

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES  
Monday June 19, 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 by Pastor Steve Eyers. 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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. Charlie Martin made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Eric Bassett. Bassett, Beverly, Martin, Klepper and Egly voted yes. Barth abstained.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING:** to be held June 28<sup>th</sup> in the Zoning office at 4 pm to consider a request by Nemco Food for a setback variance. Ron Beverly and Taylor Klepper had questions about the variance. They were asked to contact Zoning Inspector Mike Bailey.

**Boards & Commissions:** The **Planning Commission** met June 8<sup>th</sup> to discuss a zoning change at 525 S. Main from M2 Heavy Industrial to R-3 Residential. The request was approved. Minutes were in the packets.

The **Board of Zoning Appeals** met June 7<sup>th</sup> to hear a request for a conditional use permit to allow a beauty shop at 721 N. Main St. The request was granted. Minutes were in the packets.

**Council Committees:** The **Finance Committee** met June 14<sup>th</sup> to discuss (1) the Enterprise Lease Program (2) The Pool Project (3) CD maturing and (4) the proposed Fire Levy. Minutes were in the packets.

The Committee asked full Council to vote if they approve for the lease agreement to proceed. Eric Bassett made a motion to do so, seconded by Charlie Martin. Barth, Bassett, Klepper, Egly and Martin voted yes. Beverly voted no.

*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:** No written report was given. He passed out a rendering of the new water tower logo.

At 6:30 pm Mike Barth asked for an Executive Session to discuss a personnel issue concerning a hiring question, seconded by Ron Beverly. All voted yes.

Council returned to regular session at 6:40 pm.

Mayor Jones recommended rehiring Garrett Franz as a full-time police officer.

Charlie Martin took the recommendation and made a motion to allow Garrett Franz to transfer from the Street Department back to the Police Department full-time, seconded by Mike Barth. Bassett, Barth, Martin, Klepper and Egly voted yes. Beverly voted no.

Mayor Jones recognized the Hicksville Community Foundation members in the gallery. Greg Slattery, as spokesman for the group, came to the podium to address council. The HCF have questions and concerns about the splash pad project they represent. They feel they have been left out of the planning phase and don't agree with some aspects of the project. They have 2 main design issues to bring up. They want the cement pad expanded and are concerned about only one restroom access with no dressing rooms. They think parents would want to sit on the concrete pad between the pool and splashpad to watch their children who may be in both areas at the same time. They feel as representatives of the generous donors their wishes need to be respected. They agree planning a new pool along with the splashpad makes sense. It needs to be done right, not piecemeal, and would be a jewel in the Hicksville Park. Apparently, these design issues have been given to the engineer/architect who said the changes would take the project over budget and could delay construction. Mr. Slattery said the Foundation wants it done right and if it is delayed, they are ok with that. They want to have no regrets later that it wasn't

done right. He wanted to know how it could go over budget if no budget has been offered yet. They ask for more involvement with the planning. They want to advocate for the donors, and they can choose to take the donations and build elsewhere. Karen Schmidt said the fixtures in the original drawing were just chosen in a half hour strictly for advertising purposes. She would like input on what features are being selected.

Administrator Cory Wann assured them he has heard them and has taken it to the engineer/architect. The current plan as shown is at 3.5 million and the changes could set it to 3.7 million (the budget increase mentioned earlier) and could cause the construction to be delayed. He has a Zoom meeting every Tuesday at 11:00 in his office with the engineer/architects. Wann also has written minutes from each meeting which he sends to Kirk Collins. It was his understanding that Mr. Collins was liaison with the Foundation. Greg Slattery said he will be at future meetings. Wann reminded everyone both areas have access to the pool house restrooms and concessions during the time the pool is open. Taylor Klepper said it seems to be a miscommunication issue. The Foundation just needs more information. Toni Egly said this should have been worked out before the old pool was dug up. Wann said the village needs to be shovel ready when all the plans, permits and approvals are in place. He does not want to miss the ODH window. He would like to have the waterpark open by Memorial Day 2024.

Everyone agreed that this will be a once-in-a-lifetime project. Mayor Jones said we are all on the right path. We can work together to build something the donors and residents will be proud of.

**Solicitor's Report:**

- Final reading of **Ordinance 2023-11** by caption only to levy a tax for Fire Protection in the Village of Hicksville. Mike Barth made a motion to approve, seconded by Taylor Klepper. Barth, Klepper, Egly and Martin voted yes. Bassett and Beverly voted no.
- Second reading of **Ordinance 2023-12** by caption only vacating an unnamed street right-of-way between Husted Subdivision Lot 9 and Auditor's Plat Lot 339.
- First reading of **Ordinance 2023-13** by caption only to amend appropriations (to include donation by Hicksville Eagles for Day in the Park fireworks.) and declaring an emergency. Eric Bassett made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Toni Egly. Barth, Bassett, Martin, Klepper and Egly voted yes. Beverly voted no. Second and final reading of Ordinance 2023-13 by caption only. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve, seconded by Charlie Martin. Barth, Bassett, Martin, Klepper and Egly voted yes. Beverly voted no.
- First 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. Ron Beverly said he was against the loan since Taylor Klepper would benefit from it. The new business is in a downtown building Klepper owns. It was pointed out the loan was specifically for equipment, not the building. Charlie Martin made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Eric Bassett. Barth, Bassett, Martin and Egly voted yes. Klepper abstained. Beverly voted no. Rules were not suspended due to no quorum.

**Department Heads:**

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

**Fire/EMS Chief:** *Bruce Hart handed out current numbers.*

**Park Director:** *Val Shull absent.*

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

- Fund Status / Cash Summary (Revenue & Expenditures)

**Mayor's Report:** Mayor Jones reminded residents of the concert at the Huber patio on Thursday. He will be out of town from Thursday for 7 days.

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