

VILLAGE OF HICKSVILLE
REGULAR COUNCIL MINUTES
Monday April 5th, 2021 at 6:00 p.m.

Council met in Council Chambers. Masks and Social Distancing were mandatory.

The meeting was called to order by Acting Mayor Eric Bassett. Pastor Steve Evers followed with the invocation. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all present.

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

Eric Bassett read the resignation letter from Councilman Cory Wann. A replacement will be made within 30 days. The position will be advertised, and the term will be from the date appointed until December 31, 2021.

Minutes from the March 15th Regular Council Meeting were presented. Mike Barth made a motion to approve, seconded by Larry Ridgway. All voted yes.

Minutes from the March 24th Special Council Meeting were presented. Taylor Klepper made a motion to approve, seconded by Mike Barth. All voted yes.

Ross Commisso was present to address Council about the ball leagues and the Park Board, specifically background checks. He accused Council of refusing to let Clint Zeedyk coach despite his "offenses" that occurred years ago and turning a blind eye to Nate Garza's theft a few years ago. He doesn't feel it's fair and was extremely vocal and specific. Bill Murphy reminded him his words were being sent out live on HIX TV and have become public record. Ron Beverly said "this needs to come to a halt" twice. Mr. Commisso then said Mr. Beverly had some prior bad acts in his past as well. Solicitor Troy Essex explained that (1) background checks are necessary and overdue. He asked Council to require them years ago. Mike Barth agreed as he was the Park Board liaison at the time. (2) The offenses committed that would preclude anyone from coaching are the same as those used by the local school system. They are according to Ohio Revised Code. The Village and/or Council did not make up the rules and do not single people out. The requirements are applied evenly across the board. He advised Mr. Commisso to take his concerns to the League Commissioners or the Park Board. Mr. Commisso said he was not letting this go and would continue to voice his displeasure.

A list of bills to be paid was presented. Ron Beverly made a motion to approve, seconded by Larry Ridgway. All voted yes.

Boards & Commissions:

The Planning Commission met March 18th to discuss a lot split on West High Street. Minutes are in the packets.

Council Committees:

The Street/Light/Property/Sidewalk Committee met March 20th. They discussed the various roofs on the village owned properties. It was decided to fix the roof on the municipal building and the garage on North Main Street instead of replacing them. Minutes were on the table tonight. Ron Beverly would like council to seriously consider building a new complex to hold all offices and garages in one place. Larry Ridgway would like to know if the traffic lights can be synchronized so both would be green for vehicles moving at 25 mph. Kent Miller said that would involve a study by ODOT. He will look into the matter for council.

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: (as written)

- The Village will have its new NPDES permit for the sewer plant/system by the end of April. The revised draft, currently in the public comment period, has good and bad news. The good news is we are still a Class II facility, the Phase II and III timelines are unchanged, and some elements have been deleted from the testing requirements. The bad news is other elements have been added, the frequency of some sampling has increased, and limits changed on others. That translates into additional costs for testing and, if necessary, modifications to the treatment system to stay in compliance.
- The Village was awarded a \$480,000 CDBG Critical Infrastructure Grant for the wellfield job. The paperwork should be finalized in April and barring any issues with the environmental review, Maumee Valley Planning thought we could go to bid in June. However, since this is a CDBG job, it will also have to run through the County Commissioners so the engineer will have to coordinate things with them when the time comes.
- Choice One and I finished up the paperwork for the Small Communities Environmental Infrastructure Group application. This group consists of funders who meet with communities to discuss projects for which they are seeking

financial help. There will be a virtual meeting with SCEIG in early April (possibly on Friday the 9th) to answer questions about the Defiance Avenue lift station/sewer project. Choice One will handle the technical questions but there will probably be some for us as well. I would suggest the Mayor, Cheryl, Jeff and Mike Barth sit in if possible. I will pass along the date, location to meet at and time when known.

- I submitted the CDBG Allocation Grant application for a 2022 project. This will involve replacing sixteen defective valves in various locations throughout town. The estimated project cost is \$166,575 and I asked for \$55,000 in funding. We should know by this fall if the grant is awarded.
- Richland & Associates will be doing the repairs to the city hall and 108 N. Main roofs. They quoted just under \$1,000 for city hall and a bit over \$2,000 for the street garage.
- I asked the OEPA Compliance Assistance Unit to make a visit to the sewer plant. The unit goes through the plant components, process controls, and overall administration and operations and if necessary, suggests ways to improve performance. They do not issue citations; it is just a resource they offer to assist entities in being able to meet their permit requirements as effectively as possible. They came on April 1 and will send a summary of their suggestions at some point.
- Just a reminder to the water-sewer committee about the meeting with utility reps to discuss the south water tower/antenna issue. It is planned for April 8 at 4:00 on the site, weather permitting. If rainy or too chilly, it will be held in the Zoning Office at 108 N. Main.

Solicitor's Report:

No report.

Department Heads:

Police Chief: *Mark Denning was absent. Sgt. Doctor reported 369 calls from February and 421 calls for March. One of the new cruisers is outside if anyone wants to see it after the meeting.*

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

Park Director: *Val Shull asked Acting Mayor Bassett to recommend Grant Nelson be hired as a Park Laborer. He made the recommendation stipulating a physical and drug screen. Larry Ridgway made a motion to accept the recommendation, seconded by Mike Barth. All voted yes.*

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

- Fund Status Report
- Fund Summary Report (Revenue and Expenditures)
- March Income Tax and Utility Collection Reports
- March Revolving Loan Report

Mayor's Report:

Acting Mayor Bassett reminded everyone that the Health Fair will be held next week at Community Memorial Hospital. He also announced that because the deadline for Income Tax Returns for 2020 was moved to May 17th by the State of Ohio, local income tax will follow suit.

Mike Barth complimented everyone involved in the Easter Egg Hunt at the Park. There was a wonderful turnout with 400+ kids.

At 7 pm Ron Beverly asked for an executive Session to discuss personnel issues, specifically the Administrator position coming up in the near future, seconded by Mike Barth. All voted yes.

At 7:20 council returned to regular session.

Larry Ridgway made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Ron Beverly. All voted yes. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm.

Mayor

Fiscal Officer