

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on June 15th, 2026.

INVOCATION

Sondra Carey gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

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

MINUTES

Carey moved and Bierce seconded to approve the May 18th minutes. Roll call vote: 6 ayes.

GUESTS

No guests were present.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Police Chief Lakey reported that activity levels were higher due to a longer reporting period.

He assisted the Cardington Police Department with a lieutenant promotion process, and Captain Cronenwett assisted the Marion County Sheriff's Office with a sergeant promotion process. No major issues were reported.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Carey requested approval to hire Dustin Baker as a volunteer firefighter and Grant Zucker as a part-time firefighter, at a starting rate of \$17.75 per hour, with a one-year probationary period. Baker will attend fire training in August, and Zucker is already certified. Sherbourne moved, and Bierce seconded to approve both hires. Roll call vote: 5 ayes, Carey abstained.

COMMITTEE AS A WHOLE - MARK PHILLIPS

Phillips reported that the committee met prior to the council meeting and discussed several items:

Facility use agreements for outside agencies; we will have our solicitor look at drawing up an agreement.

Vacancy/property maintenance concerns; adoption of the Ohio Building Maintenance Code; we will look into the ordinances of Urbana and Crestline.

Zoning map updates with proposals due July 24, 2026; income tax collection issues; fire hydrant maintenance and painting; and the Whetstone Bridge.

Fire hydrant cleaning and painting will be in the 2027 budget.

Phillips moved, and Bierce seconded, to authorize the Village Administrator to send a formal letter to the county engineer requesting action and attendance at a future meeting regarding the Whetstone Bridge project. Roll call vote: 6 ayes.

Discussion was also held regarding tall grass violations, nuisance properties, and obstructed traffic signs.

Allen will have the guys trim around the signs. Next year, he plans to trim around the signs just as the leaves come on.

Next meeting 7/20 at 6:00 pm.

ADMINISTRATOR - DEREK K. ALLEN

Allen reported that the village received \$180,000 in Community Development Block Grant funding for improvements to South Rich Street. A \$750,000 neighborhood revitalization grant application has been submitted.

Allen also reported on a proposed 76-unit housing development at 250 South Main Street.

The utilities have been disconnected on the block building at 81 N Rich St. The contractor is scheduled to raze the building the week of June 8th, 2026.

The fences for the two ball diamonds at West Park are scheduled to be installed early July. Remaining work on the basketball/tennis/pickleball courts includes fence installation and pavement coloring.

Johnson asked if the courts will be secured. Allen stated they will not be secured; we can have security cameras installed.

The paving project with Kokosing has been completed.

The Mt. Gilead Planning Commission recommended rezoning 4046 Twp Rd 246 from M (manufacturing) to R-3 (residential).

Phillips moved, and Hines seconded to set a public hearing for zoning at the July 20th, 2026, council meeting. Roll call vote: all ayes.

MAYOR - DONNA J. CARVER

Mayor Carver reported attendance at several community events, including a pool swim meet and planning meetings.

The Mayor reported that a community time capsule will be created and potentially housed at the Morrow County Historical Society to be opened in 2076.

Mayor Carver also reported that the outdoor restrooms at the pool have been reopened after 15 years with upgraded fixtures and added security.

SOLICITOR

No report.

FISCAL OFFICER - CATHY DAVIS

Hines moved, and Carey seconded to approve the bills totaling \$472,950.14. Carey asked about the graduation banners. Mayor Carver and Allen explained that they are funded by the village.

Phillips moved, and Bierce seconded to pass resolution 5-18-26 authorizing the Police Chief to purchase a drone to the third reading. Roll call vote: 6 ayes.

Carey moved, and Johnson seconded to suspend the reading of resolution 6-15-26 authorizing the Village Administrator to submit an application for and accept funding through the allocation/formula funds of the community development. Roll call vote: 6 ayes.

Phillips moved, and Carey seconded to pass resolution 6-15-26. Roll call vote: 6 ayes.

Sherbourne moved, and Bierce seconded to suspend the reading of resolution 6-15-26 A, authorizing the Village Administrator to submit an application and accept funding through neighborhood revitalization funds of the community development block grant program. Roll call vote: 6 ayes.

Bierce moved, and Johnson seconded to pass resolution 6-15-26 A. Roll call vote: 6 ayes.

Bierce moved, and Carey seconded to suspend the reading of ordinance 2025 for supplemental appropriations. Roll call vote: 6 ayes.

Hines moved, and Johnson seconded to pass ordinance 2025. Roll call vote: 6 ayes.

Bierce moved, and Carey seconded to suspend the reading of ordinance 2026 authorizing the execution of change order #1 and #2 with J.J. Schlaegel Inc, on the tennis/basketball court project. Roll call vote: 6 ayes.

Phillips moved, and Carey seconded to pass ordinance 2026. Roll call vote: 6 ayes.

Johnson moved, and Carey seconded to pass ordinance 2027, 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 corporation limits of the Village of Mt. Gilead to the second reading. Roll call vote: 6 ayes.

Sherbourne moved, and Bierce seconded to pass ordinance 2028, amending title seven, parking, of the codified ordinances to the second reading. Roll call vote: 6 ayes.

Johnson moved, and Bierce seconded to approve the 2027 tax budget. Roll call vote: 6 ayes.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Hines asked about the Dr. Nathan Tucker Award. Mayor Carver stated that applications are due July 6, 2026, and they are on our website.

ADJOURNMENT

Hines moved to adjourn at 7:51 pm.

Cathy Davis, Fiscal Officer

Donna J. Carver, Mayor