

**CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL – PRAYER – PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM by Council President Dave Riggensch. Mayor is excused from the meeting, on vacation.

Council Members Present: Dave Riggensch, Carrie Tuohy, Steve Fine, and Larry Yunker

Council Members Absent: Louann Artiaga, Steve Connelly

Staff Present: Municipal Administrator Jordan Daugherty, Deputy Administrator Joshua Hartbarger, Solicitor Kevin Heban, Director of Public Services Mike Hill, Police Chief Allan Baer, Fire Chief Jason Francis, Clerk of Council Nicole Hartbarger

Guests Present: Jeff Heaney, Nan Myers, Tim Tuohy, Robert Casaletta, Craig Whitman, Dennis Fitzgerald, Rebecca Conklin Kleiboemer, Julie Westenfelder, Wayne King and Jill Gundy.

Council Prayer was given by Shawn Bellner of Cedar Creek Church

Motion by Councilwoman Tuohy, seconded by Councilman Yunker to approve the minutes of the April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 council meeting. 4 ayes

Motion by Councilwoman Artiaga, seconded by Councilman Riggensch to approve the bills totaling \$16,939.38 dated April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and the Addendum bills totaling \$104,117.59 dated April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and the February 2025 Financial Statements. 4 ayes

**PERSONS TO APPEAR BEFORE COUNCIL**

Council President Riggensch asked if there were any people to appear before Council.

**Request for Cherry Fest 5K & 1K Wild Run on June 13, 2025**

Julie Westenfelder from Julie's Fitness Studio is present comments that they host the race every year. She has discussed the route with the police, slight update this year, police agree it is a safer option. Westenfelder comments that space at Village Hall will be used for bathrooms and sign up. Asks for permission to use additional Village Hall space for Nature's Nursery in Council Chambers. Baer confirms he has the updated map. Tuohy asks staff for permission on Nature's Nursery using the space – Daugherty supports. Baer comments this is a great move for the race change, going from needing seven officers to only needing one or two officers. Westenfelder asks if fees can be waived for the police, since it is a fundraiser for Nature's Nursery.

Motion by Councilman Fine, seconded by Councilman Yunker to approve the Cherry Fest 5k & 1k Wild Run on June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025. 4 ayes

Motion by Councilwoman Tuohy, seconded by Councilman Riggensch to waive the estimated \$200 in fees for the Cherry Fest 5k & 1k Wild Run. 4 ayes

**Request for 2025 Memorial Day Event on May 26, 2025**

Wayne King here to represent the American Legion Post 384. He is requesting that police reroute traffic for around 1.25 hours for safety issues concerning the Memorial Day event. This has discussed with Chief Baer and forms have been filled out. King comments this is for safety purposes and does help keep the noise down, fountain water is also shut down for the event. Riggensch comments that the event was very well attended last year. Event is at 10am, load up around 10:25am to go to Waterville.

Motion by Councilman Fine, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to approve the request for the 2025 Memorial Day event on May 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025. 4 ayes

**Request for 2025 Summer Concerts on May 15th, June 19th & July 17th**

Deputy Administrator Hartbarger shares that this is the same that has been done in years past – nonprofits will be running beverage area. Street closures will be done the same as in the past, between the park and the bathroom.

Motion by Councilman Yunker, seconded by Councilman Riggenbach to approve the request for the 2025 Summer Concerts on May 15<sup>th</sup>, June 19<sup>th</sup> and July 17<sup>th</sup>. 4 ayes

### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Council President Riggenbach asked if there were any committee reports to share.

#### **Report on the March 27, 2025 Tree Commission Meeting**

Riggenbach comments that Connelly absent will move this report to the next Council meeting in May.

#### **Report on the April 8, 2025 Finance Committee Meeting**

Riggenbach comments that Connelly absent will move this report to the next Council meeting in May.

#### **Report on the April 8, 2025 Committee of the Whole Meeting**

Riggenbach shares that the primary topics were the Rue Du Lac subdivision engineers report, the electric aggregation options and Council topic planning for the remainder of 2025.

Riggenbach shares that the Rue Du Lac quote came back much higher than the original estimate at \$2.2MM; committee and residents discussed ways that this could be paid for. Residents asked about cutting some costs from the estimate. No decisions were made, mainly informational.

Electric aggregation discussion included two main topics, joining a Council of Government, comparing the SOPEC or NOAC options. Compared factors between both options. The committee recommended pursuing SOPEC with fixed rates. There were 3 ayes and 1 abstain on the motion.

Riggenbach shares that Council topics were prioritized such as capital projects, Council rules, newsletter and others.

#### **Report on the April 15, 2025 Committee of the Whole Meeting**

Riggenbach shares that the committee listened to a presentation on health insurance options for Village employees. The recommendation from Risk Strategies was to continue with Paramount and educate members on the newest insurance option, Side Car.

### **REPORT OF THE MAYOR**

#### **Arbor Day Proclamation**

Riggenbach reads Whitehouse Proclamation for Arbor Day. May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 is proclaimed as Arbor Day in the Village of Whitehouse.

Riggenbach shares that the Swan Creek Ditch project is still in discussion, waiting on Commissioner Sibecki to reschedule meeting.

Upcoming events include Ice Cream with Mayor and Council is on August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2025, will update on time. The Sgt Andy Eckert bridge dedication ceremony is on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025. They are anticipating a large crowd and parking has been worked out with some local businesses. Station Day at Village Hall, is scheduled for May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 1:30pm. May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025 is mock Council at Whitehouse Primary at 1:30. Bingham is reaching out to Judge Hazard to participate. Memorial Day event has been approved by Council and will be put on by the Legion at 10am on May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

Riggenbach shares there was one complaint; it was regarding the electric aggregation decision taking too long.

### **REPORT OF THE CLERK OF COUNCIL**

Council President Riggenbach asked for any items to report from Clerk of Council Hartbarger. There were none.

#### **REPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR**

Council President Riggenbach asks Administrator Daugherty for any items to report.

##### **Request Authorization for Legislation to Place On The Ballot at the Next General Election A Charter Amendment to Add Article III, The Council, Section 3.13, Term Limits for the Village of Whitehouse**

Daugherty shares this topic has been discussed in previous meetings; public has received drafts. He asks if Council is ready to authorize tonight. Riggenbach comments he has reservations voting with several Council members absent. The first reading will need to happen tonight due to timing per Solicitor Heban.

Motion by Councilman Riggenbach, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to authorize for legislation to place on the ballot at the next general election a charter amendment to add Article III, The Council, Section 3.13, Term Limits for the Village of Whitehouse. 4 ayes

##### **Request Authorization for Legislation to Place on the Ballot at the Next General Election A Charter Amendment to Add Article IV, Mayor, Section 4.11, Term Limits, for the Village of Whitehouse**

Daugherty comments this is the same scenario as the legislation just discussed; this one is for the Mayor details.

Motion by Councilman Fine, seconded by Councilman Yunker to authorize for legislation to place on the ballot at the next general election a charter amendment to add Article IV, Mayor, Section 4.11, Term Limits, for the Village of Whitehouse. 4 ayes

##### **Request Authorization for Legislation Authorizing the Administrator to Purchase Road Salt for Use by the Public Service Department During the Calendar Years 2025-2026 for the Village of Whitehouse (as an emergency)**

Daugherty shares this topic has been discussed before; asks can emergency be authorized with no super majority. Solicitor Heban says yes to authorization of the emergency but cannot vote on it without the super majority.

Motion by Councilman Riggenbach, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to authorize for legislation authorizing the administrator to purchase road salt for use by the public service department during the calendar years 2025-2026 for the Village of Whitehouse, as an emergency. 4 ayes

##### **Request Authorization for Legislation Authorizing the Award of a Contract For The Whitehouse 2025 Street Resurfacing Project to Gerken Paving, Inc. (as an emergency)**

Daugherty comments this topic has been previously reviewed. Asking Council to authorize tonight but cannot vote on as an emergency until the super majority is present. This topic will be in the first May meeting.

Motion by Councilman Fine, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to authorize for legislation authorizing the award of a contract for the Whitehouse 2025 street resurfacing project to Gerken Paving, Inc., as an emergency. 4 ayes

#### **Operations Report Summary**

Deputy Administrator Hartbarger shares that Council has asked to see program for the bridge dedication; this has been presented. He comments that earlier in the year they discussed IT security updates; Hartbarger suggests there will be an email with details on this topic.

#### **REPORT OF THE LAW DIRECTOR**

Council President Riggenbach asks Solicitor Heban for any items to report.

Heban comments that it is appropriate at this time to consider the medical insurance recommendation from the Committee of the Whole.

Motion by Councilman Riggenbach, seconded by Councilman Fine to approve recommendation of Paramount Insurance as presented. 4 ayes

Heban comments that it is appropriate for Council to consider the recommendation to pursue SOPEC with a fixed rate for the electric aggregation.

Motion by Councilman Yunker, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to approve recommendation of SOPEC with fixed rates for electric aggregation. 3 ayes 1 abstain

### **CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Council President Riggenbach asks for Citizen Comments pertaining to Agenda items.

Rob Casaletta – 6701 Blue Creek East

Casaletta comments that at last Council meeting the charter was discussed, he thought the decision was not to do any charter changes. During the charter meeting, term limits were talked about but not in detail. He feels that Ordinances 06-2025 and 07-2025 are very well crafted. He comments he is not speaking for the Charter Commission but speaking as a resident. He feels this will enhance the charter. Casaletta comments he would like Ordinance 06-2025 and 07-2025 to have three readings to hear citizen feedback, if any. Also, would like to see the language on Access Whitehouse app or website to make it more available to residents. Fine comments last year staff did an excellent job communicating ballot voting, assuming the same will happen this year. Casaletta comments that the Charter Commission did not want to politicize the charter and feels that these updates stay with that thought and do not politicize.

Rebecca Conklin Kleiboemer – 10934 Loan Oak Court

Conklin Kleiboemer comments that she sees the writing on the wall with the charter updates. She appreciates Casaletta's comments about having this charter update done correctly. She states she has read several statements in the recent Mirror newspaper made by Council members during the charter term limit discussion. Conklin Kleiboemer comments when there was a previous vacancy herself and Council colleagues worked hard to make a transparent and informed decision. She says it was never intended for a vacancy to be a default, backup or a goal. Concerned that Connelly has admitted that folks don't want to come before voters – that is a problem that needs to be solved. Conklin Kleiboemer comments there is another uncontested ballot coming up. Says this is not the time to limit choices by setting term limits; not the time to use Council process to get around the difficult process of being a certified and duly elected candidate. Asking voters about this legislation is good, putting it on the ballot, but maybe not the right time. Conklin Kleiboemer agrees it is decent legislation to put on the ballot and hopefully staff is successful in the education of residents. She shares she is very concerned about what is being expressed by Council members. For that alone does not feel like it is the appropriate action at this time. Incumbents are harder to beat, do not feel the need to make it easier for people to run. Feels there is action that could be taken first including a citizens academy for Council like what is done for police and fire; ways to educate the public.

### **ORDINANCES**

Council President Riggenbach asked Solicitor Kevin Heban for any ordinances to be reviewed or voted on.

A. **Ordinance 05-2025:** Authorizing a Zoning Change For Certain Property Located Within the Village of Whitehouse

Motion by Councilwoman Tuohy, seconded by Councilman Fine to approve **Ordinance 05-2025** to be read by title only, first reading. 4 ayes

Heban comments that now is the opportunity for discussion on this topic. Riggenbach asks for thoughts on requested change. Tuohy comments she did drive through the other subdivision owned by this developer, Whitehouse Meadows. She shares that it is showing 15 feet between houses. She asks Yunker about his previous comment about the design not in writing so it could be changed from the initial maps. Grass comments it was an initial vision and how he envisions the plat to be set up – but it is not an exact set in stone map. Still has the option to change to zero lot line within scope of R2-PUD. Fine comments if re-zoned and Grass doesn't build, the next owner would be subject to R2-PUD but can do whatever fits within that zoning. Heban comments that what is in front of Council now is re-zone, ultimately Council does have to approve the PUD set up for the site map. Riggenbach asks if Council can say no or is there recourse. Heban says it is a fluid concept, Council could say no or yes at their discretion if they do not agree with the vision of the PUD. Several Council members comment that is good and new information to help make decisions. Riggenbach asks about fire concern with the 15 feet between houses, Chief Francis will confirm; Yunker recalls any residential buildings and building material have no special building requirements for protection of fire if buildings are at least 10 feet apart.

- B. Ordinance 06-2025:** To Place On The Ballot at the Next General Election A Charter Amendment to Add Article III, The Council, Section 3.13, Term Limits for the Village of Whitehouse, Lucas County, Ohio

Motion by Councilwoman Tuohy, seconded by Councilman Riggenbach to approve **Ordinance 06-2025** to be read by title only, as an emergency, first reading. 4 ayes

Heban comments that Council can discuss at this time. Yunker asks about costs associated with putting these issues on the ballot. Hartbarger confirms there is no official answer yet, have made several phone calls. Heban confirms that the emergency provision allows the ordinance to pass immediately after third reading.

- C. Ordinance 07-2025:** To Place on the Ballot at the Next General Election A Charter Amendment to Add Article IV, Mayor, Section 4.11, Term Limits, for the Village of Whitehouse, Lucas County, Ohio

Motion by Councilman Riggenbach, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to approve **Ordinance 07-2025** to be read by title only, as an emergency, first reading. 4 ayes

Fine asks if the intention was to follow Waterville's current model. He comments he believes the Mayor has two terms; Heban will verify.

- D. Ordinance 08-2025:** Authorizing the Award of a Contract For The Whitehouse 2025 Street Resurfacing Project to Gerken Paving, Inc. (as an emergency)

Motion by Councilman Riggenbach, seconded by Councilman Yunker to approve **Ordinance 08-2025** to be read by title only, as an emergency, first reading. 4 ayes

## RESOLUTIONS

Council President Riggenbach asked Solicitor Kevin Heban for any resolutions to be reviewed or voted on.

- A. Resolution 03-2025:** Authorizing the Administrator to Purchase Road Salt for Use by the Public Service Department During the Calendar Years 2025-2026 for the Village of Whitehouse (as an emergency)

Motion by Councilwoman Tuohy, seconded by Councilman Fine to approve **Resolution 03-2025** to be read by title only, as an emergency, first reading. 4 ayes

## OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED

### Department Heads

Public Works Director Hill shares that the crew has been doing spring clean-up. They received 150 rose bushes from the American Bloom program; those are being planted right now. The other flowers will be in around Mother’s Day.

Police Chief Baer shares that the citizen police academy is ongoing. This week will be a shoot/don’t shoot scenario. Next week will be tazing and batons. He shares that for the next Council meeting he will be out of the country on vacation; Captain Baker will be in charge and attending Council.

Fire Chief Francis shares that monthly statistics have been provided. Hiring update for full time, they have two outside candidates, extension to this Friday for applications. He shares a hazmat update at FlyBar; the US EPA says they will be out in a week and a half, done on the facility but will keep monitoring. Currently hauling dirt out from behind the plant to a hazardous materials facility.

**Council Comments**  
None

**CITIZEN COMMENTS**  
Council President Riggbach asks if there are any citizen comments to share.

Rebecca Conklin Kleiboemer publicly thanks Jill Gundy for help during a previous 5k race; she at the back of the pack and Jill came back and finished the race with her. She comments it is a great testament to the Village and staff willingness to help with their support these events.

**ADJOURNMENT**  
Motion by Councilwoman Tuohy, seconded by Councilman Fine to adjourn the meeting at 7:27pm. 4 ayes

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Duly Appointed Clerk of Council

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Mayor