

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES
Monday August 19th, 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, Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith; Council Members Rob Bailey, Toni Egly, Ron Beverly, Charlie Martin and Kent Miller. Councilman Eric Bassett, Administrator Cory Wann and Solicitor Rachel Hammersmith were absent.

Diane Collins was here tonight to update council on the status of the petition to make the council non-partisan. If it can get on the ballot and be approved, it will save the village about \$15,000.00 for any primary election that is set up in the future. The paperwork was not approved and sent back but the time was too limited. She will begin the process again when the time comes for another general election.

Jennifer Doctor from the Hicksville Trail Association was present to address council on the current status of the property and plans for the future. There have been trees, benches, birdhouses and flowerbeds added. There is now a Port-A-John onsite. Future plans are for expansion of facilities, more trails crisscrossing the field, a boardwalk across places that get muddy when it rains and a privacy fence around the Port-a-John. She reported a spot near the entrance that is always wet. They would like to somehow provide drainage before it gets worse. They would like to eventually connect the trail to the sidewalk at the cemetery for a second entrance.

Ms. Doctor told council a larger design would be easier to maintain. It would be an educational resource, promote eco-tourism, and would be a benefit for future generations.

Because the area they want to take over is around the new wellfield, council would need to approve. Ron Beverly asked for a drawing or picture of what they are thinking. Ms. Doctor said she would provide council with one. The area is now under contract with a local farmer to plant cover crops for his animals since no pesticide can be used in the area.

Minutes from the August 5th Regular Council Meeting were presented. Rob Bailey made a motion to approve with a correction to the mayor's report, seconded by Charlie Martin. All voted yes.

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

Boards & Commissions: No minutes were submitted.

Council Committees:

The **Water/Sewer/Refuse Committee** met August 13th. They discussed utility rates and the possibility of instituting a sidewalk fund. Minutes were in the packets.

The **Finance Committee** met August 13th. Their discussion centered on expenses that will impact the 2025 budget. 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. All council meetings are shown on YouTube and minutes are on the website.

Administrator's Report: Cory Wann was absent: No report

Solicitor's Report:

First reading of **Ordinance 2024-15** by caption only prohibiting recreational (adult use) marijuana in the village.

First reading of **Ordinance 2024-16** by caption only approving codification of ordinances through 12/31/2023 and declaring an emergency. Charlie Martin made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Rob Bailey. All voted yes. Second and final reading of Ordinance 2024-16 by caption only. Ron Beverly made a motion to approve, seconded by Charlie Martin. All voted yes.

First reading of **Ordinance 2024-17** by caption only amending Section 147.02 adding an employee holiday and declaring an emergency. Legislation tabled until review by Personnel Committee.

First reading of **Ordinance 2024-18** by caption only amending Section 147.01 allowing compensation for excess accumulated vacation days and declaring an emergency. Legislation tabled until review by Personnel Committee.

First reading of **Resolution 2024-13** by caption only for recovery of monies expended for indigent legal counsel.

First reading of **Resolution 2024-14** by caption only assessing delinquent utility bills and declaring an emergency. Rob Bailey made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Ron Beverly. All voted yes. Second and final reading of Ordinance 2024-16 by caption only. Rob Beverly Bailey made a motion to approve, seconded by Toni Egly. All voted yes.

First reading of **Resolution 2024-15** by caption only assessing delinquent mowing bills and declaring an emergency. Ron Beverly made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Charlie Martin. All voted yes. Second and final reading of Ordinance 2024-15 by caption only. Ron Beverly made a motion to approve, seconded by Kent Miller. All voted yes.

First reading of **Resolution 2024-16** by caption only assessing delinquent nuisance property cleanup costs 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 2024-16 by caption only. Rob Bailey made a motion to approve, seconded by Kent Miller. All voted yes.

First reading of **Resolution 2024-17** by caption only assessing delinquent sidewalk repair bills and declaring an emergency. Ron Beverly made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Kent Miller. All voted yes. Second and final reading of Ordinance 2024-17 by caption only. Ron Beverly made a motion to approve, seconded by Rob Bailey. All voted yes.

First reading of **Resolution 2024-18** by caption only assessing street light millage and declaring an emergency. Charlie Martin made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Rob Bailey. All voted yes. Second and final reading of Ordinance 2024-18 by caption only. Charlie Martin made a motion to approve, seconded by Toni Egly. All voted yes.

First reading of **Resolution 2024-19** by caption only authorizing the Administrator to apply for OPWC funds for the Defiance Ave Lift Station Project and declaring an emergency. Charlie Martin made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Rob Bailey. All voted yes. Second and final reading of Ordinance 2024-19 by caption only. Charlie Martin made a motion to approve, seconded by Rob Bailey. All voted yes.

Department Heads:

Police Chief: Mark Denning reported the MARCS tower is up finally. The transmission is clear with a range of 33 miles vs 11-12 miles previously. The new Durango is having equipment swapped

out from the Taurus it will replace. Andrew Fritch has resigned as a full-time officer. He will move to part-time. Alex Jackson has completed his probation and will move to Patrolman I.

Fire/EMS Chief: Darrick Crochran reported the 36-hour Fire Academy has run 4 days. Next weekend will be the last day of class and then testing.

Deputy Chief EMS Bruce Silcott reported he was off last week with a back injury. He meant to send an email but didn't get it done. On September 17th the Medical Director will be here for training. On September 19th the Basic EMTs will have training on the use of EpiPens. The new repeater has been installed. The new squad should be "wrapped" on Monday and then be ready to go. Silcott will have the Chaplain do a blessing at that time. He has 7 firefighters who want to take a class to become EMTs. Each will cost \$1850.00. Ron Beverly made a motion to approve, seconded by Charlie Martin. All voted yes. There was a short discussion about full-time EMTs who do not run after their 40 hours and policies at local business who do/do not allow employees off to attend scenes. Silcott requested a Police/Fire Committee meeting.

Park Director: No report.

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

- Fund Status / Cash Summary (Revenue & Expenditures).
- Liquor License renewal request - Council had no objection
- Personnel Manual update put on hold at this time

Mayor's Report: Mayor Barth reported he has been involved with Site Development meetings with Erika Willitzer from Defiance County CIC to develop the area and possibly enhancing Industrial Park. They toured the area to see Industrial Park and the adjacent Guilford property. The company interested in building a 'spec building' in Industrial Park has agreed to pay ½ the cost of moving the road that goes to the Verizon Tower and our water tower. He reported they will not be ready to begin anything until at least 2026.

The Back-To-School Breakfast is next week if any council members would like to attend.

The Defiance County Fair is this week.

Next council meeting will be September 3rd due to Labor Day.

Rob Bailey made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Charlie Martin. All voted yes. Council adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Mayor

Fiscal Officer