

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Carver called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on May 4th, 2026.

INVOCATION

Chris Sherbourne offered the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Carver led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL

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

MINUTES

Hines moved, and Carey seconded to approve the April 20th minutes. Roll call vote: 6 ayes.

GUESTS

Gilead Township Trustees, Bill Arnold, Cecil George, and Dave Lewis.

Phillips moved, and Carey seconded to recess the regular Village council meeting at 7:02 pm. Roll Call vote: 6 ayes.

Hines moved, and Johnson seconded to call the joint meeting between Gilead Township Trustees and Village Council to order. Roll Call vote: 9 ayes.

Roll Call: Paige Bierce, Sondra Carey, Kay Hines, Joe Johnson, Mark Phillips, Chris Sherbourne, Dave Lewis, Cecil George, and Bill Arnold.

Hines moved and Carey seconded to suspend the reading of resolution 5-4-26“ designating millage within the ten-mill limitation for the purpose of furnishing maintenance, care, and improvements of union cemeteries”. Roll Call vote: 9 ayes.

Carey moved, and Hines seconded to pass resolution 5-4-26. Roll call vote: 9 ayes.

Arnold said there is a township resident willing to help them with grant writing and asked the council if they would be interested in a joint project. He said that we could get more grant money if we did it together. He invited the council to their next Trustee meeting on May 7th at 6:00 pm.

Lewis reported that the intersection at Twp Rd 75 and St Rt 61 will be widened in the next 3 weeks. This is paid for through grant money.

Sherbourne asked whether the trustees were buying a generator for Union Cemetery, since there is no electricity there anymore. George said the building that housed all the electrical lines was torn down. They are looking into buying a generator.

Hines commented that, as a cemetery board member, it has been great working with the Gilead Township Trustees.

Phillips moved, and Carey seconded to adjourn the joint meeting at 7:15 pm. Roll call vote: 9 ayes.

Johnson moved, and Bierce seconded to reconvene the regular Village council meeting. Roll call vote: 6 ayes.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Lakey reported that Officer McIntire is now on solo patrol.

Renovations for the police department have been completed. He would like to thank the council for approving this.

Phillips asked about purchasing a drone. Chief Lakey passed out a drone proposal to council members. He had applied for a grant but was denied. The estimated cost is \$18,000.00, which includes training. He also plans on certifying almost all of his officers.

Phillips asked if the fire department needed it, and then if they could use it. Chief Lakey stated yes since it is part of our entity.

Johnson asked if there were other entities that had one. Chief Lakey said that Galion, Delaware, and Sunbury have one.

Phillips moved, and Carey seconded to prepare legislation for the purchase of a drone.

Bierce asked how beneficial it would be to the police department to have one. Chief Lakey said it would be like any other equipment they have. They would be able to locate missing children or missing seniors, among other essential uses.

Roll call vote: 5 ayes, Bierce abstained.

Johnson asked about longevity. Chief said around 5 years, and that is mainly for the battery, which costs around \$500.00. Bierce asked if there were any grants available. Chief said that most grants prohibit drones.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT

Chief Carey reported that they had conducted fire training on Twp Rd 108 with other fire departments.

Pump repairs on the rescue truck have started.

He also stated that having a drone would benefit the fire department. He cited an example of a fire department sending in a drone as it was unsafe for someone to enter the building.

FINANCE - CHRIS SHERBOURNE

No report.

SAFETY - KAY HINES

No report.

SERVICES - CHRIS SHERBOURNE

No report.

RULES - MARK PHILLIPS

The committee met to discuss the official seal for Mount Gilead, which will be placed on the front of the wooden podium. This is being made locally.

The committee will review engineering firms that could produce a new zoning district map.

Police Chief Lakey recommended code updates for Title Seven, Chapter 351, Parking. These suggestions will be forwarded to Village Solicitor Matt Griffith for his review and suggestions.

The resolution passed on April 20th would not actually prevent a company from placing a data center in the Village. He recommended that we pass a six-month moratorium. Village Solicitor will look into this.

The rezoning request for the Safe Harbor Property is to convert the property from a manufacturing zone to a residential area.

Phillips announced that synthetic kratom will be illegal to sell on May 14th, and that natural kratom will still be legal to sell. Chief Lakey will investigate kratom sales in the Village at gas stations and specialty shops.

ADMINISTRATOR - DEREK K. ALLEN

Allen reported that the benches and trash cans from the automobile accident have been installed.

The diving boards have been installed, and the pool has been filled.

Demolition of the old basketball/tennis courts is completed. The stone base is completed. There were two change orders for bad soil under the basketball court.

The base construction of the tennis courts is ongoing.

There were two fence proposals in council packets for the Edison ballfields, totaling \$29,765.00. Bierce moved, and Sherbourne seconded to purchase the fence. Roll call votes: 6 ayes.

Ryan Bash has been appointed interim Service Coordinator effective May 4th.

Due to the weather, the paving has been delayed until the week of May 4th. The base repairs have been completed.

Trees for Arbor Day planting have been picked up. The tree planting at Park Avenue Elementary School was on April 30th.

There is an engineering agreement with GPD Group for the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit renewal. Contract amount is \$18,205.00. Sherbourne moved, and Phillips seconded to pay GPD \$18,205.00 for this permit renewal. Roll call vote: 6 ayes.

A gearbox that turns the aeration drum on the oxidation ditch at the wastewater plant must be replaced. The quote from Grain Equipment Company is \$22,752.04. Phillips moved, and Carey seconded to purchase the gearbox for \$22,752.04. Roll call vote: 6 ayes.

There was a sewer blockage on Park Avenue that caused sewage to back up into the basement of 318 Park Avenue. This is the same house that had a sewer backup in the basement in February. The cause of the February backup was grease from the school being sent down the sanitary sewer. The Village paid approximately \$10,000.00 for Serv-Pro to clean and disinfect the basement.

On Tuesday, April 28th, at 9:00 pm, we received a call that the sanitary sewer had backed up in the basement again. Staff jetted the main and found grease in the sewer again. A meeting was conducted on Wednesday morning between staff, school officials, and the homeowner. Frank Foltz inspected the school's sanitary system with the school maintenance official and found an unmaintained grease trap at the elementary school. A supplemental appropriation is in the council packet for these expenses.

A check valve will be installed to prevent this from happening again.

Allen will go to a school board meeting to discuss reimbursement to the Village for this cleanup.

There is an ordinance in the council packet to award the bid to Simonson Construction Services for the water plant improvements, phase I project.

There is a Mt. Gilead Planning Commission meeting scheduled for May 28th for the rezoning request for Safe Harbor. The adjoining property owners have been notified through the mail, and a legal notice has been published in the newspaper.

MAYOR - DONNA J. CARVER

She attended an Eco Center Earth Day event and the rules committee meeting.

She had participated in a tree-planting event at Park Avenue Elementary.

May 1st, she held a victory shaft dedication at the Capitol Theater, followed by the unveiling of the history marker.

We are the first America 250 history marker in the State of Ohio.

SOLICITOR

No report.

FISCAL OFFICER - CATHY DAVIS

Phillips moved, and Carey seconded to approve the bills. Roll call vote: 6 ayes.

Hines moved and Carey seconded to pass resolution 4-20-26 "adopting a credit card policy for the village" to the third reading. Roll call vote: 6 ayes.

Sherbourne moved, and Johnson seconded the passage of ordinance 2018 “to amend part one, administrative code, title five administrative, chapter 147 village administrator, section 147.02, powers; duties; functions of the village of Mount Gilead codified ordinances”. Roll call vote: 6 ayes.

Phillips moved and Hines seconded to pass ordinance 2019 “approving the editing & inclusion of certain ordinances as parts of the various component codes of the codified ordinances; providing for the adoption and publication of new matter in the updated and revised codified ordinances; and repealing ordinances and resolutions in conflict therewith”, to the third reading. Roll Call: 6 ayes.

Johnson moved and Carey seconded to suspend the reading of ordinance 2022 “accepting the base bid of Simonson construction serviced, inc. of Ashland, Ohio, for the village of Mount Gilead WTP improvements phase I project for an amount not to exceed \$6,080,000.00 as the lowest and best bid and declaring an emergency”. Roll call: 6 ayes.

Phillips moved, and Johnson seconded to pass ordinance 2022. Roll call vote: 6 ayes.

Hines moved, and Phillips seconded to suspend the reading of ordinance 2023 “supplemental appropriations”. Roll call vote: 6 ayes.

Himes moved, and Phillips seconded to pass ordinance 2023. Roll call vote: 6 ayes.

Sherbourne moved, and Carey seconded to pass the amended Mount Gilead Council Rules of Procedure with the effective date of May 18th. Roll call vote: 6 ayes.

The council as a whole committee will meet on May 18th at 6:00 pm.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

Allen announced that the Tri-Rivers students will help clean up in the Village, Fire Department, and at Headwaters.

Bierce asked when the pool parking lot will be paved. This has been delayed due to the weather.

Phillips asked when the fire hydrants will need to be painted. We will discuss this in committee.

Bierce asked what work would be done on baseball fields A and B. Allen said we would drag them as soon as the weather permits.

Hines moved to adjourn at 8:01 pm.

Cathy Davis, Fiscal Officer

Donna J. Carver, Mayor