

Village Council Work Session Summary – May 1, 2025

Attendees:

Council President Camara , Councilmembers Koss, Martin, Grant, Village Attorney, and others.

1. Green Space Maintenance & Landscaping

- Issue: Dandelion overgrowth, poor appearance of green spaces—especially on Minerva Lake Road.
 - Discussion Points:
 - Residents oppose chemical treatments due to environmental concerns.
 - Debate over natural alternatives (wildflowers, creeping phlox, clover/fescue blends).
 - Suggestions for treating only high-visibility areas with mild, pre-emergent herbicides.
 - Agreement to seek quotes for next year and explore staff licensure for application.
 - Idea: Poll residents via newsletter for landscaping suggestions.
 - Ongoing concern about maintaining a “premier neighborhood” aesthetic.
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2. Council and Mayor Compensation

- Current Ordinance: Council President \$450/month, Councilmembers \$400.
 - Proposed Increases:
 - General consensus around raising to \$500/month for councilmembers, possibly more for president.
 - Recognized increase in time/energy commitments by council in recent years.
 - Noted that council members pay for their own tech (laptops, software).
 - Mayor’s Salary:
 - Discussion about postponing changes until a new term or council takes office.
 - Suggestion to tie salary to external benchmarks (like judicial pay or COLA-based adjustments).
 - General discomfort with council raising their own pay directly.
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3. Delinquent Tax Filers Enforcement Plan

- Overview:
 - Plan to address non-filers back to 2018 using RITA data.
 - Step 1: Letter from Village Attorney giving 30 days to file.
 - Step 2: If no response, issue misdemeanor citations.
 - Goal: Compliance—not collection. Let RITA handle penalties.
 - Potential fine: \$250 (M4 misdemeanor).
 - Clarified: Filing, not payment, is the legal requirement.
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4. Infrastructure Concerns

- Water Lines on Northlake:
 - Mention of premature line failures in that area.
 - Possible need to prioritize maintenance/scoping due to recurring problems.
- Fire Hydrants:
 - Repairs in progress; some hydrants were long-missing or inactive.

- Farview Entry Sign Lighting:
 - Still under investigation; caused by water line work.
 - Council requested repair estimates regardless of reimbursement timeline.
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5. Liquor License Expansion

- Current Status: Village is dry (limited or no liquor permits).
 - Discussion:
 - Residents/businesses showing interest.
 - Options include allowing limited liquor licenses or entertainment district zoning.
 - Concerns raised about unintended consequences (e.g., noisy establishments, enforcement challenges).
 - Village can revoke liquor options if issues arise, but licenses are state-regulated.
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6. Village Redevelopment Goals

- Focus on revamping the 161 corridor and attracting new businesses.
 - Interest in beautification and signage consistency (standard colors, fonts).
 - Ongoing discussion of:
 - Zoning for higher-value retail.
 - Possible sign code updates via Planning & Zoning.
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7. Other Topics & Loose Ends

- Charter Reform: Agreed to wait until David's council seat is filled.
- Jordan Rd Noise Complaints: Repeated ATV/motorbike activity; may fall under noise/nuisance ordinance.
- Grass/Dandelion Ordinance Enforcement: Clarified 6-inch height rule applies; use pellet treatments where possible.
- Phantom Fireworks Parking Lot Usage: Unclear jurisdiction on resident shortcuts—requires follow-up.
- Debris Near Korean Church: Area belongs to Columbus, not under village jurisdiction.
- Tree Removal on Farview (School Project):
 - Removed due to road widening.
 - Originally planted by MI Homes, likely paid for by village.
 - Council pushing for replanting efforts.