

MALVERN VILLAGE REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING

February 18, 2026

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Meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL: Mayor DeLong, Burgess, McCort, Hubbard, Wackerly, Holmes, and Wadsworth were in attendance. Kaltenbaugh and Neading were also in attendance with Murdock attending via Zoom.

Motion by Hubbard, second by Holmes to approve the minutes from the regular meeting of February 2, 2026. All council members approved.

CITIZEN COMMENTS: John and Nolan Champer were in attendance to discuss various concerns within the Village. John stated that last week, with the warmer weather, the snow was melting nicely; however, the catch basins were blocked and not allowing the water to run off as the snow melted. He began clearing catch basins on Carrollton Street and worked his way around, clearing additional basins and allowing the water to flow off the roadway. He also discussed the Andrews brothers, who shoveled the walking track in the park. He voiced concerns regarding the sidewalk near the gazebo, Historical Society, and Post Office. The sidewalk was not cleared; it is a bus stop and a highly traveled walkway. He asked what time the Service Department's start time is. Kaltenbaugh explained that Village employees are to begin work at 7:00 a.m. John then asked why the Village truck was in Waynesburg at McDonald's most days at 7:15 a.m. He discussed current employee wages, which he had obtained through Neading via a public records request. He recommended that the Village employ two full-time service employees at a rate of \$25.00 per hour and provide insurance. He also stated that the Village received approximately \$310,000 in income tax revenue and approximately \$650,000 in funds from EOG in 2025. John asked Council whether they had inquired with local companies regarding medical insurance. He found that plans range from approximately \$7,500 to \$10,000 per employee annually. He also noted that the amount the Village is responsible for paying can be negotiated and would not have to be 100%. He stated that he has contact information for a private broker out of Minerva. Mike McCort noted that he discussed insurance with Brown Township. He explained that the Township has three employees on its insurance plan, which they obtain through the Stark County ESC. The Township pays 100% of the premium at a cost of \$1,109.76 per person per month. They also offer dental and vision coverage at an additional cost. John also discussed restructuring the current employees and appointing someone to take charge.

Burgess discussed that the Village has received multiple complaints over time regarding Main Street being blocked by trucks at Crowl Lumber while loading and unloading goods. However, Council has not raised an issue with them and has allowed them to continue doing so. John offered to place cones out for safety.

Nolan Champer discussed his desire to make Malvern better. He noted that he has heard various concerns about how the Village is being managed.

Kaltenbaugh expressed frustration over citizens attacking the Village and explained that everyone is working hard and doing the best they can for the community.

Nolan expressed concerns about a certain "attitude" in town regarding the overall state of the Village. He feels that the Village is in flux at the moment and is frustrated by what he perceives as an antagonistic attitude. He voiced concerns about not being able to get answers regarding the Crosswalk Project, which he worked on with MCDF. The Village is responsible for installing the signs but has not yet done so. Nolan stated that he was repeatedly asked by MCDF and community members why the signs had not been installed and felt he could not obtain the necessary information from the Village. Community members also had threatened to stop donating to MCDF due to the projects not moving forward. Kaltenbaugh explained that there is more to the project than simply installing the signs.

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Wackerly discussed that he felt personally attacked with the questions over Council pay and noted that he has waived his pay since being elected. Burgess noted that she voted against the raise for Council.

John asked for the Council Committees and also for minutes if they had them. Holmes explained that minutes were not kept for committee meetings, but were discussed in Council meetings and summarized within the regular minutes.

LEGISLATURE:

PARK: Hubbard discussed that the park is full of sticks following the snowstorm.

Neading discussed the walking track and provided Council with details regarding issues that will need to be addressed as repair options are considered.

Hubbard also stated that she researched hiring an outside company to mow the park and obtained names and contact information for multiple companies with strong recommendations.

FISCAL OFFICER/TAX DEPARTMENT: Neading provided Council with the RITA report, Fund Status, and Payments and Receipts as of February 18, 2026. She noted that she received and completed the request for the Census Boundary and Annexation Survey. She reported that the UAN tax table update was completed and that employees may see a slight change in their pay due to the updates. Neading discussed that she requested quotes from Hawes Tree for the removal of trees around the walking track and from Lemmon's Stump Removal for the removal of stumps in the canal and near the walking track. She asked Council for recommendations for other companies to contact in order to obtain a second quote for these items. She also stated that she received a quote from Sherwin-Williams for a new paint sprayer that would improve efficiency when painting curbs and crosswalks. The cost would be approximately \$12,000 for the sprayer, and five-gallon buckets of traffic paint are approximately \$108 each. Neading asked Council to consider the purchase of the sprayer and noted that she is awaiting an additional quote, which she hopes to have available at the next meeting. She also noted that if she receives the Certificate of Estimated Funds from the County she will move forward with appropriations for the March meeting.

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR: Kaltenbaugh reported that the Service Department has been patching roads as weather permits. He understands that there are many potholes throughout town at this time and stated that they will continue working to have them filled. He noted that they have also been clearing clogged catch basins. Tucci was trained on the chlorine system. Road salt was delivered by Cargill. There have been multiple issues with freeze plates on water meters due to the extreme cold, and several have been replaced. There is currently a low-pressure issue at the corner of Robertsville Rd. and Amelia. The property owner would not allow access to the home to check the meter. Kaltenbaugh is concerned that there may be a clog in the meter. Clamps and inserts were recently ordered. Sheets replaced three outdoor GFI outlets at the Water Treatment Plant. Repairs to the hydraulics on the 2006 truck have been completed. There was also an issue with the garage door at the Service Garage; the door has since been serviced and repaired. The tires on the backhoe will need to be addressed. The Service Department has been working on exercising valves. The Ferris mower is experiencing an issue with the steering column. In March, hydrant flushing will be completed.

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Kaltenbaugh is working with the Commissioners on various projects in the park, including the walking track, roadway, and parking lot. He has not received any updates from Advance Power regarding the project they are working on between Malvern and Carrollton.

Kaltenbaugh contacted the USDA regarding funding for the purchase of equipment; however, funds are not currently available. The new trailer has been picked up. He has also been compiling information for Pam Ewing for the EPA grant and noted that the clear well cleaning has been scheduled.

MAYOR: Mayor DeLong discussed that the Village needs to look at replacing the 2006 Dump Truck, as it is starting to need more frequent repairs. He also discussed the Village should consider selling the 2006 Dump Truck, the old Water Truck, and the old trailer. McCort made a motion to list the 2006 Dump Truck, the old Water Truck, and the old trailer on GovDeals, second by Wackerly. All council members approved.

COUNCIL: Holmes thanked the two individuals for their work shoveling the walking track. He asked whether the Service Department could use the snow blower to remove snow from the track in the future. He noted that it could be one of the last areas cleared but should be handled by the Service Department to prevent damage to the track. Holmes also discussed a property on Cherry Street that has several tires in the yard and asked whether the property owner could be contacted or if the matter should be referred to the Health Department.

Hubbard reported that Frontier Communications will be replacing the pole near the recycling center within four to six weeks. Once that work is completed, the recycling bins will be able to be brought back in. The flashing lights on the stop signs were also discussed. Kaltenbaugh explained that when this was previously researched, the cost to install solar-lit stop signs would have been approximately \$3,200.00, and Council chose not to proceed at that time.

Wackerly discussed the downtown lights and noted that all but one light was out. He asked whether another electrician could be contacted and expressed frustration with Sheets for not resolving the issue. He also inquired about any progress on a plan for the lights on the bridge. McCort stated that he reached out to Brian Wise at the Carroll County Engineer's Office, who explained that the bridge is designed to vibrate. Wise referred McCort to Union Metal in Canton. McCort discussed the issues with Union Metal representatives, who explained that this is a common problem and that the lights and light poles may be at the end of their useful life and need to be completely replaced. One of the engineers at Union Metal will be contacting McCort to further discuss the matter. Wackerly also noted that there is a very large pothole in front of GBS that needs to be filled.

McCort asked whether there was any information regarding the CDBG grant through the County Commissioners. Kaltenbaugh stated that he spoke with Chris Modranski, and there is no information available at this time; however, Modranski will contact him when updates become available. McCort also asked about the crosswalk sign. Kaltenbaugh explained that the vac truck is scheduled to dig the holes, and the State will verify the placement. McCort informed Kaltenbaugh that he received an email from Rickey Hoffman containing information from ODOT regarding the installation of the sign and will forward the information to him. McCort asked where the road salt was purchased. Neading explained that the Village participates in the State bidding process for the purchase of road salt; therefore, it is acquired from the company awarded the contract through the State. McCort also inquired whether the tornado siren is operational. Kaltenbaugh explained that it was set up and tested through the Sheriff's Office and is functioning properly. Hubbard added that the statewide test is scheduled for March 18. It was also discussed that the

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Fire Department could use the siren during fire calls. This matter will be discussed further at the next Fire Board meeting.

Wadsworth discussed Monday.com, explaining that it is a project management application that could be utilized by the Service Department. He stated that jobs could be created by Kaltenbaugh or Council, depending on who is granted access. The Service Department would then complete the tasks, track them within the system, and provide updates as needed. The cost for the platform is \$27 per month for three users. It was discussed that Kaltenbaugh is willing to try the free version for testing purposes. Neading will set up the user accounts.

FINANCE: Motion by Burgess, second by Hubbard to pay the village bills from the appropriate funds for: \$18,981.11 approved by the Finance Committee 2/18/26. Also, bi-weekly payroll of \$6,901.00 paid 2/12/26. All council members approved.

QUESTIONS:

ADJOURNMENT: Motion by Holmes, second by Wackerly to adjourn. All council members approved.

Next regular council meeting will be Monday, March 2, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Malvern Village Hall.

Mayor

Fiscal Officer