

**Village of Higginsport
Village Council Meeting
July 20, 2026**

The Council of the Village of Higginsport met in regular session at the Village Municipal Building on Monday, July 20, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. with all members present.

Also, present: Police Chief Shawn Elliott, Chief Rob Starrett, Sandy Bear, Leslee Hasenstab, Michelle Wilburn, Tabitha Blank, Maggie Elliott, David Osborn, Edie Osborn.

Mayor Lester Bear called the meeting to order, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Motion by Scott Null **and Second by:** Patrick Elliott for Council to enter executive session.
Vote: Mark Fester: Yes; Linda Fester: Yes.

Motion by: Mark Fester **and Second by:** Patrick Elliott to exit executive session
Vote: Linda Fester: Yes, Scott Null: Yes.

New Business

Resolution 26-06

Motion by: Mark Fester **Second by:** Linda Fester

WHEREAS, the Council Member Matt Adams has submitted his resignation, and

WHEREAS, the hiring committee has interviewed interested candidates for the council seat and has made a recommendation to Village Council for their approval.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Council approves the appointment of Sandy Bear to serve the remaining council seat term vacated by Matt Adams effective July 20, 2026.

Vote: Mark Fester, Yes; Linda Fester, Yes, Scott Null, Yes, Patrick Elliott, Yes.

Resolution 26-07

Motion by: Mark Fester **Second by:** Linda Fester

WHEREAS, the Council Member Kathy Adams has submitted her resignation, and

WHEREAS, the hiring committee has interviewed interested candidates for the council seat and has made a recommendation to Village Council for their approval.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Village Council approves the appointment of Maggie Elliott to serve the remaining council seat term vacated by Kathy Adams effective July 20, 2026.

Vote: Mark Fester, Yes, Linda Fester, Yes, Scott Null, Yes.

Mayor Lester Bear swore in the new appointed Council Members, Sandy Bear and Maggie Elliott.

Public Participation

Tabitha Blank spoke to Council regarding property damage. Mark Fester recommended that Ms. Blank provide an itemized damage report to Council. Mark Fester will present the report to the Construction Manager at the next project meeting.

Police Department Report:

Chief Elliott reminded Council that the Charger police car will need maintenance soon. The maintenance is to be covered under warranty. Also, he discussed with the completion of the new project approaching the need to hire a part time police officer. Chief Elliott requested the six hundred dollars clothing allowance be paid in the month of July.

Motion by: Mark Fester **Second by:** Scott Null to advertise on the website for a part time police officer and to request that the Fiscal Officer submit a check to Chief Elliott for clothing allowance.

Vote: Linda Fester, Yes, Sandy Bear, Yes.

Fire Department Report:

Chief Starett reported that one of the fire trucks had to be repaired and the tennis courts have been cleaned. Chief Starett discussed the need to be able to access water on John Street. Mark Fester recommended setting up a special meeting on Monday, July 27th to further discuss this issue in further detail.

New Business

David Osborn spoke to Council regarding his office taking over the sewer/water billing from Brown County Rural Water at the cost of 5 percent of the total billing. Mark Fester recommended that Council further discuss the matter and do an onsite meeting before entering into a contract for these services.

David Osborn is to provide legal guidance to Chief Elliott and Council regarding the nuisance properties within the village.

Linda Fester expressed the appreciation of Council to Trish Wood for setting up a booth at the 250 Celebration portraying the history of Higginsport. Linda provided an update regarding the Capacity Grant. She is also looking into the Spectrum service plans for the Village and will provide information soon. She invited Council to attend the Ohio Riverway Summit in September.

Sandy Beair updated Council that the paperwork has been updated regarding the cemetery and that the estate of Besty Brown is not currently in Probate Court.

Scott Null and Patrick Elliott discussed dogs that are a nuisance in the Village. They recommended the Nuisance Dog Ordinance be reviewed and revised.

Mark Fester provided update that the new project is on schedule. The dock and the wall are currently being installed.

Motion by: Scott Null, **second by:** Mark Fester to pay the bills. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by: Mark Fester, **second by:** Scott Null to approve the June minutes. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by: Mark Fester, **second by:** Patrick Elliott adjourning the meeting. Motion passed unanimously.

Lester Beair, Mayor

Mark Fester, Council President

Patrick Elliott, Council Member

Linda Fester, Council Member

Scott Null, Council Member

Sandy Beair, Council Member

Maggie Elliott, Council Member

Robin R. Wallace, Fiscal Officer

