

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES
Monday June 16th, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

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

Roll call was taken with the following present: Mayor Michael Barth; Council Members Toni Egly, Kent Miller, Ron Beverly, Charlie Martin, Eric Bassett and Rob Bailey; Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith; and Solicitor Rachel Hammersmith. Administrator Cory Wann and Councilman Rob Bailey were absent.

Justin Kuhn was present tonight to give council an update on his proposed housing project on the west side of the village. He brought drawings of his plan. He has engaged D.R. Horton to start building 20 homes "right out of the gate." The ideal entrance to the development would be through the property across from Yoder's Body Shop on W. High Street. He could then connect to the lift station there. He has already determined the gas and electric companies can accommodate what is proposed. He is asking the village to partner with him to construct a road with curbs and all infrastructure necessary to run water and sewer. He said he has become aware through rumors that the village is considering a property purchase and if that is true, he will just walk away from this project. No hard feelings. The mayor told him the village absolutely does need housing and is 100% in favor of his ideas. The village is restricted from using taxpayer dollars to pay for a project on private property. Mr. Kuhn reminded council the village would benefit from the tax base to be created. The mayor also told him the village had very recently become aware of the State of Ohio putting a line item in the budget that eliminates inside millage property tax. That is a tax that funds both the village's General Fund and Police Pension. The council will discuss the matter in an executive session later in the meeting tonight.

Minutes from the June 2nd Regular Council Meeting were presented. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve with a change to wording, seconded by Ron Beverly. All voted yes.

A list of bills to be paid was presented. Charlie Martin made a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

Boards & Commissions: No meetings were held.

Council Committees: The Finance Committee met June 11th at 4 pm. Minutes were in the packets. The committee discussed upcoming projects and current State of Ohio legislation being proposed to eliminate inside millage property tax revenue.

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:

Sewer and Street Departments

On Wednesday, the Street and Sewer Departments completed two-point repairs on the Oak Street sewer main. These repairs were necessary in preparation for lining that section of sanitary sewer. Barring unforeseen delays, paving of Oak Street is anticipated within the next 30–40 days.

On Thursday, the Street and Sewer department completed a single point repair on the Defiance Avenue sewer main. This issue was identified during a recent camera inspection conducted by the Village.

The Street Department has also been focused on the removal of dead trees located within the public right-of-way. Last week, six trees were taken down, including two dead pine trees in the Village Park. Stump grinding is scheduled for the week of June 23, with approximately 30 stumps to be removed. These stumps are from trees taken down over the past several years throughout the Village.

Water System Projects

We are finalizing the contract book for Fenson Construction, who will begin work on the Elm Street water main replacement project as soon as possible.

We have received the Permit to Install (PTI) from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA) for the Defiance Avenue lift station. JDY is currently in the process of ordering the necessary materials for the project.

Water Treatment Plant Operations

Two of the eight filter valves at the Water Treatment Plant have failed and are currently out of service, limiting the plant to approximately 75% of its normal flow capacity. Of the eight original valves, three were replaced last year and one earlier this year. After the replacement of the current two valves, only two original valves from the plant's 1985 installation will remain. These final two are planned for replacement next year.

Solicitor's Report:

The Solicitor, Rachel Hammersmith, tendered her resignation to the mayor citing personal reasons. She will stay on while the village looks for a replacement.

- Final reading of **Ordinance 2025-10** by caption only amending Section 505.13 of the Hicksville Codified Ordinances pertaining to keeping animals near dwellings. Jared Radford, Zoning Official, was on hand to answer questions council had specific to this ordinance. Toni Egly wanted to know how he came up with "6" animals. He said he researched other municipalities and that was an average. There were other questions about the wording. Ron Beverly questioned not limiting dogs and cats as well as farm animals. The Ordinance was tabled a second time until council can agree on the wording and limitations.
- First reading of **Resolution 2025-11** by caption only declaring the necessity to levy an additional tax for current operating expenses and requesting the Defiance County Auditor certify the total current valuation of the village and the dollar amount of revenue that would be generated by the new levy and declaring an emergency. Eric Bassett made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Toni Egly. All voted yes. Second and final reading of Resolution 2025-11 by caption only. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve, seconded by Ron Beverly. All voted yes.

Department Heads:

Police Chief: *Mark Denning was present with his wife and daughter. He thanked the mayor and council for supporting him during his continued service to the village.*

Fire Chief: *Darrick Crochran had no report. The mayor thanked the department for the breakfast they held during the Sesquicentennial Celebration last weekend.*

EMS Chief: *Bruce Silcott said 510 is going in for an oil change Wednesday. He has had a student (Kamdyn Creech) interested in being an intern to the EMS department. She will be available from 9-12 or 12-3 during August to December. He is OK with an internship, as is the medical director. Cheryl Smith will call Conrad Beck concerning liability insurance. As of May 27th, Drew Wort is the new Assistant Chief. Drew is starting classes to become a Paramedic in the fall. On Thursday there will be a Sim Lab with Parkview. They will come on Wednesday for council to participate if they wish. (No councilman signed up but will let the chief know later if they can attend.) The chief brought a new name for hire and was recommended by the mayor. She is Breanna Bauer-Thacker from Bryan and is a new EMT. Toni Egly made a motion to accept the mayor's recommendation, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes. Silcott asked for a Police/Fire/EMS committee meeting.*

Park Director: *Christina Tadsen was absent.*

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

- Current Fund Status and Cash Summary Report.
- Mayor's Court Report for May.
- May Police Department Pay In Report.
- Press Release from the Attorney General urging the courts to uphold "Daniel's Law" which prohibits disclosure of personal information for judges, police officers and other public figures without their consent.

Mayor's Report:

- Mayor Barth everyone for their work on the Sesquicentennial Celebration- it was very successful. The committee would like it to be an annual affair in the village. We will need a new name for next year.

At 6:55 Toni Egly made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a possible land acquisition and personnel discipline, seconded by Ron Beverly. All voted yes.

Council returned to regular session at 7:45 pm. No further action was taken.

Eric Bassett made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Toni Egly. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.

Cheryl Smith, Fiscal Officer

Michael Barth, Mayor