CALL TO ORDER
Mayor Donna J. Carver called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

INVOCATION

Sondra Carey gave the invocation.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ROLL CALL

The following council members answered roll call: Paige Bierce, Sondra Carey, Kay Hines, Joe Johnson, Mark Phillips, and Chris Sherbourne. Fiscal Officer Cathy Davis, Village Administrator Derek Allen, Solicitor Matt Griffith, Police Chief Adam Lakey, and Fire Chief Mark Carey were also present.

MINUTES

Sherbourne moved and Johnson seconded to approve the September 21st, 2026, minutes. Roll Call: Sherbourne-yes, Johnson-yes, Bierce-yes, Carey-yes, Hines-yes, Phillips-yes.

Carey moved and Sherbourne seconded to approve the October 5th, 2026, minutes. Roll Call: Carey-yes, Sherbourne-yes, Bierce-yes, Hines-yes, Johnson-yes, Phillips-yes.

GUESTS

Lyndsey Wilcox, Cody Douglas, Jamie Brucker, Christina Burton, Tyler Norwich, Dawn Welch, Kit and Robin St. Clair, Police Captain Cronenwett, and Police Officer Ramos.

Resident Lyndsey Wilcox addressed council about concerns she observed regarding transparency, communication, professionalism, division, and accountability in Village government. She encouraged council members to work together respectfully, place the community's interests above personal differences, and encouraged residents to attend meetings, watch recordings, ask questions, and become more involved in Village government.

POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT – CHIEF LAKEY

Chief Lakey reported attending the dedication of the Deputy D. Weston Sherrer Training Center along with Captain Cronenwett and Sergeant Beekman.

He and Officer Ramos represented the police department at the Trails of Treats for the Morrow County Board of Developmental Disabilities.

FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT – CHIEF MARK CAREY

Chief Carey was called out to a structure fire but had submitted his report to council.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE REPORT – MARK PHILLIPS

Council President Mark Phillips reported that the committee met on October 13th to review the 2024 and 2025 financial audit with Gueye and Associates.

The committee also discussed health insurance options for 2027 Village employees. Council received four Medical Mutual health insurance options requested from broker Nick Ferrando. The committee decided it needed more time to review, study, and compare the four options. Mr. Ferrando will be invited to attend the committee's next meeting on Monday, October 19th, 2026, at 6:00 pm.

The committee met on October 19th to review the four health insurance options. Ferrando fielded questions from council members. Council members wanted more detailed information,

such as premiums, on the options before making a decision. They preferred the "no shop" option and keeping Medical Mutual as our health insurance provider for 2027.

Sherbourne moved and Carey seconded to remain with Medical Mutual and "no shop" the Village's health insurance coverage so firm renewal figures could be obtained. Roll Call: Sherbourne -yes, Carey -yes, Bierce -yes, Hines-yes, Johnson-yes, Phillips-yes.

Phillips also reported two responses to the advertisement for a Village Solicitor. Donald Wick, and the law firm of Fishel, Downey, Albrecht and Riepenhoff. Mayor Carver will invite both applicants to be interviewed by council at our next Committee as a Whole meeting.

The next committee meeting will be November 2nd at 6:00 pm to meet with candidates for Village Solicitor.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Village Administrator Derek Allen reported that leaf collection had begun and would continue until all the leaves were collected.

The Tree City USA application had been submitted, marking Mount Gilead's 40th year in the program.

New street-name signs had been ordered.

The Service Department sign had been installed at 417 West Marion Street.

Council discussed improvements to the West Point, now called Fraizer's Point. The discussion covered landscaping, signage, curbing costs, and the possible need for professional design services. Johnson moved and Sherbourne seconded to move forward with an architect to develop options for the area. Roll Call: Johnson-yes, Sherbourne-yes, Bierce-yes, Carey-yes, Hines-yes, Phillips-yes.

Council discussed installing additional security cameras. Funding would need to be included in the 2027 budget. Pricing will be obtained from Central Ohio Security.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Carver reported on several recent community activities and events, including: The law-enforcement training center dedication, America 250 heritage tree planting, purse bingo benefiting local charitable organizations, and progress on the Village entryway monuments.

One monument had been installed at the 42/61 split, with the remaining work temporarily delayed due to equipment repairs. The contractor will also power wash the existing stone surrounding the monuments.

SOLICITOR REPORT

Griffith said that Councilman Phillips would like to add a "Good Samaritan" clause to Ordinance 2034. The Council will discuss this during the Fiscal Officer's report.

FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT

Fiscal Officer Cathy Davis presented bills totaling $219,830.03. Carey moved, and Phillips seconded, to approve the bills. Roll Call: Carey-yes, Phillips-yes, Bierce-yes, Hines-yes, Johnson-yes, Sherbourne-yes.

Ordinance 2034: Blight Control

Carey moved and Hines seconded to pass Ordinance 2034, amending Section 1307.99 of the Codified Ordinances to establish graduated penalties for repeat violations of the Village's

blight-control provisions. Discussion: Councilman Phillips proposed adding a "Good Samaritan Clause" intended to provide consideration for property owners experiencing serious health, financial, or other hardships and allow the Village to seek charitable assistance before further enforcement action.
Council discussed balancing compassion for residents facing legitimate hardships with the need for effective enforcement against repeated violations. It was suggested that hardship situations could be addressed administratively or through assistance from community organizations without placing the proposed language directly into the ordinance. Roll Call: Sherbourne-yes, Hines-yes, Bierce-yes, Carey-yes, Johnson-yes, Phillips-no. Motion passed.

Ordinance 2037: ODOT Bridge Project

Phillips moved and Carey seconded to pass Ordinance 2037 providing ODOT consent legislation for replacement of the State Route 95 bridge structure over Whetstone Creek to the third reading. Roll Call: Phillips-yes, Carey-yes, Bierce-yes, Hines-yes, Johnson-yes, Sherbourne-yes.

Ordinance 2039: Zoning Code Update

Phillips moved and Hines seconded to pass Ordinance 2039, authorizing the Village Administrator to enter into an engineering agreement with V3 for the Village zoning code update to the third reading. Roll Call: Phillips-yes, Hines-yes, Bierce-yes, Carey-yes, Johnson-yes, Sherbourne-yes.

Ordinance 2040: Supplemental Appropriations

Sherbourne moved and Johnson seconded to suspend the reading of Ordinance 2040, providing supplemental appropriations of $55,239 for the V3 zoning-code update. Roll Call: Sherbourne-yes, Johnson-yes, Bierce-yes, Carey-yes, Hines-yes, Phillips-yes.
Hines moved and Carey seconded to pass Ordinance 2040. Roll Call: Hines-yes, Carey-yes, Bierce-yes, Johnson-yes, Phillips-yes, Sherbourne-yes.

Resolution 10-19-26: Water Treatment Plant Salt

Johnson moved and Hines seconded to suspend the reading of Resolution 10-19-26, authorizing the Fiscal Officer to advertise for bids for rock salt used for water softening at the water treatment plant. Roll Call: Johnson-yes, Hines-yes, Bierce-yes, Carey-yes, Phillips-yes, Sherbourne-yes.
Bierce moved and Johnson seconded to pass Resolution 10-19-26. Roll Call: Bierce-yes, Johnson-yes, Carey-yes, Hines-yes, Phillips-yes, Sherbourne-yes.

Council discussed the proposed revised Rules of Council. After adding New Business at the previous meeting, Council considered adding a section for unresolved matters.
After discussing terminology, Johnson moved, and Sherbourne seconded, to add "Old Business" to the Council agenda. Roll Call: Johnson-yes, Sherbourne-yes, Bierce-yes, Carey-yes, Hines-yes, Phillips-yes.
Examples discussed for tracking as ongoing matters included:

- Electronic timekeeping
- Fraizer's Point
- Streetlights
- Village website updates
- Blight enforcement
- Summer mowing
- Security cameras
- Missing street signs

Council reviewed proposed Employee Handbook revisions, including the electronic timekeeping system and corrections concerning office employees, office hours, and lunch provisions.
Members requested additional time to review the handbook because of the document's scope and potential revisions.

Council agreed to hold a Committee of the Whole meeting on November 9 at 6:00 p.m. specifically to discuss the Employee Handbook.

Council discussed administration of the Village website. It was explained that Village personnel do not directly make changes to the site and instead submit information to the website administrator for posting.

NEW BUSINESS
Sondra Carey discussed damage to the guardrail at the end of Douglas Street. It was reported that the damage occurred during the operation/loading of paving equipment and that the Village was aware of the matter.

GOOD OF THE ORDER
Announcements included:

- Ohio State Fire Marshal life-saving awards connected with the Lincoln Avenue fire.
- Friends of the Library fundraising activities.
- First Responder Sunday at Gilead Friends Church.
- Fall Fest on the Square and Village Trick-or-Treat.
- The Mayor's annual Spirit of Giving Food Drive benefiting the Morrow County Food Pantry.

Village Administrator Derek Allen read his resignation letter to council, providing 30 days' notice and stating that his final day of employment would be November 18th, 2026.
Mr. Allen reviewed several accomplishments during his seven years with the Village. He also provided Council with a list of 63 outstanding or critical matters requiring continued attention, including approximately $2 million in grant funding and the ongoing multimillion-dollar water treatment plant upgrade. Bierce moved, and Johnson seconded, to accept Derek Allen's resignation. Roll Call: Bierce-yes, Johnson-yes, Carey-yes, Hines-yes, Phillips-no, Sherbourne-yes.
Johnson moved and Hines seconded to authorize the preparation of legislation to advertise for a Village Administrator. Roll Call: Johnson-yes, Hines-yes, Bierce-yes, Carey-yes, Phillips-yes, Sherbourne-yes.

Bierce moved and Johnson seconded to go into executive session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22 (G)(2) regarding the sale of property no longer needed for Village purposes. Jamie Brucker was invited to participate in the executive session. Roll Call: Bierce-yes, Johnson-yes, Carey-yes, Hines-yes, Phillips-yes, Sherbourne-yes.

Sherbourne moved, and Bierce seconded, to return to the regular council meeting. Roll Call: Sherbourne-yes, Bierce-yes, Carey-yes, Hines-yes, Johnson-yes, Phillips-yes.

Carey moved to adjourn at 8:35; Hines seconded.

Approved:

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Cathy Davis, Fiscal Officer Donna J. Carver, Mayor