

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES  
Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022 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, Taylor Klepper, Mike Barth, Ron Beverly, and Charlie Martin; Administrator Cory Wann; Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith; and Solicitor Troy Essex.

Mayor Jones administered the Oath of Office to 4 incoming Council Members: Mike Barth for his 4<sup>th</sup> term, Ron Beverly Sr. for his 6<sup>th</sup> term, and newcomers Charlie Martin and Toni Egly.

Nominations were called to elect the Council President for 2022. Charlie Martin nominated Eric Bassett, seconded by Mike Barth. Ron Beverly moved that the nominations be closed, seconded by Mike Barth. A roll call vote was taken with Barth, Beverly, Martin, Egly and Klepper voting yes. Bassett abstained.

Minutes from the December 20<sup>th</sup> 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. Ron Beverly made a motion to approve, seconded by Charlie Martin. All voted yes.

**Michele Ryder** from Werlor was here to discuss renewing our contract that ends this year. She gave council information on industry specific problems as well as personnel issues causing the need for a rate hike. She would like a one-year contract at 14.10 per household per month. Currently we pay 13.31. She was asked if we could make it a 3-year contract. She said she could say 2-years, but not 3 without going back to her office. Ron Beverly wanted to know if a resident could opt out of recycling. Ms. Ryder said it was up to the village. Dawn Hostetler told Mr. Beverly we have an ordinance that precludes any opt-outs. He said he doesn't recycle and gave his recycle bin back as soon as it was delivered. Mike Barth reminded Ms. Ryder that an increase needs to be brought up before our annual budget is set. The best time would be in the summer or fall.

**Boards & Commissions:**

None

**Council Committees:**

The Police & Fire Committee met December 20<sup>th</sup> to discuss department personnel. No written report was given.

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

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

- Wellfield Contracts are ready for signature - preconstruction meeting will be January 18<sup>th</sup>.
- The Defiance Avenue lift station has had electrical issues. Choice One will be in on January 10<sup>th</sup> to discuss the area and the LTCP.
- Hohenbrink has sent final bills on the High Street water and separation projects.
- We are still looking for a custodian and WWTP Superintendent.
- We lost a speed bump in the park to the snowplow.
- Wann would like to hire Ron Daniels for the WWTP as an independent contractor. Lucas Brown needs some hands-on help. Ron Beverly said he couldn't hire anyone - it had to go out to bid. He then asked Wann if he had reached out to the farmer (who was given permission years ago by a previous administrator to tie his field runoff into our system). Wann said he had not. Beverly said "Why not?" - he thought that had been decided earlier.

**Solicitor's Report:**

No legislation

**Department Heads:**

**Police Chief:** Mark Denning had a list of calls and cases for the packets.

**Fire/EMS Chief:** *Scott Cramer reported 158 fire calls in 2021, and 594 EMS runs. The department still has grant funds available.*

**Park Director:** *Val Shull was absent. The park is shut down for the season.*

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

- Fund Status Report / Fund Summary Report (Revenue and Expenditures)
- Income Tax and Utility Collections Reports for December
- Charlie Martin volunteered to replace Larry Ridgway on the Volunteer Firefighters Dependent Fund Board, with Ron Beverly remaining.

**Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Jones asked Susan Mack to come forward in recognition of her continuing service to the village. She volunteers at the Hicksville Community Service Center and serves the Library, the Historical Society, the Beautification Committee and much more. He nominated her for the Small Town America Civic Volunteer Award, and received a letter back commending her good work, although she was not in the top 100 honorees. There were over 700 nominees from 49 states, so competition was fierce. Mayor Jones applauded her hard work on behalf of the entire village.

Commissioner Mick Pocratsky announced the demolition program needs properties to demolish, but prospects need to be in by April. The Nuisance Board will meet soon. Taylor Klepper asked about the Gordon Creek sewer project. The Commissioner did not have an answer yet.

There was another long discussion about background check for coaches in the park. The Ordinance Committee will meet to iron out verbiage that covers what council wants to happen as well as shows due diligence for any future liability issues. Troy Essex will write the legislation when it is decided.

Eric Bassett made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Charlie Martin. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

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Mayor

Fiscal Officer