

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES  
Monday May 15, 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. 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; Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith and Administrator Cory Wann. Solicitor Troy Essex was absent.

Minutes from the May 1<sup>st</sup> 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. Charlie Martin made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Eric Bassett. Bassett, Beverly, Martin, and Egly voted yes. Klepper and Barth abstained.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING:** June 1<sup>st</sup>, 6 pm in the Zoning Office to hear application for Zoning Change at 313 North Main Street from A-1 Agricultural to R-4, Single Family, Two Family, Multiple Family.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING:** June 7<sup>th</sup>, 4 pm in the Zoning Office to hear application for a Conditional Use Permit at 721 North Main Street to operate a beauty shop in the residence.

**Boards & Commissions:** The **Revolving Loan Fund Committee** met May 11, 2023, to hear an application by Hard Pressed Coffee for a loan in the amount of \$20,500.00. It was approved with 7 yes votes, 2 absent members. It is for a term of 6 years at 4.5% interest.

**Council Committees:** The **Personnel Committee** met May 1<sup>st</sup> at 5:15 pm to discuss (1) a personnel issue that required a meeting with the appropriate employees, (2) a request by the mayor to raise the Administrator's salary, which will be revisited during 2024 budget talks and (3) replacing Solicitor and Fiscal Officer in the near future.

*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:

**Water Tower:**

All of the concrete work has been completed for the tower, currently the bowl assembly is being welded together on site. I have submitted the tank color to Caldwell, and it is Sherwin Williams pure white. The logo is still undecided for the tank.

**Wellfield:**

The only construction outstanding on the wells is the installation of the riser pipe and the permanent well pumps. Ortman mentioned that the riser pipe might be delivered this week at some point.

Lee (Ortman) was corresponding with the lab to try and get to the bottom of what occurred with the samples. If they were simply unreported, then they can be uploaded into the state system, and we are all good. If they were not tested for, Ortman would have to come back out, purge the wells, and take another set of samples, where the required analytes will be tested for.

**Division B – Water Line**

The pipe is installed and is currently chlorinated. Pressure test and bacteriological test is upcoming.

A generator and propane tank were installed. The electrician was doing their work. As of correspondence last week, Tom said that the electrical would not be done until around the end of the month.

Regarding the AEP cable and transformer installation, they will schedule their work once the conduit is installed.

**Zoning:**

Week of May 8<sup>th</sup> 4 properties were mowed due to Nuisance Violations. 17 properties were issued Nuisance Violations the week of May 8<sup>th</sup>. So far this month 15 junk vehicles notices have been submitted to the PD by the zoning inspector.

**Maple Lane:**

Piping material has been delivered (12" & 15") with Construction starting this week. Substantial completion is scheduled for October 13, 2023 and final completion being October 27 2023.

**General:**

110 Bunnell Street was cleaned up on May 3<sup>rd</sup> by the Village and Werlor Recycling. The cleanup took approximately 5 hours.

**WWTP:** So far, all ordered parts have been received. Reassembly has started with new and old lateral lines reinstalled as well as the new main header line. Also new support brackets have been installed on the North side of the tank for more stability. The week of the 14<sup>th</sup>, new diffusers will begin to be installed as well. Our goal is to have the tank fully operational by the end of May.

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Wann relayed some “concerns” of a resident: Some sidewalks are trip hazards; the crosswalks are painted using bad paint; some sidewalks were put in the go around trees; she wants stop bars on all side streets; a truck was unloading soap in front of the municipal building using parking spots instead of loading zone across the street; she wants a crosswalk painted at the Marathon station on East High Street. She also wanted the council to know these are not complaints – just concerns. Some concerns were answered: Sidewalks are in the process of being repaired; The paint for crosswalks is premium paint from Sherwin Williams; Chief Denning said we cannot mark crosswalks across state highways (18 by Marathon); Former Administrator Kent Miller said crosswalks have to be sidewalk-to-sidewalk, and that is not possible at the Marathon station. Mayor Jones suggested the Street /Light/Property Committee address the other concerns.

Taylor Klepper wanted to know the status of the pool/splashpad. When can the public see renderings of the project and where will they be posted? Wann will find out.

Hydrant flushing will be May 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> overnight. If your water is dark or cloudy, let the faucet run and it will clear up.

There was a discussion about the loading zone on South Main Street. Is it for the entire downtown area? Do all the shops know about it? How can we make them use it? How will it be policed? Should legislation be drafted? Should signs be erected? More discussion will be forthcoming.

**Solicitor’s Report:** (Readings by Mayor Jones)

- 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.
- First reading of **Resolution 2023-06** by caption only authorizing the Village Administrator to apply for a Nature Works grant and declaring an emergency. Taylor Klepper made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes. Second and final reading of Resolution 2023-06. Charlie Martin made a motion to approve, seconded by Toni Egly. All voted yes.
- First reading of **Resolution 2023-07** by caption only stating intent to ask for reimbursement from loan proceeds for Water Tower Project from the OPWC and declaring an emergency. Ron Beverly made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Charlie Martin. All voted yes. Second and final reading of Resolution 2023-07. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve, seconded by Charlie Martin. All voted yes.

**Department Heads:**

**Police Chief:** *Mark Denning would like Officer Andrew Fritch to be taken off probation. Ron Beverly made a motion to approve, seconded by Mike Barth. All voted yes. Samantha Weidmer has resigned to join the Drug Task Force in southern Ohio.*

**Fire/EMS Chief:** *Mayor Jones asked Council to approve his appointment of Bruce Hart to become the new Fire Chief. He has been interim chief for the last 10 weeks. He will be on 6 months’ probation as per policy. Ron Beverly made a motion to approve the mayor’s choice, seconded by Mike Barth. All voted yes.*

*Hart said Unit 504’s repairs are done. The cost (originally \$6500.00) was about \$10,000.00. He has 2 more minor items he would like to address but will wait until the new budget. Unit 503, which is the 2<sup>nd</sup> pumper, is just worn out. Rehabbing these units would improve Hicksville’s ISO rating. Toni Egly asked about putting money into such old trucks – replace with new trucks? Hart said the trucks could last another 10 years with proper care and maintenance. He warned the council that the tires could suffer from dry rot before they are “worn out”. Replacing them is about \$1,000.00 per tire. Chief Hart said he’s working on a 5-year plan for equipment replacement.*

*May statistics: Fire calls – 48 / EMS calls 155*

**Park Director:** *Val Shull was absent.*

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

- Fund Status / Cash Summary (Revenue & Expenditures)
- April Mayor’s Court Report
- 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Franchise Fee Report from Mediacom

**Mayor's Report:** Mayor Jones reported the Historical Society will be open to the public every Wednesday from 11 am to 1 pm. June 5<sup>th</sup> will be the next council meeting. He wished everyone a happy Memorial Day (May 29<sup>th</sup>).

Billy Laney was present to speak to the council. He said he has issues with the Village Administrator, who is his supervisor. Laney said that Cory Wann won't talk to him and he feels discriminated against. He is fed up and won't take it anymore. Something needs to be done. Mayor Jones said he will have a meeting with Wann and Laney to try and resolve the issues.

At 6:55 pm Ron Beverly asked for an Executive Session to discuss possible litigation, seconded by Eric Bassett. All votes yes.

Regular council resumed at 7:15 with no further business discussed.

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

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Mayor

Fiscal Officer