

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Orwell Village Council

REGULAR Meeting

Date: March 18, 2025

Council President Ruks called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Roll Call: Clerk-Finance Director Kim McKinley performed roll call and the following council members were present: Mr. Cottrell, Ms. Cozad, Mr. Denihan, Mr. Hartz and Mr. Ruks.

Others Present: Solicitor Cris Newcomb, Police Chief Chad Fernandez, Fire Chief Scott Merlino, W/S Supervisor John Sency, Street L/B Supervisor Shane Gregory and Zoning Inspector Bellas.

Agenda: Mr. Denihan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cottrell, to approve the agenda as presented. Roll call, 5 yeas: Cozad – yea, Denihan – yea, Hartz – yea, Ruks – yea, Cottrell – yea. Motion passed.

Public: Connor Ball, Gazette and Warren Dillaway, Star Beacon.

Minutes: Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cozad to approve the minutes from the regular council meeting held on February 18, 2025. Roll call, 5 yeas: Denihan – yea, Hartz – yea, Ruks – yea, Cottrell – yea, Cozad – yes. Motion passed.

Ms. Cozad made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cottrell to approve the minutes from the public hearing held on March 11, 2025. Roll call, 5 yeas: Hartz – yea, Ruks – yea, Cottrell – yea, Cozad – yes, Denihan – yea. Motion passed.

Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Denihan, to approve the minutes from the work session held on March 11, 2025. Roll call, 5 yeas: Cottrell – yea, Cozad – yes, Denihan – yea, Hartz – yea, Ruks – yea. Motion passed.

Bills: Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cottrell, to approve the payment of bills. Roll call, 5 yeas: Cozad – yea, Denihan – yea, Hartz – yea, Ruks – yea, Cottrell – yea. Motion passed.

SCAD: Mr. Hartz read his written report, provided to council, on a meeting held on March 10, 2025. Report includes monthly and YTD call numbers; district had a record number of calls for February. Next meeting scheduled for April 14, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

Streets/Lands & Buildings: Council President Ruks read information from written report provided council. Mr. Gregory received a quote for camera and monitors for village hall. Mr. Gregory requested Signal Service Company look over surplus traffic equipment in garage to

see if it could be used for parts for village traffic lights or if SSC is interested in purchasing equipment.

Water/ Sewer: Council President Ruks read information from written report provided to council. February report consisted of completed/upcoming projects and repairs. Received a quote for fire hydrants and accessories. One water call-out for month.

Police Department: Council President Ruks read information from written report provided to council. Unit 51 is scheduled for routine maintenance. The oldest vehicle (2018) has 75K miles. Quanex has made a generous donation to department.

Fire Department: Council President Ruks read information from written report provided to council. Doors have been painted, returned and installed; striping still needs completed. New portable generator has been received.

Park and Recreation: None

Planning & Zoning Commission: None

Solicitor's report: Solicitor Newcomb introduced Ashtabula County Auditor Scott Yamamoto.

Mr. Yamamoto introduced himself; he has been a resident of Lake, Geauga and Ashtabula Counties for over 30 years. He was a Hambden Township Trustee for six years. The tax levy estimator is now live for the May election on the auditor website. His department will create a zoning map for the village at \$50/hour NTE \$400. Audit Yamamoto provided a copy of GIS service agreement. The county will train employees prior to renting equipment to complete mapping at a cost of \$100/day. Great for land use maps. Levy process has not changed for 2025. Kris Paolillo will retire in July; Jessica Wade has been transitioning into the position.

Finance Report: Ms. McKinley provided a summary of the submitted February reports. Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cozad, to approve the finance report. The motion passed with all in favor.

Ms. McKinley requested that the department begin compiling record disposal list. Record Commission will need to approve disposal prior to scheduling Shred Right to complete onsite. Company could not accommodate village request to have a community event during spring clean-up; very much in demand in other communities on same day.

Zoning: Zoning Inspector Bellas attended an address workshop at the EMA office. He encouraged legislation adopting the display of number and standards. Mr. Bellas provide an updated zoning application aimed at providing additional information.

Old Business:

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-01-02: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE VI: SIGNS OF THE VILLAGE OF ORWELL ZONING CODE AND NOT DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. 3rd Reading. Ms. Cozad made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cottrell, to pass Ordinance 25-01-02. Roll Call, 5 yeas: Cozad-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Cottrell-yea. Motion passed.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-01-04: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE IX: ADMINISTRATION & ENFORCEMENT OF THE VILLAGE OF ORWELL ZONING CODE AND NOT DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. 3rd Reading. Ms. Cozad made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cottrell, to pass Ordinance 25-01-04. Roll Call, 5 yeas: Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Cottrell-yea, Cozad-yea. Motion passed.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-01-03: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE IV: DIMENSIONS OF THE VILLAGE OF ORWELL ZONING CODE AND NOT DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. 3rd Reading. Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cottrell, to pass Ordinance 25-01-03. Roll Call, 5 yeas: Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Cottrell-yea, Cozad-yea, Motion passed.

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-01-05: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE XIV: DEFINITIONS OF THE VILLAGE OF ORWELL ZONING CODE AND NOT DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. 3rd Reading. Ms. Cozad made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cottrell, to pass Ordinance 25-01-05. Roll Call, 5 yeas: Ruks-yea, Cottrell-yea, Cozad-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea. Motion passed.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-03-01: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING AND REPLACING THE PERSONNEL POLICY MANUAL OF THE VILLAGE OF ORWELL EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2025 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Denihan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cottrell, to pass as an emergency. Roll call, 5 yeas: Cottrell-yea, Cozad-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz – yea, Ruks-yea. Motion passed. Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cottrell, to waive the three-reading rule. Roll call, 5 yeas: Cozad-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Cottrell-yea. Motion passed. Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cottrell, to pass Ordinance 25-03-01. Roll Call, 5 yeas: Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Cottrell-yea, Cozad-yea. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-03-02R: A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE 2025 EQUIPMENT GRANT FROM THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, DIVISION OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL IN THE SUM OF \$13,363.00 FOR PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND AUTHORIZING ALL NECESSARY VILLAGE ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF AND/OR PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL TO EXECUTE THE GRANT AWARD AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE VILLAGE OF ORWELL AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Denihan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cottrell, to pass as an emergency. Roll call, 5 yeas: Hartz – yea, Ruks-yea, Cottrell-yea, Cozad-yea, Denihan-yea. Motion passed. Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cottrell, to waive the three-reading rule. Roll call, 5 yeas: Ruks-yea, Cottrell-yea, Cozad-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea. Motion passed. Ms. Cozad made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cottrell, to pass Resolution 25-03-02R. Roll Call, 5 yeas: Cottrell-yea, Cozad-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea. Motion passed.

New Business: Council President Ruks provided seven names to serve on the Charter Review Commission. The list includes Stuart Walker, Bob Bevacqua, Ashley Mansfield, Chip Boneham, Terry Plesmid, Lisa Stamblesky-Butler, and Lindsay Stanek. Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cottrell, to accept list of names to serve on the Charter Review Commission. Roll Call, 5 yeas: Cozad-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Cottrell-yea. Motion passed. Mr. Ruks instructed the clerk to provide seven copies of charter.

Ms. Cozad made an announcement about Grand Valley Explorers. The club consist of students age 10-14 volunteering for community service between the hours of 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Students will be under school supervision.

Family Literacy Night will be held on March 20, 2025; 6 p.m.-7 p.m.; family may participate on literacy activities with child. Early Literacy Night will be held on April 10, 2025; 5:00 p.m.-6:30 p.m. This is for child 0-5 years. Based on the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment, only 8.9% of children within district was ready for kindergarten.

Media: Mr. Dillaway requested clarification on charter members and zoning changes.

Executive Session: Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ruks, to go into executive session with Council and Solicitor, to consider real estate acquisition, with action to upon return. Roll call, 5 yeas: Cottrell-yea, Cozad-yea, Ruks-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea. Motion passed. Council entered executive session at 5:41 p.m. Mr. Denihan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cottrell, to adjourn executive session. Roll call, 5 yeas: Cottrell-yea, Cozad-yea, Ruks-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea. Motion passed. Council exited executive session at 5:52 p.m.

Ms. Cozad made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cottrell, to allow solicitor negotiate with Western Reserve Land Conservancy for the possible sale of land. Roll call, 5 yeas: Cozad-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Cottrell-yea. Motion passed.

Media: Mr. Dillaway requested location of land. Solicitor Newcomb explained that this would be the beginning of negotiations for the sale of wellfield property; normal for the conservancy to preserve the land while continuing to be maintained by village.

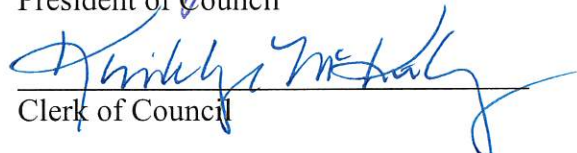
Ms. Cozad made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hartz to adjourn the meeting. Roll Call, 5 yeas: Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Cottrell-yea, Cozad-yea. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned 5:54 p.m.

Approved:

April 15, 2025



President of Council



Clerk of Council