

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES
JOINT MEETING WITH HICKSVILLE TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES
Monday May 1, 2023, at 6:00 p.m.

Council met in Council Chambers. If not fully vaccinated, please wear a mask.

The Meeting was called to order by Mayor Ron Jones, followed by an invocation by Pastor Steve Eyers. All cited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call was read with the following persons in attendance: Mayor Ron Jones; Council Members Eric Bassett, Ron Beverly, Taylor Klepper, Charlie Martin, Mike Barth, and Toni Egly; Solicitor Troy Essex, Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith and Administrator Cory Wann. From the Township: Trustee Zane Zeedyk, John McCalla and Josh Metz.

Mayor Jones asked if the Township had anything they wanted to bring before Council. Josh Metz spoke about the proposed 1400-acre, 140-megawatt solar field to be built by Defiance and Paulding counties. The area would be St Rt 49, Jericho, and Tim Betts Roads. The substation would be on Clemmer Road. Councilman Bassett said he has had residents ask him about it - not to oppose it, just the location. Metz said his biggest concern is that it doesn't look like a prison when done. The land will not be rezoned from "agricultural" at this time.

Mike Barth had an announcement from the Cemetery Board. Zane Zeedyk will no longer be setting out the line of flags along 18/N Main at the cemetery entrance. An Eagle Scout has offered to continue the practice this year as his project. The cost is \$25.00 to set a memorial flag for a loved one. Contact anyone on the Board for more information.

Nothing further was brought forward to be discussed. Charlie Martin made a motion to adjourn the joint meeting, seconded by Taylor Klepper. All voted yes.

Council returned to regular session at 6:10 pm.

Minutes from the April 17th Regular Council Meeting were presented. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve as written, seconded by Charlie Martin. All voted yes.

A list of bills to be paid was presented. Ron Beverly made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Eric Bassett. Bassett, Beverly, Martin, Barth and Egly voted yes. Klepper abstained.

Cara Potter, Director of the Defiance County Public Library, was present to address issues at the Johnson Memorial Library in Hicksville. Apparently, Justin and Heather Kuhn objected to a book their child brought home but instead of going through proper channels, they began a smear campaign of name-calling and other vile language online as well as in person at the library. Ms. Potter called them to meet in person to listen to their grievances, but they said they were too busy. She thanked them for not being too busy to come to council tonight. Councilman Taylor Klepper was also called out for his bad behavior. Their posts may have been taken down, but library staff have screenshots of them. They will be held in case the behavior continues. Two employees have given their notice at Johnson Memorial due to being personally harassed online and at their job. Ms. Potter wants the small-town bullies to know she is not intimidated. There is no justification for that kind of behavior. She believes in intellectual freedom in a library setting. She will not remove a book because of local hysteria. There are proper channels to follow if you object to a book. Taking your outrage out on people just doing their job is not what "good" citizens do. There will be unfortunate consequences. Being short-staffed due to good employees being run off will now result in less hours the library can be open, and 35 summer programs are being reduced to 8. It is a sad fact that cameras will now be installed in the library for the protection of the employees. The objection to the book is being handled according to protocol but the damage has already been done.

Carl Caltrona from Enterprise Fleet Management was present to answer questions about his program of leasing vehicles to local government entities. He handed out information in the form of a power point presentation. (Note: Package is available from the Fiscal Officer if requested). The minimum vehicle count is 20 and would include police cruisers, trucks and vans. Fire trucks and ambulances do not qualify. The cost to lease 3 vehicles is about half the cost of buying a new vehicle. Replacing vehicles every 5 years maximizes safety and resale value and minimizes maintenance and fuel cost.

Boards & Commissions:

The Nuisance Board met April 21st - no minutes available.

Council Committees:

The Water/Sewer Committee met 4/12 but no minutes were presented. Taylor Klepper gave an oral report at the last meeting.

The Street/Light/Property Committee met April 24th - no minutes were available.
The Police/Fire Committee met April 17th and 27th - minutes were provided tonight.

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:

- WWTP Superintendent Joel Jacob has reached his one-year mark. Wann asked the council to approve his raise at 6% like the other employees received in January. Ron Beverly made a motion to approve the raise, seconded by Charlie Martin. All voted yes.
- Taylor Klepper asked about progress on the pool. Do we know how much it will cost yet? Wann reported it could be 3.5 million. The plan was submitted to the Health Department in April.
- Steel is being raised in Industrial Park for the new water tower. Charlie Martin reminded the council they need to decide on any paint and/or logo.
- Mike Barth asked about having a siren installed on the new tower.
- Ron Beverly asked about a replacement for Troy Essex. Who decides? He was told Personnel will handle it. Charlie Martin said they have already started.
- Wann handed out a list of disabled vehicles that are in violation of Ordinance 1169.10 and 1165.09. There were 13 addresses and 19 vehicles. The Zoning office is going out by quadrant. This is the 1st. The list has been given to the Police Department for owner's notifications.

Solicitor's Report:

- Second reading of **Ordinance 2023-11** by caption only to levy a tax for Fire Protection in the Village of Hicksville. Eric Bassett made a motion to table this Ordinance until more information is provided, seconded by Charlie Martin. All voted yes.
- Final reading of **Resolution 2023-03** by caption only authorizing the sale of unneeded, obsolete, or unfit personal property. Charlie Martin made a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Bassett. Taylor asked if we need to do this each year and Troy Essex said yes.
- In other news: Progress is being made to amend the lease with the Verizon Tower people. A discussion is ongoing to relocate the drive and to reroute the underground fiber.

Department Heads:

Police Chief: Mark Denning had no report.

Fire/EMS Chief: Interim Chief Bruce Hart reported Unit 504 (20+ years old) is in Findlay being repaired and inspected. Unit 503 (30" years old) has a bad leak and has to be filled constantly. Hart asked the mayor to recommend Gabriel Smith to join the department. He will need to go to school. The mayor made the recommendation. Mike Barth made a motion to accept the mayor's recommendation, with a good physical, drug screen and background check, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

Park Director: Val Shull was absent.

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

- Fund Status / Cash Summary (Revenue & Expenditures)
- April Utility, Income Tax Reports
- March Mayor's Court Report
- April Revolving Loan Fund Report

Mayor's Report: Mayor Jones reminded citizens to vote tomorrow. Hicksville is voting for 2 council seats as well as the new mayor. Voting is the Empower Church on Meuse Argonne from 6:30 am to 7:30 pm.

A resident asked about the proposed fire levy. He is concerned about higher taxes. He reminded the council that people on fixed incomes can't afford any more tax burden. Taylor Klepper explained to him the process to actually get a levy on the ballot is complicated, and council has tabled the question tonight because they have questions as well. Council will not proceed without it being an absolute necessity.

Charlie Martin made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes. Council adjourned at 7:20 pm.