

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES  
Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup>, 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; Ron Beverly; Taylor Klepper; Mike Barth and Charlie Martin; Administrator Cory Wann; Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith; and Solicitor Troy Essex. Councilman Eric Bassett was absent.

Minutes from the September 20<sup>th</sup> Regular Council Meeting were presented. Taylor Klepper made a motion to approve as written, seconded by Charlie Martin. Klepper, Martin, Beverly, and Ridgway voted yes. Barth abstained.

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

Jim Pristas from Ambulance Billing Network was asked to present information about his company. Fire Chief Cramer is looking to outsource our EMS billing. Mr. Pristas gave a comprehensive look at his company's history and philosophy. He then explained ways he could enhance collections by training personnel, using proper coding, and follow up with insurance companies. He emphasized not leaving any money "on the table." He is willing to look at our system when John Elwood is back from medical leave. He said typically, the cost is around 8%. Council is interested in knowing if the increased collections are possible, and how much is necessary to recoup the 8% fee involved.

**Boards & Commissions:**

No minutes were submitted.

**Council Committees:**

The **Finance Committee** met September 27<sup>th</sup> and minutes were submitted tonight. They discussed upcoming budgets; possible raises; and changing the employee/employer split for health insurance. Minutes were in the packets.

The **Ordinance Committee** met September 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss the annexation ordinance Section 925.09 and decided to recommend it be left as written. Minutes were in the packets.

*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). All meetings are shown on YouTube.*

**Administrator's Report:** Wann submitted a written report covering the following topics:

- The new F450 truck for snow plowing is ready except for the radio.
- Bryan Excavating has installed the new valve on the water tower.
- The new gear reducer has been installed at the WWTP head works building.
- ODOT has been in to replace the clearance signs on the North Main viaduct. They also removed the sign allowing a right turn without stopping. Beverly asked Wann to contact ODOT and ask them to put it back. Wann replied he already asked ODOT about it and was told that the area does not conform to the criteria for such a sign. They did install a "Stop Sign Ahead" post. Beverly asked him to call anyway.
- Commodities will now be passed out at the Municipal Building garage on South Main instead of the Village Garage on North Main. When asked why the move, Wann replied that residents would pull up in front of the garage doors and his employees had to wait for an opening to pull machinery in or out for the whole morning. The other garage will not have that problem. Notifications will be on the website and signs posted.

Kent Miller had an update on Projects and Funding. A written copy was in each packet.

Ron Beverly wanted to know what was going on with the Safe Routes to School project. Kent Miller said a committee had to be formed and collect public input. It is up to the school at this point. Beverly told Cory Wann to get an update and call Laurie Adams. He doesn't want her "left hanging."

Beverly then asked if Kirsten Wilson from Energy Optimizers has been contacted about the proposed audit. Council agreed that the issue was supposed to be decided already and was dependent on the 2022 budget.

**Solicitor's Report:**

- Final reading of **Ordinance 2021-13** by caption only to amend Section 921.03 of the Sewer Ordinance. Larry Ridgway made a motion to approve, seconded by Charlie Martin. All voted yes.
- Second reading of **Resolution 2021-23** by caption only to sell property - Lot 55 of Edgerton's First Addition. *Note: Council had asked about our ability to sell land gifted to the Village. Essex will research and verify the paperwork is complete and correct.*

Mike Barth said he has been contacted by a resident about his neighborhood "cat issue." He even has pictures of stray cats up on his roof. Is there anything at all the village can do? Troy Essex said it is a civil issue between neighbors if one is feeding stray cats which annoys the other.

**Department Heads:**

**Police Chief:** *No report*

**Fire/EMS Chief:** *Chief Cramer reported Austin Thomas is leaving and would like to move Hannah Kirkham from part-time to full-time. Larry Ridgway made a motion to approve, seconded by Mike Barth. All voted yes. Cramer asked for another Police/Fire committee meeting.*

**Park Director:** *Andrew Lawrence from the Park Board was present to report the Board met to discuss next year. The pool needs a new liner, and they would like to replace some fencing.*

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

- Fund Status Report / Fund Summary Report (Revenue and Expenditures)
- September Utility and Income Tax Collections Reports
- September Revolving Loan Report
- 2020 Official Census Numbers
- ODOT contract for 2022 paving
- State Auditor Advisory Memo concerning fuel usage
- Flu shots for employees - Smith asked for approval from council to pay for them. Charlie Martin made a motion to approve the expenditure, seconded by Larry Ridgway. All voted yes.
- Smith included written Park Guidelines. It should clear up any confusion as experienced during the 2021 summer.

**Mayor's Report:** *No report*

At 7:10 pm Larry Ridgway asked for an executive session to discuss personnel disciplinary issues, seconded by Ron Beverly. All voted yes.

Council returned to regular session at 7:40 pm and reported no further business.

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

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Mayor

Fiscal Officer