

SARDINIA COUNCIL MEETING
SEPTEMBER 8, 2025 7:00 P.M.

Prayer Mayor Bill North

Pledge Mayor Bill North

Roll Call: Gary Troutman, Anna Turner, Angela Lyons, Peggy Vance, Ashlie Webster

Absent: Dustin Puckett

Also in Attendance: Amy Mason, Administrator, Maria Palm, Fiscal Officer, Tom Mayes, Solicitor, Venita Milburn, Clerk

COUNCIL NOTES

Council reviewed meeting minutes from August 2025, regular meeting. *Motion to approve by Angela Lyons, second by Ashlie Webster. Roll call all yes.*

Attachments: Meeting minutes of August 2025

FINANCIALS

Council reviewed the financials for August 2025. Ms. Palm pointed out the line item for the new LESO program. This program brought in \$10,295 from the new police fund where the Chief has been selling items he has received from the program. Currently, there are no expenses as this must be sent to Jill Hall for approval for the funds to be used. Ms. Mason explained that the 2025 budget had already been submitted to Jill Hall where the LESO program did not exist yet. The resolution for the LESO program and the minutes for approval had to be sent to Jill Hall. The \$10,295 has been allocated for 2025 and if there is any additional funds that come into the LESO program then this information will be sent to Jill Hall also. Since we are making changes mid-year to the 2025 budget this information must be sent to Jill Hall. These funds will all be used for the police department according to Ms. Mason.

Motion to approve August financials made by Anna Turner, seconded by Angela Lyons. Roll call all yes.

Attachments: Financials August 2025

AUDIENCE

No audience comments.

Administrator

Melissa Downs has been hired as the new Fiscal Officer. This will be Maria Palm's last council meeting, but she will continue to train Ms. Downs. Ms. Mason asked for a motion to add Melissa Downs to the bank accounts and CDs and remove Maria Palm. *Motion to remove Maria Palm and add Melissa Downs to all bank accounts and CDs was made by Gary Troutman, seconded by Ashlie Webster. Roll call all yes.*

As part of the hiring of Melissa Downs there is an ordinance that Ms. Mason asked for approval of as an emergency ordinance noting the pay for Melissa Downs and which category the salary will come out of. The finance committee approved a rate increase for Venita also showing which categories her salary will come out of. The personnel committee and finance committees met on Friday, approving an increase for Chief Perry from \$60,000 to \$65,000 annually. They have proposed an increase in Ms. Mason's salary of 3% annually with the breakdown of the same categories. The committees also approved a raise for Dakotah Brown to \$21.00 an hour, an increase for Sargeant Ingle and the additional salary for a part time officer. Ms. Mason mentioned this is the ordinance we approved at the beginning of the year so with the changes the ordinance needs to be approved as an emergency ordinance. If this is passed today it would go into effect immediately. With this being the beginning of a pay period changes will be in effect except for Melissa Downs who has already started and Venita Milburn those would go back to August 28, 2025, pay period.

Motion to suspend the rules made by Ashlie Webster, seconded by Peggy Vance. Roll call all yes.

Motion to pass the pay ordinance with updates made by Ashlie Webster, seconded by Angela Lyons. Roll call all yes.

Railroad update. Ms. Mason mentioned that the one train track has been fixed and repaved, which we are happy about. The other two tracks the railroad is responsible for fixing these the contract that was done was paid by federal funds. The current repair was done by a different contractor not covered for the other tracks. Information from the railroad commission today says the repair/updates are still happening which would include fixing the crossings and moving the power box, so it is not such an eyesore. They will do the repairs from the current repaired crossing coming into town so they should repair the whole portion there. They are anticipating getting those done in the next two weeks, hopefully the week of fair with the minimal traffic. The railroad will notify the Village when this is going to happen.

Ms. Mason has asked Danielle Steinhauser from Verdantas to be with us this evening to answer any questions about the street study. She has graciously printed out a large map for all to view and the 11 x 17 color print for each council member. The large map will be left out here for any of the public to view. The tax base we get for this is roughly about \$50,000 a year. We have a contract for 2025 with Roberts Paving to repair five portions of the road. They tell us that they will be here in the next two weeks near the end of September so hopefully that portion of repairs will be started soon. We have budgeted in 2025 for these repairs which is about \$70,000.

The street study covers all 9.8 miles of roads in the Village which 9.2 which we must maintain the remaining is on St. Rt 32 that the State maintains. The map breaks down all the roads are all broken down by number/sections/size. Longer roads are broken down in several sections. Roads in the poorest condition is outlined in red, in orange are poor, yellow is fair to poor, green is fair, and blue is good (we actually have some blue roads). The next map breaks down the cost of each repair. If you see \$15.00 on the map these roads need complete reconstruction, \$8.00 means they can do an overlay, and if you see \$3.00, they can just go in and seal these roads. You can look at each road to see what it would cost to repair each road. The reason that the survey was done was so if any grants come available then this would be considered shovel ready. The plan is to spend about \$100,000 a year on road repairs this would be \$50,000 from the tax base and \$50,000 out of the general fund. If we do a levy, this would be the information that we would need to have. This is the data for all the Village streets for a five-year plan with projected repairs over the next five years. The engineer was unavailable for this month but will be here at the next meeting to answer questions.

Attachment: Pay ordinance amending the rate of pay for designated employees of the Village

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Perry addressed the council sharing that SPD is an importing agency which means we enter our own warrants. Since July of this year, we have entered 236 warrants from Sardinia only. Out of the 236 warrants we have seven that have bonded out but still have open court cases, 32 warrants have been closed by meeting all the requirements. Unfortunately, three were found to be deceased and there are 14 in prison right now. Chief informed council that Mr. Zach Smith will be hired as a part-time officer with his swearing in this evening. Sargeant Ingle is being promoted to Lieutenant. Chief asked Sargeant Ingle to come forward to be promoted in front of council and the audience. Now Lieutenant Ingle started working with Chief approximately a year into Chief's time here. Ms. Mason asked Lieutenant Ingle to introduce his family that was in the audience, his wife Tharesa, along with his mom and dad. Council congratulated Lieutenant Ingle.

Mayor North swore in Officer Zach Smith. Welcome to the Sardinia Police Department.

Administrator

Ms. Mason noticed that the new Fiscal Officer Melissa Downs had come to the meeting, so she took this time to welcome her and introduce her to the Sardinia council.

COMMITTEES

Economic Development – *New economic development leader for Brown County which there has not been one in a very long time. There will be a tech training program with a basic computer class coming in October to be held in the Workforce Center upstairs. We hired a new zoning officer to help with the economic development portion. The sidewalk project was completed on our part, but the County is busy so have not heard back about this project from them. Ms. Mason informed council that the old funeral home has been purchased with the owners cleaning up the property. There have been discussions with the property manager who is having an architect draw up some plans for possible duplexes built on that property. The buildings are in poor condition so they will most likely be torn down to accommodate future building plans. Next Economic Development meeting will be held October 20 at 6:00 p.m.*

Finance Committee – *Gary Troutman spoke for the finance committee stating that there was a lot of learning that took place this past month in relation to the budget and different funding sources. Pay Ordinance was discussed which council had already been informed of. Committee have discussed what funds could be used for certain things. Ms. Mason reiterated that every line item is to be used in that specific item, but the General fund can be used, if necessary, for multiple categories. She also mentioned that not only the pay but what categories the funds will come out of have to be broken down in percentages. Mr. Troutman did say they do work with, and take recommendations from, the other committees as needed.*

Personnel Committee – *Ashlie Webster spoke for the personnel committee saying that much of what was said during this meeting came from the personnel and finance committees. Ms. Webster wanted to give a shout out to Chief Perry because he advocates for his department. He is trying to build a good police department here, Chief spends a lot of hours here, and third, every police department wants him. Ms. Webster works in a lot of different communities in Brown County, so she knows there is lack of police officers and police chiefs, so we are lucky to have Chief Perry.*

Public Works Committee – *Dustin Puckett absent tonight so Ms. Mason reviewed that the committee had discussed the street study. They met with Danielle the first time the maps were seen. The committee met with Danielle again asking questions to get a better understanding of the street study.*

Mayor

Halloween will be scheduled for Friday, October 31st, from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. *Motion made to set the date for October 31st made by Ashlie Webster, seconded by Gary Troutman. Roll call all yes except for Angela Lyons, no.*

ROUND TABLE

Ms. Mason informed council that repairs are being done at the back of the cemetery. We had contracted out for another 35 stones to be restored. When he is done there will be about 70 stones that will be done. You can read the stones that he has already completed. Ms. Mason has been speaking to someone with a drone that will be reading all the stones and marking them in a database so will be able to pull up where they are. Not sure on the timeline as the person works for the government so is requesting permission to use the drone to do this. This will not be a cost to the Village

Ms. Vance did inquire about making a possible community garden. Mr. Mayes did mention that he had a couple of community gardens that were built in conjunction with 5013C. These were done with raised beds but would have to be approved by council, we would provide the space. If they would not be used any longer then the 5013C would be responsible for removing the beds.

Ms. Lyons said that the Stokes property looks better but now it seems that the items are being moved across the street. Ms. Mason stated both these properties are on the radar but since it is in litigation she is unable to discuss it in public forum.

Motion to adjourn *is made by Peggy Vance, seconded by Ashlie Webster. Roll call all yes.*

**NEXT MEETING OCTOBER 20, 2025, AT 7:00 P.M.
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:42 P.M.**

Oct. 20, 2025
Date Approved

Beth Vance
Mayor

Ashlie Webster
President of Council