

Village Council Regular Meeting: July 9, 2026 7:15 PM

Attendance: Councilpersons Camara, Koss, Martin, Paessun, Pinter, & Grant; Chief Delp, Fiscal Officer Wilcheck, Law Director Shamp, Planning Director Fischer



Executive Overview

Council conducted routine business, approved prior meeting minutes, received departmental reports, and approved several pieces of legislation. Major topics included police staffing and operations, ongoing capital projects, Charter Commission progress, sidewalks and pathway planning, community programming, communications upgrades, and fiscal matters.

Department & Committee Reports

Police Department: Chief Matt Delp

Chief reported that monthly calls for service declined significantly across nearly every category. While no specific explanation could be identified, Council viewed the reduction as an anomaly rather than a confirmed trend.

The Chief also provided an update on the department's transition to four 10-hour shifts while operating with approximately one-third fewer officers.

Key observations:

- Overtime remained exceptionally low, with only four overtime hours recorded during June.
- Longer shifts have allowed supervisors to cover scheduling gaps more efficiently.
- Officers have responded favorably to the new schedule and appreciate longer consecutive periods off.
- The primary concern remains officer safety during periods when only one officer is on duty before neighboring agencies can provide backup.
- Council expressed appreciation for the continued visible police presence throughout the Village despite staffing shortages.

Fiscal Report: Fiscal Officer Jeff Wilczak

- June financial reports were distributed to Council.
- Supplemental appropriations are required to cover:
 - Charter Commission legal expenses
 - North Lake Court project costs
 - Other anticipated expenditures
- Tax Budget Resolution was prepared for timely submission to the Franklin County Budget Commission.

Engineering Report: Updates included:

Maintenance Building

Construction administration continues, including:

- contractor coordination
- permit revisions
- review of pay requests
- certified payroll
- responses to RFIs
- coordination with the Columbus Division of Water

North Lake Court Improvements

- Project advertised July 6.
- Bid opening scheduled for July 31.

MS4 Compliance

A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) has been issued for professional consulting services related to MS4 stormwater compliance. Qualification statements are expected in early August.

Legal Report: Jesse Shamp

Legal Counsel reported continued progress by the Charter Commission.

Highlights include:

- Three meetings have been completed.
- Weekly meetings will continue.
- Draft revisions are progressing faster than initially anticipated.

Discussion focused on possible Charter amendments intended to:

- eliminate unnecessary emergency legislation
- reduce mandatory three-reading requirements for administrative actions
- streamline approvals for police hiring
- simplify legislation driven by state or county deadlines

Council members were encouraged to provide feedback to the Charter Commission.

The Commission also announced interviews for additional commission members scheduled for July 21.

Planning & Zoning: Village Planner Eric Fisher reported:

Sidewalk and Pathway Project

Current work includes:

- field surveying
- engineering coordination
- agreement revisions

A preliminary design is anticipated within approximately three to four months.

Cleveland Avenue Zoning

Council should expect legislation next month regarding Planning & Zoning's recommended zoning modifications.

Council also discussed several zoning enforcement questions, including:

- vehicle repair activities occurring at residences
- follow-up regarding a previously approved redevelopment project near **Staken** Creek

MPCA (Minerva Park Community Association): Jason Camara

Council received an update on recent community events.

Highlights

- Independence Day Declaration reading was well attended.
- Arts in the Park experienced excellent weather and successful attendance.
- Sip & Dip events continue attracting residents.
- Garden Tour attendance exceeded previous years.
- Family Fun Night is scheduled for **July 25** featuring a nacho bar.
- July newsletter will be distributed July 26.

Council encouraged broader promotion of community events, particularly the Garden Tour and Sip & Dip, to improve resident participation.

Committee Reports

Finance: Tony Pinter

- Tax Budget hearing completed.
- Budget planning meetings will begin this fall.
- Fiscal planning sessions anticipated during September and October.

Safety: Cathy Paessun

- Basketball Courts
- Council intends to keep basketball hoops removed for the foreseeable future following prior safety incidents.
- Break-ins
- Recent vehicle break-ins were discussed, along with the importance of maintaining investigative equipment and police resources.
- Phantom Fireworks
- The committee plans a post-event review with Phantom Fireworks representatives.
- Council publicly recognized Chief Delp and department personnel for maintaining public safety despite staffing shortages.

Legislation Committee: Tommy Grant

Work continues on a broader "Good Neighbor" legislative package addressing:

- residential parking
 - noise ordinance updates
 - neighborhood quality-of-life improvements
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Mayor's Report

Highlights included:

- MS4 RFQ advertisement completed.
- North Lake Court bids officially opened.
- Pool memberships reached **312**, representing the highest participation in many years.
- Ohio Aquatics inspection reports were distributed.
- Village communications are transitioning from Nixle/Textedly/Mailchimp to Everbridge.

Benefits of Everbridge include:

- integrated email and text notifications
- automatic social media posting
- website integration
- geographic notification capabilities

Council encouraged continued marketing to increase resident enrollment.

Citizen Comments

Resident Tony Benedetti of Berry Lane Court addressed Council regarding:

- visibility concerns at the Fonda Rosa stop sign
 - vegetation and structures obstructing sight triangles
 - enforcement of Village code requirements
 - concerns regarding permitting information published in Village communications
 - requests for improved code enforcement reporting and oversight
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Legislative Action

Ordinance 2026-10

Passed (Emergency) Unanimously

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ORDINANCE 2026-09 AND REINSTATING THE FULL TERMS OF ORDINANCE 2025-19 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (1st reading - intent to suspend the rules requiring 3 readings and pass as an emergency)

Motion to approve made by Paessun; 2nd by Pinter

Ordinance 2026-11

Passed Unanimously

AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE VILLAGE OF MINERVA PARK FOR THE YEAR 2026 (1st reading - intent to suspend the rules requiring 3 readings)

Council noted that appropriations include **up to \$30,000** for Charter Commission expenses.

Motion to approve made by Grant; 2nd by Pinter

Resolution 2026-13

Passed Unanimously

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A CONTRACT FOR THE COLLECTION AND REMOVAL OF RUBBISH, TRASH, RECYCLABLES, GARBAGE, AND YARD WASTE FROM RESIDENCES (3rd reading)

Council cited weekly recycling service and service consistency as significant factors in selecting the provider.

Motion to approve made by Pinter; 2nd by Koss

Resolution 2026-14

Passed (Emergency) Unanimously

A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE TAX BUDGET FOR THE VILLAGE OF MINERVA PARK, OHIO FOR THE YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY1, 2027 AND TO SUBMIT THE SAME TO THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BUDGET COMMISSION AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY (2nd reading - intent to suspend the rules requiring 3 readings and pass as an emergency)

Motion to approve made by Grant; 2nd by Paessun

Resolution 2026-15

First Reading

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE AND ADVANCE TO THE SIDEWALKS AND PATHWAYS FUND AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY (1st reading - intent to pass as an emergency upon 3rd reading)

Resolution 2026-16

First Reading

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND AND REVISE THE MINERVA PARK FEE SCHEDULE AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY (1st reading)

Old Business

Pool

Council agreed to hold a community meeting on the pool project the following Wednesday at **6:30 PM** to discuss future plans with residents.

Maintenance Building

Construction continues, although Council expressed frustration regarding project delays.

Key Takeaways

- Police operations remain effective despite staffing shortages, with overtime remaining well below expectations.
 - Charter Commission work continues at an accelerated pace, with procedural reforms under active consideration.
 - Major infrastructure initiatives—including North Lake Court improvements and the sidewalk/pathway project—continue to advance.
 - Community engagement remains strong, highlighted by record pool memberships and successful summer programming.
 - Everbridge implementation will modernize Village emergency and community communications.
 - Council approved supplemental appropriations, the 2027 Tax Budget, and solid waste collection agreements while advancing additional legislation for future consideration.
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Motion to adjourn made by Camara; 2nd by Koss-meeting adjourned @ 8:02 PM

Jeffrey Wilcheck, Fiscal Officer

Tiffany Southard, Mayor