

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES  
Monday July 21<sup>st</sup>, 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.

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

Members of the Hicksville Baseball Association Board were present to address council. They had a written report (included in council packets) outlining their contributions to the Park and their plans for the future. There was a discussion with the Administrator about maximizing all the fields so a Jr. High organization can be added. They will work together to formulate a plan both will participate in. Brad Oury related that this year they became a 501c3 LLC organization. They would like a 10-year lease commitment from the village. Eric Bassett asked if the \$700.00 annual lease payment would go away during this 10-year period. It doesn't even cover the cost to maintain the fields and pay utilities for the concession stand. The school has a contract with the village with an annual payment. Taylor Klepper said it's not about the money. Bassett was asked if the school also makes an investment in the park (like the HBA has done) and he assured them it does. Mayor Barth said he felt the 10-year lease was a long time since most of the Board Members will have moved on. The Board said the lease will provide continuity as the Board Members leave and are replaced. Issues like guidelines and insurance required would be spelled out so it doesn't have to be discussed every year. Toni Egly said she appreciates how prepared the Board was bringing Council a plan. She feels a partnership is advantageous for everyone involved. She would like to see the group work with the Park Director Christina Tadsen going forward. Will Board Members be available if needed in emergency situations (ex. weather)? Mr. Oury agreed to have communication guidelines set up with the Director. It was agreed by all parties that an agreement is essential to keep everyone working together amicably toward the same goal.

Minutes from the July 7<sup>th</sup> 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:** The Ad Hoc Insurance Committee met July 7<sup>th</sup> and minutes were in the packets.

*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](mailto:hixcs@defnet.com). All council meetings are shown on YouTube, and minutes are on the website.*

**Administrator's Report:** Cory Wann reported the following:

- The water dept has been exercising valves.
- Handle Lane will be paved in August.
- Patch paving is being done where needed.
- The Elm Street water main replacement begins next week. Residents will be given 24-hour notices when the water will need to be shut off temporarily.

### **Solicitor's Report:**

Second 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 again waiting on additional information being gathered.

Second 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 2025-14** by caption only to enter an agreement with the Defiance County Commissioners for the recovery of monies expended for providing legal counsel to indigent persons for the calendar year 2026.

First reading of **Resolution 2025-15** by caption only to assess street-light millage and declaring an emergency. Eric Bassett made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Charlie Martin. All voted yes. Second and final reading of Resolution 2025-15. Charlie Martin made a motion to approve, seconded by Rob Bailey. All voted yes.

### **Department Heads:**

**Police Chief:** *Mark Denning had no report.*

**Fire Chief:** *Darrick Crochran reported the fire trucks have all had maintenance and repairs done either at Schmidt's or JB Sales. He has 7 firemen who want to take the Level I class. The "36 hour" class is \$1,000, the Level I is \$1700. and the Level II is \$2600. Toni Egly asked if we can afford it - can we apply for a grant? Crochran said he doesn't want to discourage anyone who wants to improve as firemen. Egly told him he can blame council if he needs to. The Chief then reminded Council of the upcoming Fireman's Banquet which will recognize the accomplishments made so far and hand out 2 years of awards (2024 had no banquet).*

**EMS Chief:** *Bruce Silcott began by telling council he was surprised no one called to comment on the report\*\* he sent out to each of them. Eric Bassett said it was great - he really appreciated all the information and numbers, but council members cannot discuss village business by phone or email or they get in trouble.*

- *Silcott reported during Fair Week he was going to have one unit stationed at the Fairgrounds, and the other in the garage. Charlie Martin asked if he had spoken with the Fair Board, and he said he had.*
- *Three EMT's have expressed a desire to become Paramedics. (Isaac Wilhelm, Felix Salinas and Drew Wort.) Abbye Franz is looking into the RN to Paramedic course.*
- *Since Abbye has left her full-time EMT position to pursue a nursing career, the Chief would like to fill that spot with Isaac Wilhelm.*

**Park Director:** *Christina Tadsen had no report.*

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

- Current Fund Status and Cash Summary Report.
- Letter from American Tower with an offer to purchase.
- Mayor's Court and Police Department Collections Reports.

**Mayor's Report:**

- Mike Barth reported the Industrial Park Project is still being finalized.
- He encouraged everyone to come out to the Farmers' Market. The Beautification Committee does a good job.
- He finished by thanking Solicitor Rachel Hammersmith for her service. Her last day is July 31<sup>st</sup>.

Resident Mike Langham asked to speak to council about his property. He said some guys from the water department came to clean out a drain that is in the middle of his driveway. They told him he needs to cap it off. He also received a letter telling him the same thing. He does not want to break up the cement in his driveway since it is not his problem. The issue was given to the Administrator. Wann had no knowledge of a letter being sent or a visit by the Water Department. He will look into the situation and let Mr. Langham know what he finds out. Tonight is the first he's heard of it.

At 7:06 Kent Miller made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a possible land acquisition, seconded by Toni Egly. All voted yes.

Council returned to regular session at 7:40 pm. No further action was taken.

At 7:45 pm Charlie Martin made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Rob Bailey. All voted yes.

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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.

***\*\*Note:** The EMS report was not included in the packets and was not referenced during the council meeting, so it does not appear in the minutes. It is available by calling or emailing the EMS Chief at 419-542-1348 or [hixemsreports@gmail.com](mailto:hixemsreports@gmail.com))*

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Cheryl Smith, Fiscal Officer

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Michael Barth, Mayor