

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES
Tuesday September 6, 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. 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, Ron Beverly, Charlie Martin, Mike Barth, and Toni Egly; Sr. Utility Clerk Dawn Hostetler and Solicitor Troy Essex. Administrator Cory Wann and Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith were absent.

Minutes from the August 15th Regular Council Meeting were presented. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve, seconded by Charlie Martin. Bassett, Klepper, Beverly, Egly and Martin voted yes. Barth abstained.

A list of bills to be paid was presented. Ron Beverly asked about the Schmucker Motor Repair, LLC invoice, Taylor Klepper and Charlie Martin gave a response they had received from Administrator Wann regarding this invoice. Ron Beverly then made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Eric Bassett. Bassett, Klepper, Beverly, Egly and Martin voted yes. Barth abstained.

Erica Willitzer from the Defiance County CIC announced to council an agreement with Keller Logistics Group to build a ~~110,000~~ 100,000sqft spec building on property in Hicksville Industrial Park. This will be available to new industry in the Village and will generate at least 20 new jobs with pay at or above \$18.50 per hour. Questions from council regarding the new water tower proximity and final decisions on tenant for new building were answered.

Boards & Commissions: No meetings were held.

Council Committees:

The Personnel Committee met August 31st; minutes were presented prior to council meeting. Discussion included job descriptions with a focus on the Zoning Inspector position and day to day responsibilities. Extensive discussion on time spent mowing in the Village vs. Zoning and Ordinance violations. It was noted that the Zoning Inspector now has set office hours for availability. The Village Administrator will update the Zoning job description to align with updated roles and responsibilities. Town hall information sessions will be implemented as new and increased enforcement begins. The committee agreed in general that many village employees are not in line with current market rates. The committee also discussed annual written evaluations to track employee performance and possible merit-based raises, it was decided there needed to be ongoing discussions before moving forward.

The Water/Sewer/Refuse Committee met prior to the council meeting; Taylor Klepper gave an oral report stating the main discussion was regarding bulk water usage for swimming pools and lawn irrigation policy change. The committee will continue investigating a change.

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: the report contained the following items:

- Bryan Excavating is still on schedule to bore the water line casing under the railroad on September 12th. The 2 monitoring (observation) wells are in..... The concrete pads for the generator and propane tank are also installed out to the wellfield. AEP will be sitting a new pole just West of the drainage ditch to receive power for the pole East of the drainage ditch (105'), AEP will also be running underground electrical (1,900') to the transformer once they get the easement from the Village for the underground.
- The approach to Maple Lane was completed on Thursday (1st) by M&M Paving (they were in town doing repairs), the county had not done the approach due to the manhole at the intersection being low. We did raise the manhole for the additional paving, there had been about a 3" drop leading into the housing addition and we have received a lot of complaints (rightfully so) over this situation.
- East High Street repair is also scheduled for concrete and asphalt for September 12th and 13th, this will be a 2-day repair with traffic control going on for both

days. They will have to remove plates, dig out some of the backfill so they can pour concrete, recover with the plates, and come back the next day to asphalt. Bryan Excavating will be doing this repair, they will already be here in town working in the wellfield.

- State paving project through the Village that was supposed to start on August 1st is now tentatively scheduled for milling to start on the week of September 12th and paving the week of September 19th. They are to be starting on 18 West and then jump over onto 18 East. This is the latest update from the Gerken area manager Mr. Helberg on Friday September 2nd.

Solicitor's Report:

Second reading of **Resolution 2022-13** to enter an agreement with the Defiance County Commissioners for the recovery of monies expended for providing legal counsel to indigent persons for the calendar year 2023

First reading of **Resolution 2022-14** to enter a contract with Caldwell Tanks, Inc., for construction of an elevated water storage tank 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 2022-14. Mike Barth made a motion to approve, seconded by Ron Beverly. All voted yes.

First reading of **Resolution 2022-15** accepting the Amounts and Rates as determined by the budget commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor and declaring an emergency. Eric Bassett made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Ron Beverly. All voted yes. Second and final reading of Resolution 2022-15. Charlie Martin made a motion to approve, seconded by Mike Barth. All voted yes.

First reading of **Resolution 2022-16** to enter into an agreement with the Community Improvement Corporation of Defiance County, Inc., regarding transfer of real property and declaring an emergency. Eric Bassett made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Taylor Klepper. All voted yes. Second and final reading of Resolution 2022-14. Charlie Martin made a motion to approve, seconded by Mike Barth. All voted yes.

Department Heads:

Police Chief: *Sergeant Doctor gave a list of calls for the month of August. He also stated that the interviews were continuing thru the process.*

Fire/EMS Chief: *Scott Cramer was absent.*

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)

Mayor's Report:

- "Hoptoberfest" will be September 17th from 7 to 9 downtown.
- "Christmas Cruise Thru" set up has begun, volunteers are needed.
- Taylor Klepper shared that the Hicksville Trail Association is a 501c3 organization and they continue preliminary planning. He also shared that the Splash pad committee is ready to sign a letter of intent with an engineer firm in Indianapolis.

Charlie Martin made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 6:35 pm.

Mayor

Sr. Utility Clerk