

The meeting was called to order in regular session on March 16, 2026 with Mayor Keith Imes presiding. Also present were Fiscal Officer Valerie Gardner, council members Mike Booth, Lila Booth, Jewel Sanders, and Denise Melzer. Street Commissioner Doug Sanders and Solicitor James Ong. Visitors included Johnnie Nicholas, Ron Maxwell from Whitaker Myers Insurance, and Janie Geis and Jannai Shields from Wichert Insurance. All present rose in the pledge to the flag.

Mr. Maxwell addressed Council first with their annual proposal and coverages. Having added the playground and the street radar signs and with an increase in values for most property; the premium came in lower than last year at \$6110.

Ms. Geis addressed Council with a proposal that didn't quite compare evenly; through coverages and Cyber options. We did have some trouble getting financials to them with the recent power outages. She explained they are not a pooled insurance and asked if we considered traditional insurance. They cover locally Carrollton, Midvale, Dover, and Waynesburg. She explained instead of bonding your officials, you can get 'per occurrence umbrella coverage'. Their premium is \$10875. She would like a chance next year to follow up with a more evenly comparable proposal. Both companies took their leave from the meeting.

After brief discussion, Ms. Melzer motioned to approve the \$6110 from Whitaker Myers, seconded by Ms. Sanders, roll call vote taken, all in favor.

The February 2026 regular meeting minutes were approved with a motion by Ms. Sanders, seconded by Ms. Booth, all in favor, motion carried. The February 2026 special meeting minutes were approved with a motion by Ms. Melzer, seconded by Ms. Sanders, all in favor, motion carried. They had been distributed by email prior to the meeting.

Ms. Gardner presented the February bank reconciliation and a management report summary with encumbrances. A current balance of \$44375 in the General Fund. \$7200 collected in income tax to date and \$2343 in royalties. Ms. Melzer motioned to approve the report as presented, seconded by Mr. Booth, all in favor.

Gardner presented the list of bill payments since last meeting totaling \$7858.14 and they were approved with a motion by Ms. Melzer, seconded by Ms. Booth, all in favor, motion carried.

*Gardner presented **Ordinance 2026-02 To adopt the Ohio Basic code as our legal authority**

Ms. Sanders motioned to suspend rules of a regular meeting to pass an emergency ordinance, seconded by Ms. Melzer, all in favor, motion carried. **Emergency Ordinance 2026-02** was approved with a motion by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Melzer, roll call vote taken, all in favor.

*Solicitor Ong presented his 2-year contract Ordinance at \$3600/year. Ms. Melzer motioned to suspend rules of a regular meeting to pass an emergency ordinance, seconded by Ms. Booth, all in favor, motion carried. **Emergency Ordinance 2026-03; Accepting the Solicitor Contract for 2026-2027** was approved with a motion by Mr. Booth, seconded by Ms. Sanders, roll call vote taken, all in favor.

*Solicitor Ong also presented an ordinance to amend our Public Records retention schedule. Ms. Melzer motioned to suspend rules of a regular meeting to pass an emergency ordinance, seconded by Ms. Booth, all in favor, motion carried. **Emergency Ordinance 2026-04 to amend the retention** schedule of floppy disks and EMS records was approved with a motion by Ms. Sanders, seconded by Ms. Melzer, roll call vote taken, all in favor.

Ms. Gardner reported she took a Zoom call with Russell Terry from Text My Gov.com; an alert service we could subscribe to sending alerts to residents. The first year, with set up and database creation is \$2550, and \$1500 per year after. Council declined this offer stating our budget is tight as it is. Gardner suggested we could utilize the 'subscribe for alerts' through our website.

Gardner also reported she attend a meeting at the County with EOG (who bought Encino Energy) And the Ohio Oil & Gas Association reps. Most Villages relayed their concerns about the road use and deterioration of our state highways within the Village. There is not enough money to fix that kind of damage. Most of us received an updated letter from EOG about an RUMA (Road Use Maintenance Agreement) None of us recall having a RUMA. At least we have contact information for the future.

Lastly, Ms. Gardner reported she is posting 'Tax Tips Tuesdays' on our Facebook from now until April 14; informing residents of interesting tax rules.

Street: Doug Sanders reported inventory is still being done on all supplies and equipment and compiling a list of items that are outdated and disposable. There are several air tanks and old fire equipment that can be scrapped. He has moved the pallets of road salt and extra corrugated pipe into the Eat Stand and moved the dump trailer from the old EMS building into the garage. Mayor Imes considered moving the Zoom Board to the Lion's Club for them borrow.

It was reported the Park Building was broken into again. They broke the lock and discharged the fire extinguisher but nothing else was taken/destroyed. Mr. Sanders will put a padlock on the door.

New Street Business: Mr. Sanders also requested seasonal help and stated his brother, Gerald Sanders, is interested in helping. We allow up to 240 hours at \$15/hr for the summer season. Solicitor Ong reminded Mayor Imes he can appoint anyone he chooses. Mayor Imes considered Council's opinion and agreed to appointed Gerald Sanders to the Street Help position beginning April 1st. Ms. Gardner will set up the new hire paperwork.

Discussion was held about trading in the oldest Ventrac mower, Steiner brush and slip scoop attachments for two new Toro zero turn mowers. The final total {with \$6500 Ventrac trade} was less than \$19,000, for two. Discussion was also held about purchasing a new tractor. Useful for hauling, brush-hog mowing, snow plowing, and hanging pole decorations. Council considered disposing or trading in the new dump trailer (purchased in April 2024 for \$15000) Ms. Gardner reminded Council that Leesville and Dellroy both have tractors and with our shared services arrangements, we could borrow from them?

Concluding; Mr. Booth motioned to put the Morvitz dump trailer up for sealed bid, setting a minimum of \$12,000, as Council reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids. They are due to Council by next meeting April 20th, 2026 at 7pm. Motioned seconded by Ms. Booth, roll call vote taken, all in favor.

Mayor Imes reported several flags were damaged and poles snapped and grommets busted. Agreeing, we are fairly dissatisfied with the quality of these flags but they were donated. He will call the company from Coshocton to see if they rectify anything.

We discussed severe damage from the weekend wind storms, up to 70mph. Taking down many electric poles, on City View Drive and Monroe Drive. Many were without power for several days. It is reported Moore Street washed out again and will need gravel pushed back up. And High Street has large ruts on both sides now.

Committee Reports:

Park –

Active Transportation- We have our final Zoom meeting on March 26th before the grant is submitted. Our main improvements are sidewalks through the Village.

America 250 OH- We plan for a History Day July 4th. Starting with Pancake Breakfast, then Mayor's plaque presentation, and History Day, Kid's Activity Day and Picnic and music in the park.

Old Business: Still working on the Blessing Box / Lending library purchases and installation. We've made a little more progress moving from the Mayor's Office. Some of the filing cabinets could be ready to move over.

We were approved for the ODOT Mowing assistance program. Though the Small Village Government Fire Department grant was denied. They exhausted the funds with so many applicants. The Lion's Park playground pavilion: We learned the contracting company has to call #811 OUPS to confirm the dig.

We have no news on the parcel split of 310/312 Sharp Drive. Jason Jackson was to submit the unofficial minutes to the title agency for a deed. We will send the official minutes and follow up with Regional Planning.

We addressed food truck fees last month but should officially amend the Park Rules and Policy. Ms. Melzer motioned to abolish food truck fees and amend the park rules policy, seconded by Mr. Booth, roll call vote taken, all in favor.

We learned the Softball and Baseball leagues will donate money towards the portojohn services at the ballfields. The units will be ordered for April 1st.

New Business: We mentioned Clean-up Days and Town Yard Sales but will decide next month after conferring with other Villages to coordinate.

The severe wind/storm damage over the weekend – We are still cleaning up and assessing any damage around the Village.

Good of the Village:

CV Youth Softball Basket Bingo at Lion's Club March 28th

Happy Easter April 5th

Please check your voter registration! By April 6th – last day to update

Next meeting will be held Monday, April 20, 2026 at 730pm.

Mr. Booth motioned to adjourn, second by Ms. Sanders, all in favor, motion carried, meeting adjourned.

ATTESTS: