

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES  
Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ron Jones. He then gave the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

Roll Call was read with the following persons in attendance: Mayor Ron Jones; Council Members Larry Ridgway, Eric Bassett, Taylor Klepper, Mike Barth, and Cory Wann. Administrator Kent Miller, Solicitor Troy Essex and Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith. Councilman Ron Beverly was absent.

Eric Bassett made a motion to approve the amended agenda, seconded by Mike Barth. All voted yes.

Minutes from the March 2<sup>nd</sup> Regular Council Meeting were presented. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve, seconded by Larry Ridgway. All voted yes.

The list of bills to be paid was presented. Larry Ridgway made a motion to approve the bills, seconded Eric Bassett. Ridgway, Klepper, Wann and Bassett voted yes. Barth abstained.

**Boards & Commissions:**

The **Nuisance Board** met March 9th. The mayor commended the work they are doing.

**Council Committees:**

The **Police/Fire Committee** met March 9<sup>th</sup> to discuss the need for a new ambulance and how to pay for and/or finance it.

The **Water/Sewer Committee** met March 4<sup>th</sup> with engineering firms for construction of the Defiance Avenue Lift Station. Choice One was selected.

The **Personnel Committee** met with Operations Personnel on March 14<sup>th</sup> to get their take on how things are going. No minutes were presented. The next meeting on April 22<sup>nd</sup> will be with Safety & Security Personnel.

*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).*

**Administrator's Report:** Miller did not have a written report. He reported the downtown signs "3 hr. parking" were in satisfactory condition. The "parking prohibited" signs are faded and will be replaced. If council asks for signs and signposts to be installed on side streets it would require 203 signs at a cost of about \$8500.00.

**Solicitor's Report:**

- First reading of **Ordinance 2020-04** by caption only to amend the appropriations to refund \$2600.00 in utility deposits and declaring an emergency. Mike Barth made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Taylor Klepper. All voted yes. Second and final reading of Ordinance 2020-04 by caption only. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve, seconded by Mike Barth. All voted yes.
- First reading of **Resolution 2020-04** by caption only authorizing the mayor to take necessary steps to complete purchase of real estate and declaring an emergency. Eric Bassett made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Larry Ridgway. All voted yes. Second and final reading of Resolution 2020-04 by caption only. Mike Barth made a motion to approve, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes
- Essex expects to complete the Haynes contract this week.

**Department Heads:**

*Police Chief: Mark Denning had no report.*

*Fire/EMS Chief: Scott Cramer reported he is purchasing a new LifePack 15 and it is in his budget. Eric Bassett asked him to supply an updated list of EMTs.*

**Park Director: Val Shull** was absent. The Mayor recommended 3 names for lifeguard positions once they pass their physicals and are certified. They are Reyna Mazur, Ella Clark and Joshua Myers. Larry Ridgway made a motion to accept the mayor's recommendations seconded by Cory Wann. All voted yes. The mayor recommended Carson Shull be hired as a park laborer pending a good physical. Mike Barth made a motion to accept the mayor's recommendation, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

Taylor Klepper said he has heard rumblings about sponsorship and/or naming of the ballfields. Who would be able to approve this: The Park Board, the Ball Associations or the Village Council? He was asked what would be the intent of sponsorship - to have a field named after the sponsor or just for advertising purposes. The Park has never named the fields other than by number. Park property is co-owned by the Village, the County and the School District.

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

- Fund Status.
- Health Fair Notice
- February Mayor's Court Report
- Mediacom Notice with programming changes
- LGOC and New Council Training has been postponed
- Federal Reserve Press Release
- Gov. DeWine/OBWC Press Release
- Annual Notice from Board of Liquor Control
- Letter from the Hicksville Chamber of Commerce
- Smith asked for a Finance Committee meeting to discuss options for current and future banking/investments due to the current health crisis and moves by the Federal Reserve.

**Mayor's Report:**

Mayor Jones put 3 names before Council for approval as the new Downtown Design Review Board. They are Shelia Baker, Charles Wann and John Hart. Eric Bassett made a motion to approve the mayor's recommendation, seconded by Larry Ridgway. Bassett, Ridgway and Barth voted yes. Wann and Klepper abstained. The Board members will oversee any renovations in the downtown area to assure compliance with standards set by The Secretary of the Interior when the business receives Federal funding.

Justin Kuhn spoke to Council about properties he owns and would like to annex into the village. He wanted Council to expedite the process since he is "giving" the property to the Village. He has already gone through an annexation and felt it was too complicated and expensive. He was advised by Troy Essex that the process he used is the "expedited" version. It used to be worse. Taylor Klepper asked if the process is posted somewhere. Essex explained the steps and reminded Mr. Kuhn that the rules are set by the State of Ohio (Ohio Revised Code). Hicksville doesn't have the authority to change the rules or make the process faster.

The Mayor then had a message to all residents concerning the coronavirus epidemic: (1) wash your hands (2) check on your neighbors and (3) trust in God.

Larry Ridgway made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm.

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Mayor

Fiscal Officer