

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES
Tuesday, September 7th, 2021, at 6:00 p.m.

Council met in Council Chambers. If not fully vaccinated, please wear a mask.

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor Ron Jones, followed by the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Residents from the Gordon Creek Subdivision were recognized by Mayor Jones. They had come to Council to get any information available about the situation with their wastewater plant. When asked if anyone from the Commissioners had been out to speak to them, they replied that they have not. They were told currently all options are still on the table and are being discussed by the County and the Village. Council assured the residents that as soon as any decisions need to be made, they would be included in that process. They will have to approve anything that transpires affecting the plant. Council told the residents "As soon as we know anything - you will, too."

Minutes from the August 16th Regular Council Meeting were presented. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve as written, seconded by Charlie Martin. All voted yes.

A list of bills to be paid was presented. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve, seconded by Larry Ridgway. All voted yes.

Boards & Commissions:

The **Park Board** met August 18th and minutes were in the packets. They plan to meet next Wednesday to discuss a location for a walking trail. They think the Park needs a social media presence. The Park Director would need computer equipment to start this. The Board is working with the Girls' Softball Association to update their area of the park. Taylor Klepper said they are working with an architect who is donating his time.

Council Committees:

The **Street/Light/Property Committee** met August 16th and minutes were submitted tonight. They discussed a possible loading zone across from the municipal building. They also talked about setting a reserve amount for the Clearview property auction. No actions were recommended to council.

The **Police/Fire Committee** met August 19th and minutes were in the packets. Chief Cramer wanted to discuss hiring more full-time EMT's, increasing the levy, rotating weekend shifts, or paying an EMT for 40 hours and they only work 36 for weekends. Previously, approval was given to move Austin Thomas from part-time to full-time to help with weekend coverage - but the committee found out he just bought a house in Sherwood. Cramer also wants to send billing to an outside company he has contacted. He feels they would collect more revenue and only charge from 8% to 10%. John Elwood would no longer do any billing. The Committee asked to speak with a representative to get details.

The **Water/Sewer/Refuse Committee** met August 30th and minutes were in the packets. They discussed sewer rate increases as well as the situation with the Gordon Creek subdivision possibly connecting into the Village. The Committee is looking at rescinding an Ordinance that requires unincorporated subdivisions to annex (or sign an agreement to annex when eligible) in order to receive water and/or sewer services.

The **Finance Committee** met August 30th to begin the process of budgets (financial and payroll) for 2022.

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. All meetings are shown on YouTube.

Administrator's Report: Wann submitted a written report

- The CSX underpass is open on N. Main St. Wann has been contacted about installing flashing stop signs there, but it is a state highway. ODOT says it does not meet the criteria for such signage.
- Hohenbrink has made repairs to paving and yards of W. High St. All concrete driveways that were cracked have been replaced.
- The Village auction will be held September 11th beginning at 9 am in the municipal building garage.
- There was a main break at Cornelia & Rock Street about 1:30 am on Labor Day resulting in 13 hours of repairs for Village employees.

- Wann spoke with Loop Paving about the area near the Catholic Church. They are looking into fixing it as warranty work.
- Kent Miller has included a written update on all upcoming projects, including current funding and timelines.

Solicitor's Report:

- Second reading of **Ordinance 2021-12** by caption only amending Section 921.01 of the Codified Ordinances regarding curb and road excavation.
- First Reading of **Ordinance 2021-13** by caption only to amend Section 921.03 of the Sewer Ordinance.
- First reading of **Ordinance 2021-14** by caption only authorizing the sale of village-owned property (Lots 57-105, 110, and 112-115 of the Clearview Subdivision) to Steven and Debra Graber 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 Ordinance 2021-14. Ron Beverly made a motion to approve, seconded by Mike Barth. All voted yes.
- Second reading of **Resolution 2021-18** by caption only to enter agreement with Defiance County Commissioners to recover monies expended for providing legal counsel to indigent persons for the calendar year 2022.

Department Heads:

Police Chief: *Sergeant Craig Doctor reported 424 calls in August, resulting in 251 cases.*

Fire/EMS Chief: *Chief Cramer reported 14 fire calls (109 for the year) and 69 EMS runs (407 for the year) through August. Ron Beverly said he hears on his scanner that the EMS gets called out but does not transport a patient. Is that free? No, Chief Cramer told him the charge is \$110.00. Cramer asked for a Police/Fire Committee meeting. They will meet September 15th at 4:30 pm in Council Chambers.*

Park Director: *No report*

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

- Fund Status Report / Fund Summary Report (Revenue and Expenditures)
- August Utility and Income Tax Collections Reports
- July and August Revolving Loan Reports
- July and August Mayor's Court Reports
- May-July Police Department Collections Report
- List of local permits from Division of Liquor Control

Mayor's Report: *No report*

At 6:50 pm Taylor Klepper asked for an executive session to discuss possible land acquisition, seconded by Ron Beverly. All voted yes.

Council returned to regular session at 7 pm and reported no further business. Councilman Beverly said he would "take it upon himself to do something."

The school was complimented on the entry to the new section of driveway (from St Rt 18). The arch was constructed by local business owner Caleb Savage.

Eric Bassett made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Larry Ridgway. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

Mayor

Fiscal Officer