

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES
Tuesday January 3, 2023, 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 Evers' invocation. All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call was read with the following persons in attendance: Mayor Ron Jones; Council Members Eric Bassett, Charlie Martin, Mike Barth, Toni Egly, and Taylor Klepper; Solicitor Troy Essex, and Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith. Administrator Cory Wann and Councilman Ron Beverly were absent.

Nominations were opened for Council President. Charlie Martin nominated Eric Bassett. Mike Barth nominated Charlie Martin. Mike Barth moved the nominations be closed, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes. Council members named Charlie Martin by majority roll call vote (4 for Martin and 1 for Bassett).

Dave Gulden and Erin Garza from Geenex Solar were present to introduce themselves and their company to the Hicksville area residents. They are in the process of possibly acquiring land to develop a solar field. The newest field will be a 2-county project between Defiance and Paulding County. The eventual power provided will be contracted to the power grid. They want residents to know their office is open to any questions or concerns. They left contact information with the Mayor and Fiscal Officer.

Minutes from the December 19th 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. The invoice for Energy Optimizers will be pulled because the job has not been completed yet. Charlie Martin made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Eric Bassett. Bassett, Martin, Barth and Egly voted yes. Klepper abstained.

Boards & Commissions:

The HIX TV Board met November 12th. The bylaws and guidelines were updated, approved by Troy Essex, and presented tonight to council for approval. Mike Barth made a motion to accept the changes, seconded by Taylor Klepper. All voted yes. (Updated items available from office of the Fiscal Officer, 111 S. Main Street.) Mike Barth has been replaced by Toni Egly as council liaison to the HIX TV Board.

Council Committees:

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: Wann had a written report outlining the progress on Division A (water lines) and Division B (wells) at the new wellfield. A copy of the report is available from the Fiscal Officer. A tree service has been hired to take down the row of trees to make room for the splash pad/pool. The water tower is on hold until the concrete pad is poured. The Maple Lane separation project is scheduled to go to bid in January.

Wastewater Treatment Plant Superintendent Joel Jacob was on hand to update council on progress at the plant. He is currently working on a plan for sludge removal, both in the present and the future. He invited council members to come to the plant for a tour and they could better understand what he is facing. Once the plant has had long standing problems corrected it will make proper maintenance easier, cheaper and less time consuming. He estimates the cost to get the plant running optimally to be in the \$100,000.00 range.

Solicitor's Report:

- No legislation to be read.

Department Heads:

Police Chief: Mark Denning was absent.

Fire/EMS Chief: Scott Cramer had good news/bad news. The Fire Dept. received the MARCS grant for 2023 but were denied the grant that would have been used to purchase new fire hoses. Worse news is that Engine 504 needs a repair that is estimated to be \$6 to \$7,000.00.

Park Director: Val Shull had no report. The Park & Pool have been closed for the season. Eric Bassett gave an update on the plans for the new Splashpad/Pool. The next step will be for the Administrator to contract for a basic bid package to be put together with an

RFP (Request for Proposal). Design services can then be determined. Standard Aquatics has reminded the village it can take up to 4 months to get the proper license/permits. Taylor Klepper said he is concerned that the Administrator is moving too fast making changes at the park and having the trees cut down (near the skate park). Cheryl Smith said the tree service was doing the work and donating the cost to the Splashpad fund. They did not produce shade anyway. They are evergreens and some are dead already. Park Director Val Shull said the trees were dirty with needles dropping. She will not miss them.

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

- Fund Status / Cash Summary (Revenue & Expenditures)
- December Utility / Income Tax / Mayor's Court Collections Reports

Mayor's Report: Mayor Jones reminded everyone the seat for mayor and 2 seats on council will be up this year. If you want to run, get your paperwork turned in by February 1st. for the primary election in May.

At 7:08 Eric Bassett made a motion to enter Executive Session to discuss possible litigation, seconded by Charlie Martin. All voted yes. Council returned to regular session at 7:20 pm.

No further business was brought forward.

Eric Bassett made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Charlie Martin. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Mayor

Fiscal Officer