

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES
Monday, December 4, 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 from Paster Steve Eyres. All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Minutes from the November 20th Regular Council Meeting were presented. Charlie Martin made a motion to approve, seconded by Mike Barth. Barth, Martin, Egly and Klepper voted yes. Bassett and Beverly abstained.

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

Boards & Commissions: A **Notice of Public Hearing** was posted. The council will hear any comments December 18th on a request by Nemco to rezone 301 Meuse Argonne from A-1 Agriculture/Public Use to B-1 Central Business, B-2 Local Business, B-3 General Business.

Council Committees: The **Finance Committee** met November 27th - minutes were in the packets. The committee discussed the 2024 budget, the pool/splashpad project, Fire / EMS budgets, the possibility of paying out for unused vacation hours, and the viability of the Mayor's Court system in the village.

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: had no written report. Wann said leaf pick up is complete. They made 62 loads this year. He is working with Choice One on a grant application to the State of Ohio Dept. of Development for the Defiance Ave Project (part of LTCP Phase II). The grant request is for 2 million dollars. The village match would be \$650,000.00. The meter at the new water tower is scheduled to be installed by AEP in the next few days.

Solicitor's Report:

Final reading of **Ordinance 2023-17** by caption only establishing pay ranges for village employees. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve, seconded by Mike Barth. Bassett, Barth, Egley, Martin and Klepper voted yes. Beverly voted no.

Second reading of **Ordinance 2023-18** by caption only establishing 2024 appropriations. Charlie Martin made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Mike Barth. Bassett, Barth, Klepper, Egly and Martin voted yes. Beverly voted no. Final reading of Ordinance 2023-18 by caption only. Mike Barth made a motion to approve, seconded by Charlie Martin. Bassett, Egly, Barth, Martin and Klepper voted yes. Beverly voted no.

Second reading of **Resolution 2023-26** by caption only to enter a contract with Vernon Nagel Inc for construction of the pool and pool house. Ron Beverly made a motion to suspend the vote for two weeks, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

Final reading of **Resolution 2023-27** by caption only to hire Rachel Hammersmith as Village Solicitor. Charlie Martin made a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

Department Heads:

Police Chief: Mark Denning asked Mayor Jones to recommend Jennifer Caryer be hired as Police Department Clerk to replace Julie Cleland. Mayor Jones did so. Ron Beverly made a motion to accept the mayor's recommendation, seconded by Taylor Klepper. All voted yes. The council and the Chief thanked Julie for her 26 years of service to the department. The chief gave the council his calls and cases reports for November. He reported the walk-through at the MARCS tower will be on the 12th.

Fire/EMS Chief: Bruce Hart reported #504 (main line pumper) is back in the garage. It had been being repaired by Finley Fire. The chief also gave the council his report of calls for November.

Park Director: Val Shull had no report. The park has closed down for the year.

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

- Fund Status / Cash Summary (Revenue & Expenditures)

- November Income Tax and Utility Collections Reports.

Mayor's Report:

- Mayor Jones reported the Christmas Cruise Thru still needs volunteers.
- VanCrest will be having an Open House on December 17th from 1 to 4 pm.
- Mayor Jones asked the council again if they have any suggestions to deal with the stray cat problem in town. He has had residents in his office asking for help. The Council was not receptive to the idea.
- There will be an open council seat beginning January 1, 2024, when Mike Barth moves to the mayor's office. The council will be asking for candidates who would like to finish Barth's term (2 years) - please contact any council member.

Taylor Klepper reported the 5th Annual Thanksgiving Dinner at the Gathering Place served over 150 meals. He thanked everyone involved.

Eric Bassett made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Charlie Martin. All voted yes. Council adjourned at 6:30 pm.

Mayor

Fiscal Officer