

SARDINIA COUNCIL MEETING

February 9, 2026 7:00 P.M.

Prayer Amy Mason, Administrator

Pledge Mayor Ashlie Webster

Roll Call: Gary Troutman, Anna Turner, Peggy Vance, Dustin Puckett, Michael McRoberts, Dean Vaughn

Also in Attendance: Amy Mason, Administrator, Tony Baker, Solicitor, Melissa Downs, Fiscal Officer, Venita Milburn, Clerk

COUNCIL NOTES

Council reviewed meeting minutes from January 2026, regular meeting. Ms. Vance identified an error in the minutes under Administration, 2ND paragraph, Peggy Turner should say Peggy Vance.

Motion to approve minutes with corrections as above made by Peggy Vance, seconded by Dean Vaughn. Roll call all yes.

Attachments: Meeting minutes of January 2026.

FINANCIALS

Financial for December 31, 2025, were reviewed. There were no questions. Ms. Downs did state that she could not unlock cells on the financials. Mr. Troutman will unlock those and insert the data. Mr. Troutman did mention that he reviews the financials before each council meeting.

Motion to approve the December financial made by Gary Troutman, seconded by Dustin Puckett. Roll call all yes.

Financials for January were distributed to council but will be postponed for approval until March meeting due to January financials ending today. Council was requested to review January financial report before the March council meeting.

ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Mason informed council that Melissa Downs has resigned effective February 15, 2026. Resignation letter was read to council members.

Motion to accept Ms. Downs' resignation made by Dean Vaughn, seconded by Dustin Puckett. Roll call all yes.

Ms. Mason requested Executive Session under ORC 121.22G1 To consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official

Executive session begins at 7:09 p.m.

Motion made to come out of executive session made by Peggy Vance, seconded by Dean Vaughn. Roll call all yes.

Executive session ends at 7:31 p.m.

Mayor Webster asked if there was any business or motions coming out of executive session.

Motion made by Peggy Vance to hire Robin Michelle Taylor for the new fiscal officer at \$25.00 per hour as a full-time employee at 80 hours per pay period. Ms. Taylor will also assist with zoning and cleaning of the office building. Seconded by Anna Turner. Roll call all yes.

Ms. Mason requests a resolution to update the authorized signers for the bank accounts to add Robin Michelle Taylor and remove previous signers Melissa Downs and Bill North.

Motion made to approve the resolution to update the authorized signers made by Gary Troutman, seconded by Dusty Puckett. Roll call all yes.

Ms. Mason did the **First reading** of the Village of Sardinia 2026 Permanent Budget. This is the budget that will be sent to Jill Hall, Brown County Auditor. This needs to be submitted by the end of March to Ms. Hall. There were some questions about some of the permanent budget, so council was asked to review this month. Ms. Mason asked for a finance committee meeting to be scheduled. Finance Committee meeting scheduled for March 2 at 6:00 p.m., which is open to the public.

Ms. Mason had two event forms submitted. The first if for the Easter Egg Hunt and Library Crafts on March 28, 2026, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at the Village Park behind the library.

Motion to approve the Easter Egg event made by Peggy Vance, seconded by Mike McRoberts. Roll call all yes.

Second event request will be held until the report from the Economic Development Committee as it is for the Hope and Promise Farmer's Market.

Ms. Mason did the **second reading** of the Ordinance Amending Update for Fine and Charge Schedule of the Village of Sardinia Mayor's Court and Declaring the Same as an Emergency. Council members were given information sheet from the Baldwin Group where fines/costs go. They were also given the disbursement for the fines/costs for the Village. Mr. Vaughn asked about the distribution of fines/costs in the general fund.

First reading of Ordinance Amending and Confirming the Rate of Pay for Timothy Mock of the Village of Sardinia.

Whereas the Village of Sardinia previously enacted an Ordinance for the rate of pay and compensation for Timothy Mock. Timothy Mock has received and obtained his Level 2 certification, increasing his value to the Village of Sardinia. This is recognizing and rewarded by increasing his hourly rate of pay. Back in 2023 in updating the Policy Manual there was incentive to obtain licensure so that the Village was not dependent on contracted services for the sewer department. With each licensure there is a \$2.00 per hour update as they are obtained. New rate of pay would be \$30.64 with 65% for sewer department and 35% for water department.

Updates on EPA and Water Operations at the Village

Ms. Mason stated this certification for Mr. Mock is vital for the department as David Klump, who is our Level 2 licensed sewer person, will be retiring this year at the end of April or the first of May. Mr. Klump does have enough vacation time that he can leave at any time. With Mr. Klump retiring we will have to have a Sewer 2 license at the plant. If we did not have one the EPA would allow a Licensed 1 sewer operator to cover for six months. Once Mr. Klump retires council will be asked to amend the percentages to Mr. Mock's distribution to 100% sewer.

Ms. Mason stated the Village has received a second violation for the sewer. History is that over the last 6-8 years we have had trouble with a violation, specifically from Mercury Monitoring Data. The first violation was June 5, 2025. The test is usually done twice a year and if you have a violation the test needs to be done more often. The sample packets the lab sends with a control test and the actual test. The problem has been with the control showing Mercury not the actual test. There needed to be a plan of action for how we were going to correct this. We reviewed policies and procedures from Clermont County and other counties who do this particular test. The test is very sensitive. We have failed the test several times over the last several years. It could mean that someone is putting mercury products in their sewer. This isn't a financial issue; it is not in the water; it is a sewer issue. So, the plan was to bring in a contractor from MASI that was approximately \$1500 which we will get the bill next month. We passed that test and our guys ran the same test days before that passed. There is something that happens every 6-8 months. This is public record so if anyone searched, they would find the violation. We just had to show the EPA the report that we passed the test, and we had MASI come in to test also.

The other violation that came up will be submitted in the CCR Report that is due every June 30th. Dave Dyer is our distribution water operator. He took over the distribution last summer. When he sent in the first report, he did online he did not submit something properly. The violation reads "the public water system is in violation of Ohio Administrative Code for the failure of not submitting the required reports by the 10th of the month". It submitted on one form but not on the other. We did appeal the violation, but they came back as they were going to leave the violation as written. There is not a fine with this violation, but it will show in the report that will be coming out in the next couple of months.

Attachments: Resolution to Update Authorized Signers for People's Bank Accounts.

First Reading of Village of Sardinia 2026 Budget

Second Reading of Ordinance Amending and Updating the Fine and Charge Schedule of Sardinia Mayor's Ordinance Amending and Confirming Rate of Pay for Timothy Mock

POLICE

Chief Perry informed council that 24 hours continuous professional training with physical skills, firearms, and OC.

Starting in February the SPD will be having officers both day and night, so you will see more police coverage in the Village.

Chief Perry informed council of joint ventures with OSP, Motor Carrier Enforcement, and the Ohio Investigative Unit. State Patrol does the federal inspections for all commercial trucks, if it is major they will put them out of service. SPD will deal with any local issues. Ohio Investigative Unit is working on tobacco and alcohol issues. OSP will call if they are doing drug interdiction so will call for the K9.

All officers are certified in OLEG and LEADS

Mayor Webster did state the Chief will be working with someone that is training her staff that will train the officers in Eye on Appalachia focusing on sex trafficking with all the data and logistics. Chief Perry mentioned that the officers will get four CPT hours.

Mr. Vaughn asked about being trained in commercial trucks such as being overweight. Chief Perry stated the training is only once or twice a year this is why they are working with the other departments

MAYOR

Mayor Webster asked for update on Economic Development. Mr. Vaughn stated that Ms. Weis is asking about access or lease for the lot in town to have the Farmer's Market instead of blocking the roads. Hope and Promise is a 501C3. Ms. Mason stated that Sears Alley would be closed on Market Days. Hope and Promise did submit an event request for May 2, June 6, August 1 with the closing of Sears Alley.

Motion made to have Hope and Promise use the lot for Market Days made by Dean Vaughn, seconded by Mike McRoberts. Roll call all yes.

Mr. Mayes will draw up the contract for a long-term lease of the gravel lot for Hope and Promise. This will be presented at the next meeting.

Next Economic Development meeting was not scheduled.

Ms. Mason asked to have a Personnel Committee Meeting scheduled which will be March 2 at 7:00 p.m. to update policy manual.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Paul Riley – candidate for Brown County Commissioner. Stated he got into this because there was lack of transparency in the community both at the county level and the village levels. He asked for a commitment from the council to get the meetings live streamed between now and May 5th. Mayor Webster asked for Mr. Riley's contact information, and she will speak to the council and solicitor about live streaming meetings.

Mr. Riley then asked about Lt. Curry Ingle where he had found some information of his behavior in the county. He commented on an incident that happened in March of last year. Mr. Riley said that he knew there were new council members. Mayor Webster stated that she will investigate the situation and work with the Chief.

Ms. Angela Lyons – addressed council members Dean Vaughn and Mike McRoberts regarding their abstaining from voting without explanation of why they abstained. As prior council women if a person abstains it must be noted why they abstain.

Ms. Billie Gibbons – Village resident for 31 years. The question is Mae Street is only 12 feet wide, but it was made into a two-way street. Her car is 8 foot wide and there are ditches and mailboxes on the road that could cause damage if The same vendors have been coming there to Belcher's Shop. Biggest vendor is Snap On Tools. Concerned about the children that live on the street. Ms. Gibbons Stated that other residents on the street are afraid to come to a council meeting. Ms. Gibbons stated that she has spoken to Commissioner Gordon, Attorney General Office, and the State about the two-way street. Mayor Webster stated she understood her concerns and will work on a solution.

Ms. Shauna Weis – Hope and Promise is a nonprofit organization in Sardinia but is not affiliated with the Village of Sardinia. The Easter Egg Hunt in affiliation with the library will be on March 28th at 10:00 a.m. behind the library; if there is rain there is not a rain date to reschedule. The library will have story time, refreshments, and crafts at 11:00 rain or shine. Sardinia Farmer's Market will be renamed to Market Days hopefully the Market will be moved to the vacant lot which will be from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. July 4th is the 250-year anniversary of the United States. Brown County is very involved in this celebration. Many different organizations will have tables at the fairgrounds from 10:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m. with fireworks at 10:00 p.m. At each of the Market Days there will be a donation box for canned food to be given to the Agape Fund. There has been some criticism of the Christmas decorations. This year Belcher's donated money to

Hope and Promise so we did the corner lot with decorations, but we do need to upgrade so we are going to ask for donations for the Christmas decorations. These are very expensive Christmas decorations cost up to \$25,000. Next meeting for Hope and Promise will be tomorrow night.

Round Table

Ms. Peggy Vance sits on the Fire Board. She has Chief Kirker's 2025 report from EJJED that she can give a copy to anyone if they would like to see it. The report also includes where the grant money that EJJED received has been spent. Anyone is welcome at the Fire Board meetings which are on the first Wednesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. After daylight savings time the meetings are at 8:00 p.m.

Mr. Dean Vaughn stated that he and Mr. McRoberts have signed up for the new council member OML meeting. They will go to the February 21, 2026, seminar.

Motion to adjourn made by Peggy Vance, seconded by Dean Vaughn. Roll call all yes.

Meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.

Next meeting March 9, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.

3-9-26

Date Approved

Dean Vaughn

Mayor

President of Council