

**Village of Whitehouse
Village Council Meeting As A
Committee of the Whole
Village Hall, Whitehouse, OH
6:30 June 9th, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER – ROLL CALL

Meeting called to order at 6:30pm by President of Council Steve Fine.

Council Members Present: Louann Artiaga, Joe Bublick, Larry Yunker and President of Council Steve Fine

Council Members Absent: Dave Riggensbach & Carrie Tuohy – excused by President Fine

Staff Present: Administrator Jordan Daugherty, Solicitor Kevin Heban, Public Works Director Mike Hill

Guests Present: Mayor Rich Bingham

Motion by Councilman Bublick, seconded by Councilman Yunker to approve the minutes of the May 12th, 2026, Committee of the Whole meetings. 4 ayes

Motion by Councilwoman Artiaga, seconded by Councilman Bublick at 6:32pm to enter into an executive session pursuant to ORC 121.22(G)(3) conference with attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are subject of pending or imminent court action. 4 ayes

Motion by Councilman Bublick, seconded by Councilwoman Artiaga at 7:21pm to reconvene the meeting. 4 ayes

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE AGENDA ITEMS

Council President Fine asked if there were any citizens present to comment on the Committee of the Whole agenda items. There were none.

GENERAL

Review Mayoral Replacement Ordinance

Fine shares that this conversation is not regarding the current mayor, it is a topic that has been discussed in the past. Heban reminds all that there was previous discussion on putting on the ballot the idea of the mayor being able to appoint, dismiss and discipline employees. It was decided to only add term limits regarding the mayor to the ballot. Fine brings up the situation previously regarding the Council president becoming Mayor but then would lose their Council seat – there was some discussion on this. Heban and Council discussed specific situations that they are trying to avoid. Yunker brings up how long a Council seat would be empty, along with the ability of the Mayor to resign and then be able to run again for Council quickly after resigning. Fine comments on adding to Mayor qualifications, including the candidate has not previously resigned from the post of Mayor to run within the same election cycle – suggesting that the person would have to wait another election cycle to run. Heban will review the idea of malfeasance or misfeasance and how those would fit here. Heban suggests he will draft legislation and circulate it to Council for their review.

General Discussion on Possible Future Mural Projects/Locations

Fine asks Artiaga to discuss what has been researched and reviewed recently. Artiaga shares that she feels adding a mural would add even more to the downtown area along with the landscaping and flowers. AW Arts group has offered to help organize applications for completing a mural in town. Daugherty asks if all are familiar with pictures that have been provided to Council – all are. He references the silos that have a mural on them in East Toledo – this artist is familiar with Whitehouse. This is business for him, Daugherty figured this would be very expensive as it would be hand painted. The Cycle Works side building that faces the trail is a potential area. Daugherty feels for the private buildings; he would like to engage this artist; for the blue building that is village owned for it to be commissioned through the AW Arts group with a contest and applications. Daugherty shares that a quality mural from this artist was high level quoted between \$8,000-\$10,000. He comments there is significant capital project money available to be used for these types of projects. Bublick and Yunker like the idea, as long as private building owners are interested. Artiaga suggests coming up with a theme for the Village owned building for applicants; Daugherty suggests coming up with the theme early so things would be cohesive for the private building mural as well.

Open Discussion on Building Community Leaders

Fine shares that this topic came up after a previous charter change regarding term limits. It was discussed that things need to be planned as people are expiring off Council there are others involved and interested in replacing those seats. Fine is asking for other thoughts and ideas on this topic; other ideas to get more people involved. Bublick agrees this is important to get more people interested, just not sure how. Fine brings up the recent civics class that attended the Council meeting – suggests reaching out to this teacher to get more engagement with this class/group along with their parents. Reaching out to the school at a high level for more engagement. Fine also comments there are Commissions and Boards already, but can we get these people more involved in Council directly; presentations at Council meetings, attendance, etc. these could be natural candidates for future Council seats. Artiaga suggests educating the Board and Commission members along with general public how to run for Council and what it takes to be involved as a Council member. Feels it would help take away some of the unknown when it comes to running for Council. Artiaga suggests a Whitehouse administrative once or twice a year evening where the public is exposed to how things work. Yunker agrees with this idea, feels there are residents who do not know how the local government works. Fine suggests putting out either on social media or the app exciting topics or recent things that are happening within Council. Daugherty shares he is excited about this idea, he is brainstorming with staff regarding a Whitehouse news channel; market professionally but make it just hometown/Whitehouse related. This could include current goings-on, Whitehouse history, documentary type information. Daugherty comments on the idea of reaching out to the school, likes this idea. Suggests a Whitehouse leadership course to get information out to Board and Commission members along with Council. Daugherty brings up that a previous law director used to do a new Council class for new members, about an hour long. Bublick suggests a binder for new Council members on standard contracts, Commissions, etc that members should be familiar with.

Fine asks if any of the topics brought up should be followed up sooner than later. Artiaga suggests having some information or sessions out there prior to the time of pulling petitions for Council spots. Short time from the first of the year until the time petitions are due. Fine brings up the idea with the school, it is summer, but maybe starting to reach out now would help to get something set up for the next school year.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Council President Fine asks if there are any citizen comments to be heard. There were none.

OTHER BUSINESS

Council President Fine asks if there is any other business to discuss from Council members.

Fine asks Daugherty to share details on the parade. Arrive around 11:55am, candy will be provided and has already been purchased, bring a chair to sit on.

Fine asks Daugherty to share an update on the resident survey. Daugherty shares it is just about ready to go, will do the last walk through very soon. Intro from the Mayor has been incorporated.

Fine mentions the electric aggregation, letters will start going out to residents next week. Some communication will be shared before the letters go out so residents aren't surprised. Artiaga asks for the rate that has been confirmed, renewable energy 10.17 cents per kilowatt hour. Fine shares by default you get the green rate, you can choose the brown rate. Edison rate currently is 10.9992 per kilowatt hour. There will be a number on the letters that go out to residents for them to call for questions.

Artiaga asks about process for choosing someone else for Hartbarger's former position since he has left. Daugherty shares he has been meeting with staff, most of the work he is absorbing; staff is doing great where they are. Daugherty is getting assessments from staff on their needs and wants, Currently not a given that the Deputy Administrator position will be replaced, this could morph into a new position. Will share with Council once more feedback has been received.

Artiaga brings up that there may be a need for some additional parking near the four way stop between Crust, Adventure Distilling, etc. especially for employees struggling to find parking spots. Daugherty shares that the Village has looked at purchasing the building behind Crust. He suggests reviewing signage on the current available parking in the area.

Daugherty shares that staff is moving to summer hours for the municipal building. They will be shut down at noon on Fridays, through Labor Day.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Councilwoman Artiaga, seconded by Councilman Bublick to adjourn the meeting at 8:17pm. 4 ayes

Respectfully submitted by Nicole Hartbarger, Clerk of Council