

Minutes: Village Council Regular Meeting September 24, 2026

In Attendance: Councilpersons Camara, Martin, Koss, Paessun, Pinter & Grant; Mayor Southard, Chief Delp & Planner Fischer

1. Executive Session

Motion to enter executive session pursuant to **Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(1)** to consider the appointment of a public employee made by Camara; 2nd by Paessun

Aye: Camara, Martin, Koss, Grant, Paessun, Pinter

Council subsequently returned to regular session at **7:28 p.m.**

2. Columbus Recreation and Parks — Minerva Lake Road Crossing

The principal presentation concerned proposed improvements to the **Minerva Lake Road crossing**. Kelly Messer, a project manager with the City of Columbus Recreation and Parks, presented the proposed scope of services.

Proposed improvements

Columbus Recreation and Parks reported that the design approach had been modified from earlier concepts. Rather than extending the curb to narrow the roadway, the current proposal would:

- Maintain the existing roadway width.
- Install a **raised crosswalk** intended to slow vehicle traffic.
- Replace the existing sidewalk.
- Add lighting at the intersection.
- Add trail markings.
- Add signage.
- Improve the pedestrian/trail connection.

At this stage, Columbus was seeking Village feedback and a recommendation to proceed with the scope rather than formal permit approval. A formal permit would return to the Village at a later stage as the project approaches construction.

Council discussion and safety concerns

Council members discussed the height and design of the raised crosswalk, noting that the final dimensions would depend on roadway conditions/engineering considerations. The posted speed limit was identified as **25 mph**.

Several comments focused on pedestrian and cyclist safety, particularly because of concerns about motorists traveling quickly through the area and the potential for increased risk during nighttime events such as Halloween.

The Police Chief expressed support for additional traffic-control measures. Discussion included the possibility of **flashing/activated pedestrian signage** rather than relying solely on a raised crosswalk and conventional signage.

Columbus representatives indicated that the current concept did not include a rapid-flashing beacon because of the roadway's traffic and speed characteristics. Council nevertheless requested that additional safety measures be considered.

Additional lighting was also discussed. Columbus confirmed that lighting was proposed at the intersection, although the specific controls—including whether lighting could become brighter when pedestrians are present—had not yet been determined.

Additional design questions

Council asked about:

- The raised sidewalk area and its relationship to the existing grade.
- The nearby driveway and sidewalk connection.
- The width of the trail/crossing.
- Sign placement.
- Whether a safety zone or additional median feature was contemplated.

Columbus indicated that more detailed engineering plans would be developed and brought back as the project progresses.

Key takeaway: Council generally expressed support for the proposed crossing improvements while emphasizing that pedestrian safety, lighting, and visible/activated warning measures should receive particular attention.

3. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

Council considered the following minutes:

September 10, 2026 Committee as a Whole Minutes

Motion to approve 9/10/26 Committee as a Whole minutes made by Grant; 2nd by Pinter

The motion passed, with abstentions by Camara & Koss

September 10, 2026 Council Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve 9/10/26 Council Meeting minutes made by Pinter; 2nd by Grant

The motion passed, with abstention Koss

4. Committee as a Whole Report

Streets — Councilperson Koss

The Streets report focused on a **detention basin north of Jordan Road** that reportedly has not been maintained appropriately.

Council has been working with:

- The City of Columbus
- The owner of Northland Plaza
- Code enforcement
- Other contacts involved with the property

The property owner reportedly made written commitments to address the problem, but the Village had not observed the promised corrective work.

Council expressed concern that standing water could become a **mosquito-breeding area and potential public-health concern**.

The Village indicated that it is continuing to document the issue and communicate with Columbus and the property owner until the matter is addressed.

Services — Councilperson Martin

The Village selected **GroundMaster Landscaping** for a three-year fall landscaping/leaf-collection contract.

A specific service date was discussed but had not yet been confirmed at the meeting.

Residents were reminded to:

- Keep sticks and rocks away from leaf piles.
- Avoid parking in areas where leaf collection equipment needs access.
- Keep leaves and acorns out of storm sewers.
- Remove accumulated debris from sewer areas to help prevent flooding.

These maintenance reminders were emphasized as important to protecting drainage and preventing impacts to private property.

Recreation & Parks — Council President Camara

Council reported that the pool season had concluded.

Upcoming Recreation & Parks work includes:

- A meeting to begin discussing **pool fees for the following year**.
- Solicitation of landscaping bids for flower beds and related community services.
- Continued planning for a **new pool house**.

If additional funding for the pool house was approved, plans were expected to be ready around mid-month for bidding. The goal discussed was to obtain bids by approximately the second week of November, approve the project, and complete construction in time for the following spring season.

5. Citizen Comments

Tony Benedetti of Berry Lane Ct. raised concerns regarding the Village's approach to maintenance and advocated for establishing a dedicated **maintenance position or department**.

The resident cited:

- Catch-basin maintenance.
- Vegetation and drainage problems.
- Deteriorated curbs and gutters.
- The need for street cleaning.
- The absence of a formal maintenance program.
- The potential for a dedicated maintenance employee to address smaller problems more quickly.

He also referenced prior examples of residents and Village officials performing maintenance work themselves and suggested that a formal maintenance program could establish routine schedules and responsibilities.

A response from the Village indicated that staff had consulted with multiple engineers and the City of Columbus regarding the catch-basin issue and that the assessment had been reviewed by engineering professionals before proceeding.

Diane Schrimpf of Minerva Lake Rd. raised several topics, including:

- Drainage/sewer maintenance.
- The possibility of broader, coordinated work rather than addressing individual locations piecemeal.
- Appreciation for the Village's snow-plowing and salting operations.
- Green-space improvements.

She also discussed two dead trees near the large **Minerva Park sign at Fairview Drive** and proposed removing and replacing them. The resident offered to provide photographs and pricing information for potential replacement trees.

6. Legislation

Ordinance 2026-13 — Traffic Ordinances

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE VILLAGE OF MINERVA PARK, OHIO TO PROVIDE AMENDMENTS TO TRAFFIC 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, 438.24, 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. (2nd reading)

Ordinance 2026-14 — 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, 608.16, 624.01, 624.02, 624.03, 624.04, 624.06, 624.07, 624.08, 624.15, 630.01, 636.06, 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.(2nd reading)

Ordinance 2026-15 — One-Time Employee Bonus

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A ONE -TIME BONUS TO ALL VILLAGE EMPLOYEES IN RECOGNIZION OF SERVICE (1st reading)

Resolution 2026-18 — Pool House Project Contract Amendment

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)

Motion to suspend the rules requiring 3 readings for Res 2026-18 made by Koss; 2nd by Camara

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

Motion to approve Resolution 2026-18 as an emergency made by Pinter; 2nd by Camara

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

Resolution 2026-19 — Tax Incentive Review Council Recommendations

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING, APPROVING, AND RATIFYING THE
SUBMITTED RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE TAX INCENTIVE REVIEW
COUNCILS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY (1st reading)

8. New Business

Council reported that a Finance Committee meeting had been held during the preceding week. The Finance Committee is beginning preparations for the Village's overall budget, with future meetings scheduled for October 13 & 27 @ 8AM/

Upcoming Legislative and Planning Work

Council discussed the likelihood of additional legislation before the end of the year and the potential scheduling of a **Legislative Committee meeting**, likely around October.

Council members were reminded to ensure that **Barb receives notice of scheduled meetings** so required public postings and calendar updates can be completed.

The meeting also referenced a **September 27 council work session concerning strategic planning**.

Takeaways

The September 24 meeting centered on **public infrastructure, pedestrian safety, municipal maintenance, recreation facilities, and year-end legislative/budget preparation**.

The most substantive project discussion concerned the proposed **Minerva Lake Road crossing**, where Columbus Recreation and Parks presented a revised design featuring a raised crosswalk, sidewalk replacement, lighting, trail markings, and signage. Council members generally supported continued development but emphasized the need for strong pedestrian-safety measures, including adequate lighting and consideration of flashing or activated warning devices.

Infrastructure maintenance was another recurring theme.

Council continued to monitor the detention basin north of Jordan Road, while citizen comments highlighted broader concerns about catch basins, curbs, gutters, drainage, and the potential value of a dedicated Village maintenance program.

Recreation planning is moving into the off-season, with discussions beginning regarding **next year's pool fees, landscaping services, and the proposed pool house project**.

On legislation, Council advanced multiple ordinances and resolutions, including traffic and general-ordinance updates, a proposed employee bonus, the Whole House project contract

amendment, and Tax Incentive Review Council recommendations. **Resolution 2026-18 was approved by emergency after Council suspended the normal reading requirements.** Finally, Council is entering a period of increased **budget and legislative activity**, with multiple Finance Committee meetings anticipated over the coming weeks and additional legislation expected before year-end.

Jeffrey Wilcheck, Fiscal Officer

Tiffany Southard, Mayor