

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Orwell Village Council

REGULAR Meeting

Date: July 29, 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: Ms. Cozad, Mr. Denihan, Mr. Hartz and Mr. Ruks.

Others Present: Village Manager Dr. Sean Ratican and Assistant Manager Jeffrey Jiang

Agenda: Ms. Cozad made a motion, seconded by Mr. Denihan to move Executive Session before Departmental Reports. Roll call, 4 yeas: Cozad – yea, Denihan – yea, Hartz – yea, Ruks – yea. Motion passed.

Mr. Denihan made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hartz, to approve the agenda as amended. Roll call, 4 yeas: Denihan – yea, Hartz – yea, Ruks - yea, Cozad – yea. Motion passed.

Public: Gabriel McVey, Gazette and Warren Dillaway, Star Beacon. Jackie Foote on behalf of Parks & Recreation. David Ristimaki, Resident and Kevin Piros, Cortland City President of Council were also in attendance.

Ms. Foote reported that the festival was a success and requested a meeting to discuss how to handle special event proceeds and how to ensure proceeds will supplement Park and Rec enabling committee to make enhancements such as purchasing quality commercial lighting for trees. Dr. Ratican recommended Ms. Foote attend the next work session to further discuss.

Mr. Ristimaki wanted to know what was going on with the street lighting. Four lights in a row are out on Leffingwell. He is sure issue is more than burned out lights; wires may have been damaged when the fiberoptics were installed. Neighbors have marked several poles with red caution tape in hopes to assist in the reporting and repair of lights. Dr. Ratican explained that the Village has a contract with CEI to maintain lights. Police have contacted power company on several occasions.

Mr. Piros is President of Council for City of Cortland. He met Council President Ruks in Washington DC. He thought he would attend meeting to observe.

Minutes: Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Denihan to approve the minutes of the regular council meeting held on June 17, 2025. Roll call, 4 yeas: Ruks - yea, Cozad – yea, Denihan - yea, Hartz – yea. Motion passed.

Bills: Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ruks, to approve the payment of bills. Roll call, 4 yeas: Cozad – yea, Denihan - yea, Hartz – yea, Ruks – yea. Motion passed.

SCAD: Mr. Hartz read written report from meeting held on July 14, 2025. Report includes monthly and YTD call numbers. Delivery of new ambulance has been pushed back to June 2026. Ohio EMS grant in the amount of \$4998 was received. The cost of a new cot/lift is \$67,976. Chief Beuhner met with Commissioner Kozlowski to discuss forming a new ambulance district. The board approved the 2026 budget. The board approved the hiring of 3 new paramedics allowing 2 crews on each shift. Next meeting is schedule for August 11, 2026.

Executive Session: Ms. Cozad made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hartz, to go into executive session with Council, Village Manager and Assistant Manager, to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee and to consider the purchase of property for public purposes and to return with action. Roll call, 4 yeas: Cozad – yea, Denihan-yea, Mr. Hartz – yea, Ruks-yea. Motion passed. Council entered executive session at 4:54 p.m. Ms. Cozad made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ruks, to adjourn executive session. Roll call, 4 yeas: Denihan – yea, Mr. Hartz – yea, Ruks-yea, Cozad-yea. Motion passed. Council exited executive session at 5:29 p.m.

Village Manager Report:

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: None

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

Zoning: Zoning None.

Old Business:

RESOLUTION NO. 25-07-01R: A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE MASTER SERVICES BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF ORWELL AND MEGA-BYTE COMPUTER SERVICES, LLC FOR THE PURPOSES OF ONGOING TECHNOLOGY SERVICES FOR ANY AND ALL VILLAGE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES AND DEPARTMENTS FOR A TERM ONE (1) YEAR AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ruks, to pass as an emergency. Roll call, 4 yeas: 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, 4 yeas: Cozad-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz – yea, Ruks-yea. Motion passed. Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cozad, to pass Resolution 25-07-01R. Roll call, 4 yeas: Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Cozad-yea. Motion passed.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-07-02: AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE POSITION OF SAFETY DIRECTOR PURSUANT TO SECTION 9.03 OF THE VILLAGE OF ORWELL CHARTER AND IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EMPLOYEE WAGE SCALE AND PERSONNEL MANUAL AND NOT DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Ms. Cozad made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hartz, to waive the three-reading rule. Roll call, 4 yeas: Hartz – yea, Ruks-yea Cozad-yea, Denihan-yea. Motion passed. Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Denihan, to pass Ordinance 25-07-02. Roll call, 4 yeas: Ruks-yea, Cozad-yea Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea. Motion passed.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-07-03: AN ORDINANCE APPOINTING CHIEF CHAD FERNANDEZ TO THE POSITION OF SAFETY DIRECTOR PURSUANT TO SECTION 9.03 OF THE VILLAGE OF ORWELL CHARTER WITH RATE OF PAY TO BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE EMPLOYEE WAGE SCALE AND PERSONNEL MANUAL AND NOT DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cozad, to waive the three-reading rule. Roll call, 4 yeas: Cozad-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz – yea, Ruks-yea. Motion passed. Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Ms. Cozad, to pass Ordinance 25-07-03. Roll call, 4 yeas: Cozad-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-07-04R (Tabled)

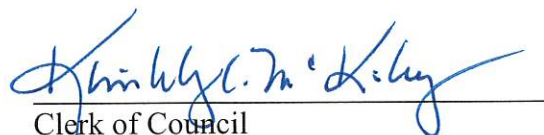
New Business: Annual notice allowing the legislative authority to object to any liquor permits renewals was received. Mr. Ruks made a motion, seconded by Mr. Denihan to accept renewal of all liquor permits. Motion passed unanimously.

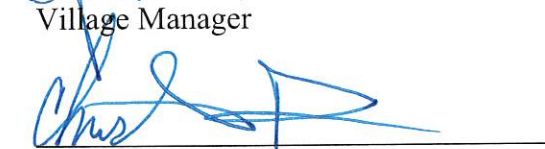
Public: None

Media: Mr. Dillaway inquired about safety director's position. Chief Fernandez will oversee the police and fire. The creation of position should expand grant opportunities. Mr. McVey inquired about Mega Bytes Contract. The one-year contract will provide IT services for all departments.

Ms. Cozad made a motion, seconded by Mr. Denihan to adjourn the meeting. Roll Call, 4 yeas: Ruks-yea, Cozad-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Approved: August 19, 2025


Clerk of Council


Village Manager

President of Council