RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Orwell Village Council **REGULAR Meeting** **Date: February 17, 2026**

Council President Ruks called the meeting to order at 5:00 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. Adkins, Mr. Cottrell, Mr. Hartz, and Mr. Ruks. Mr. Denihan was ill.

Others Present: Solicitor Cris Newcomb, Village Manager Dr. Sean Ratican, and Director of Public Services Shane Gregory.

Public: Gabriel McVey, Gazette and Nate Terhune, WRLC.

Agenda: Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cottrell to accept agenda. Roll call, 4 yeas: Mr. Cottrell, Hartz – yea, Ruks – yea, Mr. Adkins-yea. Motion passed.

Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Adkins to go into executive session for the potential sale or acquisition of realty, with members of council, solicitor, and members of Western Reserve Land Conservation. Roll Call, 4 yeas: Mr. Cottrell, Hartz – yea, Ruks – yea, Mr. Adkins-yea. Motion passed. Entered executive session at 5:02 p.m. along with Village Manager Ratican and Director Gregory. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hartz to come out of executive session. Roll Call, 4 yeas: Mr. Adkins-yea, Hartz – yea, Mr. Cottrell, Ruks – yea. Motion passed. Exited executive session at 6:03 p.m.

Minutes: Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Adkins to approve the minutes of the regular council meeting held on January 20, 2026. Roll call, 4 yeas: Hartz – yea, Ruks - yea, Mr. Adkins-yea, Cottrell – yea, Motion passed.

Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hartz to approve the minutes of the special council meeting held on January 22, 2026. Roll call, 4 yeas: Hartz – yea, Ruks - yea, Mr. Adkins-yea, Cottrell – yea. Motion passed.

Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hartz to approve the minutes on the work session held on February 10, 2026. Roll call, 4 yeas: Ruks - yea, Mr. Adkins-yea, Cottrell – yea, Hartz – yea. Motion passed.

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

SCAD: Mr. Hartz presented his SCAD report from meeting held on February 9, 2026. Report includes monthly financials and call numbers. The board discussed mutual aid. The board approved dispatch contract and amended employee policy.

There will be a coroner's class to review site preservation of evidence at emergency sites. Next meeting is March 9, 2026.

Village Manager Report: Dr. Ratican reported on a waterline break on US RT322; the line was a lateral, not the main line. Leak was active for a long time; mass amount of cave in. The repair took all day. However, crews found a storm drain paved over. Drain was repaired, so the area now has drainage, adding value and safety to the area. Initially, Mr. Hartz received a call from a resident who had water in basement. Mr. Gregory responded to call in the evening and dug a trench to divert the water; crews and contractor returned the next morning to complete the repair. Once the repair was complete, Mr. Gregory and his department reviewed the situation and discussed areas to improve upon. Combining all departments proved to be a benefit. The department will be working to develop SOP's and update to GIS.

Planning and Zoning will meet next week. Parks & Recreation have found a replacement tree for winter festival at an estimated cost of $10k-$12k.Village will need to find adequate storage.

Dr. Ratican provided specifications for the new storage building. Country View Construction was selected as the contractor for the construction. The 50'x 90' building includes 16' ceiling, heated floors, and 14' garage doors, rough framing, electric and plumbing for a cost of $383,000. Options in increasing size to 50 x 108, 50 x 124, 60 x 108, or 60 x 124. Prices range from $596,000 to $790,000. The increase allows for up to (3) restrooms, windows in garage doors, upgraded boiler and upgraded electric service. The larger building will allow the stacking of police cars and for maintenance and storage of vehicles including new fire trucks. All members of council agreed on 60 x 124. Dr. Ratican would like to finance project.

Solicitors' report: None.

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

Zoning: Dr. Ratican had two inquiries for new build; one commercial and one residential.

Old Business:

ORDINANCE 26-01-06: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING BULK WATER FOR THE VILLAGE OF ORWELL AND SETTING CONDITIONS FOR THE ESTABLISHED RATES AND NOT DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded Mr. Cottrell, to take off the table Ordinance 26-01-06. Roll call, 4 yeas: Cottrell-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Adkins-yea, Motion passed. Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cottrell, to waive the three-reading rule. Roll call, 4 yeas: Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Adkins-yea, Cottrell-yea. Motion passed. Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cottrell, to pass Ordinance 26-01-06. Roll call, 4 yeas: Hartz – yea, Ruks - yea, Mr. Adkins-yea, Cottrell – yea. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-02-01R: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MANAGER AND/OR FISCAL OFFICER TO EXECUTE THE FIRE TRUCK FINANCING AGREEMENTS WITH ERIE BANK AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hartz, to pass as an emergency. Roll call, 4 yeas: Adkins-yea, Cottrell-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea. Motion passed. Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Adkins, to waive the three-reading rule. Roll call, 4 yeas: Adkins-yea, Cottrell-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea. Motion passed. Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hartz, to pass Resolution 26-02-02R. Roll call, 4 yeas: Cottrell-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Adkins-yea. Motion passed.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-02-02: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING THE INSURANCE PROPOSAL AND RENEWAL WITH LOVE INSURANCE FOR PROVIDING PROPERTY AND CASUALTY INSURANCE FOR THE VILLAGE OF ORWELL FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cottrell, to pass as an emergency. Roll call, 4 yeas: Adkins-yea, Cottrell-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea. Motion passed. Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cottrell, to waive the three-reading rule. Roll call, 4 yeas: Adkins-yea, Cottrell-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea. Motion passed. Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cottrell, to pass Ordinance 26-02-03R. Roll call, 4 yeas: Cottrell-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Adkins-yea. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-02-03R: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT A NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (NOPEC) ENERGIZED COMMUNITY GRANT IN THE SUM OF $1,739.00 AND NOT DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cottrell, to waive the three-reading rule. Roll call, 4 yeas: Adkins-yea, Cottrell-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea. Motion passed. Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cottrell, to pass Resolution 26-02-03R. Roll call, 4 yeas: Cottrell – yea, Hartz – yea, Ruks - yea, Mr. Adkins-yea. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-02-04R: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING KEY BANK AND ERIE BANK TO UPDATE SIGNOR AUTHORITIES AND OTHER PERTINENT AUTHORIZATIONS FOR ANY AND ALL ACCOUNTS. Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hartz, to pass as an emergency. Roll call, 4 yeas: Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Adkins-yea, Cottrell-yea. Motion passed. Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hartz, to waive the three-reading rule. Roll call, 4 yeas: Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Adkins-yea, Cottrell-yea. Motion passed. Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hartz, to pass Resolution 26-02-04R. Roll call, 4 yeas: Ruks-yea, Adkins-yea, Cottrell-yea, Hartz-yea. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 26-02-05R: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND ACCEPTING THE BELOW REFERENCED CONSENT LEGISLATION FROM THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (ODOT) PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE §5521.01 FOR THE PURPOSE OF ROAD CHIP SEALING ON STATE ROUTE 45 FROM NORTH OF PARK STREET TO THE NORTHERN CORP LIMIT WITHIN THE VILLGE OF ORWELL AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cottrell to table Resolution 26-02-05R. Roll call, 4 yeas: Adkins-yea, Cottrell-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-02-06R: A RESOLUTION APPOINTING BRADY L BLENMAN TO THE VILLAGE OF ORWELL POLICE DEPARTMENT AS A FULL-TIME OFFICER EFFECTIVE UPON COMPLETION OF MANDATED TESTING AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cottrell, to pass as an emergency. Roll call, 4 yeas: Cottrell-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Adkins-yea. Motion passed. Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hartz, to waive the three-reading rule. Roll call, 4 yeas: Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Adkins-yea, Cottrell-yea. Motion passed. Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cottrell, to pass Resolution 26-02-06R. Roll call, 4 yeas Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Adkins-yea, Cottrell-yea. Motion passed.

New Business:

Media: Mr. McVey, Gazette had follow up questions on the proposed garage, waterline break and use for NOPEC grant. Dr. Ratican response was that current garages are insufficient for vehicles and police department does not have a garage. The waterline break was a 1" lateral not a main line. NOPEC grant could be used to replace a generator or lighting.

Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cottrell, to adjourn the meeting. Roll Call, 4 yeas: Ruks-yea, Adkins-yea, Cottrell-yea, Hartz-yea. Motion passed with all in favor. Council President Ruks adjourned the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Approved: March 17, 2026

Jean Ratican
Village Manager

Clerk of Council

President of Council