

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES
Monday October 3, 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, Ron Beverly, Charlie Martin, Mike Barth, Taylor Klepper and Toni Egly; Solicitor Troy Essex; Administrator Cory Wann; and Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith.

Minutes from the September 19th Regular Council Meeting were presented. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve as written, seconded by Charlie Martin. Bassett, Beverly, Martin, Barth and Egly voted yes. Klepper abstained.

A list of bills to be paid was presented. Ron Beverly made a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

Cara Potter from the Defiance Public Library System was present to address council and remind residents the Library Levy will be on the ballot in November. If you would like to put a sign in your yard, contact Dawn Hostetler. Ms. Potter then gave an interesting history of the Library System in Defiance County. Beginning in 1938 for Hicksville and 1939 for Sherwood, reading rooms were set up using Defiance County resources. In 1959, with a start-up gift from Carma Johnson Rowe, the Johnson Memorial Library was built. *Friends of the Library* have several fundraising events each year to supplement tax dollars used to support the library. In conjunction with the Hicksville Community Service Center, volunteers help with the summer lunch program at the park. The library also assists the Historical Society, which is housed next door to the library.

Boards & Commissions:

No Boards met during this time period.

Council Committees:

The Street/Light/Property Committee met September 29th; minutes were in the packets. The discussion was with Conrad Beck and concerned to upcoming contract and any recommended changes. Eric Bassett made a motion to leave the contract "as is", seconded by Taylor Klepper. All voted yes.

The Finance Committee will meet October 10th at 3 pm. Department heads are encouraged to have their budgets turned in.

Ron Beverly said the Water/Sewer committee will meet October 13th at 5 pm to discuss the Werlor contract with Michelle Ryder.

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:

- Lucas Brown has been awarded his Wastewater I license.
- Jones & Henry Engineers reported Test Well #8 is experiencing problems and may have to be redrilled. It does not appear it can produce the 500 gallons per minute required. The soil has a lot of clay. They need to drill a 2" test well nearby to a depth of 210 ft. The cost could be an additional \$11,000.00. Test Well #9 is working ok.
- Ron Beverly asked about selling the lot at the corner of Arthur and N. Main. Troy Essex reminded council the legislation has already been passed. Wann will contact an auctioneer to write a contract.

Solicitor's Report:

- There was no legislation to offer.
- Essex reported he is working on updates for the Ordinance Committee. He is waiting for certain responses before he can finalize legislation.
- He is hoping to hear from the company that oversees the tower in Industrial Park by the end of the week (concerning the project with the Defiance County CIC.)
- Essex will bring legislation and a contract for farming the land around the wellfield when the details have been ironed out.
- Ron Beverly wanted to know if the village needs to have a contract with the Trail Committee. Essex said it will happen when the time is right, and all the details are available.

- Finally, Essex reminded council that any project on land owned by the village requires all policies, procedures and regulations to be followed, even if the cost is being covered 100% by donations.

Department Heads:

Police Chief: *Mark Denning reported widespread vandalism last weekend (Sept. 30th). He is asking the public to examine any personal cameras that may have recorded the incidents to contact the Police Dept.*

Officer Cierra Moran is leaving the department. She will not remain as part-time.

Newly hired Officer Andrew Fritch was on hand with his parents to be sworn in.

Chief Denning asked for an executive session tonight to discuss personnel.

He then turned the podium over to Officer Ross Becker. He was responsible as Wellness Officer for being awarded an \$8,300.00 grant through the American Rescue Plan Act. This grant provides funding to train officers to become peer support leaders and receive critical stress incident training. The grant will provide resources to the department as well as collect data to identify specific areas of need. An example of the resources available would be ways an officer could reach out anonymously when they have any kind of mental health struggle due to their job. Council thanked Officer Becker for his achievement.

Fire/EMS Chief: *Scott Cramer announced a breakfast from 7 am-11 am and a 5K run at 9 am October 8th.*

- *The department had a training fire Saturday as well as a driving class.*
- *There are 2 classes going on: 5 firefighters are taking the FF I training, and 4 volunteers are taking the EMR class - 2 are firemen and 2 new hires.*
- *Cramer gave the names to the mayor to recommend hiring: Mayor Jones recommended Tim Goodfellow and Ashley Lemper. Mike Barth made a motion to approve the mayor's recommendation, seconded by Ron Beverly. All voted yes.*
- *Mayor Jones said he received a phone call after the incident at the American Building praising the departments for their professionalism, courtesy and abilities. Chief Denning added that the person has been charged and will be prosecuted.*

Park Director: *Val Shull was absent. Mike Barth reported the Park Board met to discuss the 2023 budget but only 2 people showed up. They question the need for a Park Board. Troy Essex will look into the matter. He is not sure how it was set up, so he can't speak to disbanding it.*

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

- Fund Status / Cash Summary (Revenue & Expenditures)
- September Utility and Income Tax Reports
- Flu Shot Schedule for employees

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Jones had no report.

Taylor Klepper announced a fundraiser has been set up for the Splashpad. Eric Bassett said Kirk Collins has a handout.

Bassett reported the middle school/eighth grade students will be going to Washington DC. Also, high school golfer Kenzie Schroeder has advanced to compete at State October 14 and 15.

At 7:00 Ron Beverly made a motion to go to Executive Session to discuss Personnel Compensation, seconded by Mike Barth.

At 7:50 pm Council returned to Regular Session. No further business was brought forward.

Eric Bassett then made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Charlie Martin. All voted yes.