

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Carver called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 pm on October 20th , 2025

INVOCATION

Tim Clapper offered the Invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Carver led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

The following council members answered roll call: Tim Clapper, Aron Fraizer, Kay Hines, Mark Phillips, Emily Shaffer, and Chris Sherbourne. Fiscal Officer Cathy Davis, Administrator Derek Allen, and Solicitor Matt Griffith were also present.

MINUTES

Phillips moved, and Shaffer seconded the approval of the October 3rd minutes. Roll Call: Phillips, Shaffer, Clapper, Fraizer, Hines, Sherbourne– all yes.

GUESTS

Ben Albrecht, attorney for Fishel Downey Albrecht & Riepenhoff LLC, Paige and Ben Bierce

Paige Bierce, Executive Director of Gilead Fitness, announced that she is running for a seat on the Mt. Gilead Village council and will be on the ballot this November.

Mr. Albrecht noted that we are finally wrapping up the 2-plus-year legal battle with former Fire Chief Chad Swank regarding his termination. After his formal appeal to the Court of Common Pleas, it was concluded that his termination was justified, and the council's decision was upheld.

After this decision, Swank appealed to the Fifth District Court of Appeals. The court asked, requested, suggested that the parties participate in the court's mediation system.

Mr. Albrecht had two mediation sessions to try to resolve the matter and came to terms with Mr. Swank, allowing the council to authorize the Mayor to enter into an agreement. We would agree to pay Mr. Swank \$30,000.00, with no admission of any wrongdoing on the part of the Village.

This is a business decision aimed at eliminating any additional legal fees for the Village. Along with paying Mr. Swank, entering into this agreement would rescind his termination and give him the ability to resign his employment with the Village, and that resignation would be voluntary to put forth the appearance that the parties separated amicably, and that would be maintained in his personnel file. The Village would provide a neutral letter of reference. He would then withdraw his appeal and release the Village from any further legal action.

Mr. Albrecht noted that all records of this case are still public records.

Shaffer asked if there were any gag orders on either side. Mr. Albrecht stated that there are none.

Sherbourne moved, and Fraizer seconded to allow the Mayor to execute the release and waiver agreement on behalf of the Village of Mt. Gilead concerning the Chad Swank case. Roll Call: Sherbourne, Fraizer, Clapper, Hines, Phillips, Shaffer – all yes.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT - CHIEF LAKEY

Chief Lakey reported that the police department had participated in Trunk or Treat at Whetstone School, represented by Officer Sanford.

K-9 Niko was recertified in drug detection and tracking/apprehension.

Car-3 was taken out of service, and the fuel pump was replaced under warranty at no cost.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT - CHIEF CAREY

Chief Carey reported that the brush truck is back out of service, being repaired.

He had applied for a Grant through BWC for \$10,800.00 for motorized equipment to roll fire hose. His portion of this grant money is \$2,700.00.

FINANCE - CHRIS SHERBOURNE

Sherbourne reported that the committee met and discussed the Bartlett property; this matter will be further discussed at a later date.

Discussion was also made about the current baseball/softball commission. Their board is invited to the next council meeting to discuss future plans.

The Fire Chiefs' contract was presented, and the committee recommended that council approve it.

Phillips moved and Clapper seconded to approve the employment agreement for the position of Permanent Part-Time Fire Chief for Mark Carey. Roll Call: Phillips, Clapper, Fraizer, Hines, Shaffer, Sherbourne – all yes.

Next meeting will be 11/17 at 6:00 pm

SAFETY - TIM CLAPPER

No report. Next meeting will be as needed.

SERVICE -MARK PHILLIPS

Phillips gave highlights of his Service Committee report. The full details of his report are on file at the office of the Fiscal Officer.

Security improvements at the Douglas Street water tower are expected to be completed in 2026.

The CDBG grant application is due in July 2026 and will be awarded in September 2026.

The OPWC application is due in November 2025 for water main upgrades with paving.

Discussion was made about the ongoing issues with the garbage truck and a suggestion was made about possibly outsourcing waste services.

Resurfacing bids were completed. Kokosing will perform the work, with a completion date of June 1, 2026.

We will receive additional proposals for five obelisks to complement our five gateway signs.

The proposal from Snyder's was \$17,225.00.

No U-Turn signs will be purchased after the passage of the ordinance.

Allen will write another letter to CSX about their railroad crossings.

Possible resurfacing projects were discussed.

There will be no more meetings in 2025.

CODES & REGULATIONS - EMILY SHAFFER

Next meeting will be as needed.

ADMINISTRATOR-DEREK K. ALLEN

Allen reported that the street sweeper has been running, and leaf pickup is ongoing.

Hines asked Allen if he had heard anything about replacing the streetlights. Allen will write another letter to Ohio Edison.

MAYOR - DONNA CARVER

Mayor Carver gave her condolences to the family of Glen Conrad. His wife and son were our pool managers.

Mayor Carver attended the Morrow County America 250 committee meeting.

SOLICITOR

No report.

FISCAL OFFICER - CATHY DAVIS

Sherbourne moved, and Hines seconded to approve the bills— Roll Call: Sherbourne-yes, Hines-yes, Clapper-yes, Fraizer-yes, Phillips-yes, Shaffer-abstain.

Sherbourne moved, and Fraizer seconded to approve the Cyber Security policies. Clapper commented that there was a lot of language on how to manage and who does what. Are these people within the office? I explained that it would be up to the department head to contact the Mayor, Administrator, or me.

Roll Call: Sherbourne, Fraizer, Clapper, Hines, Phillips, Shaffer – all yes.

Phillips moved, and Shaffer seconded to pass ordinance 2000 "2026 wages" to the third reading. Phillips, Shaffer, Clapper, Fraizer, Hines, Sherbourne– all yes.

Shaffer moved, and Hines seconded to pass ordinance 2001 “No U-Turn’ to the second reading. Roll Call: Shaffer, Hines, Clapper, Fraizer, Phillips, Sherbourne – all yes.

Shaffer moved, and Hines seconded to pass ordinance 2002 “2026 permanent appropriations” to the second reading. Clapper asked if money was set aside for paving. Allen said there was none. A special meeting will be required to discuss this budget. This meeting is set for November 3rd at 6:00 pm. Roll Call: Shaffer -yes, Hines-yes, Clapper-no, Fraizer-yes, Phillips-yes, Sherbourne-yes.

Phillips moved, and Sherbourne seconded to pass resolution 10-20-25 “transfer of funds” to the second reading. Roll Call: Phillips, Sherbourne, Clapper, Fraizer, Hines, Shaffer – all yes.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Shaffer noticed that the Edison ballfield is for sale. Allen commented that this was for the field behind the Dollar General.

Sherbourne moved to adjourn at 7:39 pm.

Approved:

Cathy Davis, Fiscal Officer

Donna J. Carver, Mayor