

Regular Session of Village Council

October 21, 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 - A

Ben Steiner

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Council reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion to adopt with two amendments (a space and move page 2 down) September 16th Regular Session made by Frederick; second by Steiner. All yeas except Isaacs-Niemesh abstained.

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.

Warren County Sheriff's Office – Sheriff Barry Riley

The Mayor introduced Sheriff Barry Riley to Council. Sheriff Riley took the office of Sheriff in January 2025. Sheriff Riley updated changes such as body cameras on day one and placing K-9 units in the County Jail as well as reinstating Snow Emergencies. Sheriff Riley gave a handout to update Council on the activities going on in the Sheriff's Office. Sheriff Riley is very grateful for the relationship with the Village of Morrow's Police Department.

Woodlands Phases 1, 2, 3 and 4A Acceptance

Solicitor Kaspar asked for a motion to give the second reading of accepting the Woodlands Phases 1, 2, 3a, 3b, 3d, 3e & 4a. All items have been approved by Jones Warner Engineering being overseen by Joe Zistler. Motion made by Steiner; second by Frederick. All yeas.

Village of Morrow Tax Review Board

Kaspar gave an update and suggestions on assessing the cost if an appeal was made to the Tax Review Board. Kaspar suggested discussing the filing fees regarding time with the Tax Administrator and could those fees be assessed on the taxes. Discussion followed. Solicitor and Mayor will discuss with Tax Administrator and return with more information at the next meeting.

Compliance with Cybersecurity ORC 9.64 Legislation

Administrator Whitacre discussed new legislation on a Cybersecurity coming from the state that must be in place for each municipality. Under the new law, the Village must establish a Cybersecurity Program by Resolution and each employee must undergo annual training. Whitacre has registered the Village for the program and has an upcoming meeting with state officials to be sure the Village will be in compliance.

Christmas on Main - planning

A planning meeting was held to discuss events and location for Christmas on Main. This event will move from Phegley Park and move back to the Depot area and also include the 315 event space. Again this year, the focus will be on activities not vendors. Ideas for new attractions include fireworks and if the bridge is ready, turning the lights on that night.

Village Officials

The Mayor had a few updates for council:

1. Grants – Booster Station – everything has been approved by the State, permits have been approved, the building is done and within the next month it should be up and running.
Welch Road – older grant – meetings are occurring and should be going out to bid soon and should be done next year. Pressuring Jones-Warner to get both of these projects finished.
2. Mayor has accepted a new job with a law firm and will keep the Solicitor and council informed if there is ever a conflict of interest.

Councilmember Frederick asked council if anyone would be interested in signing a letter written in regards to Morrow becoming a Buckeye Trail Town, a program administered by the Buckeye Trail Association. If anyone would like to be a co-signer it would be appreciated.

Administrator Whitacre updated council on the Railroad Bridge. Most of the lights are here for the bridge. There are a few lights and conduit missing. Whitacre is hoping this is up and going by the end of November.

Chief Kilburn notified Council that the Police Department upgraded their body cameras with Axon. The new cameras will have the ability to translate 50 different languages. Mayor stated the last 2 Flock cameras located on the State Routes have been installed and are active.

Open to the Floor

The Mayor opened the floor for comments.

Tracy Sterling representing Memorable Morrow discussed the Buckeye Trail Association. This is a 14-mile hiking trail around the State of Ohio. Morrow is not currently an approved Buckeye town. This will add Morrow to the guide book. Only four communities are accepted a year into the program. There is no cost. The application is ready and a letter of support would be appreciated.

Andrea Joffe representing the Village of Morrow Tree Board gave a handout of an updated list of trees that are recommended and not recommended. Council needs to give approval to post this information on the website. Council gave thumbs up. Joffe discussed the plan of planting a tree at Phegley Park in honor of Agnes McIntosh. Possibly at the corner of the playground and the basketball court. Agnes loved the Dapple Willow that was planted last year at York Bryant Park. Discussion about placement of the tree followed. Joffe asked if a plaque could be placed, the Mayor asked for this to be approved by the Administrator before placement.

The Mayor closed the floor.

Adjournment

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

Tina Powell, Clerk of Council

Mitchell Fisher, Mayor