

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE  
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES  
Monday, June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

Due to the current COVID-19 health crisis Council met at the Fire Hall due to social distancing per Governor DeWine's "Responsible Restart Ohio" guidelines. Everyone was asked to wear face coverings.

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Ron Jones. Pastor Steve Evers 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, Taylor Klepper, Mike Barth, Ron Beverly and Cory Wann; Administrator Kent Miller; Solicitor Troy Essex; and Fiscal Officer Cheryl Smith; Councilman Eric Bassett was absent.

Mark Young from Two Bandits came to Council to report on how the COVID-19 has affected his business. He can open but will lose 20 seats due to social distancing. He would like to add seating outside to take up the slack. He would add a row of tables on the street side of the sidewalk, leaving 6 ft. open for pedestrians. He has talked to his neighboring businesses and they are agreeable. Ron Beverly said he had no problem as long as it is classy. Taylor Klepper asked about adopting legislation to make this long term. Troy Essex will bring legislation that will give downtown merchants a "right to occupy" assuming liability for the action.

Greg Miller was present from the Baseball Association to let Council know they have met with the Defiance County Health Board and are making a plan to follow all guidelines required. They also are not requiring coaches to have background checks. Mr. Miller does not want to be responsible for the process and they don't have money to pay for them. He said no other towns around require them. Ron Beverly said he wanted to go on record that council previously said they wanted effective background checks and the Park Board cannot override council. Troy Essex said the Ball Association answers to the Park Board and the Park Board answers to the Village Council. Greg Miller said council did not require them when it was discussed in January. *(Kent Miller went next door and got the Minutes Book). On January 6<sup>th</sup> the Ball Association came to Council and said they would be requiring background checks. At that time Taylor Klepper said no council approval was necessary because the Association is a private entity. Ron Beverly said Council should at least give their blessing to the requirement and made a motion, seconded by Mike Barth. Bassett, Beverly, Barth, Wann and Ridgway voted yes. Klepper abstained. Justin Kuhn said since everyone knows the coaches and they are comfortable that they are all ok it should not be necessary. Coaches are volunteers who have jobs and don't have a lot of free time. Troy Essex said he is a coach for his son's team and the background check he did took about 4 minutes and \$10.00. He entered the information into a secure site given to him by his Association and the report was then sent directly to the Association. They informed him if he wanted to coach, he would do the background check. He offered to give the information to Greg Miller. Miller still insisted he was not going to be responsible for doing it. Essex said background checks need to be done. The Village is liable since it is the "owner" of the property at the Park. Bill Murphy said the Village would not want to be liable for any child molesters being set up as coaches. After much discussion, the Ball Association refused to do background checks. Greg Miller said if the Village wants them done, they could be responsible and pay the money. Larry Ridgway said the matter should be tabled for the 2020 season since it has already started, and this matter was brought in at the last minute. Council and Park Director Val Shull agreed. No official vote was taken.*

A Notice of Public Hearing was presented. A Lot Split Application for 105 W. Arthur Street will be heard June 25<sup>th</sup>, 6 pm, in Council Chambers. Anyone attending must observe social distancing and wear a mask.

Minutes from the May 18<sup>th</sup> 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. Ron Beverly made a motion to approve the bills, seconded by Larry Ridgway. Barth, Beverly, Klepper and Ridgway voted yes. Wann abstained.

**Boards & Commissions:**

**HIX TV Board** met by Zoom on May 9<sup>th</sup>. Minutes were in the packets. Mike Barth asked the Mayor to recommend Shelia Baker to become a Board Member. The Mayor put her name before Council. Larry Ridgway made a motion to approve her appointment, seconded Mike Barth. All voted yes.

**The Park Board** met May 20<sup>th</sup>. Minutes were in the packets. They voted to remove the requirement for coaches to have background checks done. They also voted to approve all coaches. Baseball and softball will begin soon following all State guidelines.

**Council Committees:** No meetings were scheduled.

*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:** No report was presented.

**Solicitor's Report:**

- First reading of **Ordinance 2020-06** by caption only adopting Chapter 922 setting rules for disposal of oil and grease in the sewer system.
- First reading of **Ordinance 2020-07** by caption only adopting Chapter 924 setting rules regarding sewer usage in the Village
- Second reading of **Resolution 2020-07** by caption only to enter contract with Werlor Inc. to provide refuse collection and recycling to the Village.
- Second reading of **Resolution 2020-08** by caption only to enter contract with Choice One Engineering for design work for the Defiance Avenue lift station.
- First reading of **Resolution 2020-09** by caption only to enter contract to purchase ambulance and declaring an emergency. Ron Beverly made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by Larry Ridgway. All votes yes. Second and final reading of Resolution 2020-09 by caption only. Mike Barth made a motion to approve, seconded by Larry Ridgway. All voted yes.
- *Use of the well field land needs to be decided. There are several options including bidding out to farmers, continuing with the CRP contract and CAUV status.*

**Department Heads:**

**Police Chief: Mark Denning** had no report. Ron Beverly asked about enforcement of grass in the street from mowing. He received a report of a police cruiser actually driving around the grass but not stopping. Chief Denning said his officers have spoken with residents they see mowing into the street. They either were unaware of the rule, or they were intending to clean it up after mowing. Mayor Jones said he wants this enforced.

Beverly asked about the junk cars and trash items at an address on Bunnell Street. Troy Essex said a lot of things that people consider "junk", like a couch on a front porch, does not rise to be a safety issue so it is not officially a nuisance property. Chief Denning said that enforcement is dependent upon a property's zoning code. They need to check with Mike Bailey to see how Bunnell Street is zoned.

**Fire/EMS Chief: Scott Cramer** had no report.

**Park Director: Val Shull** reported the pool is open. Lifeguards are trained, the pool cleaned according to guidelines set by the State and monitored by the Defiance County Health Department.

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

- Fund Status

**Mayor's Report:**

- The mayor reminded residents to complete their Census forms. They are online and only take a few minutes. The national average for completed forms is 60%, and in Hicksville 67%.
- Income Tax collections are down 17%. Income Tax returns do not have to be paid or filed until July 15<sup>th</sup>. The mayor urged all residents to file their taxes now, even if they can't pay. No payment will be expected until July 15<sup>th</sup>.
- The Farmer's Market begins tomorrow. It is still at the corner of Smith and N. Main.
- The summer lunch program will have children's lunches at Grace United Methodist Church. Wednesday the pool is free for all kids.
- The Defiance County Commissioners will meet soon to determine which houses will be approved for demolition. Hicksville has given them 3 properties to consider.

Larry Ridgway made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Cory Wann. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

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Mayor

Fiscal Officer