

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES
Monday, November 1st, 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 by Pastor Steve Eyers, and the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Minutes from the October 18th Regular Council Meeting were presented. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve as written, seconded by Larry Ridgway. All voted yes.

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

Billy Laney will be heard at a meeting of the Personnel Committee on November 10th at 4:30 in Council Chambers.

Boards & Commissions:

The **CRA Housing Council** will meet November 17th at 6 pm in the Zoning Office.

Council Committees:

The **Water & Sewer Committee** met October 18th and minutes were in the packets. They discussed a request for residents to take part in a water sampling program. Well #3 went down and the pump and other components had to be replaced. The Wastewater Superintendent's last day was October 26th. IFM has been contracted to cover the plant until a replacement can be hired.

The **Finance Committee** will meet Monday November 8th at 5:30 to finalize the budget.

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 council meetings are shown on YouTube and minutes are on the website.

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

- The WWTP grit pump has been repaired and is functioning properly.
- The HHS Wrestling Team will be out raking leaves on the 24th. If anyone needs assistance, contact the Administrator.
- The Pavilion roof will be repaired soon by Buckeye Roofing.
- The ODOD grant has been approved. It is for 1.03 million and will go towards the new wellfield.
- Kerstin Wilson from Energy Optimizers is putting together a proposal for a turnkey lighting project along with a payment plan.
- The bid opening for the 22.25 acres of farmland in Industrial Park was held on October 29th. A 3-year contract was awarded to Zeedyk Farms LLC as the high bidder. Troy Essex will bring legislation to the next meeting.

Solicitor's Report:

- Final reading of **Ordinance 2021-15** by caption only to establish pay rates for 2022. Ron Beverly said he doesn't think someone who gets written up should get a raise. Taylor Klepper said he thinks employees are compensated appropriately. Reprimands are not handled here. Larry Ridgway made a motion to approve the pay rates, seconded by Eric Bassett. Barth, Bassett, Klepper, Martin and Ridgway voted yes. Beverly voted no.
- *Note: Council had asked about our ability to sell land gifted to the Village. Essex is in the process of verifying this.*
- *The Defiance Avenue land purchase and the sale of the Clearview Subdivision are being finalized.*

Department Heads:

Police Chief: Mark Denning reported he has received confirmation that his application of a safety vest grant was approved at 100%. It is a 75/25 match for the village. He will order and have fitted 13 vests. They have a life span of 5 years.

Fire/EMS Chief: Scott Cramer announced Feather Bingo will happen on Saturday, November 13th at the Fire Hall. The doors open at 4 and Bingo begins at 6.

Park Director: *Val Shull reported the Park is winding down.*

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

- Fund Status Report / Fund Summary Report (Revenue and Expenditures)
- October Utility and Income Tax Collections reports
- October Revolving Loan Report
- 3rd Quarter Mediacom Franchise Fee Report
- Smith asked for a vote to approve the change for health insurance. Currently it is a 20/80 split between the employee and the village - the new split beginning 2022 will be 15/85. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve the change, seconded by Mike Barth. All voted yes.

Mayor's Report: *Mayor Jones reminded residents the polls open tomorrow morning at 6:30 am and will be open until 7:30 pm. Voting is at the Empower Church on Hicksville-Edgerton Rd. (Meuse Argonne) across from Industrial Park.*

Taylor Klepper asked Council for their opinions/thoughts on the proposed walking trail. Is anyone opposed to looking at extending the trail to the new wellfield? No one voiced any opposition if it can be worked out. Lighting and parking were the main concerns.

Larry Ridgway made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Mayor

Fiscal Officer