

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES  
Monday July 17, 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 an invocation. All cited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Minutes from the June 19<sup>th</sup> 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. Eric Bassett made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Toni Egly. Bassett, Beverly, Martin, and Egly voted yes. Barth and Klepper abstained.

**Erika Willitzer, Director of the Defiance County CIC** was present to address council. Her presentation included the following:

- There are currently 3 expansions in the works. They could generate 100-120 jobs in Hicksville. The housing component for such expansion needs to be addressed, possibly with a partnership between the developer and the municipality (TIF). She is working with Will Burns from Maumee Valley Planning to do a study.
- She found the marketing has not been updated since the 90's so she is working on that.
- The spec building in Industrial Park has been stalled by the Tower Company, but it is still a work in progress. The easement does not have fiber as previously thought. In 2022 Verizon ran fiber for the tower. Rick Rostorfer of SMTA is working to get a waiver.
- "Speed to Market" is critical to bring in new business. Tonight there will be a vote on Hard Pressed Coffee LLC. presented by the Revolving Loan Committee. They have both bank support and good financials. They should be a successful addition to the downtown area.
- Apparently, there have been 3 lost opportunities. The tenets to land a company are (1) location (2) follow-up (3) welcome and (4) encouragement.
- Council members and Mayor Jones thanked Ms. Willitzer for the work she puts into helping take Hicksville into the future.

Ron Beverly asked the council to approve closing the street parking in front of the mural so people can stand in front of it to take pictures. The council declined to do so.

**Boards & Commissions:** No reports filed.

**Council Committees:** No reports filed.

*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](mailto:hixcs@defnet.com). All council meetings are shown on YouTube and minutes are on the website.*

**Administrator's Report:**

**Water Tower:**

Painting for the water tower is to begin on July 24<sup>th</sup> and will take approximately.....

**Wellfield:**

Initial startup was on July 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>, the water department has been in training with Bergren Associates since the start up.

**Maple Lane:**

Substantial completion has been met as of June 22<sup>nd</sup>, paving of the street is scheduled for August 15<sup>th</sup>, followed by all yard restorations.

**General:**

Basketball court resurfacing and lining have been completed, along with resealing of the walkway path next to it.  
: Curbing in Froggy Park parking lot has been completed (cut outs filled).

: Another water service line in Meadow Lane was dug up and repaired on July 5<sup>th</sup>.

: Volleyball courts have been moved and are now in the process of installing light poles and electricity to them. AEP has removed overhead power lines and poles (5) from the old pool area.

: The pool and splash pad is currently out to bid, bids are all due by August 11<sup>th</sup> at 11am. On July 24<sup>th</sup> we will be doing a walk through at the construction location with potential bidders on the project.

: East Cornelia and Rock street water main replacement project is coming up soon, Choice One is currently working on prints in order to getting it out to bid. Total project cost is \$484,560, we are receiving \$170,000 from OPWC, leaving a balance of \$314,560.

: A 200HP electric motor was replaced in the blower building at the sewer plant on Thursday the 13<sup>th</sup>, we will be having the old one sent out to be rebuilt and keep as spare as all 3 blowers run the same type of electric motor.

: I am currently receiving / reviewing pricing from truck up fitter companies for the new dump trucks, we have 3 up fitters that are to send over pricing for dump beds and lighting. I need complete numbers in order add the payments into my budget for next year.

Wann asked the mayor to recommend hiring Jacob Hoffman in the Street Department to replace Garrett Franz. He has been a mechanic at Jim Schmidt Ford since 2017. He does not have a CDL but has 6 months to get one. The mayor made the recommendation with a physical, drug screen, and BCI. Charlie Martin made a motion to accept the mayor's recommendation, seconded by Mike Barth. All voted yes.

Wann also had reports of disabled vehicles and other violations/citations attached to his administrator's report.

### **Solicitor's Report:**

- Final reading of **Ordinance 2023-12** by caption only vacating an unnamed street right-of-way between Husted Subdivision Lot 9 and Auditors Plat Lot 339. Ron Beverly made a motion to approve, seconded by Charlie Martin. Beverly, Barth, Martin, and Egly voted yes. Bassett and Klepper voted no.
- First reading of **Ordinance 2023-13** by caption only to amend appropriations and declaring an emergency. Mike Barth made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Taylor Klepper. All voted yes. Second and final reading of Ordinance 2023-13 by caption only. Mike Barth made a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.
- Second reading of **Resolution 2023-12** by caption only authorizing the Revolving Loan Committee to enter an agreement with Hard Pressed Coffee LLC and declaring an emergency. Eric Bassett made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mike Barth. Barth, Bassett, Martin, Beverly and Egly voted yes. Klepper abstained. Final reading of Resolution 2023-12 by caption only. Mike Barth made a motion to approve, seconded by Charlie Martin. Barth, Bassett, Martin, Beverly and Egly voted yes. Klepper abstained.
- First reading of **Resolution 2023-13** by caption only declaring it necessary to levy an additional tax for Fire/EMS Protection and requesting the Defiance County Auditor to certify the current valuation of the village and the dollar amount of revenue that would be generated and declaring an emergency. *Troy Essex explained this was the same Resolution council passed at the June 19<sup>th</sup> meeting. It was rejected by the County Auditor because the language did not match the new requirement by the State of Ohio. It was simply rewritten to show the dollar amounts using numerals instead of writing the numbers out. It makes the information easier to understand when presented to the voters.* Mike Barth made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Toni Egly. Barth, Egly, Martin and Klepper voted yes. Beverly and Bassett voted no. Vote to approve could not be taken without 5 votes to suspend the rules. *Due to the time crunch to finish the process before the Board of Elections deadline the matter was declared over. Beverly asked if could change his vote and was told no, it was already recorded. After a short discussion, the council decided to hold a Special Council Meeting on Wednesday to hear the matter again.*
- First reading of **Resolution 2023-14** by caption only to authorize the Village Administrator to enter a lease agreement with Enterprise Fleet Management for vehicle replacements.

### **Department Heads:**

**Police Chief:** Mark Denning had no report beyond his call/case list.

**Fire/EMS Chief:** Bruce Hart had no report beyond his fire/EMS call list.

**Park Director:** Val Shull absent.

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

- Fund Status / Cash Summary (Revenue & Expenditures)
- June collections for Utilities, Income Tax and Mayor's Court
- June & July Revolving Loan Reports
- Mediacom Franchise Fee report for 1<sup>st</sup> quarter
- Letter from Mink Solar with map of proposed solar field
- Reminder for council members to periodically check their mailboxes.

At 6:50 Taylor Klepper asked for an Executive Session to discuss a Personnel issue involving employment parameters, seconded by Toni Egly. All voted yes. The council returned to regular session at 7:45 pm.

**Mayor's Report:** Mayor Jones reminded residents of the concert at the Huber patio on Thursday. He also reminded everyone of the Christ Cupboard's open house on July 27<sup>th</sup>.

Eric Bassett made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Charlie Martin. All voted yes. Council adjourned at 7:55 pm.

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Mayor

Fiscal Officer