

VILLAGE OF MINERVA PARK COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES September 10, 2026 7:25 p.m.

1. Attendance: Councilpersons Grant, Paessun, Camara & Martin

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

Motion to excuse Councilperson Martin made by Grant; 2nd by Paessun

Both motions approved by unanimous aye vote

Also in attendance: Chief Delp, Fiscal Officer Wilcheck, Planner Fischer, Attorney Shamp

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

A. August 27, 2026 Committee as a Whole Minutes

Motion to approve made by Pinter; 2nd by Paessun

Voting Aye: Grant, Paessun, Pinter; Abstaining: Camara

B. August 27, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve made by Grant; 2nd by Paessun

Voting Aye: Paessun, Pinter, Grant ; Abstaining: Camara

C. September 3, 2026 Council Work Session Minutes

Motion to approve made by Camara; 2nd by Pinter

Voting Aye: Camara, Pinter, Grant, Paessun

3. Village Official Reports

A. Police Chief — Matt Delp

Chief Matt Delp reported that Council members had received copies of his report. He had no additional matters to report and no questions were raised.

B. Fiscal Officer — Jeffrey Wilcheck

Fiscal Officer Jeffrey Wilcheck reported that the **August financial report** had been distributed to Council.

He advised Council that a **Finance Committee meeting** was scheduled for the following week to discuss priorities for the 2026 budget.

Wilcheck also reported that a request had been presented during the Council Work Session to increase the contract with **Brandstetter Carroll** for development of the pool house plans, bid documents, and related work. A resolution concerning the contract amendment was scheduled for its first reading later in the meeting.

Council requested that, before voting on the additional funding, the Village obtain written information from Brandstetter Carroll regarding the anticipated schedule and how quickly the plans would be delivered.

Wilcheck indicated that he would push for a more definite schedule.

C. Engineer report — Mike Flickinger (reported by Mayor Southard)

The Council discussed several operational and infrastructure matters.

Council discussed the Village's MS-4 work and reported that, following an evaluation process, the Village intended to move forward with **V3**.

No formal contract was yet in place. The administration expected to bring the matter to Council once the contract was prepared.

Maintenance Building

The maintenance building project was reported to be progressing.

- Concrete had been poured.
- Water lines were installed.
- Sewer work was completed.
- Storm drainage work was completed.
- The gas line was expected to be installed the following week.
- The project was anticipated to receive a certificate of occupancy in early October.
- Additional work would need to be completed before the Village could physically move into the facility.

The administration was continuing to press the general contractor regarding completion.

Roadway Improvements

The Village was working toward closing out the **2025 roadway improvements** project. AT&T had completed additional concrete-related work, and the project was described as nearing completion.

North Lake Court Roadway Project

The Village had selected **Strawser** as the contractor for the North Lake Court roadway project. The contract had been completed and signed, and the project was moving forward. A start date had initially been uncertain; later discussion established that the project was expected to begin sometime between **October 5 and October 14, 2026**.

Drainage / Flooding

Recent heavy rainfall had again resulted in flooding in several areas, including:

- In front of the church
- The court area
- A Council member's basement

The Village planned to continue examining options for cleaning out the court area and otherwise alleviating drainage problems.

D. Legal — Jesse Shamp

Village Legal Counsel Jesse Shamp reported that there was no formal legal report.

He discussed **Ordinance 2026-13**, which updates the Village's local ordinances to incorporate changes enacted by the Ohio legislature. Muni Code serves as the Village's code codifier and had recently completed the update.

Counsel indicated that he had reviewed the materials and had not identified anything alarming or any changes affecting the Village's local amendments.

He planned to provide Council with a more detailed explanation, potentially at the first Council meeting in October.

The ordinance updates include:

1. Traffic provisions
2. General ordinances/non-traffic offenses

E. Village Planner — Eric Fisher

Village Planner Eric Fisher reported that the **City of Columbus** was expected to return to the

P & Z Commission the following week and then appear before Village Council.

Discussion also addressed attendance at an upcoming **September 16 Planning and Zoning (P&Z) meeting**, because one or two members were expected to be absent.

It was stated that even with only three members present, the P&Z could proceed because the action anticipated at that meeting would be a recommendation to Council.

Council agreed that attendance should be double-checked as the meeting approached.

F. Zoning Officer

The Zoning Officer's report had been distributed to Council. Members were invited to contact the appropriate officials with questions.

G. Planning and Zoning — Tommy Grant

Tommy Grant indicated that the matters requiring discussion had been covered.

An email concerning the upcoming Planning and Zoning meeting was to be distributed with the agenda.

H. MPCA — Council President Camara

Council President Camara reported on the Minerva Park Civic Association (MPCA) meeting held the previous evening.

Upcoming MPCA Events

- **Yard Sale:** Scheduled for September 18–20, with approximately 49 participants registered at the time of the report.
- **Bob Gale Recognition:** Scheduled for Sunday at 1:00 p.m. to recognize his long-time service to the community.
- **Fall Festival:** Scheduled for October 17, with registration already open. Activities were planned from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., with the parade at noon. Judges were being sought for the costume contest.
- **Beggar's Night:** Council had previously agreed to align the date with the surrounding community. The date identified was **Thursday, October 29**.
- **Minerva France Truck or Treat:** Scheduled for October 15.
- **Newsletter:** A request was made to reduce Village newsletter content slightly to allow space for information from the Charter Commission.

East Shore Court Property / Pathway

Council discussed a resident suggestion concerning the property at **2871 East Shore Court**, which was currently for sale and had been suggested as a possible route for a pathway.

It was clarified that existing easements had already been reviewed by ODR and that a pathway could potentially proceed through the existing easement area upon final approval of a pathway plan.

4. Committee as a Whole Reports

A. Finance — Councilperson Tony Pinter

Councilperson Tony Pinter emphasized that the Village was entering budget season. A Finance Committee meeting was scheduled for the following Monday at **8:00 a.m.** to discuss budget priorities.

Additional budget meetings were anticipated during October.

The tentative budget schedule discussed included:

- **November 5:** Budget presentation to Council
- **November 12:** First reading of the appropriation legislation
- **November 19:** Second reading
- **December 10:** Third reading and passage

Pinter also commended Fiscal Officer Jeffrey Wilcheck for his presentation to the Charter Commission.

B. Safety

The Safety Committee reported that the **basketball court had reopened** and was operating well.

The **Ponderosa striping** remained under review, with additional information expected.

The Committee had also reviewed information from a postseason debrief.

Police Vehicle

Council discussed a police vehicle that had been parked in front of the Village building. The vehicle was confirmed to be **decommissioned**. It had previously received a new engine following an engine recall, but Council determined that the Village would not retain the vehicle for operational use.

The Village explored selling the vehicle but determined that previous sale options did not provide sufficient value. The current plan was for the vehicle to be **traded in toward next year's replacement vehicle**.

Police Staffing

Council was advised that:

- A new police officer had joined the department.
- Other candidates were in process for remaining open positions.

October 14 Safety Meeting

A special Safety Committee meeting was confirmed for **October 14 at 6:00 p.m.**

The meeting was expected to include a broader discussion of technology available to support Village policing while balancing residents' privacy concerns.

The meeting was scheduled in the evening to allow residents who had expressed concerns about police technology to attend and hear directly from the Chief.

C. Legislation — Councilperson Tommy Grant

Councilperson Tommy Grant reported on legislation before Council.

Items discussed included:

- Updated traffic ordinances
- Updated general ordinances
- The pool house project resolution
- Annual contracts
- Rules of Council
- Pool fees

Council intended to review these recurring annual matters and consider whether any changes were appropriate.

5. Mayor's Report

A. The meeting included discussion of the success of **First Responders Night**.

Appreciation was expressed to the Chief, Village staff, volunteers, residents, and participating police departments for their involvement.

It was noted that the event had received significant positive feedback from residents and participating communities.

B. The Village also discussed concerns raised by residents regarding maintenance of the Village's ponds and surrounding areas, particularly the **hidden pond**.

The concerns involved more than grass maintenance and potentially included:

- Muck
- Algae
- General pond condition
- Surrounding areas
- Overall maintenance

Council discussed having Village staff photograph the ponds before the next major work session so the conditions could be reviewed.

The matter could also be coordinated with the Village's landscaping contract and evaluated to determine which areas are covered.

C. North Lake Court Project — Resident Communication

The North Lake Court project was expected to begin between **October 5 and October 14**.

Council discussed the need to communicate proactively with affected residents regarding construction impacts, including possible driveway/access issues.

Council discussed potential communication methods such as:

- Postcards
- Letters
- The Village newsletter
- Direct communication from the contractor

Council also discussed the anticipated removal of a portion of the existing roadway/center section because engineering review indicated that the existing area was not sufficiently large for large construction trucks.

Council emphasized the importance of notifying residents in advance.

6. Public Comments

Tony Benedetti of Berry Lane Ct. addressed Council regarding the **swimming pool and pool house project**.

Benedetti questioned the continued use of the current architect and expressed concern about additional project costs and a proposal that exceeded the budget.

He also questioned the proposed size and purpose of the concession stand within the planned pool house, particularly in light of discussion concerning the profitability of the existing concession operation.

Benedetti suggested that Council consider whether the existing pool house could instead be remodeled and made ADA compliant, potentially at a lower cost.

He also raised broader concerns regarding:

- The condition and repairability of the existing pool house
- Pool project planning
- Planning and Zoning responsibilities
- Long-term Village planning
- Development of a Village master plan

His comments were received by Council.

7. Legislation

A. Ordinance 2026-13 — Amending Traffic Ordinances

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF MINERVA PARK, OHIO TO PROVIDE AMENDMENTS TO GENERAL OFFENSES MINERVA PARK VILLAGE CODE SECTIONS 402.01, 414.02, 414.03, 414.04, 414.09, 414.10, 416.01, 416.03, 416.11, 416.12, 432.16, 432.22, 432.32, 432.33, 432.34, 432.35, 432.36, 434.01, 434.03, 434.04, 434.10, 434.11, 436.04, 436.071, 436.074, 436.09, 436.14, 438024, 438.26, 438.29, 440.08, 442.01, 452.03, 452.05, 452.06; TO PROVIDE FOR PENALTIES; TO PROVIDE FOR CODIFICATION; TO PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

B. Ordinance 2026-14 — Amending General Ordinances

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF MINERVA PARK, OHIO TO PROVIDE AMENDMENTS TO GENERAL OFFENSES MINERVA PARK VILLAGE CODE SECTIONS 606.06, 608.01, 608.04, 608.06, 608.12, N608.16, 624.01, 624.02, 624.03, 624.04, 624.06, 624.07, 624.08, 624.15, 630.01, 630.06, 636.14, 636.21, 642.01, 642.12, 666.01, 666.03, 666.24, 672.01, 672.02, 672.22, 678.14, 698.03; TO PROVIDE FOR PENALTIES; TO PROVIDE FOR CODIFICATION; TO

PROVIDE FOR SEVERABILITY; TO REPEAL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES; TO PROVIDE AN EFFECTIVE DATE; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES. (1st reading)

C. Resolution 2026-18 — Pool House Project

A RESOLUTION TO AMEND THE CONTRACT FOR THE POOL HOUSE PROJECT AND DECLARING IT AN EMERGENCY (1st reading - intent to suspend the rules requiring 3 readings and pass as an emergency upon 2nd reading)

8. Old/New Business — Groundmaster Leaf Bid Contract

Council discussed the recommendation from the previous week's meeting to proceed with **Groundmaster** for a **three-year leaf bid contract for 2026**.

Motion to approve the recommendation to proceed with Groundmaster's three-year contract made by Paessun; 2nd by Pinter; approved with unanimous aye vote

- Opposed: None recorded

The transcript indicates that there were only **four Council members present** at the time of the vote and that legal counsel confirmed that proceeding with the vote was acceptable.

Result: Motion approved. The Village would proceed with completing the Groundmaster contract.

9. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn made by Grant; 2nd by Camara; approved with unanimous aye vote.

Jeffrey Wilcheck, Fiscal Officer

Tiffany Southard, Mayor