SARDINIA COUNCIL MEETING

JULY 14, 2025 7:00 P.M.

Prayer: Administrator Amy Mason

Pledge: Mayor Bill North

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

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

COUNCIL NOTES

Council reviewed meeting minutes from June 8, 2025, regular meeting. *Motion to approve by Peggy Vance, second by Dustin Puckett. Roll call all yes.*

Attachments: Meeting minutes of June 2025

FINANCIALS

Council unable to review the financials for June 2025. Ms. Palm stated that there are no financials to review due to the unclaimed funds which were received for $1468.99 which need to be applied yet. Jayme Eldridge was unavailable to assist due to specific UAN system requirements. June financials will be available at the August meeting so June and July will be approved at that time. Since no June financials are available no motion is needed.

Kelly Faas, Field Representative for Congressman Dave Taylor – addressed the council to let everyone know what Congressman Taylor is up to and what her office is doing. She first mentioned that if anyone in the Village is having trouble with any Federal agencies, including IRS, Social Security, Veterans Administration, the office has connections with all the agencies so they can help navigate issues. If someone has done something special in the Village that needs to be recognized they can have a flag which is flown at the Capitol building in D.C. presented to them. Their office loves to recognize new businesses with a special certificate signed by Congressman Taylor. Also, if someone from one of the schools wants to go to a military academy the office will write letters of recommendation. Sometimes their office has access to community funding that can be applied for. Recently, Mr. John Corboy called to get help with some debris that was left from the train wreck that happened in Sardinia, so they are working on getting this taken care of. Ms. Faas did let the council, and the audience know that if they have something that there is a question about, please call her office which is in Union Township. Councilman Taylor will be in the district during the month of August going through Brown County and Highland County. Mr. Taylor's office is also working on Connor's Bill which is that any person driving a semi should be able to read and speak English. Congressman Taylor is about putting American's first and is the freshman Congressman with the most legislation written.

AUDIENCE

Brett Moermond – Saw that lines were being painted in the Village so is asking about having a no parking lane painted in front of the two-story white house and his property where it is difficult to come out of especially if turning left. At one time there was an accident there that Ohio State Patrol said there should not be parking there. Mr. Moermond is

requesting to have no parking lane put there to be safer when pulling out. Ms. Mason did state that only crosswalks are being painted at this time. Mayor North informed Mr. Moermond that the Village would work on his request.

Administrator

Ms. Mason began with the third reading of the Proof of Insurance Ordinance which requires commercial property owners to maintain and provide proof of insurance to the Village Administrator. This includes non-residential property in the Village that is used in whole, or in part, for business purposes whether it is owned, occupied, or leased. Property owners need to submit valid proof of insurance information to the Administrator annually by January 31st. This ordinance was drafted by the Economic Development committee brought about from the building fire in the Village which there was no insurance, and the Village had to cover the entire amount of that.
Motion to approve the ordinance was made by Angela Lyons, seconded by Ashlie Webster. Roll call all yes.

Ms. Mason was to review the temporary budget for 2026. This temporary budget will be sent to Jill Hall. All of this is an estimate which will be finalized in January when all the bills are in. There were a few things adjusted after the finance committee so this is what will be sent to Jill Hall. Ms. Mason stated that there was already a commitment for a few projects, although not spent yet, that will not be rolled over because it will be spent such as the road repair that will be done by Roberts Paving.
Motion to suspend the rules made by Peggy Vance, seconded by Angela Lyons. Roll call all yes.
Motion to approve the temporary budget made by Ashlie Webster, seconded by Dustin Puckett. Roll call all yes.

The street condition update. The final meeting will be tomorrow at 9:30 a.m. as the engineer was not able to meet prior to this meeting. They have looked at the conditions of the roads, what conditions the roads are in, and what cost it will be to get each of these repaired. The Village has allocated about $50,000 to repair the five or six sections that need immediate repair. Going forward from 2026 the project will be to work on the roads in order of repairs needed with the limited funding that is received. Ms. Webster asked if this was something that Congressman Taylor's office could help with possibly a community project. Ms. Mason did say that there was some funding that the Village asked for with Terry Johnson's office but was denied.

Railroad will be repairing the tracks near Ready Mix starting August 4th. The road closure signs will be going up by Thursday with the detours during the repairs which will be for 14 days. The problem is that when they pour the concrete the road will have to be completely shut down for six days. The contractors are aware that school begins on the 14th so they are hoping to be completed by the 13th, but they cannot guarantee this. They are unable to get the steel in until the 4th. Ms. Mason will reach out to Eastern schools so that they are aware. The other two sets of tracks will not be taken out but will be repaired because these will continue to be used for a turnaround for the trains. The Village will be repairing the drain under the road during the railroad repair also.

Update on the sidewalk on Graham Street. There was a citizen that wrote about the sidewalk. This sidewalk project was going through CGBD grant which was started before Ms. Mason was hired and the money was through Brown County. Ms. Mason met with the Economic Development person, Austin, from Brown County The sidewalk project for Graham Street was supposed to be done last year but was delayed when Kelly Cole left Brown County. Austin reached out to the State after Ms. Mason explained what was supposed to be done. He was able to get the grant extended to August 2026 if the work is done by then the grant money has not been lost. The engineer drawings will be sent to Austin so that this can be bid out.

Attachments: Temporary Budget 2026
Proof of Insurance Ordinance

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Sargeant Ingle gave the report for Chief Perry

SPD has several drug investigations still going on in the Village, Sargeant Ingle stated there are currently at least 15 that are open cases.

SPD has been working with ODOT monthly on enforcement of semis and dump trucks going through the Village for safer roads. ODOT will call when they are coming then ODOT and SPD have a meeting then begin the enforcement in the Village.

SPD has several cases that are still going through Municipal Court, approximately five cases.

Sargeant Ingle has three sex cases that he is investigating.

Old cases are still being worked through which goes back to early 2000. There were two old cases that were taken care of today. Ms. Turner asked about the old cases of why they were not taken care of in the past, which Sargeant Ingle replied they were just put on the shelf and never addressed by previous SPD officers. SPD has been sending out summons to the cited people for a date to appear in court. When the person does not appear then they are issued a bench warrant. The two cases Sargeant Ingle dealt with today were picked up and taken to Brown County Jail on Friday then Sargeant Ingle picked them up this morning, brought them to the office, and were held until they posted bond. If they did not pay the citation in full, then they are given a court date to appear.

Ghost and Chief Perry have been requested by several agencies where narcotics were found.

COMMITTEES

Economic Development – There is a new Economic Development person for Brown County which is huge. He is supporting us with resources and helping in areas that he can. He understands poverty areas; he comes from D.C. but was a West Virginian, so he came ready to start with boots on the ground. We are still working on zoning, infrastructure, and beautification. We would love people to come to meetings with ideas and be a part of the committee. Next meeting is August 4 at 4:00 p.m. Mr. Puckett did ask if we could possibly move to a later time so more residents could attend but Ms. Mason stated that this was the only time the solicitor could come. Questions were also asked about residential properties that have been empty, which Ms. Webster replied this in the process of being addressed. Ms. Mason did state that residential properties are a little different but also the reason why Mr. Mayes needs to be at the meetings.

Finance Committee – Mr. Troutman said the budget was a big part of the finance committee. He did mention that there was a question about the pay for council members and the mayor. Ms. Mason stated the council gets $75 per meeting and the mayor gets $4800 per year. This was set by the previous council in 2017 but if the council wanted to change these rates they could but would not affect the current council. There are four positions available this coming year in January they would make the new rate. Ms. Mason did say that this would be a good time for the upcoming year to make the change because of the four open positions. Ms. Vance did say she did not feel that this was a good time

because of the discord in the Village. Ms. Turner stated she did not believe that people in the Village are aware of what this council has done during their time. Ms. Lyons stated she did not believe the council should be paid. Ms. Mason will bring all this up with Mr. Mayes. Mr. Troutman did request that the discussion about council rates be tabled to another date.

ROUND TABLE

No discussion for round table

Motion to adjourn *is made by Angela Lyons, second by Ashlie Webster. Roll call all yes.*

NEXT MEETING AUGUST 11, 2025, AT 7:00 P.M.
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:53 P.M .

August 11, 2025
Date Approved

Mayor

Ashlie Webster
President of Council