

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of

Regular Meeting / Public

Meeting

BEAR GRAPHICS 800-325-8094 FORM NO. 10148

Held

Monday, June 2,

20 25

Council President Vance called the council meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. The Orrville Ministerial Association's Pastor Newton Brenneman led prayer. The pledge was recited.

Roll call. Aspiras and Squirrell excused. All others present.

Council minutes of the regular meetings on May 19th were presented for approval. Lax motioned to approve those minutes; Davies seconds; all ayes; motion passes.

Committee Reports

Ordinance & Personnel – Shanklin: Met the 26th to discuss creating a naming rights policy for parks, streets and other items in the future.

Administrative Reports

Mayor Plybon: Rehm Pavilion performance scheduled kicked off with a talent showcase. There was a patriotic Memorial Day program. Celebrated our 2025 Seniors with an awards assembly and commencement. The pool opened today with over 100 in attendance. We are saddened by the notice was received from Morgan Truck Body of reduction of forces by 110 employees. Our thoughts are with those affected.

Safety-Service Director Wheeler: Pool opened today. The Splash Pad is open. Community Day is Saturday beginning at 9:30 am with kickball tournament, inflatables for kids, free hotdogs and fun activities. Rock the Rails concerts this weekend. Orrville Police Department bicycle helmet program with coupons to Orr Valley Creamery has kicked off.

Utilities Director Brediger: TV ads about utility prices going up June 1st. Orrville Utilities is not one of them. AEP and Ohio Edison have significant rate increases going into effect in June, on the generation side of the business. We see significant cost on the transmission side of our business. Those also went up. We operate our plant during peak times which helps offset those costs with credits. Those costs went from just over \$6.5 million to \$12 million. The power plant's job these days is to come up and meet those peak demands that occur any time during the year. When we hit the top 5 every year, we receive the maximum amount of credits from the transmission owners/operators. Those fees continue to go up and the credits continue to decrease. If we weren't able to offset those, they would be direct pass through to our customers.

President Vance: Expressed appreciation to the schools for honoring our local military veterans. (Banners on display around the school campus.)

No old business

New Business

Resolution 22-25, Shanklin moved that it be placed on first reading. Handwerk seconds. Ayes all; motion passes. **Resolution 22-25**, A Resolution authorizing the Board of Control to enter into an agreement and/or agreements for the purchase of extrication equipment for the Orrville Fire Department, and declaring an Emergency.

Discussion: Resolutions 22-25 and 23-25 are related to a Wayne County Community Foundation Grant we received. It will cover a large portion of the costs of the extrication equipment as well as the drones. The extrication equipment is a critical piece of equipment for the safety of our fire fighters as well as the ability to save lives during motor vehicle accidents. We are replacing 2008 equipment.

Resolution 23-25, Shanklin moved that it be placed on first reading. Davies seconds. Ayes all; motion passes. **Resolution 23-25**, A Resolution authorizing the Board of Control to enter into

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an agreement and/or agreements for the purchase of drones for the Orrville Police Department, and declaring an Emergency.

Discussion: Chief Seiler distributed a handout with two drones on it. One for inside and one for outside. Both are included in the resolution. These have the opportunity to save lives of the SWAT team members, patrol officers, and fire fighters. Ohio Drone Repair who outfitted drones for Medina County Sheriff's office and Montville Township. Both have drone programs. The smaller inside drone has built in propeller guards. If it were to crash inside a building, the drone will self-correct and lift itself up. This would be utilized anytime the SWAT team is called out. We have a joint SWAT team with the Wooster Police Department and looking to expand that with the Wayne County Sheriff joining us. We have warehouses in Orrville and when team members enter, they cannot see up high. That's a potential for a tactical advantage over us. The drone could fly inside and get the bird's eye view. SWAT responded in Wooster where someone pulled a gun on Wooster police and went back inside the building. The team members went inside. The drone would have ensured the safety of our officers. The larger drone is for outdoors, it has speaker to communicate and give commands, a spot light and search light to be used in the dark, thermal imaging capabilities and a drop claw. It has advanced AI tracking, obstacle avoidance and long range capabilities for high stake operations. We will purchase through Ohio Drone and they will also work on any repairs. It would be used for search and rescue, assist in locating missing persons, search disaster zones. It could be used during the 4th of July for missing persons or any issues. It can also record. It would have been good to have during our flood and in 2023 when we were on the hunt for a murder suspect in a wooded area with the thermal imaging. The drone pilots will be Detectives Amendola, Smucker, and Mace. We have a drone policy in place. Drone operators will complete all FAA requirements. The supervisor will approve the use of the drone before it is deployed. We can print off a flight log weekly to see when and where it was utilized to be sure it is utilized properly. It would assist the fire department to determine hot spots in structure fires. It can assess roof integrity and monitor fires from above and locate victims through smoke and debris. Both will come with additional batteries. Battery life is dependent of if it is airborne or perched somewhere. It can be deployed off the top of a vehicle.

Resolution 24-25, Shanklin moved that it be placed on first reading. Carr seconds. Ayes all; motion passes. **Resolution 24-25**, A Resolution authorizing the Public Utilities Board of Control to enter into an agreement or agreements, without bidding, for the purchase and installation of three (3) flight pumps, and declaring an Emergency.

Discussion: Memo went out last week with details. This is for the Wastewater treatment plant system. We have eight pumps. Three in poor condition. They serve as back up to the other pumps and help out during high flow periods. Handout shows a pictures new and used. The two worst will be done this year and the third at the beginning of the year. There is about a six month lead time on ordering. They are currently operable at about half the amount of water. To back up one, we need to run two.

Resolution 25-25, Shanklin moved that it be placed on first reading. Lax seconds. Ayes all; motion passes. **Resolution 25-25**, A Resolution authorizing the Public Utilities Board of Control to enter into an agreement or agreements, without bidding, for the purchase of Orrville Utilities Power Plant software controls simulator system for operator training, and declaring an Emergency.

Discussion: The EPA imposed operating limits in 2017. Having highly trained operators has diminished. This will give good training to the staff. Due to retirements, by the end of next year we will only have two of our original sixteen operators that were full-time operators when we operated the plant 24/7. The rest have been our maintenance crews. It will take six months to develop. Upgrades will be available at a cost. If we miss

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one of the five peaks this year, that's about a \$2 million impact for us. Since 2017 we've only missed two peaks over the years. This keeps the skill levels up at a higher pace. They will be scored in the program and shown where they need to train more. Estimated cost is about \$250,000.

Resolution 26-25, Shanklin moved that it be placed on first reading. Davies seconds. Ayes all; motion passes. **Resolution 26-25**, A Resolution approving the Budget for the City of Orrville, Ohio, for the calendar year 2026, and declaring an Emergency.

Discussion: This is a statutory requirement. It does not give us the authority to expend funds. It is a preliminary plan for how we expect to provide services in 2026 and the revenue we think will be available to do that. Since it is prepared so far in advance, it is likely to change before final appropriations in March. The total budget is \$74 million: \$9 million for the general fund, \$9 million for the remaining tax supported funds, and \$56 million for the utilities. If compared to the 2025 final appropriations that council approved in March, the two major changes were capital projects and contractual wage increases.

Good of the Order

Handwerk: Rock the Rails is this weekend. Two bands each night. Presented by the Orrville Community Development Corporation, which Handwerk is a part of. Food trucks and beverages will be there as well.

Mayor: Water crews were out last night for a leak at Chestnut and Mill. They worked swiftly with no disruption to water service in that area. Special thanks to Sgt. Dalessandro for calling it in. He noticed it on his patrol. The electric crews were out during the storm a couple of weeks ago. They did an excellent job at quickly repairing lines. They have priority areas and the repair according to the list. We have been discussing raising the expenditure limits for the Safety-Service Director and Utility Director. How many resolutions tonight could have been passed on. The drones and the extrication equipment. They could have been ordered. The Safety-Service Director statutory limit is up to \$77,500. We are currently at \$15,000.

Utility Board is still reviewing raising the expenditures as a couple of board members were absent at the last meeting. Utilities Director can go up to \$25,000, take to council at \$100,000. We would like to move the director level up to \$100,000 and the legislation to \$250,000. It is difficult functioning with the current limitations. And now with tariffs and rising costs it is good to move forward. We are ready to order the drones but now we have to wait another two weeks. Also, the majority of items have been already approved in the final appropriations as a project. And if not, then you will hear about it anyways as an emergency.


Clerk: Are we calling for another Ordinance and Personnel committee meeting? Yes, June 16th at 6:30 before the next council meeting, in the downstairs conference room.

Carr moved to adjourn. Davies seconds. Ayes all; motion carried.

Our next regular meeting will be June 16, 2025. Meeting adjourned at 8:34 pm



Jeanne Gault, Clerk of Council


_____, 2025
Date



Paul Vance, President of Council