

## SARDINIA COUNCIL MEETING

January 12, 2026 7:00 P.M.

*Prior to the meeting beginning, Solicitor Tom Mayes swore in council members Michael McRoberts, Anna Turner, Peggy Vance, and Dean Vaughn for the new term.*

**Prayer** Councilman Gary Troutman

**Pledge** Mayor Ashlie Webster

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

**Also in Attendance:** Tom Mayes, Solicitor, Melissa Downs, Fiscal Officer, Venita Milburn, Clerk

**Absent:** Amy Mason, Administrator – excused

### COUNCIL NOTES

Council reviewed meeting minutes from December 2025, regular meeting. Mr. Mayes stated that there was one correction to the December minutes which is that Officer Price's salary is \$19.00 an hour, which was approved but omitted from the minutes. This will be an addendum to the minutes.

*Motion to approve minutes with amendment of Officer Price's salary by Dustin Puckett, seconded by Dean Vaughn. Roll call all yes.*

*Attachments: Meeting minutes of December 2025*

### FINANCIALS

Financials are unavailable due to the month end also being the year end. Ms. Downs explained that December's financials will be available at the February meeting since December and end of year is completed at the same time. The end of the year report will be sent to the prospective government agencies for approval. January financials will also be available at the February meeting.

### Administration

Mayor Webster asked for a motion to approve the 2026 Purchase Orders. There will need to be two council signatures needed for these purchase orders.

*Motion made to approve the 2026 purchase orders made by Peggy Vance, seconded by Anna Turner. Roll call all yes.*

*Note: Purchase orders were signed by councilmen Troutman, McRoberts, and Vaughn.*

Mayor Webster asked for a motion to suspend the rules for the approval of the Ordinance to Approve Robert's Rules for Meetings. This is done every January for the current year.

*Motion to suspend the rules made by Peggy Vance, seconded by Dean Vaughn. Roll call all yes.*

*Motion to adopt the Ordinance for Robert's Rules made by Dustin Puckett, seconded by Peggy Farmer. Roll call all yes.*

Mayor Webster asked for a motion to suspend the rules for Approval of the 2026 Edition of the Ohio Basic Code. Mr. Mayes explained that the Basic Code is used for traffic enforcement. *Motion to suspend the rules made by Peggy Vance, seconded by Dean Vaughn. Roll call all yes. Motion to adopt the Ordinance for approval of the 2026 Ohio Basic Code made by Dean Vaughn, seconded by Peggy Vance. Roll call all yes.*

Mayor Webster asked for a motion to approve a Resolution for the Village of Sardinia to authorize ODOT to mow the section of St. Rt 32. The Village does not have the equipment nor the funds to mow that section of the roadway. Mr. Mayes explained that this is done every year usually with just a positive response to be part of the program but are now requesting that a resolution be signed. *Motion to adopt the Resolution for ODOT to mow the section of 32 in the Village made by Dean Vaughn, seconded by Michael McRoberts. Roll call all yes.*

Peggy Vance, Chair of the Safety Committee, updated council on the ordinance request to increase cost and fines for 2026 for traffic citations and Mayor's Court. Ms. Vance stated that the committee of herself, Dustin Puckett, Amy Mason, and Chief Perry. Chief Perry requested that the fines be raised. Ms. Mason had informed that this would align the fees with other Villages. These fees are split between the Village, the County, and the State. Mr. Vaughn asked what percentage was that each entity received, which Chief Perry explained each get a percentage based on what the fine is for. Mr. Mayes explained that there were only a couple things that needed to be increased to align with the other Villages, and if council agreed this would need to be passed as an emergency. Mr. Troutman requested this to be done as a first reading. Mr. Mayes also stated this could be considered as an emergency at the second reading if approved.

**First reading January 12, 2026**, for An Ordinance Amending and Updating the Fine and Charge Schedule of the Village of Sardinia Mayor's Court and Declaring the Same as an Emergency.

*Attachments: Ordinance approving Robert's Rules, Ordinance for Approval of 2026 Ohio Basic Code, Resolution for Mayor to sign agreement with ODOT, Ordinance to Increase Fines/Costs for Mayor's Court – First Reading*

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

Chief Perry thanked the council for the gift cards for the officers. This was much appreciated.

Shop with a Cop was successful with two Village students that were chosen for the Department. They were able to take the students to breakfast, go shopping, and go bowling. Each student was able to spend \$600.00 on themselves and their families.

All officers are up to date with their 2025 continuing education. The 2026 professional training has come in so all officers will be starting on these trainings.

## **MAYOR**

Mayor Webster stated that the 2026 President of Council needed to be adopted. Mr. Mayes explained the process of making nominations by opening the floor for this position. Once the nominations are made then the floor is closed. Mr. Troutman nominated Dustin Puckett; Anne Turner nominated Peggy Vance. The floor was then closed. *Motion was made by Mr. Troutman to nominate Dustin Puckett, seconded by Dean Vaughn. Roll call all yes except for Anna Turner and Peggy Vance who both said no. Dustin Puckett was voted in by majority as 2026 President of Council.*

Committee appointments for 2026 were made by Mayor Webster as follows:

Economic Development – (Chair) C. Dean Vaughn, (2<sup>nd</sup>) Peggy Vance  
Public Safety – (Chair) Peggy Vance, (2<sup>nd</sup>) Dustin Puckett  
Finance – (Chair) Gary Troutman, (2<sup>nd</sup>) Michael McRoberts  
Public Works – (Chair) Dustin Puckett, (2<sup>nd</sup>) Anna Turner  
Personnel – (Chair) Anna Turner, (2<sup>nd</sup>) Gary Troutman

*Motion to adopt the committee appointments made by Dustin Puckett, seconded by Peggy Vance. Roll call all yes.*

Mr. Troutman asked how many people can be on a committee. Mr. Mayes responded that there can be three on a committee, but any council member can come to a committee meeting although over three cannot participate. Mr. Mayes also stated that he can come to a committee meeting if needed to answer any questions during those scheduled meetings.

Mayor Webster requested council to suspend the three readings and pass as an emergency ordinance allowing the mayor to sign a two-year agreement for Village Solicitor. Mr. Mayes explained that his contract expired December 31 and this is the same contract as last year; there were no changes made.

*Motion made to suspend the rules made by Dustin Puckett, seconded by Peggy Vance. Roll call all yes except for Michael McRoberts who abstained.*

*Motion made to adopt made by Gary Troutman, seconded by Dustin Puckett. Roll call all yes except for Michael McRoberts who abstained and Dean Vaughn who abstained.*

Mayor Webster informed council that there needed to be a member from council to sit on the Fire Board for 2026 which Peggy Vance is currently sitting on. Mayor Webster recommended that Peggy Vance continue to be the council member on the Fire Board.

*Motion made for Peggy Vance to stay on Fire Board made by Dustin Puckett, seconded by Anna Turner. Roll call all yes.*

*Attachments: Committee appointments, Ordinance allowing Mayor to sign Solicitor Agreement*

#### **AUDIENCE COMMENT**

**Julia Clark** – declined to speak.

**Nick Taylor** – declined to speak

**Shauna Weis - Started** by congratulating the new council members and Mayor Webster. She also thanked Bill North for his many years of service for the Village. Hope and Promise is looking forward to 2026. Last week they had a board meeting so there were many things discussed. Easter Egg Hunt will be on Saturday, March 28 at 10:00 a.m. down by the library. They will be changing the name of the Farmers Market to Market Days, which will be May through August. There will be a Summer Celebration. Hope and Promise will be partnering with the Agape Foundation with accepting can goods at each of the Market Days. This year they will have donation boxes for Sardinia Christmas decorations. They will also approach Village businesses to donate to this. Ms. Weis did investigate Christmas decorations for the Village, which will cost at least \$25,000 to \$30,000.

Ms. Weis wanted to mention the accomplishments of Hope and Promise over the three years that they have been an official group. A Facebook page was created that posts things that happen in the Village, the schools, and businesses (like Maddy's Pizza needing drivers). All things that are happening in the Village are posted. They purchased the speakers and bells for the Cornerstone Church, planted the flowers in the Village square, started the Farmer's Market, which is free to vendors, cleaned up the corner where the flagpole calling it Hope Corner since Hope Church owns this lot, and purchased Christmas decorations for the Village corner compliments to Tom Belcher's Auto body. Helped with supplies for the backpacks, partnered with Graeter's Ice Cream, helped the Veterans, partnered with the America Legion with the wreaths and flags for the cemetery, volunteered with people in the Village on clean up days. They also helped with the refresh of Village Hall, helped a family in the Village with Christmas for their family. Provided music at the Farmer's Market, worked with the Fire Department on the parade.

Mayor Webster informed Ms. Weis that Chatfield campus, where she is located, has Christmas decorations that Hope and Promise can come to go through. The Saint Ursaline Sisters are not interested in keeping them any longer. There are some large decorations; the campus is 99 acres, so they are offering these decorations to Hope and Promise.

## **ROUND TABLE**

Peggy Vance did want to mention that there is a recommendation from the Public Safety committee for council to approve a full-time position for an officer that could be filled in the future. The Chief is looking into the future to add a full-time officer. Chief Perry confirmed that we have three full-time officers but would not confirm the specific hours that the officers work for safety purposes. There are also two part-time officers who cannot work over 80 hours during a pay period.

*Motion to create a full-time position for a police officer to be hired in the future if the budget allows. Motion was made by Peggy Vance, seconded by Anna Turner. Roll call yes by Anna Turner, Peggy Vance, Dustin Puckett. Dean Vaughn and Michael McRoberts voted no. Gary Troutman abstained wanting more information. As vote was 3/3 Mayor Webster voted yes – motion passes.*

Mayor Webster wanted to bring attention to the gift cards that were given by the council to the employees for Christmas that have been questioned by the public. Mayor Webster stated that this has been done for many years, where previously through 2018 the gift cards given were \$50. In 2019, Councilman Art Hoover asked to increase to \$100. At that time, the council approved the \$100 gift card for each employee.

Mayor Webster also mentioned the comments that are being said about Administrator Amy Mason working at the Christian School. Ms. Mason is a salaried employee, so she is working both jobs. Mayor Webster stated that when other people have worked for the Village, and this was an issue, they were hourly employees, so it was up to their employer regarding second jobs. Ms. Vance reiterated that Ms. Mason is on call 24 hours a day/7 day a week for the Village. Mayor Webster also stated that during the winter when the Village was short of employees, you could see Ms. Mason was seen out in the ditches with her coveralls on.

Venita Milburn informed new council members of the Ohio Municipal League for Newly Elected Council Members Seminars for 2026. Flyer was given to new and old members. Mr. Puckett mentioned that this was a very informative seminar with Mr. Mayes recommending that new members go to the seminar in person. Mr. Mayes also said if a council person had not been to one of the seminars in a while he would recommend that this be attended. Council was informed that the Village does pay for the attendance of the seminar.

Mayor Webster asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Peggy Vance made the motion; Gary Troutman seconded the motion. Roll call, all yeas. Meeting adjourned at 7:39pm.

NEXT MEETING FEBRUARY 9, AT 7:00 P.M.

2/9/24

Date Approved

*Ashlie Webster*

Mayor

*Dustie Webster*

President of Council