



Minutes: Village Council Meeting 6/25-26

The meeting focused primarily on:

- Approval of previous meeting minutes
- Updates on finances, public safety, infrastructure, and public works projects
- Citizen comments regarding lake maintenance and tree care
- Passage of a cybersecurity compliance resolution
- Discussion of waste collection services and the 2027 tax budget
- Updates on the maintenance building, road projects, sidewalks, traffic safety concerns, and the Green Line trail project

The meeting was relatively routine, with most actions approved unanimously and several infrastructure and maintenance topics discussed.

Opening and Administrative Business

Attendance

Present: Councilpersons Camara, Grant, Martin Paessun, Pinter

Absent (excused): Councilperson Koss

Motion made by Paessun, 2nd by Grant to excuse Councilperson Koss

Ayes: Camara, Grant, Martin, Paessun, Pinter

Also in attendance: Mayor Southard, Fiscal Officer Wilcheck, Chief Delp, Planner Fischer

Minutes Approved

- June 11, 2026 Committee-as-a-Whole Meeting
 - Motion made by Camara, 2nd by Pinter
 - Unanimous “aye” vote
- June 11, 2026 Council Meeting
 - Motion made by Grant, 2nd by Martin
 - Unanimous “aye” vote
- June 18, 2026 Pool House Work Session
 - Motion made by Martin, 2nd by Paessun
 - Unanimous “aye” vote
- June 18, 2026 Pool Work Session
 - Motion made by Camara, 2nd by Martin
 - Unanimous “aye” vote

Committee as a Whole Report

Finance Update

Key items:

2027 Tax Budget

- The annual tax budget process is underway.
- The village must complete and submit the budget to the county budget commission by mid-July.
- The budget legislation received its first reading later in the meeting.

Pool House Project

- Council continues working toward completion of pool house-related matters.
- Additional discussion was expected in future meetings and work sessions.

Public Safety Update

Council and the Police Chief discussed recent incidents in the village and decided to schedule a dedicated public meeting.

Purpose:

- Discuss recent safety concerns and incidents.
- Hold the meeting in the evening to maximize public participation.

A public notice will be issued once the date is finalized.

Streets and Infrastructure

Several public works projects are moving forward:

CCTV Project

- The village expects to proceed soon with CCTV-related infrastructure work.

Deferred Repairs

- Planning is underway for repairs that have been postponed over the past several years.

MS4 / EPA Compliance Project

- Work related to stormwater management and Ohio EPA MS4 requirements will soon be put out for bid.

Overall message:

- Multiple infrastructure and street projects are advancing simultaneously.
-

Citizen Comments

Tony Benedetti of Berry Lane Court focused on 2 primary issues

A. Lake Cleanup and Drainage

Tony shared that:

- The most effective way to clean the lake is to lower the water level.
- The drain should be opened well in advance because:
 - The lake takes time to drain.
 - Rainfall can quickly refill it.
- Proper timing requires coordination with weather conditions.

Tony volunteered to help open the drain, noting he had done it previously using an engine hoist.

Council Response

Officials noted:

- A recent dam inspection report requires the drain to be opened periodically.
- Opening the drain is part of required maintenance.
- A broader discussion on lake management will occur during the July 16 work session.

B. Tree Maintenance in the New Development

Tony proposed:

- Trimming low branches and "sucker" growth from newly planted trees.
- Performing the work as part of his son's community service hours.

His rationale:

- Proper pruning now will improve long-term tree growth.
- The trees will significantly shape the neighborhood's future appearance.
- Early maintenance protects the investment made in landscaping.

Council Response

The mayor and council were receptive.

Outcome:

- Tony will be allowed to perform the tree trimming.
- The village will provide documentation for his son's community service hours.

Discussion About Tree Growth

Council members discussed how dramatically neighborhoods can change after 10 years of tree growth.

One member referenced a former New Albany neighborhood where:

- Trees matured significantly.
- The area became almost unrecognizable compared to when it was first developed.

This was cited as support for Tony's argument about preserving and maintaining the village's young trees.

Legislation

Resolution 2026-11 – Cybersecurity Plan

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE VILLAGE OF MINERVA PARK CYBERSECURITY PLAN

- Motion to approve made by Camara, 2nd by Pinter

- Ayes: Grant, Martin, Paessun, Pinter, Camara

Resolution 2026-13 – Waste Collection Services

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT FOR THE COLLECTION AND REMOVAL OF RUBBISH, TRASH, RECYCLABLES, GARBAGE AND YARD WASTE FROM RESIDENCES (2nd reading)

Resolution 2026-14 – 2027 Tax Budget

Purpose

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE TAX BUDGET FOR THE VILLAGE OF MINERVA PARK FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2027 AND TO SUBMIT THE SAME TO THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BUDGET COMMISSION AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY (1st reading-intent to suspend the rules requiring 3 readings and pass as an emergency on the 2nd reading)

Old and New Business

LB's Fish & Chicken Food Truck will be in the Village Friday 6/26

Maintenance Building Project

Council discussed progress on the maintenance garage.

Key points:

- Occupancy approval is still pending.
- Delays are related to paperwork and approvals.
- Officials had hoped for completion by the end of June.
- Expectations have shifted toward completion by the end of summer.

Phantom Fireworks Conditions

Discussion confirmed:

- Conditions related to the upcoming fireworks event have been communicated.
- Police staffing plans are in place.
- Additional officers may be brought in from neighboring agencies.

Sidewalk Project

Update provided:

- Survey work is underway.
- Engineering contracts are progressing.
- The village's selected engineering firm has submitted its contract.

Minerva Lake Road Project

Council discussed unfinished work connected to the road project.

Remaining items include:

- Relocation/removal of AT&T equipment.
- Completion of sidewalk sections blocked by utility infrastructure.

AT&T reportedly indicated completion by the end of June, but work remains unfinished.

Additional observation:

- A construction entrance sign remains in place and may need removal.

Traffic and Safety Concerns

Request for Additional Flashing Stop Sign

A resident suggested adding a flashing stop sign near the 2999 building on Northland Plaza.

Reason:

- Frequent stop sign violations.
- Safety concerns for drivers and pedestrians.

Council discussed:

- Potential future funding.
- Including additional signage projects in broader transportation planning.

Enforcement Challenges

The Police Chief explained that enforcement is difficult at one particular stop sign because:

- Visibility is poor from the stop bar.
- Drivers often stop, then pull forward to gain visibility.
- This behavior can appear to be a stop sign violation even when a stop occurred.

The intersection geometry itself contributes to the problem.

Parking Near Green Line Trail Area

Council discussed vehicles parking near apartments adjacent to the Green Line trail corridor.

Issue:

- Some vehicles appear to remain parked for extended periods.

Complication:

- The relevant right-of-way belongs to the City of Columbus rather than the village.

Potential solution:

- Discuss no-parking signage with Columbus officials.

Upcoming Green Line Discussions

Officials noted that representatives connected with the Green Line project will appear before council in the coming months.

Council plans to raise parking concerns, safety issues and signage requests during those discussion

Meeting Tone and Outcomes

The meeting was collaborative and largely procedural. Major takeaways include:

Decisions Made

- ✓ Approved multiple sets of meeting minutes
- ✓ Passed the cybersecurity compliance resolution
- ✓ Approved community service tree maintenance proposal
- ✓ Continued progress toward the 2027 tax budget

Projects Moving Forward

- Pool house completion efforts
- Maintenance garage occupancy approval
- Sidewalk engineering work
- CCTV infrastructure project
- EPA stormwater compliance work
- Green Line coordination
- Lake maintenance planning

Future Topics

- July 16 work session
- Public safety meeting regarding recent incidents
- Waste collection contract approval
- Emergency adoption of the 2027 tax budget
- Traffic calming and signage improvements

Motion to adjourn made by Camara; 2nd by Martin

Meeting adjourned 7:49 PM

Jeffrey Wilcheck, Fiscal Officer

Tiffany Southard, Mayor