

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES
Monday March 3rd, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Michael Barth. He opened the meeting with 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 Toni Egly, Ron Beverly, Kent Miller, and Rob Bailey. Councilmen Eric Bassett and Charlie Martin were absent.

A troop of Boy Scouts were in attendance working to earn their Communication Badges.

Jamie Gerken from the Defiance County Health Department was on hand to tell the council about the upcoming Health Assessment & Improvement Plan. It is completed every three years. Her colleague, Brian Heil, spoke about the new way of gathering information by hosting community “chats” to record stories around the county. They are trying to reserve the Huber for the Hicksville area chat. It will be a group of 3 to 5 residents. The Health Department will be partnering with Defiance College. Ms. Gerken also spoke about the various duties of the Health Department. They include immunization clinics, the WIC program for mothers and babies, food inspection and licensing, pool and splashpad licensing, rural infrastructure testing (wells), and public health nuisances (such as bedbug infestations) to name a few.

Minutes from the February 18th Regular Council Meeting were presented. Ron Beverly made a motion to approve with correction to 2nd paragraph, seconded by Rob Bailey. All voted yes.

A list of bills to be approved was presented. Rob Bailey made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Kent Miller. All voted yes.

Boards & Commissions: The **Cemetery Board** met January 22nd - minutes were in the packets. Kent Miller asked about the increase they requested. Ron Beverly replied that there has been no increase for 12 years. It would be to increase wages and for material to build a shelter for funerals in inclement weather.

Council Committees: No meetings were reported.

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:

1. Park Operations & Staffing

- **New Park Director:** The newly appointed Park Director has started as of today and is focusing on preparing all park equipment for the upcoming spring and summer season. This includes servicing and ensuring that all equipment is ready for use.
- **Part-Time Park Groundskeeper Positions:** The department is accepting applications for two part-time park groundskeepers until **March 14, 2025**. These positions are crucial for the maintenance and upkeep of the parks during the busy spring and summer months.

2. Water Main Projects

- **Elm St Water Main Replacement:**
 - **Scheduled Bid:** The project is set to go to bid in April 2025.
 - **Engineer's Estimate:** \$513,000.
 - **Funding Secured:** A CDBG (**Community Development Block Grant**) of **\$480,000** has already been secured to support this project.
- **Columbia & Hattery St Water Main Replacement:**
 - **Engineer's Estimate:** \$605,818.
 - **CDBG Application Pending:** A new CDBG application is ready for submission, pending the passing of relevant legislation. This project aims to replace the water main on Columbia and Hattery Streets.

3. Street Maintenance Projects

- **Chicago Ave Milling and Paving:**
 - **Contractor:** Ohio Asphalt is scheduled to mill and pave the entirety of **Chicago Ave**.
 - **Scheduled Work:** May 2025.
 - **Cost:** \$53,448.00.
- **West Arthur St Milling and Paving:**
 - **Location:** The 200 block of **West Arthur St** will also be milled and paved this summer.
 - **Next Step:** Securing estimates for the work.
- **Oak St Milling and Paving:**
 - **Timing:** **Oak St** will be milled and paved sometime before fair season (Summer 2025).
 - **Funding Source:** This project will be covered by the **Permissive Tax funds** from the County.

4. State Route Paving

- **State Route Concerns:**
 - The sections of **State routes through the Village** were scheduled to be paved **two years ago**. However, the work has not been completed.
 - **Action Taken:** You have been in contact with the **State of Ohio** and have submitted the resurfacing request form paperwork for the last 3 years to ensure these routes are paved.
 - **Next Steps:** Follow up with the State to ensure the project moves forward and the necessary work is completed.

5. Defiance Ave Project

- **Finalization of Design:** Choice One is in the final stages of completing the design for the **Defiance Ave** project.
 - **Upcoming Bid:** The project is expected to go out for bid in spring/summer 2025.
 - **Cost Reduction:** The previous estimate for this project was \$2.6 million. With the removal of additional items, the revised budget will be under **\$800,000**, marking a significant reduction in overall costs.
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6. Pool Project and Related Updates

- **Final Approvals:** The Ohio Department of Health (ODH) and Ohio Development Services Agency (ODC) approvals for the pool project have now been finalized. We will see additional bills for these approvals.
- **Additional Requirements:** There is a need for the addition of a sidewalk or approach to connect the pool to the parking lot. The current plan includes grass in that area, the approach was originally designed as part of the pool's phase. The parking lot is also something that needs to be addressed sooner rather than later now that the pool has been discontinued.

Solicitor's Report:

First reading of **Resolution 2025-06** by caption only to allow the Administrator to apply for a CDBG grant for the Columbia-Hattery Water Main Replacement Project and declaring an emergency. No vote taken due to lack of quorum.

Department Heads:

Police Chief: *Mark Denning had no report. His February Calls and Cases reports were given out.*

Fire Chief: *Darrick Crochran reported several firemen will be taking the 6 ½ week Firefighter II class at the Bryan Fire Department. The new recruit will begin his 36-hour training this Saturday.*

EMS Chief: *Bruce Silcott reported 62 runs this month and 133 for the year. These numbers include fire calls. Ron Beverly asked about the number of signoffs (no transports). He was told 10-15. Silcott has heard about a grant up to \$30,000.00 annually to cover the cost of training EMTs. Four County is an approved training center.*

Park Director: *No report.*

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

- February Fund Status and Cash Summary Report.
- February Income Tax and Utility Collections Reports.
- January and February Revolving Loan Reports.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Barth reported Dr. Haggerty has moved into the new offices in the F&M Bank building. There should also be a new wellness clinic there soon.

He reminded residents that March 7th is Inclusion Day in Defiance County- everyone is asked to wear purple to show support for residents with developmental disabilities.

At 6:35 pm the Administrator asked for an executive session to discuss land acquisition. Ron Beverly made a motion to go into executive session, seconded by Rob Bailey. All voted yes.

At 7:20 council returned to the regular session. No further business was discussed.

Rob Bailey made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kent Miller. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Cheryl Smith, Fiscal Officer

Michael Barth, Mayor