

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES
Monday March 17th, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Michael Barth. He opened the meeting with a prayer by Pastor Steve Eyers and then the Pledge of Allegiance by all.

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, Eric Bassett, Charlie Martin and Rob Bailey.

Taylor Klepper was present to voice his concerns about the annual Park Lease signed by the Boys Baseball Association. He said it was not about the money - it is the principal. He doesn't see why it is always a battle between the Association and Council. The HBA invests a lot and has made many improvements. Klepper said the improvements were all from donations of material, money and labor. The village should not charge them to use the park. Beverly said, "even when they did not ask first" (to make improvements). Bassett said he knows the school and the county both pay their part to have village employees maintain the park. *The cost for the concession stand power, with the surface and quick dry the village supplied, is much more than the \$700.00 fee. The village has waived the fee for the past 5 years because the Association said they couldn't afford to cover the costs of background checks/ insurance, so the village agreed to a 5-year span to help the Association. Klepper said the dollar amount was arbitrary so why charge it at all if it doesn't even cover the cost? Toni Egly said the Association should work with the Park Director at budget time to partner on future projects. She reminded Klepper that the village has also made improvements (fencing and lighting) which were very expensive. Eric Bassett made a motion to leave the contract as it is written (with the \$700.00 annual fee), seconded by Ron Beverly. Bailey, Martin and Miller voted no. Egly, Bassett and Beverly voted yes. Mayor Barth broke the tie with a yes vote. He felt the contract was fair. We have always had contracts in the past, even before the 5-year hiatus of fees. It has to be fair to everyone.

Minutes from the March 3rd Regular Council Meeting were presented. Rob Bailey made a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

A list of bills to be approved was presented. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Rob Bailey. Egly, Bassett, Martin, Miller, and Bailey voted yes. Beverly voted no.

Boards & Commissions: The **Nuisance Board** will meet on Tuesday, March 25th at 10 am in the council chambers.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The **Planning Commission** will meet Thursday, March 27th at 6 pm in the council chambers to discuss a Zoning Change.

Council Committees: The **Police/Fire/EMS Committee** met March 11th. EMS began with payroll concerns, upcoming grants, issues with townships and VanCrest. Police followed with a discussion about the new K9 unit, followed by Fire with news that the training grant was not approved, so all 11 firemen will owe Williams County Fire for their classes.

The **Ordinance Committee** met to ask for updates to our Mowing, Parking, Farm Animals., Disabled Vehicles and Noise ordinances. They were referred to the Solicitor for changes.

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:

• **Street Sweeper**

The new street sweeper was delivered last week. It has been fully lettered, and the radio installation has been completed. The street department will receive training on the operation of the unit from Best Equipment before it is deployed on Village streets.

• **Salt Bunker at Wastewater Plant**

The construction of the new salt bunker at the wastewater plant is nearly finished. We will soon be relocating road salt and adding new dirt and stone bunkers to replace the deteriorating ones located behind the drying beds.

• **Splash Pad**

The electrical and water connections for the splash pad were completed as of Thursday last week. Astro Pools is in the process of installing all fixtures. Additionally, we will be adding a concrete approach to the front portion of the existing concrete pad to connect it to the parking lot in order to meet ADA requirements.

• **Water Treatment Plant (WTP) Generator and Aerator**

The WTP generator had its radiator replaced last week due to a leak. The new aluminum aerator has been built and is expected to be installed over the next couple of weeks. The current steel aerator, which is original to the plant from 1985, is in poor condition and will be replaced.

• **Parks Department**

The Parks department has been working diligently to clean up debris left from the winter. They have also been preparing all of the ball diamonds for the upcoming season.

Solicitor's Report:

- First reading of **Ordinance 2025-03** by caption only authorizing the Fiscal Officer to transfer funds.
- First reading of **Ordinance 2025-04** by caption only to amend appropriations.
- Second 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. Charlie Martin made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes. Final reading of resolution 2025-06 by caption only. Charlie Martin made a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

Department Heads:

Police Chief: Mark Denning had no report.

Fire Chief: Darrick Crochran had no report.

EMS Chief: Bruce Silcott asked the mayor to recommend hiring Michael Thomas (Paramedic from Williams County) and he did so. Rob Bailey made a motion to approve hiring, seconded by Charlie Martin. All voted yes. Silcott reported 2 trainings will occur this week, Tuesday and Saturday. Michelle Davis from Medicount will be here April 7th to discuss the first year of billing for EMS.

Park Director: No report.

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

- February Fund Status and Cash Summary Report.
- February PD and Mayor's Court Collections Reports.
- Reminder – all current liquor licenses to be renewed by June 1st. A list was given to the council in case they had any objections. They did not.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Barth reported he has attended the Department of Health meeting and the RGP meeting last week.

He reminded the public of the 150th Celebration to be held June 5th through the 7th.

The Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be April 12th at 1 pm in the park. Registration begins at 11:30.

At 6:45 pm Eric Bassett made a motion to approve an executive session to discuss personnel hiring/firing. The Fiscal Officer added for Land Acquisition. The motion was seconded by Charlie Martin. Egly, Bassett, Beverly, Miller and Martin voted yes. Bailey voted no.

At 7:25 the council returned to the regular session. No further business was discussed.

Eric Bassett made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Charlie Martin. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Cheryl Smith, Fiscal Officer

Michael Barth, Mayor

*Correction per Councilman Bassett