

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES
Monday, March 18th 2024, 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 Michael Barth, followed by an invocation. All recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call was read with the following in attendance: Mayor Michael Barth; Council Members Kent Miller, Toni Egly, Eric Bassett, Rob Bailey, Charlie Martin and Ron Beverly; Solicitor Rachel Hammersmith; Administrator Cory Wann and Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith.

Bruce Silcott (EMS) spoke to the council first so he could leave to report to work. He reported the squad would be short next week with an EMT going on vacation. He is working on scheduling. An ad has been placed to fill the part-time slots available. Interviewing will begin immediately. Since the position of Deputy Chief for EMS already exists Charlie Martin recommends that position be filled instead of creating a new position which would delay hiring since it would have to be advertised. The bylaws state the Fire/EMS Chief can appoint a Deputy Chief with approval of the council. Toni Egly reminded the council of the recommendation of the Finance Committee that it be salary and within the range set. Charlie Martin made a motion to approve the position/salary, seconded by Rob Bailey. Bailey, Egly, Beverly, Martin and Miller voted yes. Bassett voted no. Chief Hart named Bruce Silcott to the position. Charlie Martin made a motion to approve the appointment of Bruce Silcott to Deputy Chief EMS, seconded by Ron Beverly. Bailey, Egly, Beverly, Martin and Miller voted yes. Bassett voted no. Toni Egly said she was at the training Saturday using a Sim Lab. She was impressed with it all. Silcott said it will be done quarterly.

Bill Cherry, Interim CEO for Community Memorial Hospital, was present to introduce himself to the council. He said, regardless of the rumors, the hospital is still open. They are working toward a plan so it can survive. The restructuring plan should be complete in 15-30 days. He said community support is essential.

Craig Nelson, ODNR Supervisor of Groundwater/Division of Geological Survey, came to ask the council to approve a request to set an 8" test well on village property. It will be at no cost to the village. It is simply a well to study the aquifer. It will be monitored periodically by the state and all data will be published. They plan about 10 new wells around Defiance, Williams, and Fulton counties. The well will be long term. The oldest is from about 1938. The state will provide an MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) for the village to sign. Mr. Nelson just needs the OK to proceed. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve the project depending on the MOU being approved, seconded by Ron Beverly. All voted yes.

Minutes from the March 4th Regular Council Meeting were presented. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve as written, seconded by Rob Bailey. All voted yes.

A list of bills to be paid was presented. Eric Bassett made a motion to pay the bills, seconded by Rob Bailey. All voted yes.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING. A Public Hearing will be held April 1st at 6 pm in council chambers to hear comments about a request for a zoning change at 701 Spencerville St. The request would be for an R-4 Residential to be changed to an R-8 Residential.

Boards & Commissions: The Planning Commission met March 14th and approved the zoning change requested for 701 Spencerville St. Minutes were in the packets.

The HIX TV Board will meet March 16th at 8:30 am.

Council Committees: The Finance Committee met February 28th at 4:30 pm. They discussed investments, EMS staff shortages, and ballfield lighting. Complete minutes included in packets.

The Street/Light/Property/Sidewalk Committee met March 7th at 5:30 pm. The meeting was held with residents who have issues with the new sidewalks installed. The committee decided to present 2 options to full council: (1) Except for specific cases of incorrect invoices, all owners will be responsible for paying the invoices presented or (2) all residents billed will receive a credit of 50% on the labor portion of the invoices. Complete minutes included in the packets. Rob Bailey made a motion to approve the 50% reduction in labor costs across the board, seconded by Charlie Martin. Bailey, Beverly, Martin and Miller voted yes. Egly voted no and Bassett abstained.

The Police/Fire/EMS Committee met March 12th at 6 pm. The discussion began with finances and staff requirements. Then Chief Darrel Rock from Sherwood spoke about the possibility of organizing a “west end” joint EMS department. Pros and Cons were discussed. Complete minutes were in the packets.

The Finance Committee met March 14th at 5:15 pm. The following items were discussed: (1) The cost over the \$800,000.00 in donations for the splashpad were explained. The committee will recommend the full council approve the cost and get the project moving. (2) The new solicitor has opted to take village insurance and an additional \$27,000.00 is needed in the solicitor’s budget to cover the village’s cost. The Fiscal Officer said it can come from the unbudgeted “cushion” in the General Fund or it will need to come from another line already budgeted. The committee agreed there is enough to take it from the unbudgeted amount in the General Fund. (3) The EMS position (full-time Coordinator) is recommended to be salary, not hourly, to prevent overtime costs, and be in a range of \$45,000 to \$52,000. (4) The Committee agreed with the Administrator to start the lighting replacement project at the park using Darren Brown Electric. It should be a 3-day project. Complete minutes were included in the packets.

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:

- *We are still looking to hire a full-time general laborer; applications can be picked up from city hall or downloaded from the village website.*
- *On Friday March 15th utility departments found a large sink hole on Elm Street. After hydro excavating it was found a 6” storm drain tile from the railroad tracks had come apart creating the issue. After further inspection it was found this active line was dumping clear water into the sanitary main line across the street. The utility department removed the line from the sanitary and made a new tap into the storm sewer line that was available.*
- *The water department started to fill the new water tower this morning, once the filling started it was found the pressure gauge fittings and main drain for the tower were leaking. Caldwell was contacted and will be sending a technician this week to repair, at that time they will continue to fill the tower.*
- *Zoning department did 2 (nuisance violations) property cleanups last week, one on Antwerp Drive the other on East Cornelia St.*
- *Tennis court fencing will be replaced over the next month or so by R&C fence. The village will be taking down the old fencing and R&C will be doing the installation.*
- *CSX will be working on the decking of the underpass on Smith St starting April 15th and will take approximately 3 weeks. The underpass will be closed to traffic while the work is being done. Once the work there is completed, they will begin work on the East High St underpass and is also to take 3 weeks and will be closed to all traffic.*

Solicitor’s Report:

First reading of **Ordinance 2024-07** by caption only to amend appropriations and declaring an emergency. Eric Bassett made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Rob Bailey. All voted yes.

Second and final reading of Ordinance 2024-07 by caption only. Rob Bailey made a motion to approve, seconded by Charlie Martin. All voted yes.

First reading of **Resolution 2024-06** by caption only to enter contract with Dangler Excavating LLC for the Meadow Lane/Beverly Drive Water Service Replacement and declaring an emergency. Charlie Martin made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes. Second and final reading of Resolution 2024-06 by caption only. Ron Beverly made a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

First reading of **Resolution 2024-06** by caption only authorizing the sale of unneeded, obsolete or unfit village personal property including internet auction for the calendar year 2024

First reading of **Resolution 2024-07** by caption only authorizing the Village of Hicksville to donate 2 sets of bleachers to Mac Gym that are not needed for public use and the property has no value.

Department Heads:

Police Chief: *Mark Denning was absent.*

Fire/EMS Chief: *Bruce Hart reported 504 is in the shop getting a new keypad installed. Ron Beverly asked about the cost, but Bruce Hart did not know. Charlie Martin asked about the hydraulics on the ladder truck. Hart said they have not been repaired yet. Toni Egly asked about options. Do we just let it sit in the garage or sell it. Ron Beverly said he didn't think an unusable piece of equipment can sit in the garage legally. Egly urged Hart to be transparent and proactive, not reactive.*

Park Director: *Val Shull reported the Park is getting ready for the upcoming season.*

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

- Fund Status / Cash Summary (Revenue & Expenditures)
- Smith announced the property tax funds were received today.
- The Agreement for Technical Assistance for The Revolving Loan Fund (Maumee Valley Planning) was brought before council for approval. The council agreed to renew it.

Mayor's Report:

At 7:05 Charlie Martin made a motion to go to executive session for personnel discipline issues, seconded by Rob Bailey. All voted yes.

At 7:35 Council returned to regular session with no further action taken.

Eric Bassett made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Toni Egly. All voted yes. Council adjourned at 7:35 pm.

Mayor

Fiscal Officer