

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES
Monday, May 4th, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Due to the current COVID-19 health crisis Council met by teleconference using "GoToMeeting" to comply with the Ohio Sunshine Law as well as the Governor's "Stay at Home" order. Instructions to download the app to a computer or phone can be found at www.villageofhicksville.com.
Meeting Access Code is 271 063 773 Dial-Up Number is 1-872-240-3311

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. Also attending were Department Heads Fire Chief Scott Cramer, Police Chief Mark Denning, Water Superintendent Jessi Randall and Park Director Val Shull. Councilman Ron Beverly was absent.

Minutes from the April 20th Regular Council Meeting were presented. Larry Ridgway made a motion to approve, seconded by Mike Barth. All voted yes.

The list of bills to be paid was presented. Eric Bassett asked about the payment to Owens Electric by the Park. Park Director Val Shull did not have her paperwork on site to check if it was for the complete job or a partial payment. The check will be held until she can check on it in the morning. Larry Ridgway made a motion to approve the bills, holding the Owens Electric check, seconded Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

Note: Shull pulled the quote Tuesday morning and it matched the invoice/payment. The work completed was for the lighting on the basketball courts. The tennis courts are quoted and will be invoiced separately when completed.

Boards & Commissions:

There were no meetings scheduled.

Council Committees:

The **Police & Fire Committee** met April 29th (1) to discuss ways they may afford loan payments if they are able to secure a loan for a new ambulance. Chief Cramer had a chart of actual runs for the last 2 years showing what they generated, and what the increase would be if the rates per run are raised (up to \$100,000.00 per year). The ordinance will be read later in the meeting for the second time. The EMS run rates have not had an increase since 2014. The additional amount to be generated could be put into a special account and used solely for the cost of the new ambulance without cutting into the existing budget. Cory Wann made a motion to approve beginning the loan process with the Hicksville Bank, seconded by Larry Ridgway. All voted yes. The loan amount will be \$180,000.00 for 84 months at 3.89% interest. When the paperwork is approved, Essex will bring legislation approving the Mayor's signature on loan documents. (2) Assistant Chief Bruce Hart is moving to Mark Center but wishes to remain in the department. Chief Cramer is amenable since as Assistant Chief, Hart goes directly to the scene in his own vehicle and would run at normal traffic without lights and sirens. Larry Ridgway made a motion to approve Hart's request, seconded by Eric Bassett. All voted yes.

The **Personnel Committee** will meet May 13th beginning at 5:30 to speak (by appointment) with any member of Police, Fire or EMS. A sign-up sheet will be emailed to each department head.

The **Water/Sewer Committee** will meet next week to discuss upcoming projects.

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.

Administrator's Report: Miller submitted a draft of an oil & grease ordinance that addresses the issue of residents putting harmful things into the sewer system (oil/grease/household items) causing damage to the system. Troy Essex noted that when it is written for Hicksville it will need a penalty clause added. He will get with Kent to write one.

Solicitor's Report:

- Second reading of **Ordinance 2020-05** by caption only amending Section 141.16 of the Codified Ordinances establishing current rates for the Rescue Squad.
- Essex is still working on completing the Haynes Trucking contract. It should be in our office this week.
- The Werlor contract will be ready by the next meeting.
- Use of the well field land needs to be decided. There are several options including bidding out to farmers, continuing with the CRP contract or pulling the land out, in

part or all. And just mowing it. Essex will lay these options out with pros and cons of each so an informed decision may be made that provides the best outcome.

Department Heads:

Police Chief: Mark Denning had no report. Taylor Klepper asked the Chief what the department is doing in reference to the "Stay-at-Home" order. Are they issuing citations or not? Chief Denning said any violations are referred to the Defiance County Prosecutor's office for disposition.

Fire/EMS Chief: Scott Cramer reminded residents that any open burning needs to be recreational only. If the department is called out to a fire and no one is in attendance, it will be put out. He also reported the number of EMS runs is down, which could be due to the current health crisis. Coverage on the weekends has become a problem. Chief Cramer and Deputy Chief Elwood will address this issue with the Squad members.

Park Director: Val Shull reported the Mayor has opened the tennis courts and basketball courts using the Department of Health guidelines. There should be a small group, preferably from the same household, social distancing, masks are recommended. Restrooms and playgrounds are not open. Ball leagues, including Little League are still suspended. The work being done at the Pool has been delayed several times. Council members have voiced their frustration and attempted to hire another contractor. Troy Essex reminded them the situation needs to be handled in the right way to protect the village as well as the contractors involved. The Mayor had talked directly to the original contractor and had reached an agreement to resolve the issue.

Fiscal Officer Report: The following reports were submitted:

- Fund Status
- April Utility and Income Tax Reports
- Revolving Loan Reports for March and April
 - It was noted by ~~Taylor Klepper~~ Cory Wann that one company had a payment deferred. He asked why this was not approved by Council. Mayor Jones told him he had spoken with Dennis Miller of Maumee Valley Planning when this issue came up. He was told a deferral is permitted (if the account is in good standing) during a crisis such as we are all experiencing. Troy Essex will doublecheck whether Council needs to be notified or give approval. It will depend on the contract.
- Notification that tax refunds of \$13,000.00 have been requested by the Tax Administrator. A company overpaid withholding funds creating this situation. A amendment to the appropriations will need to be approved as this was unanticipated.
- The Ohio BWC premium refund (based on 2018 figures) was received. It is for \$31,074.00 and is receipted into the general fund.
- COVID-19 has had no effect on utility collections as of this date. The amount of past due accounts on the 16th of the month has remained steady.
- Since the date to file and pay 2019 income tax has been moved to July 15th, we cannot collect using our usual timetable. In 2019 we expected 2043 returns to be filed. On April 15th we had 1524 completed and 709 non-filers. This year we expect 2135 returns to be filed. As of today, we have processed 987. We have 1148 non-filers. This has been an immediate hit to our General Fund. We cannot do any collection activity (by ordinance) until the date for extensions passes (October 15th).

Mayor's Report:

The Mayor's report was suspended when the website froze, and he was unable to communicate with rest of the attendees.

Eric Bassett made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Larry Ridgway. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:10 pm.

Mayor

Fiscal Officer