

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES
Monday, February 20th 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, who followed by an invocation. 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, Rob Bailey, Ron Beverly and Charlie Martin; Solicitor Rachel Hammersmith; Administrator Cory Wann and Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith.

Dennis Miller from Maumee Valley Planning was present to talk to the council members about his organization. They have partnered with Hicksville since the 1980's to work with the Revolving Loan Fund and many other projects. He gave a history of how it all came about and has helped Hicksville businesses with start-ups and expansions. Their other programs include CDBG (infrastructure), the CHIP Program, and the Lead Safe Program. They have assisted with financing our valve replacements, the well field, and the new water tower. Coming in the future will be taking down the old water tower and additional valve replacements. They also oversee Federal funding for individual businesses in the downtown area who need funds for projects. Miller then explained the new contract and asked if the council had any questions. They thanked Miller for his assistance and will look over the new contract.

Minutes from the February 5th Regular Council Meeting were presented. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve as written, seconded by Rob Bailey. All voted yes.

Minutes from the February 12th Special Council Meeting were presented. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve, seconded by Rob Bailey. 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. All voted yes.

Boards & Commissions: No minutes were submitted.

Council Committees: **The Personnel Committee** met February 8th - minutes were in the packets. The topics they discussed and are in favor of will be incorporated into the Personnel Manual. It will then be presented for vote by the full council.

The Street/Light/Property/Sidewalk Committee met February 13th at 5:30 pm. They discussed issues raised after the 2023 sidewalk repair/ replacements were done. They have had numerous inquiries from the residents involved who wanted to question their invoices. A meeting has been scheduled for February 28th that will include the Administrator and Contractor to address the issues.

The Water/Sewer/Refuse Committee met February 17th at 9 am to discuss an issue raised by a resident following the main break at N. Main/Cornelia. They also talked about a request by the ODNR to install and operate an observation well on village property. The committee is in favor of granting this request.

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 read by the mayor. The Meadow Lane/ Beverly Drive project is officially out for bids for the next 2 weeks. Bid opening will be March 6th at 10 am in Council Chambers.

The Zoning position has been opened. Applications can be downloaded from the village website or can be picked up at city hall.

The Envirosight Camera Truck will be delivered by the 1st week in April. The cost is \$223,000.00 and has been budgeted. Kent Miller asked about any RFP sent out for bids before this company was chosen.

Solicitor's Report:

First reading of **Ordinance 2024-05** by caption only to amend the appropriations ordinance and declaring an emergency. Eric Bassett made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Toni Egly. All voted yes. Final reading of Ordinance 2024-05 by caption only. Charlie Martin made a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

First reading of **Ordinance 2024-06** by caption only authorizing the Fiscal Officer to transfer funds and declaring an emergency. Ron Beverly made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Rob Bailey. All voted yes. Second and final reading of Ordinance 2024-06 by caption only. Charlie Martin made a motion to approve, seconded by Rob Bailey. All voted yes.

First reading of **Resolution 2024-05** by caption only to name Michael Barth and Michael Bailey to the TIRC (Defiance County Tax Incentive Review Council) and declaring an emergency. Eric Bassett made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Rob Bailey. All voted yes. Final reading of Resolution 2024-05 by caption only. Rob Bailey made a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

Department Heads:

Police Chief: *Mark Denning introduced his newest officer "Echo." He and his handler Shane Balsler will be in training beginning February 26th for 14 weeks. The K9 vehicle will be outfitted by Thursday and marked over the weekend.*

Fire/EMS Chief: *Bruce Hart was present. He reported on his vehicle problems. The tankers need repairs - one to stop leaking and the other for a replacement panel (it controls the pressure needed to pump water). The ladder truck has been certified but cannot be used until 2 hydraulic leaks have been fixed. Hart plans to call Mickey Smith, who helped with our FEMA grant, to see what is available in the way of funding. He said he's heard ordering a new unit has a 5-year wait.*

Bruce Silcott reported on the EMS. The ESO billing interface has been ordered. CMH was on diversion again this weekend and we had 6 calls, mostly to Fort Wayne. Thursday the medical director will be here, and a training session has been set for March 16th. 511 was taken out and ran ok but the second run had the same flashing light problem as before. Beverly said since we can't afford a new one, we need to get it fixed properly because it is vital to have 2 running squads. Toni Egly made a motion to hire 2 part-time paramedics, with one as the coordinator, seconded by Ron Beverly. Beverly, Egly, Martin, Bailey and Miller voted yes. Bassett voted no. Egly told Silcott and Hart to hire a full-time EMT to fill the empty spot as soon as they can. Abbye Franz asked the council about the contract with Medicount. Ron Beverly made a motion to approve, seconded by Toni Egly. All voted yes.

Park Director: *The park has closed down for the year.*

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

- Fund Status / Cash Summary (Revenue & Expenditures)

- Smith cautioned the council to note revenue vs expenditures. Spending has been brisk, and no property tax revenue will be received until next month to offset it.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Barth reported there will be a dance at St. Michael's Catholic Church on the 24th. On the 22nd the Red Cross Blood Drive will be at the Church of Christ from 1-6 pm. On March 8th - wear purple or fly your flags to show Hicksville is a "community without boundaries" in support of people with developmental disabilities.

Mark Denning thanked all the donors who gave money to make the K9 unit a reality. Their generosity is appreciated.

Eric Bassett made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Charlie Martin. All voted yes. Council adjourned at 7:15 pm.

Mayor

Fiscal Officer