

Regular Session of Village Council

February 17, 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

Council reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion to adopt the January 20, 2026 Regular Session made by Frederick; second by Schraffenberger. 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.

Appointment of Council Member

The Mayor and Council agreed in the January meeting that anyone interested in the open council seat should submit a resume and a cover letter of explanation to council by February 10th in order to be considered. One resume was received by the due date, a second was received on the 17th. Council discussed. Both are good candidates, but council agreed that the process was set and needed to be followed. Submissions were made by Samantha Pitzer and Michael Thierauf. Statements were made by Frederick and Cartwright in favor of Pitzer. Nomination to appoint Samantha Pitzer as the new Council Member was made by Frederick; second by Schraffenberger. All yea except Hamlin who abstained.

Little Miami Youth Football & Cheer

Kyle Brewsaugh and William Chapman presented Council with a new lease agreement for Thornton Park. Mr. Brewsaugh stated the league has outgrown the current park and expansion is needed. They are currently playing at the High School due to the growth. The League would like to update the concession stand, expand the parking lot, build a new grandstand along with other updates. The league is asking to extend the lease from 1 year to 100 years. The Mayor and Council will discuss and let the league know soon.

Water Tower Maintenance Review and Approval

Mayor updated new council members with information regarding the need of a complete clean out of the 500K water tower on Allen's Ridge Drive in the Woodlands of Morrow. The tower needs to be maintained to continue to properly. Two quotes were provided by the Water Operator, Phil Kaufman. First, Preferred Tank & Tower quote was for \$161,060.00 and the second from Complete Restoration for \$99,075.00. Kaufman prefers Complete Restoration. Mayor is seeking by emergency to approve this work and begin the process with a purchase order and deposit check. Frederick asked about any warranties, the Mayor will verify. Motion to suspend the rules made by Frederick; second by Schraffenberger. All yea. Motion to adopt made by Frederick; second by Cartwright. All yea. Resolution #3-26 motion carries as an emergency.

Mayor discussed a handout provided in the packet showing the cost to replace water main valves, which are needed. These water main valves are needed to maintain a good water system. The Mayor will have the water department split this large amount up over the year and only do so many per quarter. The Water Department will get started on those that need taken care of for the first two quarters.

Tax Review Board

The Mayor updated the new council members on what the tax review board is and what it is for. State law requires the Village to have a tax review board so that the Tax Administrator can proceed to assess taxes then if anyone disagrees or fights the assessed taxes, this goes to the tax review board. The board is made up of 3 members. These members do not have to live in the Village. As of now, the Solicitor has not found an ORC that states there can or cannot be compensation. There needs to be set rules to access compensation if the board does not approve. ORC 718.11 Section A. The board must be set with term limits.

Village Officials

The Mayor had a few updates for council:

1. Thank you to the Maintenance Department, Water Department, Chief Kilburn and Sgt. Hawk for the hard work and great job on the snow removal and water main break.
2. Booster station in Roachester is grant funded and we are currently waiting on the concrete pad to be poured to finish the project.

Administrator Whitacre updated council on a few items:

1. Cybersecurity launch meeting took place. Thank you to all who attended.
2. The Historic Railroad Bridge will be finished at the end of the month. The trailer should be moved at the beginning of March. Training to run the lights to come.
3. CEO of the Warren County Park District, Matt Latham is seeking State Capital Appropriations of \$280,000 to build a restroom at Veterans Park. The Village of Morrow is waiving over \$5,000 in tap fees for the water connection as a matching funds commitment.
4. Leak adjustment request for a customer whose water was running from September thru December. The adjustment meets criteria and is for \$192.00 Thumbs up was given by council.

Kaspar read Resolution #2-26 authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Warren County Engineer's Office for the purchase of road salt for the 2026-2027 winter season and declaring an emergency. Motion to suspend the rules made by Schraffenberger; second by Frederick. All yea. Motion to adopt made by Schraffenberger; second by Frederick. All yea.

Council Member Hamlin thanked Officer Woodward and the Morrow Police Department for their quick response and hard work on a situation he had brought to the department.

Open to the Floor

The Mayor opened the floor.

Carla Lunkin lives on W Pike Street and states that because of the condition of Kibby Avenue, water is pooling on her driveway and she cannot fix her driveway until the road is fixed. The Mayor stated that this is a street that is on his list to be paved. He is aware of what she is talking about.

The Mayor closed the floor.

Executive Session to discuss personnel

Motion to adjourn to executive session made by Schraffenberger; second by Cartwright. All yea. The Mayor asked Chief Kilburn and newly elected council member Samantha Pitzer to stay for executive session.

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

Resolution #4-26 authorizing the position of Zoning Inspector to be changed from salary to hourly and for this position to be posted due to a recent opening. Motion to suspend the rules made by Schraffenberger; second by Frederick. All yea. Motion to adopt made by Hamlin, second by Cartwright. All yea.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Hamlin; second by Cartwright. All yea.

Tina Powell, Clerk of Council

Mitchell Fisher, Mayor