

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES
Tuesday September 5, 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 Ron Beverly, Taylor Klepper, Eric Bassett, Mike Barth, and Toni Egly; Administrator Cory Wann; Solicitor Troy Essex and Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith. Councilman Charlie Martin was absent.

Minutes from the August 22nd Regular Council Meeting were presented. Taylor Klepper made a motion to approve as written, seconded by Mike Barth. Barth, Klepper, Egly, and Beverly voted yes. Bassett abstained.

A list of bills to be paid was presented. Taylor Klepper made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

Boards & Commissions: No minutes were submitted.

Council Committees: No minutes were submitted.

Mike Barth reported that Personnel met to interview 2 candidates for Solicitor. Mayor Jones will make his selection in the near future.

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.

Bryan Roth from Choice Physical Therapy was present to address the questions and concerns the council may have about their new business and revolving loan request. He recognizes that the local hospital may be struggling, and no one wants it to fail. He is of the opinion that the two can complement each other instead of competing. Both have strengths and weaknesses. Referrals can be made back and forth. Choice would like to be able to send patients for an MRI locally instead of Fort Wayne or Auburn. Choice also offers transitional therapy when a patient goes from the hospital to their home or to a nursing home. This will be a win-win situation where a new business starts up and a struggling business improves. It is not a battle for a market. He noticed the Council started the meeting with a prayer. He said we need more of that. We should build each other up, not tear each other down. Working together the patients benefit by getting the attention they need, no matter how or where that happens.

Administrator's Report: The following report was submitted:

- Exmark zero turn that we replaced did sell on Gov.deals for \$3,276.00 and those funds will go into the 4904 Permanent improvement fund.
- Pool bids came in at 4.4 and 4.7. We need to discuss how we would like to proceed with the project, I have been in contact with the bidders and the engineers about our options going forward, we do have a couple options but that also depends on legal counsel.
- Volleyball courts have been completed, we will seed and straw around them in late September or October depending on the weather.
- Maple lane paving has been completed by Ward Construction. Yard restorations are scheduled to be done in about a month. Fenson Construction will be doing the restoration work and they are waiting on cooler weather in order to do so.
- Wellfield project has been completed and well approval had been sent to the EPA. We are currently waiting on final pay apps from Bryan Excavating (\$-2,829.20) and Ortmann Well drilling (\$-27,198.60).
- Water tower has been painted and they have started with placing the logos on the bowl. Over the next month the vault pits and water lines will be installed along with all the underground electrical. Final completion for the tower is at the end of December 2023.
- East Cornelia / Rock St water main replacement plans are being finalized. We plan to advertise for bids starting the week of September 11th and opening of the bids the first week of October. Construction will probably not start until early spring of 2024. Cost for this project is \$484,560. (July 2024) - OPWC \$ 170,000 / Local \$ 314,560

Solicitor's Report:

- Final reading of **Resolution 2023-19** by caption only to enter an agreement with the Defiance County Commissioners for recovery of monies expended for providing legal counsel to indigent person for the calendar year 2024. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve, seconded by Taylor Klepper. All voted yes.
- Second reading of **Resolution 2023-20** by caption only authorizing the Revolving Loan Fund Committee to enter a loan agreement with Choice Physical Therapy and declaring an emergency. Taylor Klepper made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mike Barth. All voted yes. Final reading of Resolution 2023-20 by caption only. Mike Barth made a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Bassett. Barth, Egly, Bassett and Beverly voted yes. Klepper abstained.

Department Heads:

Police Chief: *Mark Denning absent. He did have August Calls and Cases reports for August.*

Fire/EMS Chief: *Bruce Hart handed out run numbers. He reported Fireman Darrick Crochran has completed EMT Basic class and is ready to begin running. He will fill the part-time slot that has been open for some time. He can also pick up overnight runs which will help eliminate overtime. Mayor Jones asked about plans to bring information on the proposed fire levy to the residents. Hart said they were planning on hand delivering flyers door-to-door, answering any questions they may receive.*

Park Director: *Val Shull absent.*

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

- Fund Status / Cash Summary (Revenue & Expenditures)
- August Income Tax and Utility Collections Reports
- Letter from Ohio Division of Liquor Control noting sale of Sailer's Store to Mama Fefe LLC and transferring their liquor license. No objection from Council.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Jones had no report.

Taylor Klepper reported that the Walking Trail Committee would be holding an "Open House" September 23rd from 11:30 to 1:30 with food, live music, and a tour. Rules and hours for the trail will mimic the park regulations. In the future they will add benches, trees, doggie bag stations and trash receptacles.

At 6:45 pm, Councilman Ron Beverly asked for an executive session to discuss (1) possible litigation and (2) a personnel issue involving a complaint received, seconded by Taylor Klepper. All voted yes.

The council returned to regular session at 7:35 pm. Taylor Klepper made a motion to rebid the pool/splashpad project. (The first bids were over the threshold and were turned down). The rebid should include one general contractor for both projects and priced 3 ways. (1) pool/pool house only (2) splash pad/pump house only and (3) one quote to construct both. We would also like an ad/alternate to mill and resurface the parking lot. Cory Wann will discuss options to reduce costs on the interior of the pool house (ex: removal of the drywall ceilings.) The motion was seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

Eric Bassett made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Toni Egly. All voted yes. Council adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Mayor

Fiscal Officer