

SARDINIA COUNCIL MEETING

June 16, 2026 7:00 P.M.

Prayer: Gary Troutman

Pledge: Mayor Dustin Puckett

Roll Call: Gary Troutman, Anna Turner, Peggy Vance, Dean Vaughn, Nick Taylor, Mike McRoberts

Also in Attendance: Tony Baker, Solicitor, Michelle Taylor, Fiscal Officer, Venita Milburn, Interim Administrator

Meeting began at 7:02 p.m.

COUNCIL NOTES

Mr. Baker asked for a motion to amend the June 16, 2026, meeting agenda to Special meeting as promoted. *Motion is made to amend the May 27, 2026, meeting to Special Meeting as promoted made by Gary Troutman, seconded by Nick Taylor. Roll call all yes.*

Council reviewed meeting minutes from May 11, 2026. Mr. Vaughn asked about the importance of the highlighted statement on the May 11th meeting. Ms. Milburn did state that she was informed to highlight the statement made by Mr. Vaughn to Mr. Taylor during the May 11th meeting. Mayor Puckett stated that he felt it was important to be highlighted because it goes against meeting rules to tell another person how to vote. Mr. Taylor stated he did not remember that part. Mr. Taylor did state he had wanted to clarify what was talked about but did not remember Mr. Vaughn saying to follow suit. Ms. Milburn verified this was on the recording and Ms. Vance did say she remembered the statement. Mayor Puckett instructed the council to come to order that this was a professional meeting.

Mr. Troutman did request more discussion. Mr. Troutman asked if that is as printed and with the highlight, or how much does that matter? "What was said, I don't know, I didn't hear the recording, but I don't necessarily think this is a quote either, because it says also told as opposed to said this, so is there a way to spell it out and say there was some heated discussion back and forth".

Mr. Vaughn said, "We all know what is going on so just leave it". Mr. Troutman stated he was just bringing it up for discussion which Mr. Vaughn said he appreciated. Mr. Baker wanted to clarify that the motion made would indicate if it is made with or without the highlight but if sent electronically it would not change the wording technique. Ms. Vance did mention that if recorded legally the minutes cannot be changed. Mr. Taylor would like to hear the recording. Mr. Baker instructed us not to destroy the recording. Ms. Milburn agreed.

Motion to approve minutes as printed made by Peggy Vance, seconded by Anna Turner. Roll call all yes except for Nick Taylor – no; Mike McRoberts – no.

Council reviewed meeting minutes from May 27, 2026. *Motion to approve minutes for May 27th special meeting made by Gary Troutman, seconded by Dean Vaughn. Roll call all yes.*

Attachments: Meeting minutes of May 11, 2026, and May 27, 2026

FINANCIALS

Council reviewed financials for May 2026. Since Mayor Puckett had requested a possible small reduction in the water/sewer bill Michelle reviewed outstanding loans for sewer plant which come out twice a year in the amount of \$66,864 in January and July. The loans were identified by first date paid, amount of loan, and when the loan is to be paid off. Also showing which are loans for sewer or water – all are sewer except for two. Ms. Milburn stated the previous 5-year plan ended this year. The finance committee will review the loan details to ensure if a reduction would have an impact on the loan repayment.

Mr. Vaughn asked about account number 6720, which he believed related to the sewer line installed across Route 32 to the field. The sewer line was intended to serve a housing subdivision, but storage buildings were built there instead. The loan will not be paid in full until 2044. Mr. Baker asked whether the sewer line was capped. Mr. Vaughn explained that, to his understanding, there was no way to pursue the landowner because nothing had been required of him at the time.

Ms. Vance questioned if the payment continues as \$66,864 as the loans get paid off. Ms. Taylor agreed that this is how the payment schedule was set up. Ms. Vance stated that as there were struggles with the financials over the last six months, she questioned how confident Ms. Taylor and the finance committee were with the financials being correct. Ms. Vance was looking at the UAN figures which Ms. Taylor indicated that is where she gets the numbers from. Ms. Vance does have more questions which she will address with Ms. Taylor at another time.

Mr. Vaughn discussed the recommendation from Mayor Puckett about reducing the water/sewer bill that there may be a different way to look at this possibly to reduce the per gallon charge across the board for everyone. This would be instead of \$.00 off for everyone. Ms. Vance did mention that charges are based on water usage. Mayor Puckett said the finance committee should get together to review. Mr. Baker said that this should all be included in a five-year proposal. Everyone agreed that helping with costs would be a good idea, but Mr. Troutman said that this needs to compare sewer/water charges based on the expenses.

Mayor Puckett said this would be tabled at this time and then have the finance committee meet to come back with a proposal.

Motion to approve May financials made by Dean Vaughn, seconded by Nick Taylor. Roll call all yes except for Peggy Vance – no.

Attachments: Financials for May 2026

Mayor

Mayor Puckett stated he has done a lot of thinking regarding the Administrator position with a lot of reading. Mayor Puckett's recommendation is still Jerry Seibert. He is in the process of getting his Water 1 certificate which will help the village a lot. He's got a lot of experience, and he meets all the standards.

Mr. Vaughn spoke up that he wanted to strike that recommendation which Mr. McRoberts said he seconded. Mr. Baker explained that the mayor makes the recommendation then council votes to accept or reject the recommendation. *Ms. Vance motioned to accept the recommendation of the mayor; Ms. Turner seconded this motion. Roll call was done with Mr. Troutman – yes; Ms. Vance – yes; Ms. Turner – yes; Mr. Vaughn – no; Mr. McRoberts – no; Mr. Taylor – no.*

Ms. Milburn confirmed that roll call was three for/three against.

Mr. Baker said, "There's not a lot of guidance for this situation, right? And I looked, I knew this would happen."

Ms. Beth Kress spoke up from the audience stating that "he" made the motion first which Mr. Baker replied that was not the appropriate motion. Ms. Kress spoke out of line again, stating, "He addressed the chairman and made a motion first".

Mr. Baker explained the process again stating that the mayor makes an appointment, council approves or disapproves of the appointment. At which time Ms. Kress spoke out of line again, stating, "Dean said he disapproved" which Mr. Vaughn said, "I disapproved and "he" seconded it and we didn't vote on it". Ms. Kress said, "Exactly".

Mr. Baker said that Mr. Vaughn worded it a little differently as Mr. Vaughn said, "he moved to strike". Mr. Taylor said he heard "strike". Mr. Baker confirmed with Mr. Vaughn that he means to disapprove. Mr. Baker explained that a motion to strike is different from approving or disapproving the mayor's appointment. Mr. Vaughn either way he did not see how this was going to come out right.

Mr. Baker said, "The statute says mayor's approval, majority approval of council, we have a split council. Statute says where there's a tie in council vote, the mayor is the tiebreaker. There's no specific guidance that says the mayor shouldn't be the tie breaker when it is a mayor's appointment. There is also 20 or more municipalities that either in their bylaws, rules of council, or in charter, say that the mayor cannot break a tie in the event of voting on a mayor appointment. So, there's really not a whole lot out there, you could, and these are just suggestions, because I think legally, we're in gray water right now. You could take strict statutory construction and say the mayor gets to break the tie. You could say that nothing passes, move on, no administrator, then we want to nominate a board of public affairs, because if we don't, then that's what we're left with. The administrator position has existed here, I couldn't find where we did the ordinance making an administrator over a board of public affairs, but it was way before me, and for probably most of us at this table.

Mr. Vaughn said, "I find it is a sad situation, but I'm as far as recommendations, inaudible is it not?"

Ms. Turner said, "I think that the decision was made because of the qualities of those people running. Of the four, he had the more, as I understand, he had a better background in administration than the others did".

Mr. Vaughn said, "He literally said I wrote down Beth's answers because they were really good". Ms. Kress again disrupted from the audience, "And he told us that outside that he used my answers". Mr. Vaughn stated, "I don't understand what the big push is. Why don't you want Beth having it?" Ms. Vance responded, "I don't think she is qualified". *Audience and council were speaking over each other at this time, most of the speaking was inaudible.*

Mr. Troutman said, "It's about the mayor's recommendation at this point. We can choose to follow the mayor or not. And, I'm not going to say that it was a bad candidate in the bunch. I'm just saying that, as the rules stand, the recommendation was made. Personally, I don't think it was a bad recommendation. I wouldn't say that that about any of them, but we're at that point, as you say".

Mr. Vaughn stated, "Yes, we are at a very, very fragile point to say the least".

Mr. Baker said that at this point he did not feel comfortable telling Dusty that he is the tiebreaker, this situation is appropriate legally. Which Mr. Vaughn agreed. Mr. Baker continued, "Because it's his appointment he's voting on his appointment, and, like I said, I went through, I don't know, couple dozen other villages bylaws or charters, if they were charter villages, or rules of council, and the vast majority of them address this situation by saying the mayor cannot break a tie."

Mr. Vaughn said, "That's what I was saying, something that he's doing. Mr. Baker stated, "And that's going to be part of my address to you guys. Is I left the last meeting saying, "Hey, I'll amend our rules of council, or bylaws, to reflect this will be the new process, we don't have, they don't exist."

Mr. Troutman asked Mr. Baker, "Are there ones you know of where they say it is the tiebreaker, because that's the norm and it's his recommendation, or?"

Mr. Baker replied that it would be just by statute 733.24. Ms. Turner responded by saying, "There is no one else to break the tie. That's the rules, it has been that way." Mr. Vaughn stated he was under the impression that the mayor could not break a tie of his own recommendation, which Ms. Turner replied, "That is your impression but that is not the fact." Mr. Vaughn then responded, "He just told us what the facts was, and it couldn't be done." Mr. Baker said, "We don't have rules that say we can't. We don't have rules that say we can." Ms. Turner replied, "There's nothing saying the mayor's - we've always gone with the statute the mayor broke the tie."

Mr. Baker continued, "In Title Seven of the Ohio Revised Code, there's nothing in there that says the mayor can't break the tie in this situation." Ms. Turner then said, "Well let's do that". Mr. Baker said, "There's also every charter bylaw or anything else that's been written that abrogates statutes, says the mayor can't break a tie on his own vote."

Ms. Turner asked, "Who else is there to break it if not the mayor? What do you do if you don't allow him to do that?"

Mr. Baker replied, "Call special meeting tomorrow and nominate Jerry again, I guess".

Ms. Turner did say, "This is ridiculous". Mr. Vaughn said something, but it was *inaudible*.

Mr. Baker stated he was surprised this had not happened before this. Ms. Turner responded that it hasn't. She then stated, "Things were running pretty smoothly before January, and now there's a lot of disruption, dissent, contentiousness that we've never had in four years. It's a shame. It's a sad story".

Mr. Baker said, "I have sat in this seat previously, and it ran smoothly."

Mr. Taylor said, "If I may, people have been complaining about the mismanagement of this town. I went out there to get my signatures to get my name on the ballot, that was the main complaint, and two people were leaving town because of it. I'm just trying to do my part to make it better for the public to have more of a say. That's the whole reason I'm here. I'm not a political guy, you know. So, anything we could do to aid public trust should be looked into, I think, very strongly".

Mr. Baker said, "I think whatever way, whatever direction we go today, we're darned if we do, darned if we don't. There's going to be discontent, no matter the decision, and I don't have enough legal authority other than crediting the statute regarding qualifications and the powers of the mayor. That says just plainly, in the case of the tie, the mayor is the tie breaker as the leader of the legislative body of a municipality or village.

Ms. _____ asked, "Doesn't it have to be two thirds?"

Mr. Baker responded, "It doesn't have to be two thirds, it's a civil majority."

Ms. Vance addressed Mr. Taylor saying, "I can say, even though you talked to your petition signers, there's a great deal many other people that don't get on Facebook and air their opinions, but they were very confident that the old council of the past four years was making progress for the good of the whole village. We had things in place that we were working on, we didn't have enough time, and now council is different".

Mr. Vaughn said something, but it was inaudible.

Mr. Taylor responded, "From the votes I've gotten representing people I've talked to, and there's a large number".

There were a lot of overtalking here.

Mayor Puckett asked for order.

Someone from the audience said, "Select someone everyone can agree on."

Mr. Baker stated, "There is nothing on point that says you can. There's nothing on point that says you can't, and our rules don't dictate otherwise".

Ms. Beth Kress interrupted again from the audience, "Mr. Chairman, may I address you? Mr. Chairman. Mayor Dusty Puckett, Beth Kress, Village Administrator Applicant. I strongly recommend that you listen to those who are in the room, who are here and wanting to express their views on the way the village goes. I am sitting among the people who actually vote for you as mayor, and the people who would dissolve the village if it continues to the direction that it has been heading, which I do not want to see happen. I stand to gain nothing from throwing my knife on the sword, or myself, on the sword. I want to see this village improve. I want to see it grow. I want to see her issues resolved, his issues resolved, and those, and I also want to see the people who are saying half-truths and lies corrected.

Ms. Vance said, "Oh, absolutely. Yes.

Ms. Kress continued, "So I want to make sure that you understand. I do want this job, and I do feel that I am the solution. I do feel that you should choose me, because I am your best candidate. Because even though some don't feel that I am the best qualified or the most qualified, I do know how to run a meeting. I do know how to run a board. I do know how to use my resources in government. I do not know how to run a sewer plant, but I do know how to find people who do".

Mayor Puckett responded, "We've got people that do that now so that's not the problem."

Ms. Kress said, "Well, that was your talking point in regard to Mr. Siebert."

Mayor Puckett said, "We need an extra person and when somebody else goes on vacation that can run the plant."

Ms. Kress interrupted the mayor saying, "And that's fine. That's why you use PRN staffing, and you use your resources in the community".

Mayor Puckett responded to Ms. Kress saying, "And pay 50 some dollars an hour".

Ms. Kress stated, "You give me an opportunity to look at budgets and do the work here. *Ms. Vance said something but was inaudible.* Ms. Kress said, "Excuse me, I'm speaking. I asked you to give me the same respect that you give me that you demand of me.

Ms. Vance said, "Excuse me, I'm sorry".

Ms. Kress continued, "But Dusty, I really feel that I am your best choice. I would ask you to ask Mr. Declaire, Mrs. Jordan. They have businesses in this village, but yet don't live in the village. They have vested interest in this community as well. You're talking about the water bill. Great idea. Listen to Mr. Vaughn. I understand Mrs. Vance's point as well. I've been in her shoes when you're trying to manage a household under so many dollars. This lady right here, I can't imagine what her water bill is. I mean, she does everybody's hair. Hello. Help figure it out. Work together, don't scream at each other. Let me help that cohesive environment that we need to move this village forward."

Mayor Puckett said, ". You've got three people that say otherwise, and you got three people that say the other way".

Again Ms. Kress interrupted, "You made a recommendation of somebody that was not thought well upon or fond of three".

Mayor Puckett replied, "Well, they don't even know him, for one".

Ms. Kress stated, "Exactly, they interviewed him, and he gave you my answers in the interview, and came outside and told me that he used my answers in his interview. How does that make him a better candidate? _ Ms. Vance did say this is not exactly what "he" said.

Mayor Puckett said, "I tell you what I'm going to do. *Ms. Kress kept interrupting Mayor Puckett who then called for order then said,* "Here's what I'm going to do, Venita, you are the acting administrator right now. We will go ahead and re-put this out there. We'll get more applications, more resumes, and we'll start over. *Ms. Kress began arguing with the mayor here saying,* "You can't keep putting the Village in hierarchy".

Mayor Puckett then said, "If we can't come to a decision....." Then Ms. Kress addressed the audience asking, "How many people in this room are unhappy with the way this is going? Then she got louder saying, "All of this! all of this! All of this!" A few of the audience did clap at this time.

Ms. Kress continued by saying to Mayor Puckett, "Your election depends on the people sitting here, whether they are happy or not happy with you".

Ms. Turner stated, "You're a small minority of what the people of 1000 people in Sardinia". Again, an interruption from Ms. Kress, "I understand that". Ms. Turner continued saying, "There are some here that want you we understand that" Ms. Kress addressed the audience again out of line saying, "Who in this room is considered my friend, other than Janine?

Ms. Darla Louderback asked, "Why aren't those people here if they're wanting to get involved?"

Ms. Kress continued, "The only person in this room I would consider a friend is Janine, because I lived across from her from 96 on".

Ms. Regina Waters spoke out of turn saying, "Take a vote of the citizens that have come to the meeting in support of this council who have attended".

Ms. Kress again, "Business owners willing to show up and do the work. These are people willing to show up and do the work to make the community better".

Mayor Puckett stated, "I understand this but that is not how the meeting works". Ms. Kress countered with, "But that's the way communities change".

Mayor Puckett said, "No, that's the law, correct? So, my decision is just go ahead and relist it, and we'll get more interviews and more applications. Run it for 30 days."

Ms. Louderback asked, "So, does that mean he's out soon, or he's still included?"

Mayor Puckett responded, "He can still turn his application in again."

Ms. Kress said, "He can turn his application in again. I can turn my application again. Mister, in the hallway, can turn his application in again. We can keep going through this for a year or two, or three, however long you want to keep this up"

Mr. McRoberts said, "So in 30 days we end up back in the same spot we're in right now". Ms. Kress said, "Exactly." Mr. Vaughn said, "I think I think you said originally in the minutes that we had like nine people apply." Ms. Kress continued speaking to the mayor, "Dusty, you yourself told me two weeks max?" Mr. Vaughn asked, "Could we see those resumes. Do you have them?"

Ms. Turner said, "This is ridiculous". Mr. Troutman responded, "We heard the mayor's recommendation, we voted, and it's where it is"

Mr. Vaughn said, "Let's move on to the next. Let's just move on and table this"

Ms. Turner asked Ms. Milburn, "What do you have to say about this. You're the active administrator". Ms. Milburn replied, "When you go to hire somebody, you look at every application, you look at their qualifications, you look at when they've been terminated from a job, you look at their job history, you look at what they can give to any job, not just this job, any job that you are hiring for. So, Dusty looked at all that stuff, looked at the applications, he looked at who had qualifications that would help this village move forward, and Jerry was his recommendation, and I agree with him".

The hiring of the Village Administrator was tabled at this time.

Mr. Baker spoke on the current investigation for the Police Department. He said since the last meeting of May 27th, Mr. Baker found out that the investigation had been at a standstill because Ms. Bailey did not get the report from Brown County Sheriff's Department. Mr. Baker said, "Miss Bailey did not get the report from Brown County Sheriff's Department. So, I've messaged with her and I wanted to inform council that I'll take the blame for it. I guess I was supposed to communicate that to her. I did not realize that, so this is being taken care of."

Mr. Baker continued, "There have been questions regarding rules of council and or bylaws. We don't have any. We don't have anything to give us insight into situations like what just occurred, or in certain other periods of secession where we're going to have to have an administrator, a fiscal officer, a clerk, any change and what does that next person in line,

or president council, or chairman of council, any of those things if we want to do something other than what the revised code says in its plain reading, we have to put this in writing, pass it as a council, and have it going forward for everybody else that sits at this table. So, I have roughed out, and this is I'm slapping together provisions from either other ones that I've done or other situations for other villages that we had in our office system, and then some. I just kind of crafted from the top of my head, there's 10 or so pages, I'm going to have Venita to pass them out. I need everybody to review and then give input and insight as to the proposed with the understanding this is rough draft.

I have to fill everything in and then the interview process I'm going to delineate specifically in there when it comes to, not necessarily elected positions, but positions that carry more significance in the administrative network of the village, so that we can at least have public interviews,, but we're going to have to remedy in each of those scenarios, whether it's a vote or appointment of council or vote or appointment of mayor or anyone else, Chief of Police, whomever we need to address a tiebreaker in all those situations, just for future sake. Just for the six people that sit at this table going forward, so whatever input, insight, email me individually, call me individually, come to my office individually. I do not care. I'm happy to put together the best possible rules or bylaws that we can put together.

Mr. Vaughn told Mr. Baker he appreciated Mr. Baker's effort.

Ms. Turner asked, "Okay, I hate to digress, but what did we say? I don't hear very well sometimes, but what do we say about the investigation? Where do we stand? How much money has been spent on an investigator, and how much has been done? And when do we terminate this and come to an answer and resolution?"

Mr. Baker responded, "So, sorry about that. It was like I said, I'll take the blame. I guess I was supposed to communicate the Brown County Sheriff's Department report to her. She had put it on hold pending the outcome of that report. I did not send it to her. I guess I didn't realize I had to. I thought that either Mr. Corbin or the Sheriff's Department would. That's been remedied, so I think we will still look at preliminary report in two weeks."

Mr. Vaughn asked, "Do you know if the sheriff's department looked into anything else on the report? That was it. Okay, they didn't ever come back through the locked door. We never had keys that's got a case for that. Ms. Milburn replied, "We have a key." Mr. Vaughn then asked, "Did they come back and look at it?" Ms. Milburn responded, "The LESO is aware of what's in there. Mr. Vaughn said, "No, I asked did they come back and look at it? The sheriff's department or whoever?" Ms. Milburn responded, "No, they don't need to do that. That's coordinated by the LESO coordinator. Okay, he knows that he knows what's in that room. Mr. Vaughn then asked, "Do you know if they looked into anything with Amy Mason and the allegations of the use of"

Mr. Baker responded that the Sheriff's Office did not look into the use of whatever was being referenced. Ms. Milburn then stated, "LESO coordinator, Brian Pfeffer, when he was here, said, Brian has access to all that equipment, he can do what he wants, when he wants. So, out there making a gun range, that's what he did." Mr. Vaughn said he would reach out to the LESO program.

Mr. Vaughn said, "Wait a minute, I guess I'm confused on that equipment. Did it belong to the village, or did it belong to Brian? Ms. Milburn tried to explain that Chief Perry has ownership of the equipment. Mr. Vaughn said, "But it's still here, correct? Okay, so he can take it to his house and keep it all up, I mean, I would love that if it all just got removed from here and went to his house, restoring it, or does it belong to us?" Again, the explanation was Chief Perry must keep the inventory of the equipment then he is able to sell it after one year which the money received goes into the police department. Mr. Vaughn again said he would contact the LESO. Ms. Turner stated that this benefits the Village.

Ms. Milburn asked Mr. Baker to explain Chief Perry being on the property. There was a discussion about suspension vs. administrative leave. Chief Perry was on the property to pick up payroll stubs. Mr. Vaughn said that this should be insubordination by anyone that aids Chief Perry.

Mr. Baker stated, "It's my understanding I don't, I don't know that there's a video or anything out there. And these are what I end up communicating with Miss Bailey about these issues, right? Because they get communicated to her, she forwards them to me. I usually message back to her and say, "Well, okay, I'll look at it. He was on site, yes, he was on front two weeks ago, roughly, and that exchange was done to receive his pay stubs. That's what's been communicated with me. My point was, if he's on a public sidewalk outside of this building, I don't think anybody could restrict him, just like we couldn't restrict Mr. Riley or any members in this public gallery from being out front, I think he also has to take care of the administrative tasks personally that require him to come get pay stubs, whatever that may be. Otherwise, he's not to be on village property or in village property, so cruisers, things of that like.

Mr. Vaughn believes that because Chief is suspended that he should not be on the property that because he is on suspension. Mr. Vaughn was asked where he was getting his information, which he could not give a reference to where he was getting his information. Again, advised that the department is on paid administrative leave not suspension. Mr. Baker will forward the letters to Ms. Bailey that were given to the officers so she can review the situation.

Ms. Milburn did ask Mr. Vaughn if he wanted to discuss what Mr. Vaughn was coming after her for which Mr. Vaughn responded, "If I wanted you removed, I would have already done that".

Ms. Turner asked, "And I'd like to know when we get him back. When is he? We need police in Sardinia". Mr. Baker responded, "That is up to the finalization of the second investigation, and what mayor or council should he put a vote to them.

Mr. Troutman asked, "Would it make sense for that to go to the investigator, and if it is considered, well, no, but if it is considered, then she could then say that can be considered that as a mayor or as a council. What do you want to do with it at the end of that? But it seems like for now we've got an investigator.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Mr. Troutman said, "We looked over budget and what's going on this year, and we had questions about some funds that don't seem to be funded to the full amount of the budget, so there's something possibly software. Other expenses adding up need to be looked at to where those funds are coming from for pay, police pay OPERS and Medicare, and then OPERS Medicare for fiscal officers, zoning, and mayor. There appears to be a shortfall, or is an actual shortfall at this time, and to address that money just needs to be moved to the proper fund to where that is allowed to come out of. I know there's regulations on which way you're allowed to move money, so you're allowed to move money from capital outlay to other funds.

The street fund also needs attention, because we did agree to go ahead and do those repairs and the money apparently, we agreed to do that. We haven't made the fund transfer yet to accommodate that, so to write the check out and pay for what we've approved to do, we need to transfer the money to the correct fund to make payment.

Robert's Paving still needs paid. The street study was done which council voted on to use \$50,000 from the general fund to go along with the \$50,000 that comes from the state. This will be done for the next five years. There should be an ordinance for this that was done

Ms. Vance made a motion to move money from the general fund to pay Robert's Pavement, seconded by Ms. Turner. Roll call all yes.

Finance committee will continue to check budget items so that nothing is left undone.

Resolution 1484-26 for the amounts and rates determined by the budget commission. *Motion made to accept the resolution made by Dean Vaughn, seconded by Nick Taylor. Roll call all yes.*

ADMINISTRATOR

Residents of Brown Avenue are requesting a sign to be put up that says SLOW. Cars are flying down the street, which is a dead end so they would just like this for a reminder. Brown Avenue is off Purdy down by the Baptist Church. Our street department will put this up.

The alley by 122 ½ Winchester the resident is requesting a mirror to be put up because it is difficult to see getting out of the alley when Brock's have their auction. Mr. Moermond owns that property, and he has asked for a yellow line to be put there so people don't park within the distance needed to see to get out of the alley.

Sewer charges for the old firehouse that is owned by Mr. Emery. The guys have checked to put in a sewer tap but they would have to dig up the street. Asking council to waive the sewer charges for this property since it would be so difficult to get the cap in which would be the same waiver that we gave the Baldwins for Main Street Grill because they would have had to dig up the sidewalk. The ordinance for sewer charges for empty properties will be given to Mr. Baker to see if we can rewrite the ordinance.

Rumpke contract will expire August 31st. Mayor Puckett is waiting for a call back from a couple of other trash companies to check prices. We will revisit this at the July meeting, but contract needs to be agreed upon by the deadline.

Mr. Kramer requested a replat of the property at 106 Winchester. The Engineer's Office has approved the request, which will revert the property to its original plats from before Mr. Kramer purchased it. This will allow Mr. Kramer to sell portions of the property.

Cemetery plots - The guys are asking if we can have an ordinance where there is a minimum of two plots bought at a time. Minimum of two, the cemeteries are the sections are put in blocks of four, so there's four graves in one block, and it's making it a little difficult when somebody comes for just one to find a place that makes everybody happy, so they're just asking if we do, we have to have an ordinance for that, or they just want to, we want to buy two. Mr. Baker will look to see if the rates were done with a resolution or ordinance then do the same for the minimum of plots purchased. Ms. Vance to see if we can see if there is a section for an area for single plots if needed.

Mr. Vaughn asked about the Stinson property along the back of the cemetery. The survey was done but Ms. Milburn will check with the Village workers to see where that project stands.

State auditors did not do the final report for the 2022-2023 audit. They are now doing the 2024-2025 audit now. Mr. McRoberts did say that the auditors had asked them about the amount of \$1807 which Ms. Milburn explained was for Shop with a Cop. Ms. Taylor stated we had the withdrawal slip for the \$1807. Ms. Milburn stated that Sheriff Conley was going to get that receipt that the auditors are requesting for that amount.

Mr. Vaughn had wanted to address council but stated he was too tired to do that this evening.

AUDIENCE

Julia Clark – opted not to talk.

Darla Louderback - wanted to follow up on the trailers on Hope Street. The grass has been cut which the Village did not do. Ms. Louderback did mention that her girls did see a man walking around the trailers but by the time she got outside he was gone. She is still concerned about the girl's safety. Venita will check with Ms. Mays to see where the demolition of those trailers stands.

Janine Jordan – I am the salon owner up in town. So, kind of new to coming to meetings. This is only my second one, so I've never spoken, but having a business, we're a little concerned about some of the things that have gone around in town. We loved it when the cops were there, because there were no drugs being passed out in front of my salon. Seemed like the cops got rid of all of that. Now it's kind of lingering back in again, so me and my girls leave late at night every night, so I'm kind of concerned. Before, when the cops were here, they were sitting out there, they had our back. Think they did mention when they might be coming back, but not. I know we're supposed to call the sheriff, but let's get real, by the time sheriff gets here, everything's already done, so that is a very big concern. So, I kind of wanted to address that, hoping that we can get that ball rolling a little faster, maybe. I don't know, I don't think that it's going to, from the sounds of it.

The other thing I wanted to say, or ask, as I am a little confused. If I have a business in town but I do not live in town, so be with me having a business in town, am I allowed to vote on council members when it's time to vote? Ms. Vance answered no.

So, I don't know many of you, I see a couple faces that I know, so Mike I'll pick on you. Mike, you live in town full-time in the village, so full time, like 100%. Can I buy a house here and live 50% here, 50% at a different house, and still come to vote?

Mr. McRoberts did say that he did spend some time in Montana but considered a resident the majority of the time. Mr. Baker stated it would qualify by whatever address the U.S. postal service has.

Ms. Jordan continued, "Okay, but because I have a business, I can't vote, correct?" Mr. Vaughn said that he had gone through that for years he owned several pieces of property. Mr. Baker stated it had to be the primary place of residence. Ms. Jordan asked, "So that means my mail has to come here?" Mr. Bakers replied, "Yes." Ms. Jordan responded, "And that's true with every council member?" She continued by asking, "That's true with every council member?"

Mr. Vaughn said "Yes, primary residence in the village. Stay in it 51% or as long as you, your mailing address, primary residence is considered. Mr. Vaughn continued, "Dusty, especially with his girlfriends, but at the same time their primary residence is in the village". Mayor Puckett said, "Dusty don't have girlfriend, and Dusty is here 100% of the time".

Ms. Jordan continued, "So I guess my other question would be, when you say you live in the village, and then you come on council, do you do your due diligence and make sure that they actually are getting mail, and that they actually do live in town?"

Mr. Vaughn said, "I think the election board does, because they checked mine. They sent me something". Mr. Taylor said, "In order to run you must verify it all. You must submit all the information".

Ms. Jordan asked, "You can have a primary place that you live in, and then just not ever be there, correct?"

Mr. McRobert responded, "I think you can". Mr. Vaughn said, "I mean, I just a bought vacation home in the South, and I'll spend a lot of time there."

Ms. Jordan said, "I spend a lot of time at the salon. I mean, I've seen so much hate in the two hours that I've been here, I've never gotten involved with anything. We've had a business here for six years, we kind of stick to ourselves at that salon. I mean, there's a couple of you that come into the salon, but most of you, I don't even know who you guys are. I mean that's not how I was raised. There's just so much hate in this room. I mean, Venita has been so good to us. She's probably the only person. I mean, Dusty I've talked to him, seeing you on the stoop when I was trying to mail something and the mail got messed up. You were very hopeful that day, but it's very sad, I'm just going to say that."

Mr. Taylor said he was looking for a new barber which Ms. Jordan responded she is a stylist; there is a huge difference. Yes, we take kids, we take everybody as business owners, and the girls who you know work there. We would like to see some changes, and the cops really need to come back.

Ms. Jordan continued, "I mean, they've never done anything to us. I mean, they've always come in at night, asked us if we're okay. Did we need anything? And I know that there's two sides. I'm not defending or not defending whatever, but we liked it when they were around, so I would like to see something change with that. I mean, I would think we have each other's backs, and I don't feel like, since they've been gone, nobody's looking out for anybody anymore. It's just very sad, very, very sad. So, I just came as a business owner tonight to see what was going on with our town, even though I don't live here, but we bring in a lot of money to this town. I care about this town, there are a lot of people coming into this town, and unfortunately, we hear everything. And I mean, a lot of it is not good. They want to know what happened to their town of Sardinia, because they've moved away and they come back, and it's just not the same. And I don't know, so I thought maybe me, being a business owner and caring, I would start coming to the meetings. I didn't expect this tonight, but I don't know. I'm just a voice."

Mr. McRoberts said, "I find that very, very concerning. And how many people out there feel the same way? That have never been to a meeting?" Mr. Vaughn said, "That never come. Absolutely." Mr. McRoberts continued, "I'm almost ashamed of it."

Ms. Jordan said, "Well, I just feel like I've been here for six years, and the only people that have ever asked me if I needed anything, or if everything was good, is Peggy, Venita, and Mr. Puckett. I don't even know them."

Mr. McRoberts asked Ms. Jordan, "You're married to Rusty. What could you need? We need to talk after the meeting."

Ms. Jordan responded, "No, I'm good. I don't know, so I just thought I would come and see what it was all about, and I just wasn't expecting this at all. So, I hope that we can make some changes and maybe bring back what the town used to be. Come in and say, how's it going? Do you need anything? You don't see any that it's backstabbing, it's all over Facebook. It's terrible. And unfortunately, what you guys are doing really reflects the salon, whether you believe that or not. A lot of men just don't even want to come to my salon anymore, because of all the garbage that was said to me, and that's that affects me, that affects my paycheck, that affects my employees."

Mr. Vaughn said, "Absolutely, it absolutely does".

Ms. Louderback said, "It effects if people want to move here, or stay here because we are seriously considering moving".

Ms. Jordan said, "That's all I just wanted to ask about council members, and if they had to live in town 100% of the time, and about the cops coming back to protect our employee's leaving salon."

Mr. Vaughn said, "We are trying to get officers."

Shauna Weis – opted not to speak.

Beth Kress – "Like Janine. I'm disappointed. You know. I came forward thinking I could be part of the solution, but I think this problem is way bigger than most people here realize. And I feel that council, or let me rephrase that, is that certain council members have made them sitting in this room, feel like their participation in sitting in this room does not matter. That you don't care. That you don't want to hear what they have to say. That their feelings, how this community grows and improves, are not warranted. You mentioned that Mr. Siebert is taking a class that makes him more qualified than myself. So, if I took the same class our qualifications would be the same. I don't see that as the deciding factor.

Mayor Puckett said, "That is not the only deciding factor, but go ahead". Ms. Kress responded, "But that is how you presented it sir". Mayor Puckett replied, "We can, we can talk later. I'm not going to go through everything now". Ms. Kress continued, "I've made multiple attempts to talk to you in the past. I've offered to discuss my resume, I've offered to discuss my application, I've offered to discuss everything. Mayor Puckett stated, "I don't do on Facebook. I'm not that way. Ms. Kress said, "I've given you my number multiple times, and it's also at the top of my resume. It's also the same since 1996 so it's probably not. Mayor Puckett, "I don't talk on the phone." Ms. Kress addressed Mayor Puckett, "Okay, you don't talk in person. You don't talk on Facebook." Mayor Puckett said, "No, I just told you I would talk to you personally, talk any time after. I'm not going to go air your business out in front here".

Ms. Kress continued, "I'm just saying, I've offered to sit and talk with you before this meeting, and you've not taken the opportunity to sit and ask any individual questions to help you make the better decision, but you know you guys don't matter. So, thank you."

Roberta North - Still needed Mr. Troutman's information for the contact information. Mr. Troutman said that people could contact him through the office, but he would give a phone number and email address to be reached at. Ms. North asked Mr. McRoberts how he would like to be contacted, which he said to stop and talk to him. Ms. North said that there were a lot of new people in the Village, which Mr. McRoberts replied he had been here since 1987.

Ms. Louderback asked, "If council could not give out an email or number to be contacted, what's the point?"

Regina Waters – requested that her daughter, Sassy (Alex) Waters speak in her place.

Regina (Sassy) Waters - "So my name is Alexandra Waters. Not only am I a business owner in this town, I'm also a parent of a child who goes to school here. I've been on the PTA. My child is involved in extracurriculars. I'm also trying to be really involved in the community. I'm also one of the administrators of the Sardinia Community page, which has over 2,9,000 members of this community involved in that page.

So, that being said, I'm very proud of the fact that I'm in kind of unique position where I interact with and speak with and kind of rub elbows with everybody from every walk of life in this community. Old, young, Christian, Catholic,

atheist, everything in between, any sort of group at all, and I treat everyone equally and respect everyone equally. I also interact with people who aren't, you know, exclusively on Facebook, and people who avoid it as well.

So, that being said, I think a lot of people have a lot of concerns about this town, and I would say the top priority, chief concern about what's going on in this town are the people sitting at the table in this room. I don't mean that disrespectfully, I don't mean that in any sort of offensive or attacking manner. I do mean that in just a very direct, honest way. I think if a lot of the people here were to actually go out and speak to the people in this town, in person, and yes, Facebook too. Let's be honest, it's 2026 technology is a thing, it's not going anywhere, it is part of our daily lives, and it's only going to increase and be a part of our daily lives.

So, yes, pay attention to what your constituents are saying online, pay attention to what they have to say in person, because sometimes they're going to be more honest online. It's just kind of how people are. Not everyone has the guts to look you in the face and speak their mind. But the main thing I want to say is kind of going exactly with what Janine was saying, exactly what Beth was saying, is that not just me as a person, but in listening to what 2.9,000 people in that group have had to say. Listening to what other parents have said. When I'm at activities with my children, listening to what people who come in when they are coming in, and just browsing in our shop, and just stopping in to chat have to say.

The chief concern of the people in this room who have attitudes, who are snarky, whose job it is to represent the people of this town, and they spend more time with attitude and looking down their noses at the people rather than listening to them. And very respectfully to absolutely everyone at this table, with just an example, not to beat a dead horse with the administrator thing. I understand the law is the law, we follow the letter of the law, and I fully am in favor of that. So, very clearly, according to the law, the people in this room, the people of this town, do not have a say in that, and I'm not arguing about that in any way, shape, or form. However, the job of everyone at this table is to represent those 2.9,000 plus people, all of their voices do matter, and the job of everyone here is to represent those voices, not dictate over them, and just tell them what they're doing, but to listen to them. Because without those 2.9,000 people, no one sitting in a comfortable black chair in this room would be sitting in it. So, because I, not disrespectfully, everyone at this table is my elder, and I was very raised to be respectful to my elders. So, again, I am not coming after anyone or targeting anyone, but the snark, the attitudes, the eye rolling, the scoffing at people, which has been happening while you're talking, it's not acceptable.

That's okay, because I'm a big girl, and I can take it. That's fine. What bothers me, though, are the people I care about in this town, that means their experience of having things that they cared about have name-called, scoffed at, seeing eyes get rolled on things that they care about.

So, a lot of people, Mr. Riley, if you don't mind me using you, for example, when you were running for office, the chief word you used was, *audience said transparency*. See everyone knows it. Transparency, that is what people care about. They care about transparency, they care about being open, being honest. That is what people want. They want honesty, integrity, and respect. And all three of those things have been exceedingly in rare supply. I guess that's kind of an option where I'm putting it that way, but they have been in very short supply. And if, honestly, if you go home, look into your heart of hearts, if you don't feel that you can be in this position and address everyone with the same respect, without scoffing at them, rolling your eyes, having attitude, or just flat out ignoring the will of the people who put you in the chair you're in. Then that may not be a chair you are qualified to sit in anymore, because the people of this town are the people who matter, all of them. So that's really all I have to say, is just remember who you're here to represent."

ROUNDTABLE

Ms. Turner said, “Well, having said all of that, I do have something to say about this. You know, so many people put things on Facebook. I personally don't get on Facebook, but any disparaging thing, especially council members here, if you're going to be on Facebook, do not discourage Sardinia. Don't say anything bad about you. Can get on Facebook if you're talking bad about Sardinia, you're putting out there what you want people to hear. You know, it's not always the truth, but I would say we should have some sort of.....What can we do to say council members cannot put anything on Facebook about Sardinia?”

Multiple people speaking which could not be understood.

Ms. Alex Walters spoke up saying, “The first step is solving a new problem is admitting there's a problem. So, while no one needs to be mudslinging or calling names, admitting there's a problem in a healthy, straightforward, transparent, and honest way is how you go about finding a constructive way to solve that problem that works for everyone.

Mr. McRoberts said, “Absolutely”.

Ms. Turner said, “That's right, negative things about everything within Sardinia, that's not good. It's not good for the people. You're a small group, and I appreciate the fact that you're all here, but I don't think you represent 1000 people in Sardinia”.

Ms. Regina Waters spoke up saying, “We represent 25,000 followers on our business alone. Of those 25,000 followers, many are people in this community, not just Sardinia, but Brown County, Clermont County, Hamilton County, people travel from West Virginia to come to this town to visit our shop, and while they're here, they've gone to Janine's hair, they've gone to Jacob's Ladder. I have sent them to Brock's Auction, I send them to the Underground Cafe, I send them to every business around, so they can explore our town. By the same token, I also have people who live locally who I have to ship products to, because they are afraid to come to our town. You may be concerned over that, but it's the truth. I promote positivity on the Celtic Cottage. I promote positivity on the Sardinia Community page. I do not police that page. I allow people in this community to speak freely, as long as they are not harmful.

This young lady has been very respectful, and she's been doing everything I've raised her to do, but we do represent more than just the small people here. We do represent the businesses in town, the people of this community, and the people of our county, and the lower portion of our state, because they do come to this town to purchase from us to visit with families. It's not, we're not a small amount of people, we're only a small amount of people here in this room, but we represent a lot more than one or 2000 and those people are who did put you all in these chairs, and I do get upset when I'm watching my daughter pour her heart out, and I see eye rolling, I see writing, I see smirks, and that's just wrong.”

Ms. Turner said, “I appreciate your position here and in town, and I believe that you do promote good things here in town, but I actually was talking about council people, not everybody that's out there.

Ms. Kress said, “Your council people, former councilwoman, is the one who is the keyboard warrior who is slurring everybody on Facebook. I can show it to you. I want to make sure you hear what I'm saying. Okay, so if everybody could be quiet. Anna, Angela Lyons is the one attacking everybody on Facebook and saying negative things about the town and the community.” Ms. Weis said, “No, she's not.” Ms. Kress continued, “No, she is. And here's the other thing, there are rumors going around that have been traced back to the source, and the source is sitting at your table. Ms. Weis responded, “She attacks because she's being attacked. That's right. Rumors table

Mayor Puckett asked if there was anything else for the roundtable.

Mr. McRoberts said, "We really need to take to heart what these people have said."

Mr. Taylor said, "I think we represent the town's mentality too, because it is 50/50. We will learn how to compromise."

Mr. Vaughn said, "Because it won't be a town. I mean, it's that simple. We even fix it or we don't, we don't deserve a village."

Mr. McRoberts said, "I've lived here since I was 18/19, 87 and I'm not sure I've ever seen it worse than it is right now, and I've seen a lot.

Mr. Vaughn said, "It didn't happen in the last six months"

Ms. Vance said, "Oh yes, it happened".

Mr. Troutman made a motion to adjourn, seconded by inaudible. Roll call all yes.

NEXT MEETING JULY 13, 2026, AT 7:00 P.M.
MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:06 P.M.

7/13/2024

Date Approved



Mayor



President of Council