

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES
Tuesday February 21, 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 Acting Mayor Charlie Martin, followed by an invocation from Pastor Steve Eyers. All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Minutes from the February 6th Regular Council Meeting were presented. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve as written, seconded by Mike Barth. All voted yes.

A list of bills to be paid was presented. Ron Beverly asked about the invoice from Caldwell Tank since nothing has been done yet. Wann explained the cost is for the material that has been purchased and is in Kentucky awaiting transport to Ohio. Invoices have been submitted to the Administrator's office as proof. The bill from Sam Asher Computing was questioned as well. It is for the village wide alert system available for free to residents. They can sign up on the village website. Eric Bassett made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Toni Egly. Bassett, Beverly and Egly voted yes. Klepper and Barth abstained.

Boards & Commissions:

No Boards met.

Council Committees:

The **Finance Committee** met February 13th- minutes were in the packets. The committee discussed the Fire/EMS budget which has a shortfall in 2023. The Fiscal Officer will estimate the funds needed for the next few years and recommend an amount to ask for an EMS levy on the November ballot.

The **Personnel Committee** met February 16th - minutes were in the packets. The discussion was additional pay for any employee who carries a mandatory license and requiring continuing education for their job; full-time employees who work for two departments causing overtime each payroll; and a possible stipend for employees who use their personal cellphones for work related calls. No recommendations were made until more information is known.

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 the following report: (1) Energy Optimizers has completed their projects. They also left material for maintenance in the future. (2) Wann met with Charlie Martin and Eric Bassett from council and Kirk Collins from the Hicksville Foundation to review the SOQ's received for the new pool and splashpad. They ultimately chose a firm from the Cleveland area to begin the process. (3) The snow blower attachment on order (for \$20,000.00) was cancelled due to delivery date. It has been ordered from another company with a shorter delivery and will cost \$13,200.00. (4) Bryan Excavating-wellfield project- has a deadline of March 2023 but will most probably ask for an extension. The funding from ODOD has a deadline of 2024. Taylor Klepper asked about the funding process. Smith told him it is reimbursable by the State. (5) Council still has to decide on the painting of the new water tower.

Solicitor's Report:

- Final reading of **Ordinance 2023-01** by caption only amending Chapter 905 (trees, weeds, grass). Eric Bassett made a motion to approve, seconded by Taylor Klepper. All voted yes.
- Final reading of **Ordinance 2023-02** by caption only amending Section 911.03 (litter). Mike Barth made a motion to approve, seconded by Toni Egly. All voted yes.
- Final reading of **Ordinance 2023-03** by caption only adopting Section 521.13 (outdoor furniture). Eric Bassett made a motion to approve, seconded by Taylor Klepper. All voted yes.
- Final reading of **Ordinance 2023-04** by caption only amending Chapter 1165.09 (parking/storage of passenger vehicles). Ron Beverly made a motion to table the legislation, seconded by Mike Barth. All voted yes.
- Final reading of **Ordinance 2023-05** by caption only adopting Section 1165.091 (parking/storage of commercial vehicles). Ron Beverly made a motion to table the legislation, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

- Final reading of **Ordinance 2023-06** by caption only amending Section 1169.10 (disabled/junk vehicles). Ron Beverly made a motion to approve, seconded by Mike Barth. All voted yes.
- Final reading of **Ordinance 2023-07** by caption only adopting Section 1165.092 (storage of recreational vehicles). Ron Beverly made a motion to table the legislation, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.
- First reading of **Ordinance 2023-09** by caption only to transfer funds.
- First reading of **Resolution 2023-02** by caption only authorizing the Revolving Loan Fund Committee to enter into a loan agreement with The Rooted Shoppe LLC and declaring an emergency. Mike Barth made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Eric Bassett. Barth, Bassett, Egly and Beverly voted yes. Klepper abstained. Second and final reading of Resolution 2023-02 by caption only. Mike Barth made a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Bassett. Barth, Bassett, Egly and Beverly voted yes. Klepper abstained.

Acting Mayor Charlie Martin asked the speakers to come to the podium, state their name and try to keep their remarks to 5 minutes. Everyone should be respectful and refrain from using profanity.

The following residents asked to be on the agenda to voice their concerns to council:

Tristan Scranton: He is still parking in his yard regardless of the ordinances. Council needs to exhaust all options before doing this. Enforcement has to be equal. Why would anyone want to live here? Council is out of control and Hicksville has no industry.

Kay Laney: As far as parking in her yard – is council going to buy her property and pay her taxes? Some people have no driveways at all.

Jason Wentz: He should not have to be here. He is showing solidarity against storage of vehicles. Is Hicksville going to pay for driveways? If council wants to draft new laws, they need Law 101 – how it will be applied. Enforcement will be using favoritism for the PD- no councilmen are cited, only “troublemakers”. He wrote about this, but it was not published in the newspaper and no one answered him at all.

Diana Egly: She is a lifelong resident. She keeps her property up, but she doesn’t have a fence around her yard. In the summer she uses a golf cart and small trailer to haul stuff. She even cuts the brush down along the railroad tracks, which is not her job. She has at least 3 neighbors who are junky. It’s not fair.

Tim Wort: didn’t show up.

Dawn Ish: She has a trailer she parks on her property. She also has parties occasionally and lots of cars are there. Lots of people can’t afford the changes this ordinance will make. She asked council to be helpful, not hurtful. She ended with “she will probably do it anyway.”

Tana Walters: She loves this town. She is solely responsible for her property and can’t afford to expand her driveway. The vehicle that she received a warning for was not a “junk” vehicle – it’s her son’s car.

Jennifer Reddin: She recently moved to town. There are no rentals available so her grown children still live with her. She has 6 adults with 5 vehicles at her house. They have no option but to park in the yard.

Timothy Wells: He doesn’t want to move but he will. He is in law enforcement (not in Hicksville). He would not want to enforce the ordinances proposed. Van Wert has passed similar legislation and the Sheriff has to come in to enforce it. Councilmen were elected to do positive things, and this is not it. He also accused the Village Administrator of telling everyone about his (Mr. Wells) utility bills are delinquent.

JoAnne Gardner: She said, “it has been said already”. She feels there is a lot of nit-picking going on. She read about this in the Defiance paper. She just wants to know what she can park in her driveway?

Audience members who asked to speak::

Melody Mummy: She asked for clarification of the ordinances. Are we talking about the strip from the street to the sidewalk? Is it illegal to put gravel in that area to park?

Someone in the audience asked about the bright yellow ‘WARNING’ flyer sent out by the “village.” Residents were finding them in their mailboxes and on their cars. Police Chief Mark Denning said they were not printed by the Village. He said they were not “legit” and it is illegal to put any flyers in a mailbox. Councilman Bassett and Solicitor Troy Essex also assured the public that this was not authorized by the Village. No one claimed responsibility.

Acting Mayor Charlie Martin thanked everyone who came to voice their opinions. He said lot of good points have been brought up and will be considered. Every step of the process was in open session with nothing “snuck in.”

Bob Brickel asked about “tabled.” Troy Essex said they could be brought back as written, or with changes. Right now, the original ordinance stands. (Eric Bassett read the current ordinance 3 times over the course of the meeting).

An anonymous person called out “then you can bring them back next meeting and pass them. How will we know? Do we have to keep coming back up here?” Cheryl Smith said they would be on the agenda published every Friday before the Monday council meeting. It can be found on the front board at the Village offices, on the website, or by contacting her office. Taylor Klepper said if they are brought back at any time, they will also go through 3 readings again. Everyone will have the opportunity to comment.

A member of the audience, later identified as **Kaitlin Warren**, told council she had a letter from Cory Wann citing a violation on her camper. It states she has to pay a fine of \$500.00. Police Chief Mark Denning said any such violation would only be a minor misdemeanor with a fine of no more than \$150.00. (Note: the letter would have been from the Zoning Inspector Mike Bailey). He asked to see the letter – could she run home and get it? She left. A little later a woman who identified herself as **Jasmine Hart** came in. Her opening statement from the door was to say she was “done with the drama.” She said her friend Kaitlin was in tears because we called her a liar. She, Ms. Hart, said she knew about the letter. When questioned she said she never actually saw the letter.

Tracy Mansfield spoke from the audience reminding council we have a large Spanish population. Why don’t we have our meetings translated? Smith told her she could provide any document requested in Spanish.

Pastor Steve Evers asked to speak last. He said this council meeting shows everyone is welcome to come and speak their minds. They may not agree but they can be heard. It just shows the system works.

Department Heads:

***Police Chief:** Mark Denning had no report.*

***Fire/EMS Chief:** Scott Cramer reported 2 firefighters have passed the Firefighter I class and 2 have to retest. 2 EMR’s have passed their classes and 1 has to retest.*

***Park Director:** Val Shull said they will begin work for the year next month.*

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

- Fund Status / Cash Summary (Revenue & Expenditures)

Mayor’s Report:

The invoice for the Garman waiver/contract was given to Taylor Klepper (Water/Sewer Committee Chairman) and Troy Essex for follow-up.

At 7:40 pm Eric Bassett asked for an executive session to discuss Personnel issues related to an employee’s performance, seconded by Taylor Klepper. All voted yes.

At 8:15 pm council returned to open session. No action was taken after returning.

Eric Bassett made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Toni Egly. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Mayor

Fiscal Officer