

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

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

Mayor Bingham starts the meeting, before roll call, with the swearing in of new Council members from the November 5th, 2025 general election. Judge Hazard from Maumee Municipal Court present to swear in new Council members – he explains that the Maumee Municipal Court covers the Whitehouse and Anthony Wayne areas.

Judge Hazard swears in Joseph Bublick, Steve Fine and Louann Artiaga for their new Council seats.

Council Members Present: Louann Artiaga, Dave Riggenbach, Carrie Touhy, Steve Fine, Joseph Bublick 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: Rev. Warren Clifton, Jennifer Bingham, Rob Casaletta, Tim Tuohy, Dave & Sharon Prueter

Council Prayer was given by Reverend Warrn Clifton of Hope United Methodist Church

Motion by Councilwoman Tuohy, seconded by Councilman Fine to approve the minutes of the December 6th, 2025, Council meeting. 6 ayes

Riggenbach asks about the dollar amount left on the water tower project; Daugherty estimates it is around \$300k but he will confirm.

Motion by Councilwoman Artiaga, seconded by Councilman Riggenbach to approve the bills totaling \$44,411.12 dated January 2nd, 2026, the Addendum bills totaling \$260,859.55 dated January 6th, 2026. 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 January 5th, 2026 Planning Commission Meeting

Daugherty comments there was a public hearing and first meeting of the Planning Commission on January 5th. The group heard a request for zoning change for property owned by Charlie Grass. Back story is that Grass first asked for R3 zoning and was rejected. Came back with R2-PUD and was rejected. He now has come back for an R2 zoning. A lot of questions/discussion from the audience on site plans and what it will look like. Daugherty comments exclusive reason for the public hearing and meeting was to review the zoning request itself, not the site plans. The Planning Commission chair reminded all that there was some discussion previously that the R2 zoning was something that would be a compromise. All questions were worked through, all had ample opportunity to speak. Public hearing was closed, then into Commission meeting. R2 application was approved by a 3-1 vote. At this point, it is now a two-step process. Commission approves after public hearing and meeting, now a standing condition to Council for their approval; this will have to be after another 30 days – Council will conduct a hearing, probably the first Tuesday in March to give ample time to satisfy the 30-day notice for the code regarding public notice requirements. Solicitor

Heban says the ordinance will go the standard three readings without emergency unless told otherwise. Council would need five votes, a super majority, to overturn the Planning Commission recommendation if wanted.

TMACOG Special Meeting

Fine shares that he is a member of special sub-committee of TMACOG along with other representatives from local areas. Reviewing scorecard for grant requests, trying to make things fair for different communities. Fine shares that this group will meet again and whole board will vote on recommendations.

Report on the December 15th, 2025 Fallen Timbers Union Cemetery District

Yunker shares that the group approved the November meeting minutes. Finance report included \$1,506 in revenue, \$16,889 in expenses, and an ending cash balance of \$403,748. All expenses were approved unanimously. Sexton report covered recent lot sales, interments and maintenance activities. New trees that were purchased will be planted in 2026. Board discussed future sitework planning and staffing for 2026. New business, reviewed 2026 meeting schedule that will continue monthly on the 3rd Monday of each month. Yunker was elected as chairman. Approved new funeral procession surcharge in instances where procession arrives after 2pm, \$150 on weekday, \$200 on weekends due to having to keep staff around later than standard hours. Special Meeting for FTUCD has not yet been finalized – waiting for nominations in Waterville and Waterville Twp. before this meeting can be scheduled. Yunker will confirm the date and time.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR

Mayor Bingham shares that Coffee with the Mayor and Council scheduled at the Buzz Diner in March 2026. Hartbarger will contact the Buzz to confirm exact times. Bingham shares he will be adding the employee survey results to upcoming meeting topics. State of the Village address will be ready for the first meeting in February – will try for second January council meeting if possible.

Mayor confirms the girls state champion soccer team from AWHs will be here next Council meeting for recognition. Bingham shares there was one complaint on sidewalks on Providence Street not being cleared after recent snowfall – these were resident sidewalks.

A. Appointment of Board and Committee Members

Bingham shares his nominations for various Village committees.

Planning Commission - Allan Kuck

Board of Zoning Appeals - Chuck Kethel and Brian Slagle

Tree Commission - Steve Fine as a Council representative; Steve Connelly will stay on as a resident

Charter Review Commission - Angie Kuhn and Phil Whaley

Motion by Councilman Riegenbach, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to approve those nominated for various Village committees as presented. 6 ayes

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

Administrator Daugherty comments on remaining amount for water tower project question; there is \$340k remaining before the just approved \$225k.

Daugherty shares agenda thoughts for next Tuesday's Committee of the Whole meeting. Slated so far is looking into the Toledo Free Press donation, blue bag ordinance moving to February, AW community library hoping to have people here to share information.

Daugherty shares that the State Auditor has new policies to protect the public, one is a policy that Council has to approve and be aware of what a payment would be if any data were to be held hostage – will have new documents to review. Levy for the Co-op purpose is to bring in funds to help supply equipment for this enhanced coverage – fund has been growing – time to start planning for these funds. Chief Francis will present multi-year plan for these funds.

Operations Report Summary

Deputy Administrator Hartbarger shares there is nothing to report this week.

Mayor Bingham asks about replacing Steve Connelly on the Finance Committee. Riggensch asks for a volunteer to replace – Yunker volunteers, Riggensch nominates Yunker and Yunker accepts.

REPORT OF THE LAW DIRECTOR

Mayor Bingham asks Solicitor Heban for any items to report. Heban reminds all to consider organizational meeting according to Charter. There is provision that allows for voting of President of Council for each year – if Council chooses not to do that the previous Council President would carry on. Riggensch asks if now is the time for nomination; Heban confirms yes now is fine.

Councilman Riggensch nominates Councilman Steve Fine for Council President. All in favor.

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT HEADS

Public Works Director Hill shares that with bulk pick up this last Saturday, numbers were down slightly from last year. Leaf pick up has been sporadic with the snow. Plan is for end of March or early April, give residents notice for a spring pick up – will give two weeks' notice at least.

Police Chief Baer shares that his annual report will be available around early March. Citizens Police Academy will be in March – will be pushed out on social media. He shares they are wrapping up last year's paperwork.

Fire Chief Francis shares that Tom Vincent has retired from the Fire Department as a volunteer; started November 1, 1994 - 31 years of service. Drops down the volunteer active force to around seven. The department is planning a volunteer open house around April – looking to recruit new. Francis shares they had 1,093 incidents for 2025, increase of about 15% over previous year. 719 EMS with a 69% transport rate. Annual report available in March. Francis shares they are in early stages of promoting to open positions on both full time and volunteer side. Mayor asking about recognizing Tom Vincent; Francis will keep all updated.

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. There were none.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Tuohy asks if the topic of the audit will be discussed, has some questions regarding the ODOT items and outside engineers. Daugherty comments haven’t been talked about in the group in the past, but if questions have met individually. Tuohy will collect questions and send email to all. She thanks for the extra help on Temperance St. to the Police Department and Hartbarger.

Riggenbach shares congrats and welcomes Bublick, Steve and Louann. Looking forward to working together. Feels that a lot of good was done in 2025 and feels 2026 will be the same – excited for what will be accomplished.

Bublick shares he is looking forward to working with the group.

Fine shares his welcome to Bublick. He thanks Riggenbach for being the Council President for the last year. He comments that he liked last year that Riggenbach organized priorities – would like to do the same for 2026 at next week’s Committee of the Whole meeting.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

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

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilwoman Artiaga, seconded by Councilwoman Tuohy to adjourn the meeting at 7:10pm. 6 ayes

Duly Appointed Clerk of Council

Mayor