

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES  
Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

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

Roll call was taken with the following present: Mayor Michael Barth; Council Members Kent Miller, Eric Bassett, Brian Zeedyk, Mike Villena, Boyer Gonwick and Toni Egly; Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith; and Administrator Cory Wann. Solicitor Avery Demland was absent.

Erika Willitzer was present to address council about her role with the Defiance County CIC (Community Improvement Corporation). Erika has been the director for 5 years. She works with the public and private sector. In Hicksville she is working on getting a spec building built in Industrial Park. She also is working with a company to develop housing on Demuth Drive. She has gotten a letter of intent to be accepted as soon as legislation is written for the mayor to sign. In Defiance County the First Quality facility is being built which will provide over 400 jobs by 2028. The site covers 1300 acres. In Hicksville 3 separate expansions are being proposed and will begin marketing soon. Erika can walk any company through the process and has experience helping get grants and loans. Call her office any time and she and her team will do everything they can to assist you. No opportunity is too small.

Minutes from the January 20<sup>th</sup> Regular Council Meeting were presented. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve seconded by Brian Zeedyk. All voted yes.

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

**Boards & Commissions:** No meetings were held.

**Council Committees:** **The Ordinance Committee** met January 29<sup>th</sup>. Minutes were in the packets. Resident Kaitlyn Moore asked for the meeting with the committee to discuss the current ordinance in reference to keeping chickens in the village. Resident Jessica Garrison had met with Brian Demland and worked on a draft of an ordinance covering this territory. The results were discussed and approved by the committee, zoning official, council solicitor and residents present. The amended ordinance will be presented to council on February 17<sup>th</sup>.

*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 had the following report:

Village departments conducted snow removal operations from Saturday at 11:00 PM through Sunday evening at 10:00 PM to address the significant snowfall received during that time period. Crews worked extended hours as necessary to maintain safe and passable road conditions throughout the village. All employees performed exceptionally well, and their efforts are greatly appreciated.

I will be meeting with Choice One Engineering this week regarding the Columbia Street and Hattery Street water main replacement project. The meeting will also include discussion of potential future infrastructure projects, which may consist of new storm sewer installations on South Maple Street, Hicks Street from Maple Street to Main Street, and Wendell Avenue. Additional items for consideration include water main replacement on Beech Street and a portion of South Bryan Street.

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

First reading of **Ordinance 2026-01** by caption only to amend Chapter 515.03 will be read February 17<sup>th</sup>.

First reading of **Resolution 2026-02** by caption only to enter agreement with Nationwide First Responder Grants LLC to manage the FEMA grant and declaring an emergency. Toni Egly made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Kent Miller. All voted yes. Second and final reading of Resolution 2026-02 by caption only to enter agreement with Nationwide First Responder Grants LLC to manage the FEMA grant and declaring an emergency. Eric Bassett made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Kent Miller. All voted yes.

First reading of **Resolution 2026-03** by caption only to authorize the mayor to approve the Letter of Intent between the village and Jefferson South Holdings LLC will be February 17<sup>th</sup>.

First reading of **Resolution 2026-04** by caption only to enter agreement with Choice One Engineering to provide professional services for the Columbia-Hattery Water Main Replacement Project 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 2026-04 by caption only to enter agreement with Choice One Engineering and declaring an emergency. Brian Zeedyk made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Toni Egly. All voted yes.

### **Department Heads:**

**Police Chief:** *Mark Denning had the January Calls and Cases Reports. He also had a written request to offer the full-time position to Joshua Meyer. He would need to join the next training class. Denning would also like to get Brian Demland (Zoning Official) recertified as an officer and hire him for a part-time slot. Council approved of both requests.*

**Fire Chief:** *Darrick Crochran reported that the entire department is getting uniforms. He has 5 firemen in the Fire I class now. He brought a calendar that has pictures of comparable fire trucks to the one they chose. The price has gone from 1.3 to 1.8 million. The grant is \$809,000.00 after paying the fee for the grant writing. This includes a change from the 300-gallon tank specified in the grant application to a 600-gallon tank requested by the committee. The price to reengineer the unit to accommodate the larger tank increased by \$18,000.00. Council asked if they were following FEMA guidelines. They said they were.*

**EMS Chief:** *Bruce Silcott reported 71 runs in January. Thursday the new power load will be in operation. The squad did have to call for Sherwood mutual aid when 3 simultaneous calls happened recently. The Basic class will end in March with new recruits for the department. If you need the EMS, we are here.*

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

- January Fund Status report and Cash Summary by Fund.
- January Utility and Income Tax Department Reports.
- Medicount Report for December and End of Year 2025.
- 4<sup>th</sup> quarter Mediacom Franchise Fee Report.
- January edition of "The General Standard"

### **Mayor's Report:**

- Mayor Barth had no report.

At 7:00 pm Kent Miller made a motion to go into an executive session to discuss possible litigation, personnel hiring and sale of property. This was seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

At 7:43 pm council returned to regular session with no further action taken.

Eric Bassett made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Toni Egly. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

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Cheryl Smith, Fiscal Officer

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Michael Barth, Mayor