

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES
Monday, January 15th 2024, 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 Michael Barth, followed by an invocation from Pastor Steve Eyres. All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call was read with the following in attendance: Mayor Michael Barth; Council Members Kent Miller, Toni Egly, Eric Bassett, and Charlie Martin; Solicitor Rachel Hammersmith; Administrator Cory Wann and Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith. Councilman Ron Beverly was absent.

Nominations for the vacant council seat were opened. Charlie Martin nominated Robert Bailey III, seconded by Eric Bassett. Nominations closed. Egly, Martin and Bassett voted yes for Bailey. Miller voted no. He will be sworn in at the next meeting on February 5th.

Dave and Jane LaVoie asked to speak with the council but did not attend.

Jack Bourgeois and Rylen Bassett were present to talk to the council about the group they started called the Roosevelt Reagan Society. Its premise is to encourage today's young people to get involved in politics. They will be holding a meeting at the Hicksville School Commons January 25th at 5:15 pm. They have invited several politicians to speak. It will be an open forum and the moderator will be Defiance County Commissioner David Kern.

Erika Willitzer asked the council for an Executive Session later in the meeting to discuss possible land acquisition.

Minutes from the January 2nd Regular Council Meeting were presented. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve as written, seconded by Kent Miller. All voted yes.

Minutes from the January 8th Special Council Meeting were presented. Charlie Martin made a motion to approve as written, seconded by Toni Egly. All voted yes.

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

Boards & Commissions: No minutes were submitted.

Council Committees: **The Finance Committee** met January 10th - no minutes were available. A verbal report was given by Charlie Martin. **The Personnel Committee** met January 4th - minutes were handed out tonight.

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: Cory Wann presented a written report:

- *On Wednesday January 3rd we had another water service line break at 122 Meadow Lane that took approximately 6 hours to repair. A section of the road had to be removed in order to complete the repair. This makes for 7th repair since June 2021.....since I started with the Village.*

- We have received a grant from CDBG for \$150,000. This grant will help pay for the 6 water main valve replacements and the demo of the old water tower downtown. These projects will be completed this summer.
- Choice One has sent the proposal for engineering of the water main valves and water tower demo, their proposal is for \$8,800 for both projects. Choice One has also sent a proposal for engineering services for water service line replacements on Meadow Lane at a cost of \$6,000.
- A second grant application has been submitted to the Ohio Senate Capital Budget for construction of the pool, as well as the previous grant submittal to the State Capital Improvement Program.
- All of the agreements and contracts with Vernon Nagel Inc have been signed as of January 9th 2024. The amount of the contract is \$869,000.00. A pre-construction meeting is scheduled for January 29th at 2pm via zoom.

Wann also said he has to replace a snowplow blade. It is rated for residential use, and he needs a commercial heavy-duty one.

Solicitor's Report:

First reading of **Ordinance 2023-19** by caption only to amend the appropriations ordinance and declaring an emergency.

First reading of **Resolution 2024-05** by caption only to enter an agreement with Choice One to provide engineering services for the Meadow Land and Beverly Drive Water Service Replacement and declaring an emergency.

Note: There was no quorum to vote on any emergency legislation.

Department Heads:

Police Chief: Mark Denning reported Amanda Moninger will not be taking the Mayor's Court Clerk position. Police Admin Clerk Jennifer Caryer is going to be adding this to her duties. She will track her hours on her timecard to be paid out of the two funds. Chief Denning asked the council to consider adding \$1.00 an hour for the extra duty. No vote was taken.

Fire/EMS Chief: Bruce Hart was present. He said Ambulance 511 is out of service currently. There is a smell of burning wires on board. He has looked into a remount (\$150,000-\$180,000) or replacement (\$240,000.00-\$250,000.00). Chief Denning asked if it's possible to lease a squad while 511 is out of service. Mayor Barth told the Chief he needs to get a plan in place. We have one EMT finishing school and another getting to retirement age. They may leave and they are both full-time EMTs. We do have one person in school right now. Bruce Silcott wants to look at hiring 4 more and working 12-hour shifts. The question is will it work and will anyone agree to do this. He said we need to hire EMTs because volunteers are not an option. Toni Egly, Chairman of the Police/Fire/EMS Committee said she needs all this information brought to the Committee. The council wants to support the squad, but the money is just not there. Bruce Silcott said he has spoken to our State Representative about the Medicare/Medicaid payments. The government needs to raise the rates they reimburse the village. Abbye Franz is looking into using a billing company. Bruce Hart has appointed Bruce Silcott as EMS Coordinator. Everyone has chipped in, but he needs a Coordinator. Bruce Silcott said he stepped up because Bruce Hart had no idea what was going on. Charlie Martin asked if they still have smoke detectors. They do and sell them for \$5.00 or a donation. If the homeowner wants a fireman will come out and install it. They can call Chief Hart to make arrangements. Eric Bassett asked if the ladder truck was found to be NFPA compliant. Bruce Hart said he will look into it. Bruce Silcott said he thought it was inspected last about a year after it was purchased. He also told the council that a representative from the Ohio State Pharmacy

Board is coming Friday to do a routine inspection. Darrick Crochran (Fireman/EMT) introduced himself although he has been on the Fire Department for 2 years. He moved here because his wife is from Hicksville. Moving from a city has been a culture shock but he is 100% pro-Hicksville. The Fire/EMS service needs to be on their "A" game at all times. It is imperative to find and hire more EMTs. We may be small, but we can be powerful!

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)
- January Police Department Collections.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Barth thanked the Street Department for their hard work keeping the streets clear during the snowfall. He has taken the required Mayors Court Training.

At 6:50 pm Charlie Martin made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss possible land acquisition, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

At 7:20 pm the council returned to regular session. No action was taken.

Charlie Martin made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes. Council adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Mayor

Fiscal Officer