

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES
Monday April 19th, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Council met in Council Chambers. Masks and Social Distancing were mandatory.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ron Jones, who 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 Eric Bassett; Larry Ridgway, Mike Barth, Taylor Klepper; and Ron Beverly; Administrator Kent Miller; Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith; and Solicitor Troy Essex.

Mayor Jones asked for nominations to fill the council seat left vacant when Cory Wann resigned. Eric Bassett nominated Charlie Martin, seconded by Larry Ridgway. There were no other nominations. Ron Beverly made a motion to close the nominations, seconded by Larry Ridgway. All voted yes. Mayor Jones closed the nominations and asked for a roll call vote. All voted yes.

Mayor Jones asked Mr. Martin to come forward to be sworn in. The Oath was administered by the Mayor and Mr. Martin was then asked to take his seat at the table. He was provided with the agenda and packet for the meeting tonight.

Minutes from the April 5th Regular Council Meeting were presented. Ron Beverly asked for the minutes to be amended to remove any remarks made by Mr. Commisso aimed at Council Members specifically. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve with corrections, seconded by Larry Ridgway. All voted yes.

A list of bills to be paid was presented. Taylor Klepper made a motion to approve, seconded by Charlie Martin. Bassett, Beverly, Klepper, Martin and Ridgway voted yes. Barth abstained. Ron Beverly said the electric bills are several thousand dollars every month at the Wastewater Treatment Plant - has anyone thought of looking into solar energy?

The Agenda was amended to include Resolution 2021-06. Taylor Klepper made a motion to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

Susan Mack from the Hicksville Community Service Center and the Beautification Committee (along with Diane Collins and Shelia Baker) came to give the annual update on both organizations.

- She thanked Council for their support, including providing a paid employee to work with the volunteers. She put out a call for volunteers, especially young people for both organizations. They take care of 20+ flower beds around the village.
- She provided a handout that included a synopsis of the work done at the HCSC.
- The Beautification Committee would like to update their downtown planters but would like the Village to let them know the style of the new trash receptacles, so they could match. Kent said he has budgeted for new receptacles and they will be between \$13,000.00 and \$15,000.00. He has not ordered any as of this date.
- The Annual Plant Sale will take place Mother's Day weekend (Friday & Saturday) at the Township Building across from the school. She said they would appreciate the help of some young men (and councilmen) to move plants and set up for the sale.

Mike Brown from the American Legion was here tonight with Bill Elwood.

- A Memorial Day Parade will once again be set for Memorial Day weekend. Mr. Elwood oversees the golf carts and bicycles in the parade. Contact him if you are interested in riding along. There will also be a band from the school playing during the parade as well as at the Cemetery Service. The guest speaker will be Police Sgt. Craig Doctor. He will share his experiences as a soldier, now a veteran.
- There will be a donut sale (\$5.00 per dozen). Pre order your donuts (419-542-7295) and pick them up in your car at the door. Proceeds are for homebound or nursing home patient veterans.
- Mr. Brown also spoke about some upcoming tournaments: Euchre, Pool and Shuffleboard.
- When the COVID restrictions are released, they plan to have the 100th Anniversary Celebration.

A representative of the Baseball Association took the podium next to explain why they invited Mr. Lou Rivera to speak to Council about background checks. He said background checks have been forced on the Association by the Village. They already have a Code of Conduct that states coaches "may be subject" to criminal background checks. If the Council wants it for liability reasons, he'll sign any kind of liability waiver. He also asked about the "45's" needing replaced for shade for the kids.

Lou Rivera, President of the Defiance Baseball Association, was on hand to explain how Defiance handles this subject of background checks. He said he is not here to tell Hicksville

what to do. Defiance requires background check and uses the same company that Hicksville does. The main difference is that Defiance will consider the circumstances in their entirety if a prospective coach has a red flag on his report. He understands that Hicksville wants the results of the check to be pass/fail. He offered to evaluate policies and assist in any way he can. He called Hicksville the "jewel" of Defiance County and only has praise for the community. The mayor thanked him for his remarks.

Lindsey Thiel, President of the Park Board, went to the podium to talk about guidelines that need to be in place concerning offenses, and which ones qualify getting a coach banned. Taylor Klepper said the Association needs to police itself. Solicitor Troy Essex had the same opinion. He advised the Village can require coach background checks in order for any organization to use our park facilities but going further than that is not recommended. A heated discussion began with shouting as everyone began speaking out of turn. The Mayor used his gavel to stop the mayhem.

Justin Kuhn became very vocal and started for the door shouting he was "done" and good luck with the construction at the Park. He was loading up the seats and dumping them in the Police Chief's yard. He was advised by Chief Denning that he would get arrested if he came on his property.

The Mayor asked the representatives from the Associations if they would agree to a meeting to work out a compromise everyone can live with? They agreed and a meeting for Wednesday the 21st was set for 3:30 pm. The Mayor asked for 2 people from each organization using the ball fields, 2 from the Park Board and 2 from Council.

Boards & Commissions:

The HIX TV Board met March 20th, and minutes were in the packets.

Council Committees:

The Water/Sewer Committee met April 8th, and minutes were in the packets. The Committee met with representatives from Metalink, the Sheriff's Dept. and the 911 Center (Mediacom was invited but did not come) to discuss moving the antennas currently attached to the old water tower by the library. The tower will be removed after the new water tower is built.

The Personnel Committee met April 14th, and minutes were in the packets. They had interviewed the 4 applicants for the open council seat.

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: A written report was submitted.

- He reported that a meeting with SCEIG on April 9th made it clear Hicksville does not qualify for any grant funds as there are adequate resources to apply for loans instead.
- Legislation will be presented later in this meeting to purchase a new F-450 truck to be fitted as a snowplow. The process could take several months, so ordering it now is essential.
- The flagpole has been repaired. Aqualine will be in town doing their leak detection survey this week.
- He also included the 1st quarter payroll numbers for his employees.
- ODOT will be paving the State Highways about May 2022. If anyone has any ideas about handicap spaces, they need to decide before the paving goes in - like before. It's hard to change the striping once it is down.
- Taylor Klepper asked if we were going to paint the light poles downtown. He thinks we should paint them black. Kent said he didn't have it on list of jobs since it will be expensive and doubly so if the green paint has to be stripped, the base material prepared, and then new paint applied. He planned to repair the current paint color but later.

Solicitor's Report:

- First reading of **Ordinance 2021-06** by caption only to amend appropriations (to include CDBG fund received for the Smith Street Curb and Paving Job) 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 2021-06 by caption only. Larry Ridgway made a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.
- First reading of **Resolution 2021-05** by caption only to purchase a new F-450 Ford Truck from Jim Schmidt Ford for use as a Plow Truck and declaring an emergency. Taylor Klepper made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes. Second and final reading of Resolution 2021-05 by caption only. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve, seconded by Mike Barth. All voted yes.

- First reading of **Resolution 2021-06** by caption only opposing Sub. HB 157 amending the law regarding withholding municipal earned income tax for those working virtually and/or at home 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 2021-06 by caption only. Ron Beverly made a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

Department Heads:

Police Chief: *Mark Denning reported still has concerns about the MARCS radios and the problems with the repeaters. A new MARCS tower would go a long way to solving the problem, but it would be extremely expensive to construct, and a site would have to be on State-owned land. There will be a meeting on the subject on April 30th.*

Fire/EMS Chief: *Scott Cramer asked for a Police/Fire/EMS Committee meeting next week. The new Compressor is wired in. He asked for the process to sell old equipment. He was told to get with Mike Bailey, with is familiar with " gov.deals." When they are ready the Solicitor will bring legislation.*

Park Director: *Val Shull had no report.*

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

- Fund Status Report
- Fund Summary Report (Revenue and Expenditures)
- March Mayor's Court Report

Mayor's Report:

- Addie Sailer from Community Memorial Hospital contacted the Mayor about a "Clean Up Day" for the Village. If anyone has any ideas about projects, please contact her or the Mayor.
- The search for the next Administrator will begin next Wednesday (the 22nd). Included tonight was a note from current Administrator Miller to the Mayor concerning his thoughts on his future with the Village.
- Also handed out tonight was a letter from Stephanie Karacson-Mazur with her take on the background check issue.
- The Health Department has reported 33% of Defiance County residents have at least the first shot of vaccine, and 25% with both.
- The Mayor concluded by thanking the 4 people who stepped up and put their names out for the vacant council seat: Tom Luderman, Shelia Baker, Charlie Martin and John Hart.

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

Mayor

Fiscal Officer