RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Orwell Village Council **REGULAR Meeting** **Date: January 20, 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. Denihan, Mr. Hartz, and Mr. Ruks.

Others Present: Solicitor Cris Newcomb and Village Manager Dr. Sean Ratican.

Agenda: Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ruks to accept agenda. Roll call, 5 yeas: Mr. Cottrell, Denihan – yea, Hartz – yea, Ruks – yea, Mr. Adkins-yea. Motion passed.

Public: Gabriel McVey, Gazette and Warren Dillaway, Star Beacon.

Minutes: Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Denihan to approve the minutes of the regular council meeting held on December 16, 2025. Roll call, 5 yeas: Denihan - yea, 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 2, 2026. Roll call, 5 yeas: Hartz – yea, Ruks - yea, Mr. Adkins-yea, Cottrell – yea, Denihan – yea. Motion passed.

Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ruks to approve the minutes of the organizational meeting held on January 2, 2026. Roll call, 5 yeas: Ruks - yea, Mr. Adkins-yea, Cottrell – yea, Denihan – yea, Hartz – yea. Motion passed.

Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Denihan to approve the minutes on the work session held on January 13, 2026. Roll call, 5 yeas: Mr. Adkins – yea, Cottrell – yea, Denihan – yea, Hartz – yea, Ruks – yea. Motion passed.

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

SCAD: No Report.

Village Manager Report: Dr. Ratican reported that he will approve contract for new garage following legal review this evening; drawings should be completed within thirty days. Parks and Recreation Board would like to include a firework display for this year's summer festival. The fire dept was the last to sponsor the event. The board will explore ways to raise money for the event. Dr. Ratican recommended to council to consider a dollar-for-dollar match.

Amy Brickhouse had a survey completed; a portion of the neighbors' fence is 4.7" over the property line. Solicitor Newcomb added that this would be a civil issue and Ms. Brickhouse would need to hire her own attorney. The organizational meeting for zoning will be held on January 21, 2026, at 1:00 p.m. and the BZA organizational meeting will be held on January 27, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.

Solicitors' report: None.

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

Old Business:

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-01-02R: AN AMENDED RESOLUTION OF NECESSITY REQUESTING CERTIFICATION FROM THE ASHTABULA COUNTY AUDITOR PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE §5705.03 AND §5705.19(I) FOR A NEW THREE (3) MILL FIRE DEPARTMENT TAX LEVY FOR FIVE (5) YEARS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Denihan, to pass as an emergency. Roll call, 5 yeas: Adkins-yea, Cottrell-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea. Motion passed. Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ruks, to waive the three-reading rule. Roll call, 5 yeas: Cottrell-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Adkins-yea. Motion passed. Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hartz, to pass Resolution 26-01-02R. Roll call, 5 yeas: Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Adkins-yea, Cottrell-yea. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-01-03R: A RESOLUTION TO PROCEED REQUESTING SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE §5705.19, §5705.191, §5705.194, §5705.21 and §5705.26 FOR A NEW THREE (3) MILL FIRE DEPARTMENT TAX LEVY FOR FIVE (5) YEARS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Moved to second reading. Special meeting to be held on January 22, 2026, at 4:30 p.m.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-01-04R: AN RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE MANAGER TO SOLICIT AND OBTAIN REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS FOR ESTABLSIHING A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PLAN FOR THE VILLAGE OF ORWELL AND NOT DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ruks, to waive the three-reading rule. Roll call, 5 yeas: Adkins-yea, Cottrell-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea. Motion passed. Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ruks, to pass Resolution 26-01-04R. Roll call, 5 yeas: Adkins-yea, Cottrell-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea. Motion passed. Motion passed.

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-01-05: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SERVICE APPOINTING THE VILLAGE MANAGER AS DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE WITH SPECIFIED DIVISIONS KNOWN AS THE DIVISION OF WATER AND SEWAGE AND THE DIVISION OF STREETS PURSUANT

TO THE VILLAGE OF ORWELL CHARTER SECTION 8.01 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Denihan, to pass as an emergency. Roll call, 5 yeas: Cottrell-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Adkins-yea, Motion passed. Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ruks, to waive the three-reading rule. Roll call, 5 yeas: Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Adkins-yea, Cottrell-yea. Motion passed. Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ruks, to pass Resolution 26-01-05R. Mr. Hartz inquired why legislation was necessary. Dr. Ratican explained the legislation adheres to Section 8.01 of the Village Charter. Solicitor Newcomb explained Section 8.01 of Village Charter allows the council to establish the Department of Public Service. This would allow a person to serve as head of divisions within the Department of Public Service. Mr. Hartz felt charter addresses village manager's responsibilities and is paid accordingly. Mr. Hartz was concerned legislation could allow potentially higher income for village manager. Roll call, 4 yeas, 1 nay: Denihan-yea, Hartz-nay, Ruks-yea, Adkins-yea, Cottrell-yea. Motion passed.

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. Ruks requested council to table the ordinance so they can discuss matter with further detail later. Mr. Cottrell made motion, seconded by Mr. Ruks to table Ordinance 26-01-06. Roll call: 5 yeas: Adkins-yea, Cottrell-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 26-01-07R: A RESOLUTION APPOINTING AND/OR REAPPOINTING THE MEMBERS OF THE VILLAGE OF ORWELL BOARD OF ZONING AND BUILDING APPEALS PURSUANT TO THE VILLAGE CHARTER ARTICLE VII AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hartz, to pass as an emergency. Roll call, 5 yeas: Adkins-yea, Cottrell-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea. Motion passed. Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ruks, to waive the three-reading rule. Roll call, 5 yeas: Cottrell-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Adkins-yea. Motion passed. Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cottrell, to pass Resolution 26-01-07R. Roll call, 5 yeas: Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Adkins-yea, Cottrell-yea. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 26-01-08R: A RESOLUTION APPOINTING AND/OR REAPPOINTING THE MEMBERS OF THE VILLAGE OF ORWELL PLANNING, ZONING AND BUILDING COMMISSION PURSUANT TO THE VILLAGE CHARTER ARTICLE VI AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cottrell, to pass as an emergency. Roll call, 5 yeas: Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Adkins-yea, Cottrell-yea, Denihan-yea. Motion passed. Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ruks, to waive the three-reading rule. Roll call, 5 yeas: Ruks-yea, Adkins-yea, Cottrell-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea. Motion passed. Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Hartz, to pass Resolution 26-01-08R. Roll call, 5 yeas: Adkins-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Cottrell-yea. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 26-01-09R: A RESOLUTION APPOINTING AND/OR REAPPOINTING THE MEMBERS OF THE VILLAGE OF ORWELL PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD PURSUANT TO THE VILLAGE CHARTER ARTICLE XII AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cottrell, to pass as an emergency. Roll call, 5 yeas: Mr. Cottrell, Denihan-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, 5 yeas: Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Adkins-yea, Mr. Cottrell. Motion passed. Mr. Hartz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Cottrell, to pass Resolution 25-12-09R. Roll call, 5 yeas: Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Adkins-yea, Mr. Cottrell, Denihan-yea, Motion passed.

New Business:

Media: Mr. McVey requested a list of members for Planning & Zoning and BZA. Mr. Dillaway inquired about the community development legislation. Dr. Ratican explained that the RFP allows the village to seek proposals to provide long-term planning assistance for the village. Dr. Ratican said there will be public meetings for area residents to prioritize projects, and then the village will need assistance in making the plans a reality. This may include the redesigning of website from a local firm to a larger firm out of Cleveland or Youngstown for the larger task. Village will continue to use engineers above and beyond.

Mr. Cottrell made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ruks, to adjourn the meeting. Roll Call, 5 yeas: Adkins – yea, Cottrell-yea, Denihan-yea, Hartz-yea, Ruks-yea, Motion passed with all in favor. Council President Ruks adjourned the meeting at 5:42 p.m.

Approved: February 17, 2026

Jean Ratican
Village Manager

Kimberly McKee
Clerk of Council

Christopher Ruks
President of Council