

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES
Monday, December 18, 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 from Pastor Steve Eyres. All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council candidate (for the seat to be vacated when Mike Barth becomes mayor on January 1, 2024) Jeff Gerhart was present to introduce himself to council.

Roll Call was read with the following persons in attendance: Mayor Ron Jones; Council Members Taylor Klepper, Mike Barth, Toni Egly Eric Bassett, and Ron Beverly; Administrator Cory Wann; Solicitor Troy Essex and Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith. Councilman Charlie Martin arrived late at 6:30.

Minutes from the December 4th Regular Council Meeting were presented. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve as written, seconded by Taylor Klepper. All voted yes.

A list of bills to be paid was presented. Eric Bassett made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Mike Barth. Egly, Beverly, Bassett and Barth voted yes. Klepper abstained.

Boards & Commissions: No minutes were submitted.

A Public Hearing was held tonight. The council asked for any comments on a request by Nemco to rezone 301 Meuse Argonne from A-1 Agriculture/Public Use to B-1 Central Business, B-2 Local Business, B-3 General Business. Ron Beverly wanted to know if the entire block of land was going to have the address 301 Meuse Argonne. Troy Essex told him addresses are designated by the Post Office. He also said the zoning change would be by parcel number, not mailing address. Beverly said he was being sure there was no gray area.

Council Committees: No meetings were held.

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: had the following report:

2023 Projects

- Added a storm sewer in Maple Lane consisting of 1,159 feet of pipe 12"/15" diameter, and 6 new catch basins. This is the second portion of our phase two LTCP. In addition to adding a storm sewer all of Maple Lane was milled and repaved. This completes 2/3 of our projects that are mandated by the OEPA per the LTCP.
- New drinking wells for the community were finished up and went into full operation after many months of preparation and work. These new wells will provide the community with a sustainable water supply for many years to come.
- A new 250,000-gallon water tower in Industrial Dr. was started and completed thus giving proper pressures to Industries in the northern part of the Village, along with additional water storage capacity.
- The community pool and pool house were demoed to make way for a new pool, pool house along with a splash pad and pavilion.
- The basketball courts in the park were revamped with new basketball goals along with sealing and painting of new court lines.
- Volleyball sand courts in the park were moved to a new location to make way for the splash pad that will hopefully be coming soon.
- We had a successful transition with a new GIS provider, we had used RCAP for many years and we now use Ziptility which is much more user friendly along with being a better fit financially as well.
- Little League concession stand in the park was converted over to LED lighting for all interior lights. The plumbing fixtures in the restrooms were all rebuilt as well.
- Village Street / water department demoed the building at 208 Defiance Ave.

2024 Projects

- Replacement of a 6" water main on East Cornelia to Bunnell St, and the 6" water main on Rock St to East Smith St. Asphalt will also be done in the same areas which will include milling and paving of those 2 areas.
- Replacement of the low-pressure plastic water service lines with copper lines on Meadow Lane and Beverly Drive along with the installation of meter pits to replace all the curb valves at 26 locations. Milling and paving of both streets will be done as well.
- Dixon Ave from Antwerp Dr to 218 Dixon Ave is being milled and paved.
- Demo of water tower downtown is scheduled for next year; we will go to bid early on in the year.
- Replacement of 6 – 6" water main valves will also be done next summer. These valves are in addition to the 16 that were replaced in 2022.

- Defiance Ave L.S project will go to bid and construction will be started in order to stay in compliance with ODOD grant guidelines (if awarded). This project includes the replacement and upsizing of the lift station along with some replacement and lining of the sanitary line on Oak and Hicks St. We will also be adding a storm sewer from Oak St to South Main St, along with a storm sewer line on Wendell Ave, and replacement of catch basins on Oak/Hicks St/Wendell Ave. Oak/Hicks St. along with Wendell Ave will be milled and paved once all the infrastructure is finished. The project will be finished in 2025, this will put us over a year ahead of the LTCP schedule.

Solicitor's Report:

Final reading of **Resolution 2023-26** by caption only to enter a contract with Vernon Nagel Inc for construction of the pool and pool house. Mike Barth made a motion to approve, seconded by Charlie Martin. Barth, Beverly, Klepper, Egly and Bassett voted no. Martin voted yes. The measure did not pass.

Department Heads:

Police Chief: *Mark Denning asked Mayor Jones to recommend Amanda Moninger be hired as part-time Mayor's Court Clerk. She will also train as backup for the Police Administration Clerk. Mayor Jones made a recommendation to hire Ms. Moninger. Mike Barth made a motion to accept the mayor's recommendation, seconded by Taylor Klepper. All voted yes. Troy Essex said to update the job description where needed. Chief Denning reported the MARCS tower walk-through has been completed. They are waiting for one job to be completed and then they can go live. He was asked about the installation of a K9 unit. Does he know how much it will cost per year to keep the program? He said he thought about \$5,000.00 per year. The dog would be used for tracking and aggression. Either the 2020 or 2021 vehicle would be outfitted for use as the K9 unit.*

Fire/EMS Chief: *Taylor Klepper asked Chief Hart if (in light of the problems at CMH) he was hiring additional staff. Ron Beverly asked if both ambulances were ready to go. Klepper asked about having to move any necessary items from one squad to the other. Beverly asked if both squads had the "good" cots. Hart replied that he is looking to hire "fire/paramedics", the older ambulance (511) has trouble with the a/c unit, and both squads do not have the good cots. Klepper said he felt the department should be proactive going into crisis mode, not reactive. Hart said he is working on a plan. Beverly reminded him the fire levy just passed was for the status quo at the time, not for any storm. Barth said because the police officers are usually first on the scene maybe they needed more training.*

Park Director: *Val Shull had no report. The park has closed down for the year.*

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

- Fund Status / Cash Summary (Revenue & Expenditures)
- November and December Revolving Loan Reports
- November Mayor's Court Report
- Notice that training is coming in 2024 for new council members.
- Quarterly newsletter from the Defiance County General Health District.

Mayor's Report:

- Mayor Jones gave his 2023 Address to the council as he leaves office. He thanked the council, village employees and residents for their support.
- He read the names of council members and their years of service. He thanked Troy Essex for his 18 years as the village solicitor. He will be leaving to become judge of the Defiance County Municipal Court. He then read the names of the employees who will receive longevity bonuses this year.

Mayor Jones then asked Julie Barth to come forward to witness the swearing in of her husband Michael Barth as the new mayor, whose term begins on January 1st. His family looked on while Mayor Jones administered the Oath of Office.

Eric Bassett made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Charlie Martin. All voted yes. Council adjourned at 6:40 pm.