

Regular Session of Village Council

August 19, 2025; 6:00 pm

Call to Order

The Regular Session of Council was called to order by Mayor Mitchell Fisher. The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Roll Call was completed by Solicitor, John Kaspar. The following members were present.

York Bryant

Jim Frederick

Mike McKeehan

Rebecca Isaacs-Niemesh

George Schraffenberger

Ben Steiner

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Council reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion to approve July 8th Regular Session made by Frederick; second by Steiner. All yea. Motion to approve July 8th Special Session made by Steiner; second by Frederick. All yea.

Reports / Legislation from Village Officials

Monthly Village Fiscal Revenue Status by Fund Summary, Bank Reconciliation and Disbursements, Mayor's Court Report and Bank Reconciliation were provided for Council.

The Mayor introduced the first item on the agenda, discussion of the Tax Review Board. The new Village of Morrow Tax Administrator has discovered in his training sessions that in order to pursue delinquent taxes and place late fees and interest on taxes, a tax review board must be in place to be in compliance with the State of Ohio. The board is made up of 3 people for a 2-year term. Council will appoint 2 and the Administrator and/or Mayor will appoint 1. The Mayor is asking for council to bring nominations to the next meeting. Solicitor Kaspar read part of the Ohio Revised Code 718.11 and explained that this board is necessary to allow tax payers the opportunity to dispute and appeal findings within 60 days and to be sure there is due process. Council asked Kaspar to find out if the board members must be residents and if they can be compensated for their time. Discussion and nominations will follow at the next council meeting.

The Mayor introduced the 2025 Warren County Hazard Mitigation Plan and handed the meeting to the Administrator, Caroline Whitacre. Whitacre informed council that this is a requirement from the EPA for all counties, coming from the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000. Along with all other County cities, villages and townships. Morrow provided some items (6) that it would make progress on, these are listed in the packet. Warren County is asking for acceptance and approval of the County-wide plan. Whitacre is asking council to review and pass at next month's Council meeting. There will be a member of the County Emergency Management Assistance in attendance at the meeting to answer questions about the plan.

Village Officials

The Mayor had a few updates for council:

1. Craig Myers has been hired as the new Water Operator and will start on September 2nd.
2. Duke along with ABC tree removal took out several trees around the Village for free. Trees along the edge of Phegley Park were removed and will be replaced with less invasive trees. The Village and the Tree Board will partner to replace these.
3. Revision of the Zoning Code is making great progress. The board has been meeting twice a month and looks to wrap this up hopefully by the end of the year.
4. 2 events have taken place this month. National Night Out was a great success. A big thank you to all of the police department, volunteers, business donations, fire department and many others. The Morrow Bike Shop had its ribbon cutting ceremony on August 9th and is already busy repairing bikes.
5. The Police Cruiser will be discussed at the next meeting. Cruisers are on about a year waiting list and a purchase order will need to be submitted in order to be placed on the waiting list. The new cruiser will replace the black Taurus that has over 150,000 miles. It was mentioned that the school might allow for the purchase of another cruiser in the next contract, this will be considered.

Administrator Whitacre updated council on 3 items.

1. The dedication of the memorial bench for Betty Rae Berger was held on August 2nd. The Mayor along with councilmembers Frederick and Bryant and Administrator Whitacre were part of the dedication. The bench was placed at Phegley Park by the little library. Refreshments were provided after the dedication.
2. The Village received a letter from a construction firm regarding the revitalization of the Earl J Maag Center. The remodel will include a new roof and many other items. There is no cost to the Village, the company is only asking if the Village has any objections. The Mayor suggested a generator which will be included.
3. Ohio House Bill 283 is an update to the Cyber Security Program. The Village must update to these specifications. William Harrison with Salem Township is working on policies and will work with the Village to become in compliance with the new law..

Councilmember Isaacs-Niemesh stated her concern with people doing a ride along with the police department. It was stated that the officers are always allowed to refuse anyone for a ride along, it is at their discretion.

The Fiscal Officer presented a leak adjustment for the address of 6348 Sevie's Way that met all requirements and was given a thumbs up.

Chief Kilburn asked for Council's approval for Officer Partin to attend a Narcotics class in Mason in October. He stated that this would be a great tool for the department. Chief also stated that it would be a great idea for the Village and the Township to work together on the Cyber training along with other trainings such as sexual harassment.

The next item on the agenda, Judy Neal with the Little Miami History Connection. Neal stated that the LM History Connection is trying to preserve the History of the areas included in the LM district. They are currently trying to get a list of all of the Mayors of the Village of Morrow. Neal asked to go thru information in the attic, the Mayor said the staff would have to go thru it first due to sensitive information. The Mayor also suggested contacting the Warren County Board of Elections.

Neal informed the Mayor and Council that Paul Zorn has volunteered to fill the place of Agnus McIntosh on the Tree Board. The Mayor will speak to Zorn and appoint next month. The Tree Board would like to plant a tree in memory of Agnus McIntosh for her years of service.

Open to the Floor

The Mayor opened the floor for comments.

Theresa Paynter asked a question about liability for the police ride along. A waiver is signed before any ride along. Paynter also asked if the restroom doors at Phegley Park can be replaced. The Mayor stated these are on the to do list for the maintenance department.

The Mayor closed the floor.

Executive Session requested by the Mayor to discuss a personnel matter. Motion to adjourn to executive session made by Schraffenberger; second by Steiner. All yea.

Motion to return to regular session made by Frederick; second by Steiner. All yea.

Resolution #20-25 approving a pay raise for the Chief of Police and declaring an emergency. Motion to suspend the rules made by Frederick; second by Schraffenberger. All yea. Motion to adopt made by Frederick; second by Schraffenberger. All yea. Resolution carries as an emergency.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Frederick; second by Steiner. All yea.

Tina Powell, Clerk of Council

Mitchell Fisher, Mayor