

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Orwell Village Council

REGULAR Meeting

Date: June 17, 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 and Village Manager Dr. Sean Ratican.

Agenda: Mr. Hartz 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: Gabriel McVey, Gazette and Warren Dillaway. Star Beacon. Jackie Foote, Tiffany Beals, Susan Robinson, Debbie Schimley and Renee Takacs on behalf of Parks & Recreation and Gwen Biennas on behalf of Summer Concerts Series.

Ms. Foote distributed a handout created by Park and Rec Committee. The board would like to inquire about the best way to retain the funds raised by such events as the Summer Festival. Monies raised would help purchase outside commercial lighting and displays for the holiday display. The board, appointed for five years, has created a multi-year plan. Ms. McKinley explained that depending on the amount raised, monies could be maintained in the general fund and tracked using a spreadsheet; however, larger sums of money may need council action to create a special fund. Dr. Ratican recommended setting up a nonprofit foundation like Friends of the Library. Dr. Ratican suggested setting up a meeting with committee to further discuss.

Ms. Foote reported that a community garden was started at North Church in 2024.

Ms. Biennas voiced her concern regarding speeding vehicles during the summer concerts being held at Chaffee Park. Many people park at St. Mary's and those with limited mobility have a difficult time crossing SR 45 to get to the park. Dr. Ratican said hiring an officer to enforce speed limit may be a short-term solution. Someone suggested parking a police vehicle with flashing light during the concerts.

Minutes: Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Denihan to approve the minutes of the regular council meeting held on May 20, 2025. Roll call, 5 yeas: Denihan - yea, Hartz - yea, Ruks - yea, Cottrell – yea, Cozad – yea. Motion passed.

Mr. Denihan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cottrell, to approve the minutes of the work session held on June 10, 2025. Roll call, 5 yeas: Hartz – yea, Ruks – yea, Cottrell - yea, Cozad – yea, Denihan – yea. Motion passed.

Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ruks to approve the minutes of the special council meeting held on June 10, 2025. Roll call, 5 yeas: Ruks - yea, Cottrell – yea, Cozad – yea, Denihan - yea, Hartz – yea. Motion passed.

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

SCAD: Mr. Hartz read written report prepared by Mr. Denihan on the June 9, 2025 meeting. Report includes monthly and YTD call numbers. A 2-mill renewal levy has been filed with BOE. Grand Valley drill was successful. Sign to station will be replaced.

Village Manager Report: Dr. Ratican reported that the village hired one seasonal employee. The other potential candidate took another position. Chief Fernandez reported that two-thirds of streetlights were out. He said he would reach out to community liaison with Illuminating Co. Mr. Hartz recommended contacting the head of the board of the company.

Streets/Lands & Buildings: Dr. Ratican provided a written report to council.

Fire Department: Dr. Ratican provided a written report to council.

Police Department: Dr. Ratican provided a written report to council.

Water/ Sewer: Police Department: Dr. Ratican provided a written report to council.

Park and Recreation: None

Planning & Zoning Commission: None

Solicitors' report: Solicitor Newcomb reported that he has forwarded to council information from OML and other organizations regarding several proposals at the state house aimed at property tax relief proposed by former Ashtabula County Auditor Dave Thomas. One measure would eliminate inside millage forcing local governments to go before the voters to raise taxes to cover budget shortfalls. The bill has received large opposition from county and local government.

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

Zoning: Zoning None.

Old Business:

RESOLUTION NO. 25-06-02R: A RESOLUTION TO PROCEED REQUESTING SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE §5705.03, §5705.19, §5705.191, §5705.25 and §5705.26 TO RENEW AN EXISTING ONE (1.0) MILL TAX LEVY FOR THE VILLAGE OF ORWELL FIRE DEPARTMENT TO APPEAR ON THE BALLOT AT THE NOVEMBER 4, 2025 GENERAL ELECTION FOR A TERM OF FIVE (5) YEARS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Denihan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hartz, 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. Denihan, 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 Resolution 25-06-02R. Roll call, 5 yeas: Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Cottrell-yea, Cozad-yea. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-06-03R: A RESOLUTION TO PROCEED REQUESTING SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE §5705.03, §5705.19, §5705.191, §5705.25 and §5705.26 TO RENEW AN EXISTING THREE (3.0) MILL GENERAL OPERATING LEVY FOR THE VILLAGE OF ORWELL TO APPEAR ON THE BALLOT AT THE NOVEMBER 4, 2025 GENERAL ELECTION FOR A TERM OF FIVE (5) YEARS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cozad, to pass as an emergency. Roll call, 5 yeas: Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Cottrell-yea, Cozad-yea, Denihan-yea. Motion passed. Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hartz, 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. Hartz, to pass Resolution 25-06-03R. Roll call, 5 yeas: Cottrell-yea, Cozad-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-06-04R: AN RESOLUTION APPROVING THE BID BY RONYAK PAVING, INC. OF BURTON, OHIO IN THE SUM OF \$188,475.00 FOR THE PENNIMAN ROAD PAVEMENT IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN THE VILLAGE OF ORWELL WITH SAID BID TO BE AWARDED AFTER OPWC APPROVAL IN JULY 2025 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ruks, to pass as an emergency. Solicitor Newcomb said legislation is contingent upon receiving OPWC grant. Roll call, 5 yeas: Cozad-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Cottrell-yea. Motion passed. Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hartz, to waive the three-reading rule. Roll call, 5 yeas: Denihan-yea, Hartz – yea, Ruks-yea, Cottrell-yea, Cozad-yea. Motion passed. Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cottrell, to pass Resolution 25-06-04R. Roll call, 5 yeas: Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Cottrell-yea, Cozad-yea, Denihan-yea. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-06-05R: A RESOLUTION TRANSFERRING FUNDS FROM THE GENERAL, WATER & SEWER TO VARIOUS FUNDS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2025. Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ruks, to waive the three-reading rule. Roll call, 5 yeas: Ruks-yea, Cottrell-yea, Cozad-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz – yea. Motion passed. Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ruks, to pass Resolution 25-06-05R. Roll call, 5 yeas: Cottrell-yea, Cozad-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-06-06R: A RESOLUTION AMENDING APPROPRIATIONS IN VARIOUS FUNDS. Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hartz, 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 Resolution 25-06-06R. Roll call, 5 yeas: Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Cottrell-yea, Cozad-yea. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-06-07R: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE ANNUAL TAX BUDGET, INCLUDING ANTICIPATED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES, FOR TAX YEAR 2026 ON BEHALF OF THE VILLAGE OF ORWELL FOR SUBMISSION TO THE ASHTABULA COUNTY AUDITOR AND NOT DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Denihan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cottrell, to waive the three-reading rule. Roll call, 5 yeas: Hartz – yea, Ruks-yea, Cottrell-yea, Cozad-yea, Denihan-yea. Motion passed. Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hartz, to pass Resolution 25-06-07R. Roll call, 5 yeas: Ruks-yea, Cottrell-yea, Cozad-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-06-08R: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A THEN AND NOW CERTIFICATE BY THE VILLAGE OF ORWELL FISCAL OFFICER FOR THE PAYMENT OF \$6,900.00 TO U.I.C. FOR SERVICES RENDERED FOR FIRE HYDRANT REPAIR AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Hartz 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. Denihan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ruks, 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 Resolution 25-06-08R. Roll call, 5 yeas: Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Cottrell-yea, Cozad-yea. Motion passed.

New Business: Dr. Ratican asked all members of council to review the charter committee recommendations to discuss at next work session. If changes go to the ballot, the village will publish notice and post on website.


Public: None



Media: Mr. McVey inquired about OPWC Grant/Loan. Ms. McKinley will email breakdown.

Executive Session: None

Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ruks to adjourn the meeting. Roll Call, 5 yeas: Ruks-yea, Cottrell-yea, Cozad-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Approved: 7/29/2025


Village Manager


President of Council

Clerk of Council