

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

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm 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 Chief Allan Baer, Fire Chief Jason Francis, Clerk of Council Nicole Hartbarger

Guests Present: Nan Myers, Sister Rose Moser, Tim Tuohy, Karen Gerhardinger

Council Prayer was given by Sister Rose Moser of Lial

Motion by Councilman Riggengbach, seconded by Councilman Connelly to approve the minutes of the May 20th, 2025 Council meeting. 6 ayes

Motion by Councilwoman Artiaga, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to approve the bills totaling \$11,721.14 dated May 30th, 2025, and the Addendum bills totaling \$97,258.45 dated June 3rd, 2025. 6 ayes

PERSONS TO APPEAR BEFORE COUNCIL

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

Request for Neighborhood Block Party June 22nd, 2025

Administrator Daugherty shares that this is a neighborhood that requests this block party every year and staff is happy to support it.

Motion by Councilman Riggengbach, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to approve the neighborhood block party as requested for June 22nd, 2025. 6 ayes

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Report on the May 19th, 2025 Joint Fallen Timbers Union Cemetery District Meeting

Councilman Yunker shares that the group met on May 19th with all in attendance. Meeting began by approving previous meeting minutes. Yunker shares that there was \$2,506.45 in revenue and \$42,468.90 in expenses since the last meeting. Current cash balance is \$346,958.01. There was an approved motion to pay the outstanding bills. Yunker shares that the group made a motion to amend the appropriations. The Sexton shared that there were 17 foundations on order planned to be completed by May 22nd. Yunker shares there has been a few contractors helping around the cemeteries completing necessary jobs. There will be updates to the building at Wakeman Cemetery and updates to the fencing at the Whitehouse Cemetery. Yunker comments there was discussion on challenges with lawn cutting due to all of the wet weather but do expect to get all completed prior to Memorial Day. Yunker shares there was a special request that came in from a grandmother who lost family; asked to be able to place three internments in one location which is not typical, but it was approved to let her buy one space for all three. Yunker comments that Bachman discussed researching cost of benefits to make the current contracted employees full employees of the district. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 9th.

Report on the May 22nd, 2025 Tree Commission Meeting

Councilman Connelly shares that the previous meetings minutes were approved. Connelly comments that despite rescheduling, there was a great turn out for the Arbor Day celebration.

There was a proposal made to plant several trees this coming fall to replace canopy loss. The commission discussed the need for volunteers to represent the commission during the June 23rd American Bloom visit; several members will be out of town at that time. Connelly shares that the group approved an updated informational door hanger with QR code. There are several growth award opportunities in process. The group discussed zone and property maps. Connelly shares that they plan to host a table at the upcoming farmers markets this summer with materials on public education currently being gathered. Updates will continue to be shared on social media.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Bingham shares that he met with state representatives and the meeting went well regarding the Swan Creek Ditch project. Mayor and Lisa Sibecki championing this cause trying to get state funding to support this project; asking for \$20MM. Shares they are hoping to hear something soon.

Bingham shares that he was invited and attended the Northwest Ohio Girl Scouts for national Girl Scouts day. He and several other local mayors read proclamations. Bingham reminds all that there will be no Committee of the Whole meeting on July 8th and no Council meeting on July 15th as voted on and approved at the last meeting. Ice cream with the Mayor and Council is scheduled for August 16th from 12-2pm. Founders Day is coming up on July 2nd. Mayor comments that Cherry Fest begins next Thursday at 6pm, beginning with military night. For those able to attend, the parade starts at 1pm, Deputy Administrator Hartbarger will be pulling the Mayor and Council trailer and is asking all to meet at the Maintenance Garage on Waterville Street. He shares that two kid Council members will be joining for the parade.

Bingham shares that the Memorial Day event on May 26th went very well. He comments that the army chaplain commented on how impressed he was with the attendance. Next summer concert series is coming up on June 19th. Bingham shares that he was informed that the musical instruments in the playground are missing the sound making part; Hill comments that replacements are on order and will be fixed very soon.

REPORT OF THE CLERK OF COUNCIL

Mayor Bingham asked for any items to report from Clerk of Council Hartbarger. There were none.

REPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR

Mayor Bingham asks Administrator Daugherty for any items to report.

Request Authorization for Legislation Approving the Plans of Operation and Governance for the Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council (“SOPEC”) Electric Aggregation Program, and For the Purpose of Jointly Establishing and Implementing an Electric Aggregation Program, as an emergency

Administrator Daugherty shares that we are at the point of the last piece of getting the electric aggregation rolling. The details were shared in the packet. There is the option of three readings or passing as an emergency.

Motion by Councilman Riggerbach, seconded by Councilman Connelly to authorize Legislation Approving the Plans of Operation and Governance for the Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council (“SOPEC”) Electric Aggregation Program, and For the Purpose of Jointly Establishing and Implementing an Electric Aggregation Program, as an emergency.
6 ayes

Daugherty shares that regularly scheduled Committee of the Whole meeting will take place. He shares that they have provided Council with Municipal and Council rules from other local communities for reviewing and comparing the current Whitehouse Council rules. He

comments that during that meeting there will also be a presentation on the Backflow water line topic.

REPORT OF THE LAW DIRECTOR

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

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT HEADS

Fire Chief Francis states that stats will be out for the next Council meeting but does report that the Fire Department responded to an all-time monthly high in the month of May; 111 runs. Mark Bucher has been hired and started in the open full-time position.

Police Chief Baer shares that the Police Department was presented with a special event request just today and wanted to run it by Council. The request is for a memorial bike ride for a local community member who recently passed away in a biking accident. Ride is scheduled for next Tuesday starting at CycleWerks at 6pm around the Whitehouse area. He comments they are anticipating 300-400 participants; they are requesting police presence to escort and stop traffic, will take around three officers on overtime. They have asked for the cost of officers to be donated due to this being a zero-profit ride; Baer has no problem supporting this.

Motion by Councilman Riggensbach, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to approve the memorial bike ride as requested. 6 ayes

Motion by Councilman Riggensbach, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to approve waiving the fees for the approved memorial bike ride. 6 ayes

Public Works Director Hill shares that the department is working on crack sealing this week. They have filled all of their seasonal positions for the summer. Hill shares that there is the curb side pick up this month on June 28th. He comments that the Chamber honored Steve Pilcher today as the grand marshal for the upcoming Cherry Fest Parade.

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 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 (3rd Reading)

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

Motion by Councilman Riggensbach, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to adopt **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.** Third reading vote by name. 6 ayes

- B. **Ordinance 11-2025:** Approving the Plans of Operation and Governance for the Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council ("SOPEC") Electric Aggregation Program, and For the Purpose of Jointly Establishing and Implementing an Electric Aggregation Program (as an emergency)

Motion by Councilman Riggensbach, seconded by Councilwoman Artiaga to approve **Ordinance 11-2025** to be read by title only, as an emergency. 6 ayes

Motion by Councilman Riggensbach, seconded by Councilwoman Artiaga to approve to suspend the rules and have the second and third reading of **Ordinance 11-2025** by title only. 6 Ayes

Motion by Councilwoman Artiaga, seconded by Councilman Riggensbach to approve **Ordinance 11-2025** by title only, declaring an emergency. 6 ayes

Motion by Councilwoman Tuohy, seconded by Councilman Yunker to adopt **Ordinance 11-2025: Approving the Plans of Operation and Governance for the Sustainable Ohio Public Energy Council (“SOPEC”) Electric Aggregation Program, and For the Purpose of Jointly Establishing and Implementing an Electric Aggregation Program.**
Third reading vote by name. 5 ayes, 1 abstain

RESOLUTIONS

Mayor Bingham asked Solicitor Kevin Heban for any resolutions to be reviewed or voted on. There were none.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Discussion on Pulse Survey

Riggenbach comments that he will turn this time over to Connelly to discuss the survey. Connelly shares that he has put a brief survey example together as a starting point. Looking for initial feedback, there should be a follow up to the larger survey that went out last year. Fine comments on question three regarding transparency, feels it could be more vague instead of using ‘since last survey’ keep it as a straight question on Council being transparent. He is asking for questions four and five to include a middle option. Fine also asks if question six could be made more general as well. Yunker comments that he likes the extra question that is being added along with keeping the original. Tuohy comments that asking what the priority for the Village is from the resident perspective would be a valuable question. Connelly comments that he will make updates and create a test survey to be sent out for review. Riggenbach comments that sharing the survey link and information at the next summer concert would be worthwhile as there are a lot of Whitehouse residents for that event.

Yunker asks a question to Hill regarding the reported light fixture issue that he previously shared. Hill comments that they had to turn it in to Toledo Edison and there will be a meeting next week to review issues, there are numerous they need to fix. He is looking to expedite the process.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mayor Bingham asks if there are any citizen comments to share. There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilwoman Tuohy, seconded by Councilman Fine to adjourn the meeting at 7:06pm. 6 ayes

Duly Appointed Clerk of Council

Mayor