

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES  
Tuesday, February 22<sup>nd</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 Eyers with an 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; Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith; and Solicitor Troy Essex. Administrator Cory Wann was absent.

Minutes from the February 7<sup>th</sup> Regular Council Meeting were presented. Ron Beverly made a motion to approve after checking the "Note" section of the Palmer Energy presentation, seconded by Eric Bassett. 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.

**Roy Klopfenstein, candidate for the Ohio House of Representatives, 82<sup>nd</sup> District** was present to speak to council about his upcoming run. He gave an outline of his family and life as a farmer. He also served 3 terms as Paulding County Commissioner. His mission is to push back against too much Columbus bureaucracy.

**Boards & Commissions:**

No minutes were presented.

**Council Committees:**

The **Personnel Committee** met February 7<sup>th</sup>. They discussed the opening at the Wastewater Plant as well as a replacement for Troy Sargent who can retire in a few months.

The **Finance Committee** met February 16<sup>th</sup>. They discussed being able to pay for Troy Sargent's replacement from this year's budget. It was decided to start someone in the last quarter of the year and have them paid and trained during that time as Water Department (priority) and helping the Street and Wastewater Departments. His or her salary could then be paid from all the departments. The committee was brought up to date on the candidate for the wastewater plant opening.

Charlie Martin made a motion to move Kim Forster to Sr. Income Tax Administrator, seconded by Mike Barth. She has been collecting Sherwood's income tax as well as Hicksville's without any additional compensation. All voted yes.

Charlie Martin made a motion to pay April Allen the rate for the Mayor's Court Clerk for the time she puts in that department. Her other pay will remain the same. This was seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

The **Street/Light/Property Committee** will meet March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5:15 to begin planning for a new government building. The previous meeting was cancelled due to the weather.

*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:** (written report)

- Wann has been in contact with the County Engineer about the widening of Meuse Argonne.
- The bid opening for the Valve Replacement job has been moved up. It will be March 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 in the Commissioners' office. Wann wants this work done before ODOT does their planned paving.
- The ad for a janitor has expired. The wastewater superintendent ad will run until March 4<sup>th</sup>.
- He thanked his employees for their hard work during the snow events.

**Solicitor's Report:**

First reading of **Ordinance 2022-03** by caption only to transfer funds to the Police Pension Fund and declaring an emergency. Eric Bassett made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Charlie Martin. All voted yes. Second and final reading of Ordinance 2022-03 by caption only. Mike Barth made a motion to approve, seconded by Ron Beverly. All voted yes.

Essex is still working on a "Facilities Use Agreement" and hopes to have it done soon.

**Department Heads:**

**Police Chief:** *Chief Denning was on vacation. Sergeant Doctor did not have a report.*

**Fire/EMS Chief:** *Chief Cramer had no report.*

**Park Director:** *Val Shull had no report.*

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

- Fund Status Report / Fund Summary Report (Revenue and Expenditures)
- Quote for downtown planters from the Beautification Committee was presented. Eric Bassett made a motion for the village to pay \$5,000.00 towards the cost, seconded by Charlie Martin. Barth, Bassett, Egly, Martin, and Beverly voted yes. Klepper abstained.
- Quotes for a new phone system were presented:
  - SMTA installation \$13,302.80 and monthly phone/internet of \$1721.20.
  - Metalink installation \$11,214.05 and monthly phone \$314.65 with free internet. The village has a contract for free internet because Metalink uses our tower for their antenna. When the tower is removed, internet will be \$629.65 for a total monthly phone/internet of \$944.30.
  - Currently our phone service is (average) \$1385.00 per month.

Beverly/Klepper/Bassett verbally stated they wanted to stay local and sign with SMTA. Charlie Martin asked to meet with both Metalink & SMTA to compare their quotes. Beverly/Klepper/Bassett stated this was not comparing apples to apples, when dealing with the two proposals.

Smith responded that both companies were given the exact same parameters for their quotes. She worked with Arend Enterprises since the new system was unfamiliar to her. She said Bob Arend could answer any questions they may have.

**Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Jones announced the Summer Concert Series will be held again this year. He asked anyone who would like to perform to contact him or the Committee.

At 6:50 Ron Beverly asked for an Executive Session to discuss possible land sale and/or acquisition and economic development, seconded by Mike Barth. All voted yes. Council returned to regular session at 7:20 pm.

No further business was brought forward.

Charlie Martin made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm.

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Mayor

Fiscal Officer