

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 Riggenschach, Carrie Touhy, 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, Police Chief Allan Baer, Fire Chief Jason Francis, Public Works Director Mike Hill and Clerk of Council Nicole Hartbarger

Guests Present: Cheryl Darr and Jennifer Bingham

Council Prayer was given by Sister Cheryl Darr of Lial

Motion by Councilman Riggenschach, seconded by Councilman Connelly to approve the minutes of the September 16th, 2025, Council meeting. 6 ayes

Riggenschach asks how much is left on the water tank or water tower project line item; Hill estimates about 70% done thinking around \$600-700k left. Daugherty confirms we are through most of the project.

Motion by Councilwoman Artiaga, seconded by Councilman Riggenschach to approve the bills totaling \$418,251.24 dated October 2nd, 2025, the Addendum bills totaling \$117,538.77 dated October 7th, 2025. 6 ayes

PERSONS TO APPEAR BEFORE COUNCIL

Mayor Bingham asked if there were any people to appear before Council. There were none.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

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

Report on the Fallen Timbers Union Cemetery District Meeting

Councilman Yunker reports that the group met on September 15th and all members were present. The group approved the minutes of the previous meeting. Finances were reported including revenue of \$154,927.78, expenses of \$16,472.04 and an ending cash balance of \$433,357.10. Monthly sexton report included a discussion on the number of deeds sold for cemetery lots - two sold and two internments. Updates on contractors – roof cap for Whitehouse Cemetery building was completed. There is a need for an air compressor, this has been on the list for a while. Reported that some summer grass cuttings were canceled due to the drought. Current projects include stump grinding and floor surfacing in office area. Old business reported was the need for seasonal help; it was decided that Bachman and Duncan would produce a job posting for seasonal help. Next FTUCD is October 20th.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Bingham begins with a reminder that Coffee with Mayor and Council at Copper Press is on November 8th from 8:30-10:30am. Halloween on October 31st starting at 5pm until candy and hot dogs run out in the park. Christmas in the Village is scheduled December 6th; Hartbarger confirms the 5k race starts at 4:30pm and planning for the parade to be around 6:15pm, around 7pm for lights, immediately following the parade; exact details will be forthcoming.

Mayor Bingham reports that the new pharmacy construction is beginning this month. There is an open house at New Vision Church this coming Sunday at 12pm. Mayor shares the Councilman Fine attended the TMACOG meeting in his place recently.

Bingham shares that the Christmas toy collecting contest has changed this year. After consent with Mayor Pedro from Waterville, the competition will now be between Whitehouse Fire, Police and Public Works collecting toys competing against the same Waterville groups; will have more details and promos coming.

Mayor confirms that staff will be sharing updates and changes for the upcoming election so residents know what is being voted on like what was done last year. This is confirmed.

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

Request Authorization for Legislation Determining that Certain Miscellaneous Personal Property Owned by the Village of Whitehouse, Lucas County, Ohio 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 this is surplus fire department equipment, items are detailed in the Council packet. Asking to be authorized during tonight's meeting.

Motion by Councilman Connelly, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to approve Authorization for Legislation Determining that Certain Miscellaneous Personal Property Owned by the Village of Whitehouse, Lucas County, Ohio is of No Further Use to the Village and is Hereby Determined to be Surplus Property and to be Disposed of Pursuant to Law. 6 ayes

Administrator Daugherty shares that there is a heavy agenda for next Tuesdays Committee of the Whole meeting, several documents to review. Information on these topics will be going out on Thursday. He comments he is looking to coordinate next Finance Committee meeting – last time was right before the Council meeting hoping to do the same. Riegenbach and others agree to before Council meeting on October 21st at 6pm. Daugherty comments that budget season has begun, fee and rate schedules will be reviewed next week.

Operations Report Summary

Deputy Administrator Hartbarger thanks Solicitor Heban for attending the AW Senior Connection this past Saturday and his talk about wills and trusts; it was very well received. Hartbarger shares a status report on updated payment processor, utility payments and other items will go live with the new company on November 1st. Residents will not see much of a change on their side. He comments they will be able to expand a lot of the digitally received payments along with gaining some efficiency and data protection.

REPORT OF THE LAW DIRECTOR

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

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT HEADS

Public Works Director Hill reports that bulk pick up last weekend had 1,600 homes participating with 58 tons of refuse picked up. Tonnage down, but number of homes went up. Hill mentions the America in Bloom program; James Forrest went to the symposium last week – the Village was recognized and won Flower Power Best Hanging Basket Display in the country. Fine asks if Schrieffer will be doing social media to recognize, Hill confirms yes.

Police Chief Baer reports that police department will be engaged in community help at Zion Church today and tomorrow talking about what police officers do. Bus Safety week is coming up, and officers will be watching routes. Baer shares there is a Keep Our Girls Safe event coming up, it is full and a waiting list. The police department community survey had

115 responses, up from last year's 94 – the 2024 rating of 4.23 to 2025 rating of 4.29, up slightly. Baer comments he can provide a copy of the report if Council would like.

Fire Chief Francis updates that the new hires are in place and working on each individual shift well. This week is fire prevention week, Sunday to Saturday; they are going around doing safety talks to schools and sunbeam daycare center. The department has partnered with State Farm insurance, providing bags to 2nd graders at Whitehouse Primary. Francis shares that a new Citizen academy, for four weeks, started last night. The fire department will be hosting an open house on Thursday from 5-7pm. Francis shares that the department received a reimbursement grant to send four individuals through advanced EMT class – bridge between EMT and Paramedic, with this license people can start IV's and push medications except cardiac meds; they will be hosting the class in Whitehouse.

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. There were none.

RESOLUTIONS

Mayor Bingham asked Solicitor Kevin Heban for any resolutions to be reviewed or voted on.

- A. **Resolution 15-2025:** Determining that Certain Miscellaneous Personal Property Owned by the Village of Whitehouse, Lucas County, Ohio is of No Further Use to the Village and is Hereby Determined to be Surplus Property and to be Disposed of Pursuant to Law

Motion by Councilman Riggenbach, seconded by Councilman Connelly to approve **Resolution 15-2025** to be read by title only, as an emergency. 6 ayes

Motion by Councilman Riggenbach, seconded by Councilman Fine to approve to suspend the rules and have the second and third reading of **Resolution 15-2025** by title only. 6 Ayes

Motion by Councilman Riggenbach, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to approve **Resolution 15-2025** by title only, declaring an emergency. 6 Ayes

Motion by Councilman Riggenbach, seconded by Councilwoman Artiaga to adopt **Resolution 15-2025: Determining that Certain Miscellaneous Personal Property Owned by the Village of Whitehouse, Lucas County, Ohio is of No Further Use to the Village and is Hereby Determined to be Surplus Property and to be Disposed of Pursuant to Law.** Third reading vote by name. 6 Ayes

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Fine asks question on topic of advertising supplements be on the Committee of the Whole agenda next week, Daugherty confirms yes the blue bag ordinance discussion will be on the agenda. Fine comments on the TMACOG meeting he attended. Additional area communities attended and learned about funds and grants that are available for potential sources of funding; TMACOG is very willing to help connect municipalities with these sources. He will share the slide deck from the meeting.

Connelly asks about the Sheri Luedtke recognition; Mayor confirms her family postponed until November. Connelly thanks James Forrest for pursuing the America in Bloom recognition, he made all of that happen.

Yunker asks about previous talk on supporting the effort of the new newspaper that Karen Gerhardinger now reports through – does not know where that conversation ended. He would like to pursue advertising or something that could support to some extent. Artiaga mentions Heban was going to do some research; Heban confirms it is a non-profit, the Village does have the ability to donate or advertise because it is a non-profit. Riegenbach comments would need time for a conversation on how Council would like to handle this. Tuohy feels like it could be a conflict. Riegenbach asks for conversation at Committee of the Whole - October and November are full - could be a January conversation. This will give time to discuss possible donation or advertising amounts through the budget process.

Artiaga brings up donations and conversation on what to donate in kind for the Cherry Fest coming up with the budget process – Mayor comments there will be more information coming out at the next meeting that will be helpful regarding this topic. Riegenbach comments Cherry Fest was not a gift in kind, but it was part of the budget, the precedent should be set through the budget process. All look forward to hearing more details.

Riegenbach sent email regarding November 11th Committee of the Whole meeting, his brother is being sworn in as President of Buckeye State Sheriff Association, and he is hoping to change the meeting date if possible. Fine comments he does not like missing meetings as well but asking if it is bad precedent to set if meetings are shifted for one person being absent – can info be out in advance and person who will miss can make sure someone is able to represent their views. Riegenbach comments if he was not President of Council he would just take an absence but is his meeting to run; if there is a concern he will let someone run the meeting. Mayor comments need of four for a quorum. Artiaga asks about how long in previous years to go through budget; Daugherty says the last year there were a few meetings, typically it can be done in one session. Riegenbach confirms Artiaga is ok running the meeting – will keep it during the same time frame.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilman Yunker, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to adjourn the meeting at 7:05pm. 6 ayes

Duly Appointed Clerk of Council

Mayor