

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES
Monday, March 21, 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 the invocation. All recited 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; Solicitor Troy Essex; and Administrator Cory Wann.

Minutes from the March 7th Regular Council Meeting were presented. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve, 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 Eric Bassett. Beverly, Bassett, Egly, Klepper, and Martin voted yes. Barth abstained.

Boards & Commissions:

No meetings were held.

Council Committees:

The **Water/Sewer Committee** met March 16th. They discussed a request from a residence on Hicksville Edgerton Rd to make a sewer tap. The property owner was informed they would have to annex into the village before that could happen.

The Administrator informed the committee that he has discussed an offer with Joel Jacob for the WWTP Superintendent position. The offer includes a salary of \$67,000.00 annually, 3 weeks' vacation per year and a carryover of his sick time hours. Jacob has agreed to the terms and Wann would like to hire him. Mayor Jones made the recommendation to council. Mike Barth made a motion to accept the mayor's recommendation, contingent upon a physical, drug screen and background check, and was seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

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: (written report)

- CSX is once again closing down the North Main viaduct starting March 21st and running 90 days. ODOT is scheduled to begin paving in June and has been contacted. They don't believe the CSX work will interfere.
- The street department and park department are working to clean up after the winter and get ready for spring.
- Energy Optimizers will begin work on the lighting upgrades on village buildings in June. The lead time is substantial due to material delivery.
- The village alert system is not active yet. Mayor Jones, Chief Denning and Wann will be having training next week or so.
- The Cole property has not been torn down yet. The crew is running behind.

Solicitor's Report:

First reading of **Resolution 2022-04** by caption only granting authority to the village Administrator to submit an application for grant funds through the Safe Routes to School Project and declaring an emergency. Taylor Klepper made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes. Second and final reading of Resolution 2022-04 by caption only. Mike Barth made a motion to approve, seconded by Ron Beverly. All voted yes.

First reading of **Resolution 2022-05** by caption only authorizing participation in the ODOT Salt Contracts and declaring an emergency. Charlie Martin made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes. Second and final reading of Resolution 2022-05 by caption only. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve, seconded by Ron Beverly. All voted yes.

Essex said the ball associations are having difficulty getting the required insurance policies in place. They are finding it may be cost prohibitive.

Department Heads:

Police Chief: Chief Denning had no report.

Fire/EMS Chief: Chief Cramer absent. No report.

Park Director: Val Shull reported the pool has a break along the seam in the lining. She will look into the cost of repairing it. When there is a pool party in the evening, the cost is \$30.00 per hour. Lifeguards are required and receive their usual hourly pay. Shull would like to give them the pool party money as well as their pay.

She was reminded the extra pay would still be taxable and pensionable. The time needs to be recorded on the timecards. Taylor Klepper made a motion to approve the request, seconded by Ron Beverly. All voted yes.

Lindsey Thiel from the Park Board was present to introduce Jim and Karen Schmidt on behalf of the Hicksville Foundation to talk about a new Splash Pad, and Dick Altman to talk about the walking trail project.

Jim Schmidt had handouts for council showing various splash pad options. He thinks the cost at a minimum will be about \$600,000.00. He is only asking for council to choose a possible location. Speaking for the Park Board Lindsey Thiel said they want the basketball courts moved somewhere else and use that spot for the Splash Pad. Ron Beverly asked about the cost of maintenance. Would the pool be closed? Mr. Schmidt is of the opinion the pool needs to be preserved since it serves a different age group. Eric Bassett wanted to know about needing lifeguards. If so, the area by the pool could be fenced in and be monitored. He also asked about water treatment costs. Mr. Schmidt said he did not have details of that nature yet but whatever company is chosen to install it could come in and speak with council. Mike Barth suggested the location be determined by the company chosen. Karen Schmidt reminded everyone of the need for a changing room and restrooms to be located nearby. Beverly added parking areas as well. Toni Egly asked about the cost of moving the basketball courts. It would have to be put into next year's budget. She also said the Hicksville Community Service Center may want to be included in the project. Troy Essex will investigate the legal aspect of a project funded privately but installed on village-owned property.

Dick Altman is considering a 501©3 committee to work on a 2-part walking trail. Part 1 would be around the existing park and would be a "hard trail" made of asphalt or a similar surface. Part 2 would be out on Casebeer Miller around the new wellfield. That would be a natural trail made by mowing with possible milling later. This area would require parking as well as restrooms or porta johns. Water Superintendent cautioned any placement around the wellfield would have restrictions. Taylor Klepper said the course could be mapped out now.

Mayor Jones said both projects are good ideas, and he would like to see them move along. Council was of the opinion that both committees go ahead, and they look forward to updates.

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

- Fund Status Report / Fund Summary Report (Revenue and Expenditures)
- Mediacom correspondence

Mayor's Report:

- Mayor Jones reported COVID 19 numbers have dropped considerably.
- Slattery Oil has been sold. They were in business 62 years. Mayor Jones thanked the family for their service to the community.
- Mayor Jones is putting together a new committee to begin gathering information on the possibility of a new Municipal Complex. He has asked Kent Miller, Cheryl Smith, Taylor Klepper, Eric Bassett and Ron Beverly to participate so far.

Eric Bassett made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Charlie Martin. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Mayor

Fiscal Officer