

Regular Session of Village Council

May 19, 2026; 6:30 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
Samantha Pitzer

Approval of Minutes of Previous Meeting

Council reviewed the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion to adopt the April 21, 2026 Regular Session made by Frederick; second by Cartwright. All yea. Motion to adopt the May 7, 2026 Special Session made by Frederick; second by Hardin. 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.

Major Arrasmith – Warren County Drug Task Force

Major Arrasmith presented the 2025 Annual Drug Task Force report to council. Arrasmith provided a handout covering important information. Highlights include the details of who is involved in the Drug Task Force, who is on the Policy Board, funding, personnel, and number of investigations. The Task Force consists of 19 law enforcement and support personnel. The Warren County Drug Task Force remains the only unit within the jurisdiction conducting specialized drug investigations on a full-time basis. The most significant drug threats are methamphetamine and fentanyl. Major Arrasmith thanked Chief Kilburn and the Village of Morrow for being actively involved with the Drug Task Force and for the financial support given.

Third Reading – Resolution #6-26 Authorizing the sale of motor vehicle pursuant to revised code 721

Solicitor Kaspar asked for a motion for the third reading of Resolution #6-26 authorizing the sale of motor vehicle pursuant to revised code 721. Motion made by Frederick; second by Hardin. All yea. Motion to adopt made by Frederick; second by Hamlin. All yea.

Ordinance #2-26 – Low/Under Speed Vehicles

This ordinance was sent to council by email on Friday for review. Frederick and Hamlin asked a couple of questions regarding posting notices and the State Highway. Chief Kilburn stated that only 6 signs/posting are needed at the entrances of the Village since the entire Village is 35mph or less. The State Highway is in the Village limits and therefore is under the Village Ordinance as well. Ordinance #2-26 Authorizing operation of low-speed motor vehicles within the incorporated limits of the Village of Morrow, Ohio pursuant to R.C. 4511.215. Motion to suspend the rules made by Hamlin; second by Frederick. All yea. Motion to adopt in 30 days made by Frederick; second by Hardin. All yea.

Auxiliary Officer Pay Discussion

The mayor asked council to consider raising the pay rate of auxiliary/part time officers from \$16.50 to a higher pay rate. This topic was brought up at the Special Session on May 7th for council to consider and bring thoughts or questions to this meeting. Discussion followed. Chief Kilburn stated that he has a great group of officers and knows that they are loyal to him and the Village. The Chief specified that his part time employees all have a specialty that they cover and benefit the Village greatly. All of them go above and beyond behind the scenes. Council discussed and agreed to raise the rate for auxiliary/part-time to \$30.50 per hour. Resolution #11-26 authorizing the increase of pay to \$30.50 for auxiliary/part-time officers. Motion to suspend the rules made by Cartwright; second by Frederick. All yea. Motion to adopt made by Frederick; second by Hardin. All yea. This will go in effect in 30 days.

Vacant Council Seat – Review and Appointment

On Friday, May 15th Council was sent an email with candidates for the vacant council seat. Four candidates applied; one was after the deadline. Council members discussed and stated that all four candidates were excellent choices and well suited for the position. After discussion, the mayor appointed Stacey Hubbard to the council position.

Zoning Board of Appeals Appointments

The mayor informed council of two open seats on the Zoning Board of Appeals. The mayor appoints Will Hubbard and Grace Stanley.

Andrea Joffe – Tree Board Updates – 13-year Award

Joffe introduced Keith Hayes, a business owner on Main Street and advisor to the Tree Board. Hayes gave his credentials to council and stated that he is always available to help if needed. The Tree Board attended Tree City USA annual meeting and was awarded the 13-year Tree City Award. Tree inventory has begun and council was given a list of a few dangerous trees. The list will be emailed to the mayor and administrator from now on.

Village Officials

The mayor had a few updates for council:

1. The Welch Road project is moving on schedule and will begin as soon as school lets out for the summer.
2. The Booster station in Roachester is delayed due to Duke Energy's schedule.
3. The bathroom doors at Phegley Park are being redone.
4. Thank you to Theresa Paynter for the beautiful flowers planted on the bridges and around the Municipal building.
5. The Woodlands of Morrow water tower clean out project will be delayed possibly until the fall due to the delay of the Booster Station project.
6. Upcoming events: Car Show is May 23rd, Memorial Day Parade is May 25th at 11 am and Railroad Day is June 20th.

Administrator Whitacre updated council on a few items:

Whitacre informed council the Buckeye Trail Town celebration occurred on May 16th and was a success with several important speakers including, Diane Wright with Buckeye Trail Town, Tiffany DeChant-Hunt with ODNR, Village of Morrow Administrator, Caroline Whitacre, and an Ordinance read by Mayor Mitchell Fisher. The event was planned to be an outdoor festival, but due to inclement weather, was forced inside Miranda's Ice Cream Shop. Councilmember Hamlin stated that this is a big deal and very important to the Village. The Buckeye Trail only consists of 23 cities/towns and is considered as a part of the national trail network.

Whitacre also informed council of an offer letter being sent to Ian Arthur as a summer employee. She is waiting for his response.

Kaspar informed council that he will be requesting amendments to old ordinances in an upcoming meeting. This will help the zoning inspector have more authority to enforce said ordinances.

Kaspar reminded council of the need for an ordinance to supersede the current Executive Order by the Mayor regarding the suspension of estimated taxes. Council asked for the Ordinance to be read and take effect in 30 days. Kaspar read Ordinance #5-26 Suspending declaration and collection of estimated taxes pursuant to revised code section 718.08(F)(2). Motion to suspend the rules by Hamlin; second by Frederick. All yeas. Motion to adopt made by Frederick; second by Cartwright. All yeas. This will take effect in 30 days.

Fiscal Officer requested a leak adjustment for 205 Kibbey in the amount of \$431.60. Thumbs up was given. The Fiscal Officer informed council the yearly Special Budget meeting will be held immediately after the Regular Session in June. The Mayor requested the donation for the Drug Task Force be highlighted on the budget.

Chief Kilburn stated that a local resident was lost in a tragic accident last night and he would like everyone to remember the family at this sad time. Chief informed council that the Zoning Inspector, George, is doing a great job in his new position. Chief informed council that the Warren County Sheriff's office has sent the items that remained from Officer Phegley to the Village Police Department. The Chief is requesting the Mayor, Solicitor and Officer Partin go thru these items. The Mayor stated that the family should be contacted to send a representative to go thru the items with them.

Zoning Inspector is working on updating the Zoning Code using the mayor's notes from previous meetings of the ad hoc committee.

Open to the Floor

The mayor opened the floor.

Amy Schneider stated that this is her first meeting.

The mayor closed the floor.

Motion to adjourn to Executive Session requested by Solicitor to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official, or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual pursuant to R.C. section 121.22(G)(1) and to conference with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action pursuant to R.C. section 121.22(G)(3). Motion made by Frederick; second by Cartwright. All yea.

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

Adjournment

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

Tina Powell, Clerk of Council

Mitchell Fisher, Mayor