

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES  
Monday, February 7<sup>th</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 Pastor Steve Evers invocation 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, Toni Egly and Charlie Martin; Administrator Cory Wann; Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith; and Solicitor Troy Essex.

Minutes from the January 17<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. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve, seconded by Taylor Klepper. Bassett, Beverly, Martin, Egly, and Klepper voted yes. Barth abstained.

**Amy Hoffman from Palmer Energy** was present to ask the Village to put aggregation of electricity on the ballot in November like Hicksville Township has done. She had a handout and gave a brief explanation of her company. She explained the concept of aggregation to Council. If aggregation is approved by the voters, they will be joined into a group that includes all residents and businesses within the village limits. A larger group can be offered a cheaper rate for electricity than a single household. The "government aggregator" will then be given a selection of electricity producers and will choose one for the entire group. The aggregator also chooses the amount paid for electricity as well as the length of the contract. In the case of the Township, they made the Defiance County Commissioners their aggregator. Once the question is passed by the voters, the mayor (or his designate) would choose the electric rate for the whole village, or he could pass the role to the Commissioners as well. Everyone is "opted in" upon passage. Everyone has the option to "opt out" and choose their own electricity supplier.

When asked how her company makes money, she said it is based on a percentage of contract approved by the aggregator. A percentage is then returned to the Commissioners as the "government aggregator" who in turn sends a percentage of that amount back to the community who chose them.

*Note: If a resident or business chooses to opt out of aggregation, it can easily be done when the contract ends. There could be early withdrawal penalties if you opt out before a contract ends.*

A **Notice of Public Hearing** was announced. It will be held February 10<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm in the Zoning office, 108 N Main Street. The application is for a lot split at 119 E Smith Street.

**Boards & Commissions:**

The **Nuisance Board** met January 26<sup>th</sup> and minutes were in the packets. Several properties are being contacted about various problems.

**Council Committees:**

The **Ordinance Committee** met January 20<sup>th</sup> and submitted minutes in the packets. They met to discuss background checks and ball associations at the park. It was decided the village would rely on a "facility use agreement", which will be written by Troy Essex. Taylor Klepper made a motion to approve writing a facility use agreement with a stipulation the lessee must provide liability insurance coverage with a minimum of one million dollars. He was seconded by Ron Beverly. Barth, Bassett, Beverly, Egly and Klepper voted yes. Martin voted no. He preferred a requirement of background checks on the coaches.

The **Police/Fire/EMS Committee** met January 20<sup>th</sup> and submitted minutes in the packets. They had asked the department heads to talk about their goals for their departments.

The **Street/Light/Property Committee** met January 17<sup>th</sup> before council and gave oral minutes during the council meeting. Written minutes were presented tonight.

*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:**

- Cory Wann reported the Recycle Lot will be closed for the month of February.
- He has been in contact with County Engineer Warren Schlatter about the widening of Meuse Argonne from Elm Street to the village limits. There will be 29 mailboxes and at least 2 utility poles to be moved. Mike Barth would like the corner of Elm and Meuse Argonne to be widened as well.

- The fence between the municipal building and the fire hall was hit during the storm. RG Zachrich has been notified for repairs.

**Solicitor's Report:**

First reading of **Ordinance 2022-02** by caption only to amend the pay rate ordinance 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 2022-02 by caption only. Charlie Martin made a motion to approve, seconded by Mike Barth. All voted yes.

**Department Heads:**

**Police Chief:** *Chief Denning had sent his case/call listing earlier. He said a new MARCS tower may be constructed with site approval. Construction could take up to 9 months. He asked for Officer Cierra Moran to be removed from probation. She has completed her first six months and has done an excellent job.*

**Fire/EMS Chief:** *Chief Cramer gave 4 names to the mayor for recommendation to the Fire Department. Mayor Jones recommended Rebecca Somers, Felix Salinas, Micah Grant and Drew Wort to be hired. Mike Barth made a motion to accept the recommendations, pending a physical, drug screen and background check. They also need training. He was seconded by Charlie Martin. All voted yes.*

**Park Director:** *Val Shull was absent.*

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

- Fund Status Report / Fund Summary Report (Revenue and Expenditures)
- January Income Tax and Utility Collections and the Mayor's Court Report
- January Revolving Loan Report
- 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Mediacom Franchise Fee Report

**Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Jones had a Proclamation naming February Career & Technical Education Month. He also read his **2021 State of the Village** Report. A copy will be posted on the village website.

Bill Murphy asked for a volunteer to serve on the HIX TV Board. If anyone is interested, contact him or the mayor.

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

---

Mayor

Fiscal Officer