

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES  
Monday August 5<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 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, Ron Beverly, Charlie Martin and Kent Miller. Eric Bassett arrived at 6:05 pm.

Katherine Bland was on hand to speak to council about a playground at the park. She is a sophomore at Bowling Green University and HHS alumni. She noticed at Froggy Park the equipment for little kids is damaged and possibly needs replaced. She has studied a Playground Intervention Program geared towards children with disabilities. She knows of several local residents, fellow students and professors who would gladly volunteer their time to work on our playground. She would like to see if any grants could be written. Cory Wann told her he has received a "Play Time" award he can discuss with her. Bill Murphy said his wife worked on a similar project and he will put them in touch with each other.

Minutes from the July 15<sup>th</sup> Regular Council Meeting were presented. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve as written, seconded by Rob Bailey. All voted yes.

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

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

**Council Committees:**

The **Police/Fire Committee** met July 25<sup>th</sup>. They had a Zoom meeting with Mickey Smith who writes FEMA grants. They discussed applying for a grant to purchase a new Fire truck called a "Quint" (because of the 5-function capability). It would replace the disabled ladder truck and 35-year-old tanker. Minutes were in the packets.

The **Personnel Committee** met July 25<sup>th</sup> with several disgruntled employees. They spoke about pay, benefits, and being targeted while on the job. Felix Salinas especially has been harassed. The Committee told them if it happens again, report it to the Administrator and if that doesn't solve the problem, go to the mayor. If he doesn't stop the behavior, come back to Council. Minutes were in the packets.

*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 the following report:

Ohio Asphalt is hoping to be in town later this month if not it will be September to do repairs on a handful of streets around town.

Baumann Enterprises has finally brought down the tower and is currently cutting up the steel and hauling it out. They still need to remove all of the concrete pads that are in the yard and install a fire hydrant along with yard restoration.

The concrete pad for the splash pad has been poured, and trim is being installed on the pavilion. Painters are currently getting everything painted. There is still apron around the pad and pavilion that needs to be poured along with fixture install and electrical work.

Ron Bauer started a week ago on the pavilion restrooms, we are hoping everything is able to be painted over the next 2 weeks. I am still waiting to get final numbers on new restroom partitions to replace the old rotten wood partitions.

The new Frisbee golf course project will start this week. There will be 18 new baskets and concrete tee boxes throughout the entire course which covers the entire park. We are hopeful this will attract many new people to enjoy our community park. Kevin Troyer has been spear heading this project and I have assisted him when needed, I believe this is going to be a great asset to our park for many years to come.

In addition, he reported there was a main break on Maple Street Saturday, beginning at 5:30 am and finally fixed at 4 pm that afternoon. That quadrant of the village is on a 72 hour boil water advisory.

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**Solicitor's Report:**

No legislation.

**Department Heads:** *(Note: Department heads were actually randomly called upon to speak during the meeting rather than at this point).*

**Police Chief:** *Mark Denning reported the MARCS tower should go online August 16<sup>th</sup>. He also had the July calls and cases reports. Denning reported his Durango was received at Statewide and has been sitting there since June. They were not told when to expect it so they did not order the parts necessary to outfit it as a cruiser. It should be ready by the end of September. The equipment will be stripped from the Taurus, which can then be sold or given to another department. It will require about \$3000.00 in repairs.*

**Fire/EMS Chief:** *Darrick Crochran has been in contact with Mickey Smith and had a Zoom meeting with the Police/Fire Committee. The FEMA grant Mr. Smith feels we would qualify for would be one million dollars. The equipment the Fire Chief is looking at is a "Quint" and would replace 2 older units. The cost would be between 1.2 and 1.7 million. The units are 2 years out in production. The upfront cost would be \$2500.00 to begin plus a percentage when the grant is awarded. This will go to the Finance Committee for a recommendation. The unit is a necessity. Crochran is looking for a grant to help pay for turnout gear. The community events (car wash and kids' day at McDonald's) were successes.*

*EMS Chief Bruce Silcott would like to consider raising the cost for transports. He has spoken to Medicount and they said to be cautious when raising prices. The Fiscal Officer reminded council a raise could not be applied to the townships until their contracts renew. Rob Bailey asked when the last raise was. It was 2019. Silcott said 3 basic EMTs would like to take the Advanced class, and 4 firefighters would like to take the Basic EMT class. The Basic class is \$1500.00 each and the Advanced class is \$2000.00 each. The old 511 has been stripped of all equipment and it has been installed in the new 511. The old 511 is ready to go on Gov.Deals and the new 511 is awaiting graphics.*

**Park Director:** *No report.*

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

- Fund Status / Cash Summary (Revenue & Expenditures).
- July Income Tax and Utility Collections Reports

- July Police and Mayor's Court Collections Reports
- July Revolving Loan Fund Report
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Mediacom Franchise Fee Report
- Letter from Mediacom
- Request for Indigent Cremation - Ron Beverly made a motion to approve, seconded by Toni Egly. All voted yes.
- Request for new Liquor License - Eric Bassett made a motion to waive a hearing and approve, seconded by Charlie Martin. Bailey, Bassett, Beverly, Egly and Martin voted yes. Miller voted no.
- The Personnel Manual has been updated. A copy showing all adjustments was emailed to council members last week. Charlie Martin made a motion to approve, seconded by Rob Bailey. Ron Beverly voted yes with a caveat that council gets to look at it again before it goes to print. Martin, Bailey, and Egly voted yes. Miller and Bassett voted no. It will be brought back to council in a completed form on August 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Barth said he has spoken with Kent Miller (Chair of the Street/Light/Property Committee) about the property behind Haver Drive. The mayor wants to know exactly what council would like to see built there and if it will go to auction again or to work with the Defiance County CIC. Ron Beverly said he thought Erika Willitzer was writing up an RFP. The mayor said she doesn't do residential property.

The Fire Department generator will cost about ~~\$8200~~ \$18,200.00 with the gas line upgrade costing an additional \$2500 - he has contacted Maumee Valley Planning about applying for a grant.

Mayor Barth reported the meeting held July 31<sup>st</sup> at the Huber on the new cannabis legislation was informative.

The last of the Summer Concert Series will be Thursday. There will be food trucks and music by Christina Adams.

Rob Bailey made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes. Council adjourned at 7:45 pm.

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Mayor

Fiscal Officer