

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES
ANNUAL JOINT MEETING with TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
Monday May 5th, 2025, 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: (Village) Mayor Michael Barth; Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith; Administrator Cory Wann; Solicitor Rachel Hammersmith; Council Members Toni Egly, Kent Miller, Ron Beverly, Charlie Martin, Eric Bassett and Rob Bailey. (Township) Josh Metz, John McCalla and Mike Green.

The Joint Meeting opened with a discussion about any upcoming road construction. A resident asked the mayor for a sign on Casebeer Miller at the hill right before the entrance to Hidden Brook. He would like a sign to say "hidden drive" so people will slow down. A sign that said "slower speed ahead" could also be a possibility. Kent Miller said a sign will not stop speeders and Ron Beverly added there is no enforcement anyway. The township said it would be the responsibility of the village to post one.

The Cemetery Board has asked for an increase in the amount the Village pays annually. They would like the \$27,500.00 to be increased to \$33,000.00. There has been no increase for 13 years. Ron Beverly made a motion to approve the increase, seconded by Charlie Martin. All voted yes.

The Joint Meeting was adjourned, and the Regular Meeting was called to order.

Minutes from the April 21st Regular Council Meeting were presented. Charlie Martin made a motion to approve, seconded by Rob Bailey. All voted yes.

No bills were presented tonight.

Boards & Commissions: The **Planning Commission** met May 1st to discuss rezoning 125 N Main Street from B-1, B-2, B-3 Commercial to R-3 Residential. The request was approved. Minutes were in the packets.

Council Committees: **Street/Light/Property/Sidewalk** met April 29th to discuss a list of items: (1) Request for vacation of a portion of Rakestraw from Ogen to the railroad tracks. (2) Installing curbing where Bruce Guilford is building a new Day Care Center on E. High Street. (3) The sale of our property on Oak Park and Antwerp Drive. The last proposal was put before council. Rob Bailey made a motion to go ahead with auctioning the property, seconded by Eric Bassett. Miller, Beverly and Egly voted no. Martin, Bassett and Bailey voted yes. Mayor Barth broke the tie by voting yes.

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. Splash Pad Project

- **Walk-Through Completed:** May 28th
- **Current Status:** Identified items from the walk-through are actively being addressed.
- **Training Day:** Astro Pool Company is scheduled to host a staff training session on May 7th.

- **Grand Opening:** Planned for May 15th, pending final adjustments.

2. Street Paving Projects

- **Start Date:** Milling begins May 5th; paving scheduled for May 6th–7th (weather permitting).
- **Locations:**
 - 200 block of West Arthur Street
 - Entire length of Chicago Avenue
- **Additional Work:** A new curb has been installed on the inside curve of West Arthur Street in preparation for paving.

3. Water Service Line Repairs

- **Location:** 500 block of North Main Street
- **Details:** Two service line repairs completed in the past two weeks; trench restoration and paving will follow shortly.

4. Water Main Replacement

- **Project:** Elm Street Water Main Replacement
- **Bid Opening:** Scheduled for May 12th at 11:30 AM in the Commissioners Office.

5. Community Engagement – HHS Senior Work Day

- **Date Held:** April 30th
- **Participation:** 49 seniors from HHS attended.
- **Projects Completed:**
 - Rock removal around the high school and Main Street flagpole
 - Stone removal at the Little League playground complex
 - Mulch placement at Froggy Park and Little League playground
 - Downtown curb painting
 - Repainting of all south side fire hydrants
 - Repainting of skate park ramps

Solicitor's Report:

- Second reading of **Ordinance 2025-05** by caption only to establish fees for public records requests involving video recordings.
- First reading of **Ordinance 2025-07** by caption only amending pay ranges to include K9 Handler.
- First reading of **Ordinance 2025-08** by caption only amending Section 1165.09 of the Hicksville Codified Ordinances pertaining to parking and storage of certain vehicles.
- First reading of **Ordinance 2025-09** by caption only amending Section 905.06 of the Hicksville Codified Ordinances pertaining to failure to comply; remedy of municipality.
- First reading of **Ordinance 2025-10** by caption only amending Section 505.13 of the Hicksville Codified Ordinances pertaining to keeping animals near dwellings.

Council had questions about the proposed amendments. It was suggested Jared Radford (Zoning Official) come to the next meeting to provide answers.

Department Heads:

Police Chief: Mark Denning reported the department took 415 calls which resulted in 178 cases. He said he thinks he is losing Officer Andrew Fritch. The chief said he keeps losing people because of the wages and benefits. His department is a revolving door. Ron Beverly said if we keep raising wages and benefits it would be a snowball we can't afford. Chief Denning said he has compared villages with our population, and we are way down on the list by comparison. He then went on about the health insurance offered by the village. He is not convinced BORMA is the way to go. He wants an Insurance Committee to look into moving somewhere else. He is tired of us doing nothing and just sitting on our butts. Kent Miller said we had an insurance committee in the past that never met that he was aware of, and he was here 20+ years. Mayor Barth told Denning he would appoint a committee - volunteers. Denning said he wanted the committee to be department heads, not council. Beverly said it should be a joint effort. Denning said no, it wouldn't be. Charlie Martin told the mayor he would serve. The other members are Cory Wann, Bruce Silcott and Mark Denning. Denning went on to complain about the prescription process. Medical Mutual wanted him to go to mail order delivery and he said no he wanted to support our local pharmacy. We should not have a co-pay on ER visits. His wife couldn't refill a prescription because it was a day or two early.

Fire Chief: Darrick Crochran reported the new extrication tools purchased with a BWC SIG grant have been used in training. He thanked Yoder's Body Shop for letting the department practice on the wrecked cars in the yard. The Fire Marshall provided 6 instructors to train the department in heat exposure. They will return in June for another training. These were free. He has another equipment grant from The Ohio State Fire Marshall (\$11,829.50) to purchase/replace other items. The Fire/EMS is having the annual banquet soon. All active and retired members are invited. There will be various awards given and a scholarship will be awarded. He reminded everyone there will be a Pancake Breakfast on June 7th from 8 to 10 am during the 150th Celebration.

EMS Chief: Bruce Silcott reported we have had 56 calls this month, 44 medical and 12 fire. These calls resulted in 31 transports and 25 no transports. He said we have had siren issues. He and the Administrator are working together to resolve them. As of today, it is still not working. Cheryl Smith is billing no transports. Silcott said within 2 days he started getting calls. Most people think we can bill Medicare and Medicaid. They do not cover "no transports." Finally, he reported, not as an excuse, that there is unfortunate overtime on the payroll. Mayor Barth asked how many employees does he need to run - are the new employees helping? They are still doing "ride alongs" with Silcott. The only EMT who can run without a third is Isaac Wilhelm.

Park Director: Christina Tadsen was absent. Ron Beverly said he has heard only good things about the job she is doing.

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

- Current Fund Status and Cash Summary Report.
- April Income Tax and Utility Collections Reports.
- Mediacom 1st Quarter Report.
- April Mayor's Court Report.
- Draft of contract for indigent cremations. Ron Beverly made a motion to approve the updated contract, seconded by Charlie Martin. All voted yes.

Mayor's Report: Mayor Barth reminded the public that the Primary is tomorrow at the Empower Church on Meuse Argonne. The Mother's Day Plant Sale will be held by the

Beautification Committee Friday and Saturday at the Fairgrounds Multipurpose Building. He reminded everyone of the upcoming 150th Celebration for Hicksville June 5th to 7th.

At 7:25 pm Rob Bailey made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss possible land acquisition, seconded by Toni Egly. All voted yes

At 7:35 pm council returned to regular session. There was no further business discussed.

Eric Bassett made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Rob Bailey. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Cheryl Smith, Fiscal Officer

Michael Barth, Mayor