

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Donna J. Carver called the meeting to order at 6:55 p.m.

INVOCATION

Joe Johnson gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

The following members of council answered roll call: Paige Bierce, Sondra Carey, Kay Hines, Joe Johnson, and Mark Phillips. Chris Sherbourne was excused. Fiscal Officer Cathy Davis, Village Administrator Derek Allen, Solicitor Matt Griffith, Police Chief Adam Lakey, and Fire Chief Mark Carey were also present.

MINUTES

Carey moved and Bierce seconded to approve the July 20th meeting minutes. Roll call vote: 5 ayes.

PROCLAMATION – INTERNATIONAL OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY

Mayor Carver presented a proclamation recognizing August 31, 2026, as International Overdose Awareness Day in the Village of Mount Gilead. The proclamation recognized individuals lost to overdose, their loved ones, local prevention and harm-reduction efforts, and the importance of awareness, education, intervention, and reducing stigma.

GUESTS

Bob Smith stated that he was present to observe the meeting.

Kevin Curtis from Del-Mor Dwellings, Diane Bucher with Safe Harbor Peer Support Services, and Rhianna Mattix with Delaware-Morrow MH & RS Board.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Police Chief Adam Lakey recognized Sergeant Beekman for a thorough investigation that contributed to a conviction following a multi-day trial for Gross Sexual Imposition. Mayor Carver stated that the prosecutor had also expressed appreciation for his investigation.

Chief Lakey provided council with information on proposed 2027 Police Department wages for review. The matter will be discussed at the September 8, 2026, Committee of the Whole meeting.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Mark Carey reported that the department responded to 60 calls during July, bringing the year-to-date total through July to 458 calls.

The rescue truck is back in service following a complete engine rebuild. Chief Carey commended the repair company for completing the work in approximately two weeks.

Phillips moved and Bierce seconded to hire Grant Harris as a volunteer firefighter, subject to a one-year probationary period. Roll call vote: 5 ayes.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – MARK PHILLIPS

Phillips reported that the committee met at 6:00 p.m. before the council meeting.

The committee decided not to request a meeting with the County Engineer regarding the need for a replacement bridge on Twp Rd 127 over Whetstone Creek, as the engineer is already aware of the issue.

Solicitor Griffith has completed proposed facility-use agreements for outside agencies that will use the fire training facility and the law enforcement shooting range. Council will need to consider adoption of the agreements.

Chief Lakey continues to address village parking concerns.

V3 Companies will appear before council on September 21, 2026, at approximately 7:00 p.m. to present their qualifications concerning the zoning code update.

A letter from Sherbourne was read regarding the need for a use and scheduling agreement for outside groups using the village baseball and softball fields. The matter will continue as old business at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

Council discussed Gilead Fitness and potential locations for its activities. Mayor Carver stated that locating a facility is not council's responsibility, although the village may offer assistance if a possible location is identified.

Potential aesthetic improvements at West Point, also known as Fraizer Point, were discussed. Allen has information regarding the process if council chooses to proceed.

Proposed 2027 Service Department wages and the 2027 projects budget will be discussed at future council meetings.

The next Committee of the Whole meeting will be held Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

ADMINISTRATOR – DEREK ALLEN

Allen submitted a written report stating that installation of the baseball outfield fences is scheduled to begin on Wednesday.

Allen distributed proposed 2027 wage increases for the Service Department. He explained that wage decisions are needed early in the budget process because wages are a major village expense and are allocated among multiple funds. The proposed budget schedule anticipates one reading at the second meeting in October and two readings in November, after which the non-emergency legislation would become effective following the required period.

Department wage requests are recommendations, and the council determines whether to approve or modify the recommendations.

MAYOR – DONNA J. CARVER

Mayor Carver reported that she and Gilead Township Trustee Will Arnold are working together to clean and repair gravestones at the cemetery, with particular attention to older stones for which no family members are available to maintain them.

SOLICITOR

No report.

FISCAL OFFICER – CATHY DAVIS

Phillips moved and Carey seconded to approve bills totaling \$619,775.13. Johnson asked about a Deere & Company mower for the water plant and the recurring Solar Advocate electricity charges. Roll call vote: 5 ayes.

Carey moved and Johnson seconded to suspend the reading of Resolution 8-17-26, “assessing real estate taxes for unpaid water bills”. Davis stated that one property would be removed before filing if the outstanding balance is paid. Roll call vote: 5 ayes.

Hines moved and Johnson seconded to pass Resolution 8-17-26. Roll call vote: 5 ayes.

Phillips moved and Bierce seconded to pass Resolution 8-17-26A, “authorizing a request for qualifications for engineering services to perform a needs analysis for fire station upgrades and improvements”, to the second reading. Roll call vote: 5 ayes.

Carey moved and Bierce seconded to pass Ordinance 2027, “placing a temporary moratorium, not to exceed one year, on the issuance of any new permits, as well as the receipt and processing of applications for permits, for data centers within the corporate limits of the Village.” This was the final reading. Roll call vote: 5 ayes.

Phillips moved and Carey seconded to pass Ordinance 2028, “amending Part 3, Title 7, Chapter 351, Parking Generally.” Council received a corrected version after the packet was distributed. Roll call vote: 5 ayes.

Johnson moved and Bierce seconded to pass Ordinance 2029, “rezoning 4046 Township Road 246 from M Manufacturing to R-3 Residential,” to the third reading. Roll call vote: 5 ayes.

Davis explained that Ordinance 2032 provides supplemental appropriations for the fire fund, including an insurance payment received from the Weaver fire, and for water capital improvement pass-through invoices associated with the water treatment plant project and OWDA financing, which are tied to Ordinance 2033.

Hines moved and Carey seconded to suspend the reading of Ordinance 2032 for supplemental appropriations. Roll call vote: 5 ayes.

Phillips moved and Bierce seconded to pass Ordinance 2032. Roll call vote: 5 ayes.

Davis explained that Ordinance 2033 establishes open pass-through invoicing for eligible water treatment plant project invoices associated with the OWDA loan. The Village will submit invoices to OWDA, receive the loan proceeds, and pay the vendors, allowing timely payment without requiring a separate supplemental appropriation at each meeting.

Hines moved and Carey seconded to pass Ordinance 2033 to the second reading. Roll call vote: 5 ayes.

Phillips moved and Johnson seconded to approve an intra-fund reallocation from Garbage Personnel Services to Garbage Contractual Services to assist with the Mid-Ohio Sanitation contract. Davis explained that the money remains within the Garbage Fund and that council approval was required because the amount exceeded her reallocation authority. Roll call vote: 5 ayes.

Council discussed the cash flow summary by fund. Davis explained that the report shows each fund’s beginning cash balance, monthly revenues, monthly expenditures, and ending balance. She noted that the August column reflected activity through the August 12th report date and that more detailed line-item reports are available upon request.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Carey reported concerns about the lack of surveillance cameras at the fire training facility, the law enforcement shooting range, the compost facility, and the village equipment storage area. Council discussed illegal dumping, protection of village property, and safety concerns. Allen will obtain a proposal for security cameras to be considered at the next council meeting, including any necessary appropriation.

Hines moved to adjourn the meeting at approximately 7:24 p.m.

Approved:

Cathy Davis, Fiscal Officer

Donna J. Carver, Mayor