

REGULAR MEETING
June 8th, 2026

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Barbara J. Lloyd with the recitation of the “Pledge of Allegiance”.

Roll Call: In Attendance - Paul Lowe, Ed Harlan, Don Stillion, and Greg Gibson

Absent: Tim Adams & Bo Coconis

Ed moved to approve the minutes of the Regular Village Council Meeting held May 4th, 2026. Seconded by Paul. Lowe – yay, Harlan – yay, Stillion – yay, and Gibson – yay. Motion Carried.

Don moved to approve the Fiscal Officer’s Bank Reconciliation Report for April 2026. Seconded by Paul. Gibson– yay, Stillion – yay, Harlan - yay, and Lowe - yay. Motion Carried.

Ed moved to suspend the Fiscal Officer’s Bank Reconciliation Report for May 2026. Seconded by Greg. Lowe – yay, Harlan – yay, Stillion – yay, and Gibson – yay. Motion Carried.

Mayor Lloyd asked Council if they saw the May 2026 Mayor’s Court Data?

CITIZENS AND GUESTS

Judy Shepherd - Resident Judy Shepherd addressed Council and expressed her appreciation for the assistance she has received from Village employees. She specifically thanked Russell for his assistance with improvements to her home and complimented the Street Department for the excellent job they continue to do maintaining Village streets.

Judy also praised the South Zanesville Fire and EMS personnel, expressing her gratitude for the professionalism, compassion, and quality of care she has received during emergency responses. Having previously worked in critical care for many years, she stated she was extremely impressed with the knowledge and dedication demonstrated by the Village's emergency personnel.

Judy raised concerns regarding accessibility to the handicap parking area near Village Hall, explaining that while recovering from surgery she found it extremely difficult to navigate the curb without assistance. She encouraged the Village to consider improvements to make the area more accessible for residents with mobility limitations.

She also inquired about the operation of motorcycles and motorized bicycles within the Village and thanked Council again for the services provided to residents.

No additional citizens requested to address Council.

DEPARTMENT HEADS

Administrator – Joe Miller

Administrator Joe Miller reported that he and Water Superintendent Wesley Wiseman met with representatives from the Rural Community Assistance Partnership (RCAP) on June 4 regarding the Village's upcoming Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping project. RCAP will begin mapping the Village's existing water system on June 22, 2026, as part of the planning process for future water system improvements. Residents may notice crews locating curb stops, marking utilities, and gathering field data throughout the Village.

Joe also reported that the Village recently began its hydrant flushing and testing program. Approximately twenty-five of the Village's sixty-seven hydrants had already been flushed and tested. He explained that the most recent documentation he was able to locate indicating hydrant flushing had occurred dated back to 2004, making this maintenance effort long overdue. Council viewed photographs showing the amount of sediment and discoloration being removed from the water system during the flushing process.

Mr. Miller also updated Council on several park improvement projects. He reported that the newly installed swing set had been removed and reinstalled with additional concrete after concerns developed with the original installation. He stated he was confident the issue had been corrected.

Work also continues on the pickleball court project. The former tennis courts have been removed, including the fencing, metal posts, and concrete footers, in preparation for installation of the new pickleball courts.

Fire – Russell Taylor

Chief Taylor reported on Fire and EMS activity for the month of May, noting the department continues to experience a significant increase in emergency calls and patient transports. He advised Council that EMS personnel completed approximately twenty-three patient transports during the month and stated call volume has remained consistently high.

The Chief provided a detailed update regarding the Village-wide hydrant flushing and testing project. Since beginning the program, firefighters have systematically flushed and tested hydrants throughout the Village to evaluate water flow, operating condition, and overall reliability. During the process, several hydrants previously believed to be out of service were found to be fully operational after testing. One hydrant, which had been marked out of service for several years, was tested at approximately 750 gallons per minute and has since been returned to service.

Chief Russell explained that each hydrant is being flushed until the water runs clear before recording flow rates and operational information. While most hydrants tested have produced satisfactory flow, several have been identified that require maintenance or replacement due to operational deficiencies. Once the project is complete, the department will have an updated inventory identifying hydrants that are fully operational and those requiring repairs.

Chief Russell also explained that renewal of the levy will help stabilize Fire Department finances while reducing future financial burdens on the Village's General Fund and will bring more information to the next meeting.

Council members complimented the department on another successful annual chicken barbecue fundraiser, noting the event was well attended and received positive feedback from the community.

Police – Mark Ross

Chief Ross reported that officers responded to 134 calls for service during the month. The department investigated 17 incident reports, completed four warrant arrests, and made four misdemeanor arrests involving theft, telecommunications harassment, criminal trespass, and juvenile criminal damaging. Officers also completed 59 traffic enforcement actions, including citations, written warnings, and other traffic-related enforcement activities. Chief Ross provided an update regarding a recent theft investigation involving stolen vehicles and fraudulent credit card use. Working cooperatively with surrounding law enforcement agencies, investigators identified suspects believed to be connected to several thefts occurring throughout the region. Evidence recovered from an abandoned stolen vehicle, including DNA evidence, has been submitted for laboratory analysis as the investigation continues.

The Chief advised Council that the Village's new 2026 Dodge Durango police cruiser had not yet been delivered but is expected soon following installation of communications equipment. Chief Ross also announced that donations totaling \$10,000 from the Zanesville American Legion and Eagles have increased the Police Auxiliary Fund balance to more than \$18,000. Those funds have already been used to purchase a new MPH radar unit, mobile printer, and an in-car computer for the new cruiser, saving the Village more than \$4,300 in General Fund expenditures.

Chief Ross informed Council that nuisance property enforcement efforts continue throughout the Village. Nine property owners have received notices regarding high grass, junk accumulation, and general property maintenance violations. One property in particular is now being addressed in cooperation with the Muskingum County Health Department and Building Department due to continued noncompliance.

Council discussed electric bicycles (e-bikes) operating throughout the Village. Chief Ross explained that current Ohio law treats e-bikes similarly to bicycles, requiring riders to obey all applicable traffic laws. Juveniles operating bicycles or e-bikes who violate traffic laws may receive citations requiring appearances in Juvenile Court with their parents. Council members expressed concern regarding reckless riding by several juveniles and emphasized the importance of continued enforcement to improve public safety.

Water/ Street – (Wesley Wiseman - Absent)

Administrator Miller reported on behalf of the Water and Street Department that hydrant flushing information has been distributed to residents through informational flyers and posted on the Village website. The publication explains why temporary water discoloration may occur during flushing operations and provides instructions for residents if cloudy or discolored water is experienced.

Council discussed a recent water line break near the Sheetz construction project and questioned whether the contractor responsible would be billed for water loss and treatment costs associated with the incident. Administrator Miller indicated additional investigation would be conducted to determine responsibility.

Council also discussed deteriorating pavement in the alley serving Northside Pharmacy and adjacent businesses. Previous plans to address the area through Community Development Block Grant funding were no longer feasible; however, Village officials continue pursuing alternative grant opportunities. Council discussed the possibility of requesting financial participation from adjacent property owners should grant funding become available, noting the heavy commercial traffic utilizing the alley contributes significantly to its deterioration.

REPORTS OF COUNCIL COMMITTEES

None.

COMMUNICATIONS AND LETTERS

OPCI Training - The Fiscal Officer provided Council with an update regarding the Village's Cybersecurity Training requirements through the Ohio Plan Risk Management (OPRM/OPCI) program. She advised that staff training is expected to begin prior to the July 1 compliance deadline. Office personnel will complete approximately two to three hours of training, while employees with information technology responsibilities will complete additional, more comprehensive training.

RCAP - The Administrator and Fiscal Officer also provided an update regarding RCAP assistance. Council discussed coordinating future grant applications with the Village's engineering consultants to ensure funding opportunities are pursued efficiently without duplicating efforts.

Health Insurance Renewal - The Fiscal Officer presented the annual employee health insurance renewal. She explained that although Council had previously discussed shopping insurance annually, the Village's insurance broker routinely obtains competitive quotes from all available carriers. After reviewing the available options, the current insurance provider remained the most cost-effective plan. Switching to Medical Mutual would increase annual costs by approximately \$48,557.76, while renewing the existing plan would result in an annual increase of approximately \$16,673.76, representing a 13.47% premium increase. Council members agreed the current plan continues to provide quality coverage at the lowest available cost.

Paul moved to renew the Village's employee health insurance coverage under the current plan at the quoted renewal rate. Don seconded the motion. Lowe – yay, Harlan – yay, Stillion – yay, and Gibson – yay. Motion Carried.

Fire Hydrant Flushing Flyer - The Administrator also reviewed the newly created hydrant flushing informational flyer, which has been distributed to residents and posted on the Village website. The flyer explains why temporary water discoloration may occur during hydrant flushing and provides instructions for residents if they experience cloudy or rusty water.

AARP Grant - Lastly, the Administrator announced that the Village had been awarded a \$2,500 AARP Community Challenge Grant to provide emergency preparedness and safety education for senior citizens. Firefighter Josh Bryan volunteered to conduct the educational workshops. Seniors completing the program will receive emergency preparedness kits containing food rations, emergency water, glow sticks, whistles, emergency ponchos, and other safety supplies. Council congratulated the Administration on securing the grant and looked forward to the upcoming public kickoff event.

RESOLUTIONS AND ORDINANCES

RESOLUTION 1149 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR DESIGN OF WATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PHASE I PROJECT BETWEEN THE VILLAGE OF SOUTH ZANESVILLE AND THE OHIO WATER DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Greg moved to suspend the three-reading rule for Resolution 1149 and declare it an emergency. Seconded by Don. Gibson– yay, Stillion – yay, Harlan - yay, and Lowe - yay. Motion Carried.

Don made a motion to pass Resolution 1149. Seconded by Greg. Lowe – yay, Harlan – yay, Stillion – yay, and Gibson – yay. Motion Carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Administrator Miller reported continued progress on the Village's pickleball court project. Existing tennis court fencing, posts, and concrete footers have been removed in preparation for installation of the new courts. Council also received an update regarding the proposed basketball court fencing project. Price estimates are currently being obtained for materials necessary to complete the improvements.

Council discussed naming the Village park and baseball field in honor of individuals who have made lasting contributions to the community. Members agreed it was appropriate to formally recognize both Staff Sergeant Buddy Kinney and Roger Gibson.

Paul moved to officially name the Village park “Staff Sergeant Buddy Kinney Memorial Park” and dedicate the Village baseball field in honor of Roger Gibson. Don seconded the motion. Gibson– yay, Stillion – yay, Harlan - yay, and Lowe - yay. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Council discussed the scheduling of the July 2026 Regular Council Meeting due to the Independence Day holiday. Because July 4 falls on a Saturday, the Fiscal Officer

asked Council whether members wished to reschedule the meeting or observe the holiday by adjusting the Village office schedule.

Following discussion, Council agreed that Village offices would observe the holiday on Friday, July 3, 2026, while leaving the Regular Council Meeting scheduled for Monday, July 6, 2026, with no changes to the meeting date.

No formal action was required.

MISCELLANEOUS

Council members briefly revisited several topics discussed throughout the meeting, including the importance of maintaining the Village's streets, continuing improvements to the water system, and pursuing outside funding opportunities for future infrastructure projects. Members expressed appreciation for the continued progress being made on the hydrant flushing program, pickleball court construction, grant opportunities, and other community improvement initiatives.

Council also acknowledged the efforts of Village employees and volunteers who continue working to improve services and facilities for Village residents.

ADJOURN

Paul moved to adjourn, seconded by Don. Mayor Lloyd asked all to vote by stating I. All did. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM.

Barbara Lloyd - Mayor

Taylor Bennett - Fiscal Officer