

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES
Monday, May 18th, 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, and Mike Villena; Administrator Cory Wann; Assistant Fiscal Officer April Allen; and Solicitor Avery Demland. Council Person Boyer Gonwick and Toni Egly were absent.

Justin Kuhn was at the meeting to update council on his upcoming project Fox Creek on Spencerville St; he had a packet and a sketch for council; I did not receive a copy. He wanted to let them know what his wants are:

1. variance for sidewalks
2. wants to put in a pond.
3. Wants to get a TIF.

Mr. Kuhn would also like to know who is responsible for paving the portion of the road the Village owns.

Erika Willitzer from the CIC of Defiance County was here to answer any questions and give an update on ongoing projects. They are close to having the final paperwork done for the spec building for Keller Development; and hearing back from the State about the grant to help with the spec building.

Joann Gardener was here to discuss animal ordinance to see if they would consider changing it to 50 feet instead of 100 ft. She told us her story of why she wanted it done. The Mayor thanked her and let her know at this time we are keeping what is already on record.

Minutes from the April 20th Regular Council Meeting were presented. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve, seconded by Kent Miller. All voted yes.

A list of bills to be paid was presented. There was a bill, for the ambulance towing, paid twice on the list and I will have Cheryl fix it. There were questions about the bill for St Michael's Catholic Church (Wonderly rental) Cory and the Mayor talked about what happened, no further action was taken on this. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve, seconded by Brian Zeedyk. Bassett, Villena, Zeedyk voted yes. Miller voted no.

Boards & Commissions: Board of Zoning Appeals met May 6th to hear 4 applications: 2 Zoning Variances and 2 Conditional Use Permits. Minutes and paperwork in packets.

Council Committees: – No meetings 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. All council meetings are shown on YouTube, and minutes are on the website.

Administrator's Report: Cory Wann had the following report:

1. Road Maintenance & Infrastructure

Significant road repair initiatives are underway through both state partnerships and private contractors.

- **ODOT State Route Repairs (May 26 – 27):**
 - **Scope:** Targeted spot repairs on state routes (not full resurfacing).
 - **Materials:** Approximately 229 tons of asphalt covering 1,245 linear feet.
 - **Cost Management:** Utilized the Ohio Buys Co-Op program, resulting in the Village being responsible for the cost of asphalt.
- **Side Street Maintenance:**
 - Ohio Asphalt is scheduled to begin repairs on various side streets later this spring to complement the ODOT work.

2. Parks & Recreation

The remodel of the local sports courts is currently in progress to expand recreational options for residents.

- **Project Status:** Started Friday, May 8; estimated completion within one week.
- **Final Configuration:** Upon completion, the facility will feature 4 Pickleball courts and 1 Tennis court.

3. Utility Department Updates

Utility crews successfully addressed a major water loss event and are continuing to provide proactive system management.

Beech Street Water Main Repair

- **Issue:** A 6” water main suffered a sheer break.
- **Impact:** Estimated water loss of 10,000 gallons per day.
- **Resolution:** Personnel (Troy Sargent) identified that the leaking water was bypassing the surface and flowing into a 4” field tile, which fed directly into the sanitary system.
- **Correction:** The main was repaired, and the field tile was permanently removed and capped to prevent future sanitary system infiltration.

Downspout Removal Program (ORD: 921.02)

The Village continues to mitigate sanitary sewer overflows by enforcing the removal of illegal downspout connections.

- **Progress to Date:** Since the beginning of 2026, 47 properties (residential and commercial mix) have been successfully disconnected from the sanitary system.
- **Current Status:** Round 3 of enforcement and inspections commenced this week.

Note: The removal of downspouts from the sanitary system is a critical step in reducing the load on our treatment plant and preventing basement flooding during heavy rain events.

Solicitor's Report:

Final reading of **Resolution 2026-15** by caption only adopting the Hicksville Emergency Medical Services (EMS) bylaws. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve seconded by Kent Miller. All voted yes.

First reading of **Resolution 2026-17** by caption only declaring the necessity for the renewal of the tax levy for fire protection in the Village of Hicksville and declaring an emergency. Eric Bassett made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Brian Zeedyke. All voted yes. Second and final reading of Resolution 2026-17 by caption only declaring the necessity for the renewal of the tax levy for fire protection in the Village of Hicksville and declaring an emergency. Brian Zeedyk made a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

Department Heads:

Police Chief: *Mark Denning had no report.*

Fire Chief: *Darrick Crochran says that all class A uniforms have been assigned. Darrick wants to remind everyone of the Fireman's breakfast on June 6 starting at 8am. Darrick wants everyone to know their job is to protect and serve and that if anyone has any questions just ask, call, or visit anytime. He wants to let council know that he will get waiver forms from now on for riders that require them.*

EMS Chief: *Bruce Silcott reported that the Hicksville Eagle's Donated money for equipment and for their first-year software expenses. Bruce would like to recommend Destiny Henderson, Rianna Bell and Matthew Bell to join the EMS after getting their national registry. Mayor Barth approved the recommendation. Eric Bassett made a motion to hire them, seconded by Kent Miller. All voted yes. Bruce wants to thank the past and present EMT's in recognition of National EMS week.*

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

- Fund Status report and Cash Summary by Fund.
- Comparison of budgeted and Appropriated.
- Purchase Order Listing.
- Police Dept. Collection Report.
- New Attorney General name.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Barth reminded everyone of the Memorial Day parade Monday @10am the American Legion is putting it on, same path as previous years, they will have a speaker at the cemetery. Mayor Barth wants to remind everyone that HHS Commencement is May 31st @2pm and wants to wish the seniors well. He announced that Heritage Days will be held June 4th through the 6th the brochures are out around town now.

Kent Miller made a motion to go into executive session for Economic Development issues at 7:10 pm, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

Council returned to regular session with no further action taken.

Eric Bassett made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kent Miller. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:16 pm.

April Allen, Acting Fiscal Officer

Michael Barth, Mayor