

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

Meeting called to order at 6:30 PM by Mayor Rich Bingham.

Council Members Present: Louann Artiaga, Dave Riggengbach, Carrie Tuohy, Steve Fine, Steve Connelly and Larry Yunker

Council Members Absent: N/A

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

Guests Present: Nan Myers, Warren Clifton, Craig Whitman, Josh Torres, Jeff Heaney, Tim Tuohy, Dennis Fitzgerald, Nicole Kemmer

Council Prayer was given by Warren Clifton of Hope United Methodist Church

Motion by Councilman Riggengbach, seconded by Councilman Connelly to approve the minutes of the April 15th, 2025 Council meeting. 6 ayes

Tuohy asks about the water tower project; inquiring how long until done. Public Works Director Hill comments that construction is just starting, steel work has just begun, end of year for completion is the goal.

Motion by Councilman Connelly, seconded by Councilwoman Artiaga to approve the bills totaling \$64,714.12 dated May 2nd, 2025, and the Addendum bills totaling \$107,886.15 dated May 6th, 2025. 6 ayes

PERSONS TO APPEAR BEFORE COUNCIL

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

Request for Cherry Fest, June 12th-14th, 2025

Deputy Administrator Hartbarger shares that department heads and all Village staff have reviewed plans and are in full support. He comments that the group has worked on efficiencies and reduction of man power for the event and have been successful in that this year.

Josh Torres is present to represent the Chamber of Commerce. He shares that this is the 42nd year for Cherry Fest. Chamber took it over in 2007 for all planning purposes. The Chamber is able to book the premium rides, similar to Wood County Fair due to the attendance and draw that the event has. Torres comments they typically see over 8,000 people. He says they take pride in planning a safe event, proper bussing for severe weather possibilities, plans with fire and safety – he comments there are a lot more safety protocols now than 10 years ago. Torres comments that Cherry Fest is one of the few festivals in Northwest Ohio that is free to get in and has free parking. He loves that this is a way to showcase Whitehouse, great economic impact for local businesses. Torres shares that back in 2007 the profit would go back into the park, updates to grandstands, flower upgrades, etc but with recent push for veteran support and non-profits in the area, there is now the military night on Thursday evening, and the proceeds go back to non-profits.

Torres shares that this year, for one hour before the festival officially opens to the public there will be a sensory friendly hour with no lights and sounds on the rides and in the area. Torres comments that Administration, Police and Fire have been incredible to work with for years along with the Maintenance team. Goal is to put on the safest and best show for the community. Torres shares that costs continue to go up for both the Chamber and the Village, but the Chamber is asking for the Village fees to be waived for this event. Chamber would be interested in partnering with any park updates that come up in the future that they may be able to support.

Mayor Bingham comments that this is a Whitehouse event; Tuohy comments that Whitehouse does not profit from the event – Mayor comments that the local businesses do. Tuohy comments that over \$10,000 in fees is a lot to waive when there are other areas that need support locally in Whitehouse from the donation fund in the budget. Artiaga comments that she does not object to contributing some but not all as other organizations would not be able to be supported through this budget; she said they are still feeling feedback from Village residents on how that budget item is currently being spent. Feels there will be a lot of kick back from residents if the full amount of \$10,000 is supported. Riegenbach comments that residents have spoken very clearly about fiscal responsibility – does not support the full \$10,000 being waived but does support some amount to waive. Torres comments it is very fair to be expecting to discuss an amount to make sure it is fair and equitable; respects the comments and positions being shared. Fine agrees with the concerns being shared by the other Council members. Connelly asks what the current balance of the donation fund is; Administrator Daugherty says it was originally \$7,500 but reduced to \$5,000 for 2025; used to date is \$1,425, leaving \$3,575 remaining in that designated line item. Yunker recalls that last year the request was to help put in power, Chamber contributed several thousand toward updating the power and electrical work in the park; a net of about \$4,600 in donation funds with waiving fees. Yunker echoes all comments being said, need to review and stay to the budget, would not be opposed to waiving some amount but more in line with the budget available. Mayor Bingham asks the Administration their opinion. Daugherty comments this is a political decision on what should be justified for the community engagement budget. Yunker asks Torres what the Chamber usually profits in a good year; Torres says around \$20,000-\$25,000. Torres comments that depending on the decisions made tonight, he will have to go back and plan with the Chamber on what might be impacted. Mayor Bingham asks about the donation fund line item; Daugherty says it is a budget, not exact but was committed for this type of support. There was discussion on what happens when this budget goes over; Daugherty says the administrative budget is flexible. Artiaga confirms they can afford whatever Council decides but need to be cognizant of how much is spent. Riegenbach confirms he would commit to \$2,500 but would not like to go back on a budget that was set, unless it was an emergency. Connelly agrees. Tuohy comments that in years forward she would like Council and staff to take this Cherry Fest amount into consideration and have a separate line item to support this largest event in the Village; would feel better if money was put aside in advance specific to this. Fine asks Daugherty about other budgets, is there a promotion budget; Daugherty confirms a few different areas would fit in that type of bucket within the Administration budget. Fine asks if there is wiggle room in these other budgets, suggests taking a little more from one of those. Artiaga comments she has served on Cherry Fest committee for many years, the Village contribution has always been in kind always absorbing the costs, has always been a minimum of \$3,500-\$5,000 in the past; would hate to go less than that this year or going forward. Riegenbach comments they will have a decision on the fee amount to waive at the next Council meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mayor Bingham asked if there were any committee reports to share.

Report on the March 27, 2025 Tree Commission Meeting

Councilman Connelly shares that the group approved the minutes of the previous meeting. Arbor Day was discussed, planting of sycamore trees, and the mayoral proclamation to be read. Connelly reports there have been no trees planted in the last month, no updates to the tree ordinance. The suggestion was made to create an orientation handbook for new members of the Tree Commission. Connelly shares with the group that he will not be seeking a new term with Village Council so they will need a new Council representative for the Commission. Connelly shares that Mark Schriefer was contacted about promoting new events on Facebook. Sherri Luedtke plaque for the start of the story walk area was discussed.

Report on the April 24, 2025 Tree Commission Meeting

Councilman Connelly shares that the group approved the minutes of the previous meeting. They worked on finalizing Arbor Day plans. The group discussed the tree inventory; one tree needs to be taken down and new trees need to be selected for a few areas. Door hanger modifications were reviewed. Facebook ideas were reviewed and discussed. Connelly shares that America in Bloom will visit Whitehouse on June 23rd and 24th.

Report on the April 8, 2025 Finance Committee Meeting

Councilman Connelly reports that the group approved the minutes of the previous meeting. Three items on the agenda including top line quarterly reporting for public sharing based on other cities in the area. There was an early discussion on 2025 budget process, would like to use actual spend data not budgeted; this approach is feasible based on staff input. Quarterly cadence for finance committee meetings was decided.

Report on the Fallen Timbers Union Cemetery District Meeting

Councilwoman Artiaga shares that there was a reported revenue of \$3,500, expenses of \$9,400 and a current cash balance of \$389,077. It was reported that there have been 15 foundations poured this spring. Artiaga shares that a lot of buildings are being worked on in all cemeteries including foundation issues, new roof, deteriorating block. A motion was made to approve all expenses. Outdoor spigots need to be replaced, Sexton Rory Hartbarger looking for quotes for what will work best; costs will be reviewed at the next meeting. The annual meeting will be held on May 13th, 2025 at 6pm not 5:30 as previously reported. This is for all FTUCD members and Council members. At this meeting the group will discuss the requested increase in millage for next year and present budget for 2026. Artiaga's last official report for FTUCD, resigned as of today.

Report on the TMACOG Meeting

Councilman Fine reports that the group met on April 21st. All plans that were discussed were approved. Fine shares the group discussed expectations of quality goals and that was certified. They approved the 2026-2029 transportation program. The group was briefed on the 2055 long range plans, currently taking public comments and then the board will work on approving. Fine shares they will be accepting grant applications for traffic congestion issues.

Report on the April 16, 2025 Board of Zoning Appeals Meeting

Deputy Administrator Hartbarger reports that all members were present. Nominations were made for open positions and approved. One case to be reviewed, 1-2025, FTUCD was asking for a variance on a cemetery fence. The variance was granted with all approving.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Bingham begins by asking for a nomination to approve appointing Councilman Yunker to the open council member position for the Fallen Timbers Union Cemetery District.

Motion by Councilman Connelly, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to appoint Councilman Yunker to the Fallen Timbers Union Cemetery District board. 6 ayes

Mayor updates all on the Swan Creek Ditch project. He is planning to meet with Lisa Sabecki on May 13th at 2:30. Meeting with state representatives as well. Bingham shares that Ice Cream with Mayor and Council is set for August 16th. The Andy Eckert bridge dedication ceremony will be on May 8th. Station day this Friday at 1:30 at Village Hall for Whitehouse Primary third graders. Founders day is scheduled for July 2nd. Kid Mayor and Council at 2:15pm on May 15th at Whitehouse Primary; Judge Hazard will be present.

Mayor Bingham shares that there are some third grade students here in the audience today; he invited those who were voted in by their classmates as the mock Council members. Winter banner designs will be decided upon at the mock Council meeting. Mayor comments that his goal is to get more people involved and as young as possible. Mayor Bingham presents certificates to the students in attendance; four kid Council members and the kid Mayor.

Mayor Bingham shares that the Cherry Fest parade trailer has been reserved, kid Mayor and kid Council are invited to participate. Signs have been ordered. Memorial Day event is May 26th at 10am at Veterans Memorial park. The summer concert series begins on May 15th at 5pm.

Mayor Bingham shares that he and Administrator Daugherty met with someone who is interested in relocating their business to this area from Swanton. They have decided to make the move to Whitehouse. Ludwig Watch and Clock. Bingham shares there are only a handful of people on the planet that do what he does with antique clocks. He does fixes from all over the world.

Bingham comments he received one complaint: on the street sweeper. Businesses downtown state that by the time the sweeper gets to them in the morning, cars are already parked there, and they cannot sweep all spots. Public Works Director Hill comments that this past Thursday this timing was changed and downtown was done first, around 6am.

REPORT OF THE CLERK OF COUNCIL

Mayor Bingham asked for any items to report from Clerk of Council Hartbarger. Hartbarger shares that she will be out of town for work during next week's Committee of the Whole meeting, Deputy Administrator Hartbarger will be calling roll.

REPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR

Mayor Bingham asks Administrator Daugherty for any items to report.

Request Authorization for Legislation Determining that Certain Miscellaneous Personal Property Owned by the Village of Whitehouse Is Of No Further Use to the Village And Is Hereby Determined To Be Surplus Property And To Be Disposed of Pursuant to Law

Daugherty shares that there are obsolete laptops ready to be disposed of; they are of no use to the Village anymore. He comments that this is general housekeeping for the disposal of Village owned items. He is asking that this is authorized tonight as an emergency.

Motion by Councilwoman Tuohy, seconded by Councilman Riggerbach to approve request for authorization for legislation regarding surplus property of Village owned laptops. 6 ayes

Request Authorization for Legislation To Place On the Ballot at the Next General Election A Charter Amendment to Change Article IV, Mayor, Section 4.08(C), Executive Powers, For the Village of Whitehouse, Lucas County, Ohio

Daugherty shares that this topic has been in discussion for a while. This is for the additional provision for the Mayor in the Charter. Draft has been presented in the Council packet.

Motion by Councilman Fine, seconded by Councilman Riggerbach to approve authorization for legislation to place on the ballot at the next general election a charter amendment to change Article IV, Mayor, Section 4.08(C), executive powers, for the Village of Whitehouse, Lucas County, Ohio. 6 ayes

Summary of Next Steps for Electric Aggregation Program

Daugherty shares that staff is moving as fast as possible on the electric aggregation topic. He shares that next Tuesday, before the regularly scheduled committee of the whole meeting, there will be a separate public hearing, first of two that are required by ORC. Daugherty has been in correspondence with experts, and they will be conducting the public hearing. He says that staff is working on getting info onto the Village website and Access Whitehouse. Tuohy comments that she sent an email to Fine stating that businesses were wondering if they were included in the program. Fine comments that it depends, by state code if they consume more than 700,000kwh they cannot be in program by default; with SOPEC they may be able to request to be added to the aggregation program. Fine comments that if they already have their own contract, they would need to take that into consideration. Daugherty shares that the person leading the public hearing will walk through steps and technicalities as well. Fine asks about the second public meeting, confirming it is the next week at the second May Council meeting day. Riggerbach confirms the timeline goal, Fine says it will be at the second Council meeting that they will look for approval from Council. Warren Clifton asks if local churches can be contacted as they are among the largest energy users in the Village other than Anthony Wayne Schools.

Reminder of May 12, 2025 at 5:30 p.m. Joint Fallen Timbers Union Cemetery District Meeting

Daugherty shares that the updated time is 6pm for the Joint FTUCD on Monday, May 12th.

Operations Report Summary

Hartbarger shares one update; the Andy Eckert memorial bridge dedication is ready to go. Staff have all plans in place.

REPORT OF THE LAW DIRECTOR

Mayor Bingham asks Solicitor Heban for any items to report. There were none.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Mayor Bingham asks for Citizen Comments pertaining to Agenda items. There were none.

ORDINANCES

Mayor Bingham 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 Yunker to approve **Ordinance 05-2025** to be read by title only, second reading. 6 ayes

Charlie Grass, the building developer, asks if Council will be discussing anything about the requested change. There were no comments or questions. Solicitor Heban confirms this ordinance will go the full three readings.

- 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 Councilman Connelly, seconded by Councilwoman Artiaga to approve **Ordinance 06-2025** to be read by title only, as an emergency, second reading. 6 ayes

Heban confirms this is the second reading of this ordinance, it will go the full three readings.

- 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 Connelly, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to approve **Ordinance 07-2025** to be read by title only, as an emergency, second reading. 6 ayes

Heban confirms this is the second reading of this ordinance, it will go the full three readings.

- 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 Yunker, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to approve **Ordinance 08-2025** to be read by title only, as an emergency, second reading. 6 ayes

Motion by Councilwoman Artiaga, seconded by Councilman Fine to approve to suspend the rules and have the third reading of **Ordinance 08-2025** by title only. 6 Ayes

Motion by Councilman Riggenbach, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to approve **Ordinance 08-2025** by title only, declaring an emergency. 6 Ayes

Motion by Councilwoman Tuohy, seconded by Councilman Riggenbach to adopt **Ordinance 08-2025: Authorizing the Award of a Contract For The Whitehouse 2025 Street Resurfacing Project to Gerken Paving, Inc.** Third reading vote by name. 6 Ayes

- E. **Ordinance 09-2025:** To Place On the Ballot at the Next General Election A Charter Amendment to Change Article IV, Mayor, Section 4.08(C), Executive Powers, For the Village of Whitehouse, Lucas County, Ohio

Motion by Councilman Connelly, seconded by Councilman Fine to approve **Ordinance 09-2025** to be read by title only, as an emergency, first reading. 6 ayes

Heban confirms this is the first reading of this ordinance, it will go the full three readings.

RESOLUTIONS

Mayor Bingham 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 Artiaga, seconded by Councilman Fine to approve **Resolution 03-2025** to be read by title only, as an emergency, second reading. 6 ayes

Motion by Councilman Connelly, seconded by Councilman Riggenbach to approve to suspend the rules and have the third reading of **Resolution 03-2025** by title only. 6 Ayes

Motion by Councilman Riggenbach, seconded by Councilman Fine to approve **Resolution 03-2025** by title only, declaring an emergency. 6 Ayes

Motion by Councilman Riggenbach, seconded by Councilwoman Artiaga to adopt **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. Third reading vote by name. 6 Ayes

- B. **Resolution 04-2025:** Determining that Certain Miscellaneous Personal Property Owned by the Village of Whitehouse Is Of No Further Use to the Village And Is Hereby Determined To Be Surplus Property And To Be Disposed of Pursuant to Law (as an emergency)

Motion by Councilman Riggenbach, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to approve **Resolution 04-2025** to be read by title only, as an emergency, second reading. 6 ayes

Motion by Councilman Riggenbach, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to approve to suspend the rules and have the second and third reading of **Resolution 04-2025** by title only. 6 Ayes

Motion by Councilwoman Tuohy, seconded by Councilwoman Artiaga to approve **Resolution 04-2025** by title only, declaring an emergency. 6 Ayes

Motion by Councilwoman Tuohy, seconded by Councilwoman Artiaga to adopt **Resolution 04-2025: Determining that Certain Miscellaneous Personal Property Owned by the Village of Whitehouse Is Of No Further Use to the Village And Is Hereby Determined To Be Surplus Property And To Be Disposed of Pursuant to Law**, as an emergency. Third reading vote by name. 6 Ayes

OTHER ITEMS DISCUSSED

Department Heads

Public Works Director Hill shares that a promotion has been made for the superintendent position, Jordan Conner has been promoted. He has been with the Village for a little over two years. Hill shares that the flowers will be going up in the next few weeks.

Captain Baker here in place of Police Chief Baer. He asks to direct any questions to him until around May 15th, he will share contact info if needed. On April 24th they graduated 16 people from the 3rd annual Citizen Police academy. Baker shares that this session was extended by 1 week, four weeks instead of three. Captain Baker thanks Mayor for speaking at graduation. Baker shares that on April 28th they conducted a mock crash at AWHs with Whitehouse Fire and other local departments. He comments this was well received by the students; prom weekend was safe. Reminds Council that Cemetery Road will be shut down a portion for parking along with parking at the professional building for the bridge dedication.

Fire Chief Francis shares that last week they interviewed three full-time candidates for their open position, still in discussions. Hoping for an answer by the next Council meeting. Radios

are in that were ordered under the Marx grant. Air packs shipped in June for in service in July/August. Hazmat situation is done, USEPA will continue to monitor the company to make sure all issues are mitigated; incident lasted 7 weeks and one day. Artiaga asks about recognition dinner for the Fire Department; Francis confirms it is May 30th. Mayor asks about awards for the two being honored.

Council Comments

Yunker asks Council to think over for next meeting, they have already had a couple readings on various ballot issues for the upcoming election but they did finally get back cost info from board of elections; estimate on cost is \$1,700. Confirms it is \$1,700 for each issue to put on the ballot. Yunker shares he is all for the public making the decisions but does not like the idea of spending all the money.

Tuohy brings up openings in committees and asks if those can be advertised so other people can begin to get involved. She comments this would be a good opportunity to get people involved in the local government opportunities and hopefully get more interest in people running for Council. The Mayor asks if that information is put in the app, Daugherty confirms it is advertised but understanding that the request is for more of a push on the different types of committees along with openings. Daugherty confirms staff will work on that. Mayor asks if Karen Gerhardinger can put it in the Mirror newspaper, she said she can as long as she knows the openings that are out there.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mayor Bingham asks if there are any citizen comments to share.

Charlie Grass comments that he is following up on the zoning ordinance. Wants to comment on the issue Council shared on the no control on PUD. He says that Solicitor Heban commented that Council does have control. Grass wanted to reiterate some of the plans and ask if there are any current questions. No questions, Council appreciates him coming in.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilman Connelly, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to adjourn the meeting at 7:44pm. 6 ayes

Duly Appointed Clerk of Council

Mayor