

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES  
Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup> 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 a prayer and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll call was taken with the following present: Mayor Michael Barth, Solicitor Rachel Hammersmith, Administrator Cory Wann and Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith; Council Members Rob Bailey, Toni Egly, Eric Bassett, Ron Beverly, Charlie Martin and Kent Miller.

Bill Cherry from Community Memorial Hospital asked to speak to the council about the current status of CMH, with the official closing of the clinical side Sunday night, May 19<sup>th</sup>. He said with the current liabilities it was not practical to stay open. There is no ER, lab or radiology. The challenge to pay operating expenses was too great. The debt liability for vendors and OPERS made closing the only option. The Board was working hard to write a restructuring plan and file for Chapter 9 bankruptcy. This action had to go to the Tax Commissioner for approval, denial or “no action.” The answer received was a one sentence email stating the Commissioner opted to take no action. Mayor Barth asked if a reason was given and Mr. Cherry said no, none was given. Calls for assistance from our representative and senator were to no avail. The only one who reached out was Marcy Kaptur. She did speak with the governor on CMH’s behalf. Councilman Miller said he finds it strange that the only person who stepped up for a solidly Republican part of the State was a Democrat. Mr. Cherry asks anyone who wants to help to reach out to our public officials in Columbus and voice their opinion. Although the clinical side has “paused” the building still has to be maintained. The equipment is still on site and a small staff will keep everything in order. In the future, which may be more than a year at this point, the building may be sold, leased or otherwise used. Equipment may be kept, returned, sold or otherwise disposed of. Collections are still active to try and capture the dollars owed to the hospital for past patient care. Councilman Beverly said he heard a rumor that if the hospital closed and sat idle for year the debt would be erased. Mr. Cherry didn’t think that was accurate. Councilman Bassett asked if there is a levy in place and what happens now? Mr. Cherry said how unfortunate it was for so many people to lose their jobs. Many have been able to move to other medical facilities to continue their careers. He expressed his gratitude to the employees who stayed on to the very end.

Minutes from the May 6<sup>th</sup> Regular Council Meeting were presented. Rob Bailey made a motion to approve as written, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

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

**Boards & Commissions:** No minutes were submitted.

**Council Committees:** No minutes were submitted.

*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:** Cory Wann had a written report as follows:  
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- Aqua Line was in and found a leak at Defiance Ave and Hattery St. They figured it was leaking 30-35k gallons of water per day. Our normal WTP pumpage has been 330-380k gallons of water per day, since the repair the pumpage at the plant has been under 300k and as of Thursday 5-16-24 it was 196k. The chlorine consumption is down from 12LBS to 5LBS, and the electrical meter reading has been about 50% of what it has been since the new wellfield was put online. The reason for this leaking so long was due to the fact no water had ever come to the surface and was actually being pumped into a sanitary main line.
- The sidewalk and curbing at E. High and Antwerp Dr was replaced last Thursday by Borderline Construction.
- Little League walkway and the former parking lot was crack sealed, and seal coated on Thursday of last week.
- The tennis court fence was replaced last week with all new 10ft black vinyl coated chain link fence.
- Hohenbrink is to start on May 23rd on the East Cornelia and Rock St water main replacement.

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### **Solicitor's Report:**

First reading of **Resolution 2024-12** by caption only authorizing the village administrator to prepare and submit an application to participate in the Ohio EPA DDAGW grant program and to execute contracts as required and declaring an emergency. Ron Beverly made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes. Second and final reading of Resolution 2024-12 by caption only. Charlie Martin made a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

### **Department Heads:**

**Police Chief:** Mark Denning reported the new Durango is at Statewide being outfitted. He also submitted the list of April calls and cases.

**Fire/EMS Chief:** Interim Fire Chief Stacy Lemper did not speak.

Deputy Chief EMS Bruce Silcott said (1) He would like Mayor Barth to recommend hiring Jordan Wolf to join the department. He will be trained as a fireman/EMT. The mayor made the recommendation to the council. Charlie Martin made a motion to approve the recommendation, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes. (2) Unit 511 is in the shop and is being gone over from front to back so the council can be assured everything possible is being done to avoid scrapping it. (3) The company who gave the quote for the new repeater has offered to come here, install a "rental" repeater and go through testing to assure council the new one will be adequate. Farmer has not responded yet as to whether or not they can cover some of the cost. Eric Bassett asked Stacy Lemper if the quote included necessary gas lines. Lemper will check on this. (4) The new Lucas Device has arrived. Thank you to the Annabelle Green Estate which allowed the purchase. We now have a device in each ambulance. (5) EMS Week is this week. (6) Silcott reminded the residents that even with the closing of CMH – they are still here for them, ready to respond to any call made to 9-1-1. They will be transported to an appropriate hospital just as always.

**Park Director:** Val Shull had no report.

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

- Fund Status / Cash Summary (Revenue & Expenditures).
- Updated Purchase Order Report.
- Current Revolving Loan Report.
- Smith asked to mayor to recommend hiring Abby Laker as Utility Clerk, replacing Dawn Hostetler, who is retiring June 30<sup>th</sup>. He did so. Charlie Martin made a motion to hire Laker, seconded by Rob Bailey. All voted yes.

### **Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Barth announced the first of the Concert Series held outside the Huber patio will be June 6<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm. There will be music by Maddie Lawson and a food truck. The theme is “Ladies Night” with several shops staying open for evening shopping.

Barth asked Rob Bailey (chairman of the ordinance committee) to meet and discuss the recreational marijuana issue facing the village and make recommendations to council.

Mayor Barth reported he had interviewed 4 candidates for the Fire Chief position. He had included 2 firemen and 2 councilmen as well. He decided to recommend Darrick Cochran to be the new Fire Chief. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve the appointment, seconded by Toni Egly. All voted yes.

At 7 pm Ron Beverly made a motion to go into executive session for Personnel “hiring or firing” and Kent Miller added he wanted to speak about land acquisition. The motion was seconded by Kent Miller. Miller, Beverly, Egly, Bassett and Martin voted yes. Bailey voted no.

Council returned to open session at 7:40 with no further action taken.

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

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Mayor

Fiscal Officer