

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES  
Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026, 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, 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, and Boyer Gonwick; Administrator Cory Wann and Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith. Solicitor Avery Demland and Council Person Toni Egly were absent.

Erin Strausbaugh was present to address council. She has been an attorney for 23 years. Currently she is a magistrate for Williams County. She practices general civil law and was educated at Ohio State and University of Toledo Law School. She will be on the May 5<sup>th</sup> primary ballot to replace Jeffrey Strausbaugh, Judge of Probate and Juvenile Courts in Defiance, who is retiring.

Taylor Klepper, representing the Hicksville Baseball Association was on hand to “formalize” the vote from last fall concerning the contract offered to the village. It is basically the same as before except it drops the \$700.00 usage fee for 10 years. The Association has improvements planned for the next few years. The agreement will be looked at in 3 years to see if it is still working for both parties. They want to add a field for Jr. High play, but that area has been designated a new soccer field. There were concerns about setting up a soccer field in a place with no available concession stand. They practice now at the Mennonite Church. Eric Bassett thinks a 10-year contract is too long. He is also concerned that Softball already paid their fee-do they get their money back? Klepper said the Association is about ready to start construction on Batting Cages. Kent Miller asked about the old ones. He was told they would be removed. Brian Zeedyk made a motion to accept the contract as written, seconded by Mike Villena. Miller and Gonwick voted no. Bassett, Zeedyk and Villena voted yes.

Billy Laney did not speak to council.

Minutes from the March 2<sup>nd</sup> Regular Council Meeting were presented. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve, seconded by Boyer Gonwick. All voted yes.

Minutes from the March 5<sup>th</sup> Special Council Meeting were presented. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve, seconded by Boyer Gonwick. 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:** No meetings were held.

*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 no written report. He has applied for 2 CDBG grants and needs an LMI study done. He would like to offer an incentive for residents to fill out the questionnaire and return it.

He and Christina Tadsen (Park Director) are working on a new all-inclusive playground to replace Froggy Park. It would include a sensory section and be fully ADA compliant. If we can use the OTSCIF funds we were awarded to build a pool, we will have to be a 50% match for the playground.

**Solicitor's Report:**

Final reading of **Ordinance 2026-01** by caption only to amend Chapter 515.03 pertaining to keeping animals near buildings. Eric Bassett made a motion to table the legislation until some legal questions could be answered. This was seconded by Boyer Gonwick. All voted yes.

Second reading of **Ordinance 2026-02** by caption only to split into 3 plots, and rezone 18.015 acres in Industrial Park from agricultural to heavy industrial. Eric Bassett made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Boyer Gonwick. All voted yes. Final reading of Ordinance 2026-02 by caption only. Brian Zeedyk made a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

Final 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. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve, seconded by Mike Villena. All voted yes.

First reading of **Resolution 2026-10** by caption only authorizing the sale of unneeded, obsolete or unfit village personal property including by internet auction for the calendar year 2026.

First reading of **Resolution 2026-11** by caption only authorizing the purchase of a Sutphen SL100 Quint Aerial Ladder Truck and declaring an emergency. Eric Bassett made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Brian Zeedyk. All voted yes. Second and final reading of Resolution 2026-11 by caption only. Kent Miller made a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

First reading of **Resolution 2026-12** by caption only approving and ratifying a Community Reinvestment Area Tax Exemption (CRA) agreement between the Village of Hicksville and Bruce and Debra Guilford LTD and declaring an emergency. Eric Bassett made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Brian Zeedyk. All voted yes. Second and final reading of Resolution 2026-12 by caption only. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve, seconded by Brian Zeedyk. All voted yes.

**Department Heads:**

**Police Chief:** *Mark Denning had no report. He did talk about the MARCS radios and the sirens. They will all need to be compliant ASAP. The sirens are about \$4,000.00 each to upgrade.*

**Fire Chief:** *Darrick Crochran thanked the Administrator and his crew, along with the Police Officers who managed the traffic control during the hours the power lines were down. 3 firefighters are taking the Fire II class. 504 is back from the shop. It was not as bad as first reported.*

**EMS Chief:** *Bruce Silcott reported the ambulance has been fixed. The new transmission cost almost \$8000.00. He thanked Sherwood for the use of an ambulance while ours was out*

*of commission. His class will end in April, and the students will be taking the National Registry test.*

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

- Fund Status report and Cash Summary by Fund.
- Police Department Pay Ins and February Mayor's Court Report.

**Mayor's Report:**

- Mayor Barth reminded everyone to check on their neighbors during power outages.

Eric Bassett made a motion for an executive session at 7:10 pm for personnel issues. He was seconded by Boyer Gonwick. All voted yes.

Council returned to regular session at 7:40 pm with no further business.

Eric Bassett made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Boyer Gonwick. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm.

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Cheryl Smith, Fiscal Officer

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Michael Barth, Mayor