

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES
Monday July 7th, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

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

Jim Schmidt, Taylor Klepper and Denny Vetter came to council to express their thoughts on the new Splash Pad. They don't like that water is going off the edge creating pooling and mud. The kids then run out and track the mud back. They said in their opinion the apron has not been done right. It needs done so it looks good when they bring people in from out of town. Right now it does not look professionally done. They want to know what the game plan is going forward. Administrator Cory Wann said he is aware of the problem and has been working from day one to learn how to correct it. An additional catch basin has been installed, and in the near future he is adding a drainage system along the edges that will direct the excess water into the storm sewer system. He has been adjusting the flows daily as he and the Park Director learn the system. Mr. Vetter said that is not how he would like the problem addressed. He would like the edge of the concrete sawed off and more concrete poured in a wider area. Councilman Eric Bassett said he has read the code for a splash pad and the cement area cannot slope into the splashpad. Mr. Vetter said the look of the mud created is very disheartening after all the money the donors collected. He feels the fix the Administrator is proposing is only a band aid and will not work. Mr. Klepper said the height of the catch basin looks like a warranty problem. Wann said it 100% is a problem, but it was initially set when a pool was to be installed, and the height was correct. The pool was scrapped so the catch basin will have to be altered.

Charlie Martin made a motion to accept the amended agenda, seconded by Kent Miller. All voted yes.

Roll call was not taken but the following were present: Mayor Michael Barth; Council Members Toni Egly, Kent Miller, Ron Beverly, Charlie Martin, Eric Bassett and Rob Bailey; Administrator Cory Wann; Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith; and Solicitor Rachel Hammersmith.

Minutes from the June 17th Regular Council Meeting were presented. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve with a change to wording, seconded by Rob Bailey. All voted yes.

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

Boards & Commissions: No meetings were held.

Council Committees: No meetings were held.

Note: The Ad Hoc Insurance Committee met tonight, and minutes will be available soon.

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:

Water Meters

All radio-read water meters have now been successfully installed throughout the village.

*However, we have already had to replace some of the original units due to their **non-replaceable batteries** reaching the end of their service life.*

Oak Street Sewer Main

*The **Oak Street sewer main lining project** is now complete. This project extended from **South Maple Street to Ogen Street**. As part of this work:*

- ***Curbing** will be installed along the **inside radius** just before the **South Maple intersection**, covering approximately **55 feet**.*
- ***Paving of Oak Street** is currently **scheduled for the second week of August**, weather permitting. The goal is to have this completed **before the county fair begins**.*

Elm Street Water Main Replacement

*The **Elm Street water main replacement project** is scheduled to **begin the week of July 21st**. A **pre-construction meeting** will be held prior to the start of the project with **Fenson Contracting**.*

Solicitor's Report:

First reading of **Ordinance 2025-12** by caption only authorizing the Village Administrator to enter into a real estate purchase agreement and any related documents for the acquisition of certain property owned by the Mark Milford Hicksville Joint Township Hospital District and declaring an emergency. Rob Bailey made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Kent Miller. All voted yes. The vote was delayed for an executive session later in the meeting.

First reading of **Ordinance 2025-13** by caption only to retain legal counsel from the City of Defiance, Ohio in prosecuting all misdemeanor criminal and traffic cases coming before the Defiance Municipal Court, and any appellate courts, thereafter, arising out of alleged violations of the traffic and criminal statutes of the State of Ohio and/or Ordinances of the Village of Hicksville and declaring an emergency. The Ordinance was tabled until Council can get some questions answered about the length of time and cost for 2025.

First reading of **Resolution 2025-10** by caption only to authorize the Village Administrator to enter into a contract with United Edge Real Estate & Auction LLC to sell 3.0996 acres on Antwerp Drive (Parcel E0600 2000 0900) and declaring an emergency. Ron Beverly made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes. Second and final reading of Resolution 2025-10 by caption only. Rob Bailey made a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Bassett. Bailey, Egly, Bassett, Martin and Beverly voted yes. Miller voted no.

First reading of **Resolution 2025-12** by caption only to levy a tax for current operating expenses directing the Defiance County Board of Elections to submit a ballot question to the electors and authorizing a levy for such purposes.

First reading of **Resolution 2025-13** by caption only to accept offer to purchase 3.0996 acres on Antwerp Drive by Keith and Shelia Etchen and declaring an emergency. Rob Bailey made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes. Second and final reading of Resolution 2025-13 by caption only. Toni Egly made a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

Department Heads:

Police Chief: *Mark Denning was absent. The Calls and Cases Reports were in the packets.*

Fire Chief: *Darrick Crochran was absent.*

EMS Chief: *Bruce Silcott was absent.*

Park Director: *Christina Tadsen was absent.*

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

- Current Fund Status and Cash Summary Report.
- June Income Tax and Utility Collection Reports.
- SMTA 2nd Quarter Franchise Fee Report.
- Current Purchase Order Report.
- Reported the Van Crest Annexation has been recorded.

Mayor's Report:

- Mayor Barth congratulated Abbye Franz who will begin her nursing career this month. Her last day as a full-time EMT is July 11th. The Summer Concert Series is set to begin. He hopes everyone will come out to the Huber to enjoy the music.

At 6:45 Eric Bassett made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a possible land acquisition, seconded by Ron Beverly. All voted yes.

Council returned to regular session at 7:50 pm. Second and final reading of Ordinance 2025-12 by caption only. Rob Bailey made a motion to approve, seconded by Charlie Martin. Bailey, Egly, Beverly and Martin voted yes. Miller and Bassett voted no.

A Special Council Meeting will be held July 22, 2025, at 4 pm for the final vote for Resolution 2025-12, to have a levy placed on the ballot to fund current operating expenses.

Eric Bassett made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Rob Bailey. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:55 pm.

Cheryl Smith, Fiscal Officer

Michael Barth, Mayor