

## **Executive Summary: February 5, 2026 – Council Work Session**

The February Council Work Session focused primarily on two significant policy and capital issues: (1) the future direction, scope, and procurement method for the community pool and pool house project, and (2) the proposed resolution establishing council oversight of the police department. The meeting also included a brief executive session regarding personnel matters and preliminary planning for upcoming charter and job description discussions.

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### **Attendance and Procedure**

The session was attended by the full Council membership, including the Council President, fiscal officer, legal counsel, and clerk. The meeting began with a motion to enter executive session under Ohio Revised Code 121.22(G)(3) to discuss the discipline of a public employee, after which Council reconvened to conduct public business.

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### **Pool and Pool House Project**

The majority of the work session was dedicated to an in-depth discussion of the proposed pool and pool house redevelopment, reflecting both financial and procedural concerns.

### **Procurement and Design Process**

- Legal counsel advised that the village cannot proceed with a design-build approach under current circumstances because the required Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process was not properly followed when selecting the initial design firm (MKSK).
- The drawings produced to date were characterized as conceptual and lacking sufficient design parameters to qualify as formal criteria architect submissions.
- To move forward with a design-build model, Council would need to restart the process, issue an RFQ, and select a criteria architect in compliance with statutory requirements.

### **Cost and Budget Concerns**

- Council expressed significant concern about escalating costs, with estimates placing the full project at approximately \$3–3.5 million.
- The fiscal officer emphasized that issuing more than approximately \$2.0–2.1 million in income-tax-backed bonds would negatively affect the village's operating budget.
- Additional funding strategies discussed included potential grants (estimated at roughly \$500,000) and transfers from other funds through future appropriation changes.
- Members expressed reluctance to commit large sums to engineering or design work without confidence that the project could be fully funded and completed.

### **Design Scope and Phasing Options**

- Council reviewed cost-saving strategies recommended by a pool consultant, including:
  - Avoiding a zero-entry pool design to reduce filtration and infrastructure costs.
  - Using a handicap-accessible ramp instead of a zero-entry configuration.
  - Phasing optional features such as slides for future construction.
- It was confirmed that the existing pool house does not meet modern standards and cannot be reused for its original purpose, though it could potentially serve as storage.

- Council acknowledged that while the current pool has historic and community significance, it predates modern ADA and safety requirements and suffers from structural issues that make renovation impractical.

### **Concerns About Design Direction**

- Several members voiced dissatisfaction with the perceived lack of responsiveness from the design team, noting that revised plans appeared largely similar despite repeated feedback.
- There was tension between maintaining a clear vision for the facility and designing strictly to budget constraints.
- Council emphasized the importance of not advancing the project “for the sake of moving forward,” given the scale and long-term financial implications of the investment.

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### **Police Department Oversight Resolution**

The second major topic involved a proposed resolution establishing council oversight of the police department.

- Council had previously requested that the police chief provide input or documentation within 30 days; while some materials were circulated internally, there was confusion over distribution and completeness.
- Members agreed that additional time could be beneficial to better align the resolution with related internal policies and ensure consistency.
- Some council members expressed a preference to adopt the resolution promptly to establish a framework, with the option to amend or repeal it later.
- Legal counsel clarified that the measure is a resolution, not an ordinance, and therefore does not alter the municipal charter.
- Consensus emerged to postpone formal action until the second meeting in March to allow further review and refinement.

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### **Next Steps and Closing**

- Council plans to revisit charter matters and job descriptions at upcoming meetings.
- Decisions regarding the pool project must be advanced in the near term, as a vote will be required at an upcoming council meeting.
- The police oversight resolution is expected to return for consideration in March.

The meeting concluded with agreement on next steps and appreciation for members’ participation after an extended discussion.

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Jeffrey Wilcheck, Fiscal Officer

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Tiffany Southard, Mayor