

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES
Monday, November 4th 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, Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith; Administrator Cory Wann; Solicitor Rachel Hammersmith; Council Members Rob Bailey, Toni Egly, Eric Bassett, Ron Beverly, Charlie Martin, and Kent Miller.

Abby Wolfrum from the Defiance County United Way was invited to speak to the council by Mayor Barth. She gave a short history of the program and passed out a flyer. She reported 55 Hicksville kids were in the Backpack Buddy program that provides food for elementary students for over the weekend. There were 20 local students who attended Kindergarten Camp. She has worked with Susan Mack from the Hicksville Community Service Center providing the summer lunch program. There is also an early literacy program through the Dolly Parton Imagination Station that sends a book a month to kids birth to 5 years old. The organization runs on grants and donations. The biggest fundraiser is Trivia Night at the Defiance Eagles. Mayor Barth also mentioned the Balloon Fest at the airport.

Sheriff Doug Engel from Defiance County Sheriff's Department and 9-1-1 Center was also asked by Mayor Barth to speak with the council. He is concerned about the critical infrastructure problem. There are 3 agencies across the "west end", and they are all good people, but they are tired. Call recovery time has increased from 1 hour to as many as 3 hours. This is due to the distance to the area hospitals since Community Memorial closed. All of rural Ohio has the same problem. The 9-1-1 Center has problems when no one answers the call. Mutual aid only goes so far. We need volunteers! He said we should try to solve the problem ourselves and not wait for the State to come up with something. We have "kicked the can down the road" long enough. He feels the process needs to start with "budgetary." Rob Bailey asked what he meant by "budgetary" - our EMS has been given everything they have asked for. Toni Egly asked if there are any talks going on about a full-time EMS for the west end. Ron Beverly said it costs too much - he heard a million dollars to start. Sheriff Engel said it is also jurisdictional issues and too many egos involved. Kent Miller said, "aren't those egos still here?" Sheriff Engel said we would need to address that. This would be a conversation for Hicksville, Sherwood and Ney.

Minutes from the October 21st Regular Council Meeting were presented. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve with a change the adjournment vote and time, seconded by Charlie Martin. 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 meetings were scheduled.

Council Committees:

The **Finance Committee** met October 10th, 17th and 24th - Minutes were passed out tonight.

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:

Project and Community Updates:

1. **Water Main Valve Replacements:**
 - All **six valves** have been successfully replaced by JDY Excavating.
 - Asphalt repairs are scheduled for within next few days.
2. **Pool Project:**
 - Current construction estimate: **\$3,058,000.00**.
 - Out to bid, with a site visit for bidders on **November 5th at 1:30 PM**.
 - Bid due date: **November 14th**.
 - As of now substantial completion projected for **June 6th, 2025**.
3. **Industrial Drive Farm Lease:**
 - Bidding was held on **October 29th**.
 - Zeedyk Farms awarded the lease for **19.25 acres**.
4. **Pavilion Updates:**
 - New bathroom partitions installation scheduled for **this Wednesday**.
 - Additional plumbing work and painting will also be done over the next week.
5. **Leaf Pickup:**
 - Service started in the **NW sector** today, running until **December 13th**.
 - Leaf route maps are available at the Municipal building in the Utility clerk's office.
6. **Truck Deliveries:**
 - Delivery of two F-350 dump trucks completed; everything is functioning well.
 - Two older dump trucks to be listed on Gov.Deals soon, after removing some items.
 - Two new F-250 utility trucks are in the ordering queue, with hopes for early spring delivery.
7. **Fence Replacement:**
 - The fence in the alley between the Fire Department and the Municipal building has been replaced due to an accident involving a delivery truck.
8. **Light Poles:**
 - The light pole by Premier Bank is still in the manufacturing process.
 - The light pole on Industrial Drive, which was knocked down by a delivery truck, has an estimated lead time of **18 weeks**.
9. Added note: Paperwork for the \$750,000.00 grant for the pool has been received from the State of Ohio.

Solicitor's Report:

Final reading of **Ordinance 2024-17** by caption only to add employee holidays. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve, seconded by Charlie Martin. Bailey, Egly, Bassett and Martin voted yes. Miller and Beverly voted no.

Final reading of **Ordinance 2024-18** by caption only to allow employees to be compensated for certain accumulated vacation credits. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve, seconded by Rob Bailey. Bailey, Egly, Bassett and Martin voted yes. Miller and Beverly voted no.

Second reading of **Ordinance 2024-20** by caption only to amend water rates.

Second reading of **Ordinance 2024-21** by caption only to amend refuse rates.

Second reading of **Ordinance 2024-22** by caption only to amend sewer rates.

First reading of **Ordinance 2024-23** by caption only to establish pay ranges for 2025.

First reading of **Ordinance 2024-24** by caption only to amend appropriations and declaring an emergency. Eric Bassett made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Charlie Martin. All voted yes. Second and final reading of Ordinance 2024-24 by caption only. Rob Bailey made a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes. First reading of **Ordinance 2024-25** by caption only – Annual Appropriations for 2025. Final reading of **Resolution 2024-22** by caption only to amend the Investment Policy. Charlie Martin made a motion to approve, seconded by Rob Bailey. Bailey, Egly, Bassett, Martin and Miller voted yes. Beverly stated he didn't understand it so he voted no. First reading of **Resolution 2024-23** by caption only to authorize an easement to AEP Electric at the Splashpad site and declaring an emergency. Council would like this tabled until it can be rewritten. First reading of **Resolution 2024-24** by caption only authorizing the mayor to enter an agreement with Ohio First Responders Grants LLC and declaring an emergency. Eric Bassett made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Charlie Martin. Second and final reading of Resolution 2024-24 by caption only. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve, seconded by Rob Bailey. All voted yes.

Department Heads:

Police Chief: *Mark Denning had the Calls and Cases reports for October.*

Fire/EMS Chief: *Darrick Crochran reported the guys/girls have been training – getting experience. The turnout gear necessary will be for 24 firemen. He expects to order half this year and half next year. The Feather Bingo was a success and Movie Night for Halloween was a hit for the kids. When his firemen finish the EMT class he would like to equip the fire units with an AED and a supplies bag so they can roll with an EMT/Fireman and be first on-scene. The patient can begin getting care until the ambulance arrives. Implementation will be discussed further when everyone is done with class and certified.*

EMS Chief Bruce Silcott reported 602 runs for the year, with 68 runs in October. He needs 2 more full-time EMTs. He was assured that next year's budget had sufficient wages for what he asked for. He would like 2 more this year. Ron Beverly made a motion to hire 2 full-time this year if the Fiscal Officer can "find the money" somewhere for wages. This was seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes. Silcott has finished his instructor course. He still needs to pass the test.

Park Director: *No report.*

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

- Fund Status Report/ Cash Summary by fund.
- October Income Tax and Utility Collections reports.
- Mediacom Franchise Fee Report for 3rd quarter.
- October Revolving Loan Report
- Bureau of Labor Press Release
- A copy of a Power Point explaining Fund Accounting to the council.

Mayor's Report:

- Tomorrow there is voting at the Empower Church on Meuse Argonne.
- The Huber is having a wine tasting November 8th. Tickets are still available.
- The mayor is taking the online Public Records course from 10 am to 1:30 pm.

- The mayor, Cory Wann and Jared Radford will be attending the NOMMA meeting which will be on municipal funding.

Kent Miller made a motion to go into an executive session to discuss employee discipline at 7:25. The motion was seconded by Ron Beverly. Egly, Bailey, Beverly, Martin and Miller voted yes. Bassett voted no.

Council returned to regular session at 7:45. There was no further discussion and Eric Bassett made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Charlie Martin.

Date:_____

Cheryl Smith, Fiscal Officer

Michael Barth, Mayor