

## Regular Session of Village Council

January 20, 2026; 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.

Emmalee Cartwright  
Jim Frederick  
Martin Hamlin

Richard Hardin  
George Schraffenberger

### **Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting**

Mayor explained that only two current council members were part of the previous council. Since the three new council members cannot approve December minutes, the process is the Clerk of Council will certify the minutes they will be recorded.

### **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.

### **Appointment of Vice Mayor**

Mayor turned it over to council to nominate and appoint the Vice Mayor. Schraffenberger made the motion to name Jim Frederick as Vice Mayor; second by Cartwright. Frederick abstained. All others yea.

### **Appointment of Vacant Council Seat**

There is one empty seat on council. The first 30 days are open for council, after 30 days, the Mayor can appoint. The Mayor would like to work with council and have anyone interested in the position to send in a resume and a statement/letter of interest of why someone would want to be on council. Resume and letters should be turned in by February 9<sup>th</sup> to the Clerk of Council for distribution to Council. In the February meeting the person would be appointed and join on the March session. All agreed.

### **Appointment of Planning Commission – expired**

The open position must be filled by a current council member. The Mayor asked for a volunteer. Schraffenberger volunteered for this position.

### **Appointment to Warren County Regional Planning Commission**

The Mayor asked for a volunteer as the primary and an alternate to the Warren County Regional Planning Commission. Frederick volunteered as the primary; Hardin volunteered as the alternate.

### **Appointment of Zoning Board of Appeals – expired**

The Mayor decided to postpone until February for these appointments. Mayor is in discussion with a couple of people to fill these roles.

### **Water Policy**

Mayor discussed some policy changes to our current water policy. Currently, when someone moves out of the home and leaves a balance, the new owner is responsible to pay the leftover balance before changing water into their name. Mayor is suggesting the account should stay with the person not the address. Mayor passed it to Whitacre to explain another situation. There are a lot of meters that are coming to the end of their lifespan. When they are dying, the readings slow down and do not pick up as they should. Once the meters are replaced, the readings are real and usually the bill is higher because of the true reading. Whitacre informed council that she will be meeting with Warren County at the beginning of February and will have more information at the next meeting.

## **Village Officials**

The Mayor had a few updates for council:

1. Grants – Booster station in Roachester is well underway and is waiting on better weather to finish the project. Welch Road is another grant that we are pressuring Jones Warner to get this project completed. The Railroad Bridge is almost complete and is waiting on a couple more items. Whitacre stated that the project should be completed in the next 30 days.
2. Vehicles – Mayor is looking for a bid for a new salt truck. Mayor is looking for a price for another police cruiser. This would be for '27 or '28 based on order delays.
3. Mayor spoke with Abby Melampy who is the customer service liaison with Duke. Duke is aware of the complaints from the Village and is working on several issues. Frederick stated that the Village is not in control of Duke. We work with them but have no control over them.
4. Tomorrow, January 21st, will be the 39<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Officer Phegley's death.

Administrator Whitacre updated council on 2 items:

1. Cybersecurity launch meeting is scheduled for February 5<sup>th</sup>. Council will receive a teams invite. All of the preliminary steps have been completed. Training will be based on the position/role in the Village.
2. Whitacre received paperwork from Warren County Zoning Board of Appeals for a piece of property on Gum Grove Road. The Village of Morrow owns the old bike trail from Morrow to Clarksville. This is 9 miles long and about 10 feet wide. Someone is wanting to build a secondary dwelling near our property. Meeting information was given.
3. Community Development Block Grant – Whitacre described a unique opportunity for the community. Scott Tilford of Depot Brewing has partnered with FC Cincinnati to construct a soccer field beside the Depot Brewing Company. \$20,000 would come from the FC Cincinnati Foundation, Whitacre is asking the Village to match the \$20,000 (10%) and then the grant would be for \$150,000 from Warren County to fund. The Village does not pay anything if the grant is not received. Resolution 1-26 authorizing the Village Administrator to apply for the community development block grant for construction of Depot Soccer Field with F.C. Cincinnati. Motion to suspend the rules made by Frederick; second by Hamlin. Schraffenberger abstained. Motion to adopt made by Frederick; second by Hamlin. Schraffenberger abstained. Motion carries but not as an emergency. Takes effect in 30 days.

Kaspar sent council information as a what to expect as a new council member.

Chief Kilburn welcomed new council members. Kilburn thanked the Mayor for his kind words for Office Phegley. Chief went to his first parole hearing with his dad and was sure to go to every hearing for Phegley. Chief informed council that the person who murdered Officer Phegley died in prison a few weeks ago.

Mayor updated on the plaza. The developer is keeping the Village updated. The library is still set to close soon. The back side of the plaza looks great, the front will begin looking great very soon.

There is a possibility of a new restaurant coming to the Village.

**Open to the Floor**

The Mayor opened the floor.

Andrea Joffe asked about adding the leftover water bill to property taxes. Joffe read a press release about Memorable Morrow applying and has made the Village of Morrow the 23<sup>rd</sup> Buckeye Trail Town. A celebration will be planned later in the spring.

Ryan Doan passed out art work to council to suggest a marketing campaign to advertise what is in the Village. Donations are being requested. Ryan wants to know if the Village would make a sizeable contribution.

Isaac Shelton, owner of the bike shop on Main Street, discussed having a bike race on Main Street and Miami Street this coming summer.

Paul Zorn asked the Village to be sure to plan something for July 4<sup>th</sup>. Celebrating the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United States.

The Mayor closed the floor.

**Executive Session to discuss personnel**

Motion to adjourn to executive session made by Schraffenberger; second by Frederick. All yea.

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

**Adjournment**

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

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Tina Powell, Clerk of Council

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Mitchell Fisher, Mayor