

Village of Chauncey Council

March 12, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Frank Campbell called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PLEDGE TO THE FLAG: The pledge was observed by all in attendance.

ROLL CALL: Taken by Frank Campbell

Seat 1 – Connaught Cullen, Present

Seat 2 – Natasha Taylor, Absent

Seat 3 – Karla Dellinger, Present

Seat 4 – Joe Jenne, Jr, Present

Seat 5 – Amanda Moore, Present

Seat 6 – Dylan Skees, Absent

Mayor – Frank Campbell, Present

Village Administrator – Present

Village Solicitor – Present

Fiscal Officer – Present

Karla Dellinger made a motion to excuse Natasha Taylor and Dylan Skees from the meeting. The motion was seconded by Amanda Moore. All were in favor of the motion.

APPROVAL OF BILLS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS FROM FISCAL OFFICER:

Fiscal Officer, Kevin Simons reported the current expense levy (5 Mill) is ending this year and needs to be on the ballot for renewal (has been renamed as additional) or as a new levy changing the mileage. Lee Raines from the Athens County Auditor's Office brought numbers before council and explained the process. The current levy was passed in 2021 for 5 mills with an effective rate of 3.64 mills. A new levy at 5 mills would generate an effective rate of 5 mills if passed by the voters. A renewal levy would generate approximately \$30,475 and a new or additional levy at 5 mills would generate approximately \$40,874. Mr. Raines stated Jill Thompson may also have a third option if council would like to speak with her. Council will need to decide which type of levy to attempt to pass at the next general election. This process will take 3 months and will need to be decided upon at the April meeting.

A motion to approve the finance reports and bills was brought forth by Karla Dellinger; seconded by Joe Jenne, Jr. All were in favor of the motion.

RESOLUTION 2026-03 A Resolution to Approve Appropriation Measures and Revenue Projections for the Village for the Year 2026 Pursuant to R.C. 5708.38. A motion to introduce the resolution was made by Karla Dellinger; seconded by Connaught Cullen. All were in favor of the motion.

A motion to suspend the rules and waive the second and third reading of this resolution and declare an emergency was made by Connaught Cullen; seconded by Karla Dellinger. Motion was passed by roll call vote as follows:

Connaught Cullen – Yeah

Karla Dellinger – Yeah

Joe Jenne, Jr – Yeah

Amanda Moore – Yeah

Motion to adopt Resolution 2026-03 was made by Connaught Cullen; seconded by Karla Dellinger. All were in favor of the motion.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion to approve the February 12 meeting minutes was brought forth by Connaught Cullen; seconded by Joe Jenne, Jr. All were in favor of the motion.

NEW BUSINESS:

A date for the annual Chauncey Cleanup Day was brought up by Mayor Campbell. The village clerk told council Drew Daniels, Code Enforcement proposed either May 9 or May 16. Council considered both dates but had concern for May 9 as it would be both Mother's Day weekend and race weekend at Fast Tracks. May 16 is the day planned for Chauncey's Party in the Park. The date of May 2 was proposed with the concern of OU move out is that day and there may not be availability of dumpsters. Village Administrator Chris Russell made a call to Bateman to check and was told there would be dumpsters available. He also explained the village typically applied for a grant for the dumpsters through Athens Solid Waste District for the maximum amount of \$900. Karla Dellinger expressed she would like to coordinate with the Chauncey Lion's Club for volunteers. They have been involved in the past and Karla wants to maintain the relationship. Dumpsters will be at the Texas-Eastern Building on Plum Street for drop-off. Some assistance with pick-up may be available. The day for the cleanup event was set for May 2 and will be advertised once the details have been worked out.

OLD BUSINESS:

Village Administrators Assistant interviews will occur on Wednesday March 18. There were four applicants scheduled beginning at 5:00 pm. The village clerk will provide the schedule to those conducting the interviews.

Mayor Campbell spoke about the visitor's hub and its ownership. He received confirmation from Steve Patterson, Mayor of Athens, the village would own the building along with the sewer and water lines upon completion. Chris Russell has marked trees for cutting at the location. Karla Dellinger asked if ORCA would still be involved and received confirmation they would be. There will be a bid opening for the project at Village Hall on April 8.

Joe Jenne, Jr spoke of the dangers of EV chargers catching fire. He stated the smoke alone could change DNA and has serious concerns for children being around them. He added 100,000 gallons of water would be required to put out such a fire. This creates a concern about this water entering local streams. Joe also noted a catch basin may be a solution but presents the hazard of leaching into the coal and construction concerns. He will arrange a meeting with Dylan Skees and Mayor Campbell to discuss further and possibly speak with the company building the stations about safety and their financial liability for such instances. Karla Dellinger commented that the company would need to have accountability for environmental damages. Joe does not want these EV charging stations to be a burden to the taxpayers. He would like representatives from local fire departments to attend a meeting and voice their concerns. Also, a training should be planned for local fire departments who may be likely to respond to a charger fire. He will invite Roger the Chief of the Chauncey Dover Volunteer Fire Department to the next meeting.

Discussion of the Rich Eberts situation was moved to the executive session of the meeting.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

ORDINANCE 2026-01 An Ordinance Approving, Adopting and Enacting American Legal Publishing's Ohio Basic Code, 2026 Edition, as the Code of Ordinances for the Municipality of Chauncey, Ohio, and Declaring

an Emergency. Karla Dellinger introduced the ordinance; seconded by Connaught Cullen. All were in favor of the motion.

A motion to suspend the rules and pass this ordinance as an emergency was made by Karla Dellinger; seconded by Amanda Moore. Roll call vote as follows:

Connaught Cullen – Yeah
Joe Jenne, Jr – Yeah

Karla Dellinger – Yeah
Amanda Moore – Yeah

Connaught Cullen made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2026-01; seconded by Joe Jenne, Jr. All were in favor of the motion.

SOLICITOR’S REPORT:

Solicitor Robe continues to work on the issue at 47 Main Street. Kevin Simons sent the check to the land bank as outlined in the agreement. The check for the property owner has been put on hold until a deed has been transferred into the village name. Mayor Campbell volunteered to give the property owner a prod but suggested the village have the deed prepared that the owner could sign during his next office visit.

Robe explained in the Ebert’s case; Mr. Eberts is confused at to what constitutes a public record. General questions are not required to be answered and the village is not obligated to create a public record to answer them.

A master meter for the Green Meadows mobile home park was brought up and Solicitor Robe suggested it to be installed on village property for ease of maintenance.

There was a public records request for bid documents of a company with the name of Orange. No one from the village offices has heard of this company. DLZ was consulted on their knowledge of such a company and they had not heard of the company either. Robe stated the request was most likely a fishing expedition on behalf of a third party. Solicitor Robe will send a letter stating there are no such records in our possession.

Easement for sidewalks in the Streetscape project are in order.

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT:

Chris Russell reported the bore under the railroad tracks for the sewer improvements has been waylaid by hitting rock. A different bit would be required and is too large for the permit received. Due to the high cost and lengthy time frame of applying for a new permit, it was decided to have a manhole installed on each side of the track and utilize the current pipe under the track. It is clay tile and lined with plastic. There will be one private line that also would need to be lined. The current pipe is structurally sound but may need to be pressured hosed every couple years to ensure good working order. This change in process will leave the village with approximately \$100K to go into the Storm 2.2 project.

Chris spoke of the water at the lower end of town. The contractor missed some pipes. The pipes may have been tied into the sewer lines and when the contractor installed the new lines they were disconnected. DLZ is working on a solution.

Storm 2.2 paperwork is being reviewed by the USDA.

The Rainbow Bridge sign has been installed at the park.

MAYOR’S REPORT:

Mayor Campbell reports DLZ is working on a grant for new water lines. He is impressed with Bobby Fuller’s efforts on behalf of the village.

COUNCIL’S REPORT:

Connaught Cullen asked for council approval to apply for the Visit Athens County Tourism Development Grant. She will request \$1500 to be used for Party in the Park activities and supplies. Karla Dellinger made a motion as requested; seconded by Amanda Moore. All were in favor of the motion. The mayor suggested the committee tie this event into the opening day of the Bailey’s Trail System.

Amanda Moore reported continued work on the Party in the Park event. When details are finalized the village clerk will create a flyer and social media posts for the party.

Karla Dellinger reported she had enjoyed attending the Ohio Municipal League training event and had received a lot of good information. She also brought up the Easter event the fire department would host in April. She asked for volunteers for the day or donations of candy or money. Mayor Campbell explained the fire department was going to do things a bit different this year. Instead of placing hidden eggs filled with candy they would hide empty eggs or some specially marked for prizes in the park. Kids would then pick up a bag of candy from a volunteer. This would lighten the work load to fill individual eggs which was time consuming last year. He stated the department would also be having a gun raffle. Tickets are on sale now and to contact a member of the fire department to purchase.

Joe asked if there was an internet block for Chauncey or a specific company residents had to use. Chris Russell stated there was no such restriction and the community had choice in regards to internet service.

RESIDENT COMMENTS:

Resident comments were moved up in the agenda due to an executive session scheduled later in the meeting.

Sarah Smith introduced herself as a candidate for Athens County Commissioner. She has been attending meetings throughout the county to get to know people and hear their comments and concerns.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: An executive session was called to discuss legal matters. Karla Dellinger made a motion to enter into executive session; seconded by Connaught Cullen. Motion passed by roll call vote:

Connaught Cullen – Yeah
Joe Jenne, Jr – Yeah

Karla Dellinger – Yeah
Amanda Moore – Yeah

Council entered executive session at 7:21 pm and exited at 8:14 pm.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Parks and Recreation: Amanda Moore (Chair), There has been continued progress with planning Party in the Park. The committee also discussed the possibility of have a Chili Cook-off, Bingo in the Park and Karaoke/Open Mic nights.

Finance and Personnel: Karla Dellinger (Chair), Reiterated the interview schedule for the open position.

Transportation and Utilities: Joe Jenne, Jr (Chair), None

Planning and Development: Natasha Taylor (Chair), Absent. The matter of streetscape issues of turning at intersections was discussed. There have been many complaints. They will be forwarded to the appropriate people.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting date will be Thursday April 9, 2026 at 6:00 pm in the regular meeting location at 22 Birge Dr.

Motion to adjourn was made by Karla Dellinger; seconded by Joe Jenne Jr. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 8:23 pm.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL



Karla Dellinger, President of Council

RECORDED BY



Roxanna Chiki, Village Clerk