Neighborhood LTCP addendum:** I have not seen the rough draft so I cannot say at the moment what will be presented for review.

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I am asking the Mayor to recommend Lucas Brown for the vacant sewer department position. As usual, it would be subject to a physical, drug test, etc.

You may have noticed employees are in different uniforms; we switched to UniFirst a week or so back. We had a water main break at Millcreek Dr. and W. Arthur St. on February 24. At least the weather cooperated and things were wrapped up in around 3½ hours.

The recycle lot will open March 1 with these hours: Monday and Thursday 1:00 to 6:00 and Saturdays 9:00 to 1:00.

Some had inquired about overtime costs for snow removal in 2021. For the season, I bought salt at \$57.24 a ton through piggy-backing with the ODOT contract and I have ordered 114.29 tons since the middle of December. Below are dates where overtime was required to salt, plow and do the downtown; some events were small and only one person was needed, others were large efforts. Salary and hourly people pitched in, thus not all of the OT shown is paid. The numbers also do not count non-OT hours spent on salting, plowing and clean up (downtown and piles elsewhere) or any hours for me.

January 1 1.75 hours February 4-5 21.75 hours

January 15 2 hours February 7 3.25 hours

January 26 5.5 hours February 15-16 59 hours

January 30-31 37.25 hours

Last is an item which council needs to be considering. I had someone take a look at two roofs on February 25. In a nutshell, the city hall roof and our roof at 108 N. Main are on their last legs as the materials used are beginning to fail. Any fix is temporary at best and could involve some extensive work due to the construction of the existing roofs. The city hall roof was put on in early 1993, the roof at 108 N. Main was overhauled in 1995. The person who stopped in will work up quotes for both repairs and replacements which I can pass along when known (although I will have to watch how I present the replacement costs as we'd end up bidding the job out. I do not want to share any figures to prevent other firms from knowing this company's bid). So, you need to think about how you want to proceed; do you want to spend money of fixes and hope they hold longer than expected, put new roofs on, or do nothing? The 510 W. High building (PD-Service Center) should probably also be addressed. I doubt the 2021 budget would be able to handle new roofs this year so funds should be set aside for 2022 work if that is what direction you take.

It was decided the roofing question would be sent to the Street/Light/Property Committee for study.

Mike Bailey needs to send a second notice letter to the Haver Drive residents who have easement encroachments.

Miller asked the Fire Chief for the use of the tower truck to repair the flagpole at the corner of High and Main.

#### **Solicitor's Report:**

First reading of **Ordinance 2021-04** by caption only to amend appropriations 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 2021-04 by caption only. Mike Barth made a motion to approve, seconded by Larry Ridgway. All voted yes.

First reading of **Resolution 2021-02** by caption only to approve the Joint Solid Waste Management Plan update. Eric Bassett made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Larry Ridgway. All voted yes. Second and final reading of Resolution 2021-02 by caption

only. Larry Ridgway made a motion to approve, seconded by Mike Barth. All voted yes. Legislation will go into effect in 30 days.

### **Department Heads:**

**Police Chief:** *Mark Denning had no report. Ron Beverly asked Chief Denning and Kent Miller to consider installing cement block barricades to prevent trucks from driving into lawns. Miller said he has seen cars driving around barricades, drivers moving barricades at "road closed" areas. Taylor Klepper said they should be "local traffic only" - not "road closed." Chief Denning said the work areas are not marked properly. Miller said he changed and added signs as he was directed to previously - now they are still incorrect? After more discussion, nothing was agreed to or resolved. Mayor Jones asked Denning and Miller to get together with the contractor and try to solve the problem.*

**Fire/EMS Chief:** *Scott Cramer asked the mayor to recommend Mariah Salinas be hired to become an EMR (First Responder). The mayor made the recommendation. Larry Ridgway made the motion to hire with a good physical, drug screen and background check, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.*

*The Insurance Safety Office will be at the Fire Hall tomorrow at 2 pm to evaluate the Fire and Water Departments. The outcome determines the Village's ISO rating. Currently it is a "5".*

*Larry Ridgway asked the Chief if he has heard any more about covering Scipio Township in Indiana. The question is about licensure. Ohio appears to be stricter than Indiana, but they would have to accept Ohio's certifications. Troy Essex will look into the legality with the State.*

**Park Director:** *Val Shull asked the mayor to recommend 3 new lifeguards: Olivia Clark, Makeegan Bailey and Alexandra Kenner. He made the recommendation stipulating a physical and certification. Ron Beverly made a motion to accept the names, seconded by Mike Barth. All voted yes. (Returning lifeguards are Josh Myer, Mike Myer, Ella Clark and Reyna Mazur)*

### **Fiscal Officer Report:** The following reports were submitted to Council:

Fund Status Report  
Fund Summary Report (Revenue and Expenditures)  
The "Voice of Ethics" newsletter

### **Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Jones asked the council to approve April Allen to replace Julie Cleland as Mayor's Court Clerk. Cleland will remain Police Clerk. Cory Wann made the motion to accept the mayor's choice, seconded by Larry Ridgway. Barth, Bassett, Ridgway, Wann and Klepper voted yes. Beverly abstained.

Mayor Jones said he is considering holding the next council meeting in chambers or the Fire Hall. He will decide and let everyone know.

Larry Ridgway made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

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Mayor

Fiscal Officer