

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES
Monday June 17th 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 by Pastor Steve Evers and everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Jeff Beverly, a resident from the Mark Center area, was present to address council on the subject of recreational marijuana "Prohibition or Regulation." He is an attorney who does estate planning. He has been active in the Marijuana and Hemp industries in California, Colorado and Florida. He has seen attempts at regulation with both good and bad results. He encouraged council to weigh carefully the pros and cons of any new regulations before deciding how to proceed. The State of Ohio is still navigating the laws, but he expects the industry to be highly regulated. With marijuana still being illegal in Indiana Hicksville could see increased traffic if it becomes available in the village. The tax dollars produced will be a huge incentive to allow sales in Hicksville. On the other hand, crime could increase as well. Historically this is not the case but has to be considered. If the sale is legalized and regulated, the need to get marijuana or hemp products illegally would greatly diminish. That removes the possibility they could be laced with fentanyl or another deadly substance.

Minutes from the June 3rd Regular Council Meeting were presented. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve as written, seconded by Charlie Martin. All voted yes.

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

Boards & Commissions: The **HIX TV Board** met March 16th. Minutes were in the packets. The winners of the logo contest were named, and copies of the logos were also in the packets.

Council Committees: The **Finance Committee** met June 3rd at 5 pm to watch a presentation on the proposed Taser program for the Police Department.

The **Ordinance Committee** met June 5th at 5:30 pm to discuss the new legalization of recreational marijuana in Ohio and what it could mean to the village. Minutes were in the packets.

The **Street/Light/Property/Sidewalk Committee** met June 10th at 5:30 pm to discuss the 54 lots between Haver Drive and the wellfield (Clearview Subdivision). The committee felt the full council should make the decisions about selling vs transferring, and what parameters should be set.

The **Police/Fire/EMS Committee** met June 13th at 4 pm. They heard from EMS Chief Bruce Silcott about the increase in runs, staffing issues and 511 being sidelined with mechanical/electrical issues. The Fiscal Officer was asked to bring numbers for the cost to cover a 48-hour window each week for the EMS.

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 had the following report:

On Friday the 7th 300 block of East Cornelia the new main was pressure tested and had no issues. We are currently waiting for the bacteria testing results to come back. Thursday they are planning to pressure test the 100 block of Rock St and the 400 block of East Cornelia, our water superintendent will then pull bacteria samples for those 2 locations to be sent to the lab.

All of the punch list items for Meadow Lane and Beverly Drive have been completed by Dangler Excavating which included yard restorations and concrete work in a few locations.

Darren Brown has been busy taking down old baseball field light fixtures and installing the new fixtures, as of Friday afternoon all of them have been installed and in full operation.

Monday 17th AEP will be on site to lift one of their transformers on Old Mill Rd in order for our Wastewater dept. to repair the 8" sewer main in which AEP had drove a grounding rod down through the middle of it when the transformers were installed (March 2021).

All of the underground utilities have been installed in the building for the splash pad and the slabs have been poured. Block walls are about 2 weeks behind schedule due to weather, they are expected to be started next week this will allow for framing and finishes to follow. A majority of the piping has been laid for the pad, we are still awaiting approval from ODH on some changes before more the piping can be installed. The completion of July 11th will not happen for the building and will be closer to August 1st.

When asked about the splashpad, Wann reported there have been delays getting approval from the ODH (Ohio Department of Health). There will be a meeting on Tuesday at 12:30 to discuss the issues that have come up. Ron Beverly asked about change orders and what the additional charges are. Apparently, the double slide was a change order, and it was not approved by the ODH. That is why there is going to be a meeting to get the details. Toni Egly and Eric Bassett spoke about the initial contract/bid and how this was not a problem caused by the Foundation. Beverly said "they can't do this to us" regarding additional costs incurred.



Solicitor's Report:

- First reading of **Ordinance 2024-11** by caption only to amend Chapter 951 regarding refuse collection.
- First reading of **Ordinance 2024-12** by caption only to amend regulation of public nuisances.
- First reading of **Ordinance 2024-13** by caption only to amend the sidewalk ordinance.
- First reading of **Ordinance 2024-14** by caption only to amend appropriations 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 2024-14 by caption only. Charlie Martin made a motion to approve, seconded by Toni Egly. All voted yes.

Department Heads:

Police Chief: *Mark Denning had no report. He introduced our K9 Officer Echo and his handler Officer Shane Balsler. They have already been on three locates, including locating a missing juvenile and making a cocaine bust.*

Fire/EMS Chief: *Darrick Crochran has spoken to the FEMA grant writer who helped the department with the tanker. He will get more in depth later as Mickey Smith was on vacation at the time. The new fire recruits are being scheduled for physicals and outfitted with proper gear for their upcoming class. He and Bruce Silcott are in touch with a new company for gear based in Fort Wayne. The established company has a 16-17-month window for new orders. Turnout gear*

range from \$3700.00 to \$4500.00 per fireman. He is also replacing gear that has expired for the current fire department. Crochran was encouraged to find grants to help with the purchases. Crochran complimented the department on how they all pull together as a unit.

EMS Chief Bruce Silcott began by asking "Facebook Warriors" who have something to say to call him directly. His number is 419-542-1348. He is running with one ambulance as 511 is in the shop again being repaired. Apparently, people are commenting on the fact that other entities ambulances were in the area when a MVA occurred. There were several patients, and our only ambulance was already out on another call. Nearby units were called to transport patients. "If you are not on the scene, you should not talk about it". The department responded to 15 calls between Friday and Monday. They were overwhelmed with only one squad. He reiterated his need for a second unit that is reliable. EMT Abbye Shock spoke about her scary moments driving a patient at night when the lights cut off and on while she was going down the road. She will not be comfortable driving 511 after so many problems, no matter if the shop says they are "fixed" - again. Council was in agreement that a reliable ambulance is a necessity. As always, the problem is paying for one. The cost is almost \$300,000.00.

Toni Egly asked about the new billing system (Medicount). Silcott said the process cycles by the month and payments should be coming in soon. He stays in touch with our representative.

He has applied for 2 grants from the DPS (Department of Public Safety) and they will be awarded in July.

Silcott said the EMS Basic class is \$1500.00 so he and Darrell Rock (EMS Chief in Sherwood) are trying to set up a class here. They hope to have an Advanced class that will certify our Basic EMT's to the next level, if they choose to do so.

The Medical Director will be here for the September training class.

Silcott reminded residents that we are in the middle of a heat wave, so stay hydrated. If they begin to feel faint or dizzy, please call 9-1-1.

The Fire and EMS departments have been working on games for the upcoming "Kids Night" at the Huber as part of the 2024 Concert Series on Thursday June 20th at 5:30 pm.

As requested by the Police/Fire/EMS Committee, Cheryl Smith, Fiscal Officer, reported that covering 48 hours per week would be between \$45,000.00 and \$51,000.00 per year. Ron Beverly made a motion to approve hiring EMTs to cover the time frame, seconded by Charlie Martin. All voted yes.

Park Director: Val Shull had no report.

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

- Fund Status / Cash Summary (Revenue & Expenditures).
- May and June Revolving Loan Reports
- May Mayor's Court Report
- May-June Police Dept. Collections
- List of specific reasons an Executive Session may be called.

Pastor Steve Evers asked to address council on the marijuana issue. He is absolutely against any possibility of selling it in the village. He considers it a "gateway" drug and will only lead to worse habits.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Barth announced the second of the Concert Series held outside the Huber patio will be June 20th at 5:30 pm. The theme is Kids Night and will have free hot dogs and hamburgers as well as music and games.

He reminded residents that during heat waves the village has 2 designated "cooling centers" at the Senior Center and the Johnson Memorial Library.

Rob Bailey made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Charlie Martin. All voted yes. Council adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Mayor

Fiscal Officer