

Village of Chauncey Council

May 14, 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, Present

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 Dylan Skees from the meeting. The motion was seconded by Natasha Taylor. All were in favor of the motion.

APPROVAL OF BILLS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS FROM FISCAL OFFICER:

Fiscal Officer, Kevin Simons reported he continues to work with the auditors for the upcoming audit for 2024-2025. He added there has been issues on the federal website for reporting Covid fund expenditures. He has been unable to submit them at this time but will continue trying to do so.

A motion to approve the finance reports and bills was brought forth by Joe Jenne; seconded by Natasha Taylor. All were in favor of the motion.

The fiscal officer presented the following resolution:

RESOLUTION 2026-08 A Resolution to Proceed to Taxing Authority. A motion to introduce the resolution was made by Karla Dellinger; seconded by Amanda Moore. All were in favor of the motion.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion to approve the April 9, 2026 meeting minutes was brought forth by Karla Dellinger; seconded by Joe Jenne, Jr. Connaught Cullen abstained from the vote as she was absent from the meeting. All others were in favor of the motion.

NEW BUSINESS:

America's 250 decorations: Mayor Campbell requested a budget of \$1000 to decorate the village for the America's 250 promotion. The fiscal officer said this would come from the general budget. The Parks & Recreation Committee will order the items and decorate the village. It was mentioned for next year to purchase a banner celebrating the veterans in the community for the 2027 Memorial Day holiday.

Street lights & GIS map: The village clerk brought the possibility of adding the streetlight numbers and locations to the GIS map created by GLCAP. This would add \$47.10 to the quarterly contract amount of

\$566.57 for a total of \$613.67. Mayor Campbell stated this would be too much for the service. Chris Russell said the maps would need to be updated with all the infrastructure changes and perhaps he could negotiate a better price at that time. Mayor Campbell requested the Planning & Development Committee be in on the negotiation process. Karla Dellinger volunteered to make a map with the lights and pole numbers for easier reporting of outages.

Thrift store in the mobile home park: Resident Allison York asked permission to open a thrift store in the Green Meadows Mobile Home Park. She has received permission by the owners to use their office building for the store. She expressed her prices would be low and she already had an online store. She would like to eventually move to a storefront on the main street. Mayor Campbell stated he would be okay with it if council would agree. Connaught Cullen stated she felt this request would require a variance as the current zoning lists the mobile home park as “residential.” Mayor Campbell did not feel this would be necessary as he was going to do away with zoning in the village soon. Connaught stated while the current zoning laws were in place council needed to adhere to the policy and regulations. The mayor advised Allison to wait until the zoning was replaced and she would be free to open the shop in her desired location. He felt this would happen in the next few months and would give her time to get things organized and ready to go. Mayor Campbell did express concern about the added traffic and parking this business would bring to the mobile home park. Karla Dellinger stated current zoning rules would require Allison to obtain a variance from the Board of Zoning Appeals and then follow the process in place. Allison could get the paperwork from the village clerk during business hours.

SOPEC: Mary McNally returned to address questions brought forth during the April meeting. She shared the questions had led to a larger conversation in her organization with serious reflections on procedures. She had also spoken with EMA supervisor to establish training and support for local fire departments.

She then spoke of the SOPEC Electrical Aggregate and the savings afforded to the village government and the residents by the fixed rates negotiated by her organization. Since January of 2021 residents had saved \$9760 and Chauncey Municipality had saved a little under \$61,000. The village voted in 2017 to participate in this program but retain the option to “opt out” if they find a cheaper rate elsewhere. There is also no contracted time frame for participation or any type of fee to leave the program.

McNally also informed council of Community Support Funds that have accumulated for the village during its participation. This amount as of Dec 2025 was \$3906 and most likely had increased. These funds may be used for community projects such as installing solar panels on fire departments or disc golf courses. They may be requested online via an access portal and only available for the village of Chauncey. She also informed council there were Regional Community Support funds available for projects that pertain to sustainability and resiliency. This is a larger pool in which any member of SOPEC may request; she was unsure of the amount but would follow up with council. She also stated there was a grants team available to assist communities of SOPEC.

Mayor Campbell asked how members of SOPEC get a cheaper rate. McNally responded by joining other communities and pre-purchasing energy in bulk. She said AEP is ultimately responsible to supply the energy purchased when asked what happened if the bulk amount ran out. The mayor also asked why were people auto-enrolled and have to take steps to opt out if they don't want to participate. Mary stated the state legislature required the programs to perform this way. Mayor Campbell and Joe Jenne expressed they did not feel residents being forced to participate was appropriate. It was explained opting out was a simple procedure for residents by sending in the response or calling the number on the letter. She suggested an informative meeting be set up so residents could become more informed of how the aggregate could help them save money.

Frank Campbell stated the village really needs the savings. Joe Jenne did not feel the resident savings were enough to participate. Mary gave the mayor the procedure for the village to opt out if they so choose. She said while residential opt out is a quick easy process; the village would have more strident rules and regulations.

EV Chargers: The deadline for council to pass legislation to participate in the study for locating EV chargers at the visitor hub is quickly approaching; it need passed by the end of June. Mary McNally informed council her organization has identified trainings for local fire officials and would be able to supply special blankets to suppress an EV charger fire. Frank Campbell said that York Fire Department has such blankets and would be willing to share in the event of such an occurrence. Joe Jenne adamantly expressed he is against the chargers and would not be voting to move forward. Connaught Cullen allowed there may be benefits to having the chargers at the visitor's hub. She said many bikers own electric cars and would be more likely to frequent the trailhead if they could charge their car while riding the trails. She said they may help the economy. Karla Dellinger expressed council should pass the legislation in order for the study to be completed as it did not commit to having the chargers installed. Mayor Campbell requested the Transportation/Utilities committee meet to think of other possible locations within the village. McNally said there were set parameters for such a site and the committee would need to educate themselves to these before proceeding.

Car Repair Complaint: Resident Robert Bumpass requested council to reimburse him for car repairs sustained while driving down Main Street during the construction phase. Chris Russell and Solicitor Robe advised him this request would be forwarded to Bobby Fuller of DLZ and the contractor for investigation.

OLD BUSINESS: NONE

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION 2026-06 A Resolution to Adopt the Athens County Hazard Mitigation Plan. 2nd reading. A motion to accept second reading of this resolution was brought forth by Joe Jenne; seconded by Natasha Taylor. All were in favor of the motion with the exception of Connaught Cullen who abstained. Mayor Campbell stated he is not in favor of passing this resolution as he wants no part of FEMA.

RESOLUTION 2026-07 A Resolution to Repeal Resolution 2024-05 (Calling for an Immediate Cease-fire in Israel and Occupied Palestine). 2nd reading. Discussion on this resolution centered around several council members expressing the village had no influence on foreign affairs and therefore this resolution was not an appropriate piece of legislation. A resident spoke up to say this resolution is a way to relay to state/federal government the village would prefer tax dollars to be spent in our communities not on war. Mayor Campbell explained the village cannot tell the state what to do. Connaught Cullen brought up that this was not the original resolution developed by council and passed. Jonathan suggested taking a further look into where that one may be. A motion to accept second reading of this resolution was brought forth by Karla Dellinger; seconded by Joe Jenne. All were in favor of the motion with the exception of Connaught Cullen who opposed.

ORDINANCE 2026-02 An Ordinance to Repeal Ordinance 2024-03 (Unlawful Discriminatory Practices). 2nd reading. Mayor Campbell advised council he needs to have this removed and feels prior council had no reason to establish it. Connaught Cullen expressed it makes the statement that all are welcome here and this resolution covers segments of the population that are not covered under state/federal laws. A motion to accept second reading of this ordinance was brought forth by Karla Dellinger; seconded by Joe Jenne. All were in favor of the motion with the exception of Connaught Cullen who opposed.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Robe has been working on a list of tasks presented to him by Mayor Campbell. The Cyber Security deadline is July 1, 2026 and the council needs to develop a policy stating the village will adhere to state requirements and adopt a plan of how they would accomplish and evaluate the plan. Possibly make a checklist for council and staff to follow. He recommends looking at the Athens City resolution and par it down to fit village goals and abilities. He will draw a resolution to be passed at the June meeting.

Robe agrees with Chris on the request for car repair reimbursement to the contractors.

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

There has been a request for sewer service on West Bailey with the possibility of the resident to absorb all costs associated with connecting to the sewer to be installed for the visitor's hub. Chris stated the village currently has an ordinance not allowing sewer service outside the village. He advised council the current legislation would need to be changed and a sewer rate established for such instances. He recommends this rate to be higher than inside rates and/or a surcharge be added. Karla Dellinger asked if the addition would stress the system; Chris said it would not stress the system as we are running at 50%. He also stressed the customer would own the line and its maintenance and repair would be their responsibility. Mayor Campbell asked if annexation is an option for the park and housing on West Bailey. Solicitor Robe stated this is an option but the county and township would need to be in on the discussion. He also said changing the legislation would be the easiest and quickest option. The property owners were at the meeting and said they would rather connect to the sewer than to install a septic as it would be better for the environment.

Chris gave the news he had passed the Waste Water II test and would be able to take on the operation of the sewer plant and be operator of record. Council will need to review his pay scale to reflect these additional duties. He has been making repairs at the treatment plant.

The streetscape project will impact the intersection of Converse/Main beginning next week. The mayor asked if a request for the contractors to not work until 8 am would be in order for less congestion to traffic.

The storm drain project will begin hopefully by the end of summer.

McKee asked John Jackson to evaluate the cost and scope of relocating two fire hydrants on Converse; the one at the intersection of Elm and Converse that sits in the middle of the sidewalk currently and the one at CeeDee Handymart.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Campbell reports residents are parking on sidewalks and he would like the practice to stop. The village clerk will send notifications after receiving the wording from the mayor. He spoke with the Athens County Sheriff's department about enforcement.

The mayor reported being in negotiations with Fields Excavating to replace the sewer line installed between Mill Street & Ellis Avenue. It would need replaced from manhole to manhole as there are sags preventing the pipe from working properly. Fields proposed purchasing equipment to flush the pipe periodically or providing funds for the village to establish a maintenance program for the line. This would be a set amount and when it ran out; the village would be responsible. The village administrator, mayor and council feel they paid for a

new improved system and Fields would need to redo the line at their cost. This is a main trunk line and there will be no further negotiations on the matter.

Laura Olbers sent an email to council in favor of having a business in the visitor's hub with the ability to serve alcohol along with food. Karla Dellinger says that she had been thinking about this matter and her opinion is shifting more in favor of allowing such a business. She visited the site of the hub and feels it is far enough away from the family area that the sales would not impact families using the park. Her main concern is whether the village would have liability if someone leaves while intoxicated and causes an accident. "Dram Shop" laws were mentioned and Solicitor Robe explained these laws pertain to a business serving alcoholic beverages to visibly intoxicated customers.

Joe Jenne proposed a resolution to never serve alcohol on village property. His fear is that a drunken biker will injure a child playing in the park. He stated his family would not use the park if council allowed alcohol sales at the visitor's hub. The proposal died for lack of second.

Mayor Campbell would like to have an agreement with ORCA that the trails would always be village property but the village would allow ORCA to work on them. He also added that ORCA had applied for and received a grant to purchase a side-by-side for the Fire Department.

After a disagreement with the Chauncey-Dover Fire Department; we (the village) were directed to stay off the property. Mayor Campbell advised the village administrator to not mow or trim around the department buildings as he has done in the past.

COUNCIL'S REPORT:

Connaught Cullen reported the Parks & Recreation committee had been approved for the Athens Tourism Development Grant for Party in the Park in the amount of \$750.00

Joe Jenne, Jr – None

Natasha Taylor – Wondered why the alley behind the daycare was not dragged and had gravel laid. Questioned the fence issue of the daycare.

Amanda Moore – Stated the committee is ready for the Party in the Park event.

Karla Dellinger – Community Yard Sale will be held the weekend of June 6. She will put out registration cards and develop maps for the sales that are registered. She would also like a reminder to be put out about residents blowing grass clippings into the streets.

Mayor Campbell would also like to express thanks to all who worked on clean up day. He said the event was very successful; breakfast was delicious and six dumpsters had been filled.

RESIDENT COMMENTS: This portion of the agenda was moved to the end of the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Karla Dellinger made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss personnel; the motion was seconded by Joe Jenne; all were in favor. The solicitor, village administrator and village clerk were invited to stay. Session began at 8:46 pm and ended at 8:53 pm with a motion from Karla Dellinger; seconded by Connaught Cullen. All were in favor of the motion. There was no decision to vote on made during the session.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Parks and Recreation: Amanda Moore (Chair), Reported there had been a lot of donations received for the party and listed the activities that were planned: bounce house, music; free food; give-a-ways; face painting, balloon creations. Connaught Cullen commended Amanda on soliciting for donations with great success.

Amanda said future plans may include a Color Run and a summer music series. Amanda also expressed gratitude for the 13 Event Center for providing yard games for the Party in the Park.

Finance and Personnel: Karla Dellinger (Chair), There had been no meeting but one would be scheduled to discuss the village administrator's pay to reflect his new sewer operator duties. A proposal would be presented at the June meeting.

Transportation and Utilities: Joe Jenne, Jr (Chair), This committee would bring a proposal for raising water rates to the next council meeting.

Planning and Development: Natasha Taylor (Chair), Plan to meet about the light pole in front of Steve Buck's property; alcohol sales at the visitor's hub and possibly putting FEMA on the ballot. Suggested scheduling a pro/con meeting on the electrical aggregate.

Chris Russell suggested some type of plaque to install at the fire department giving recognition to Brothers for laying the asphalt in the lot in memory of Rich Arnold who had recently passed away. He also reported the pump track had been resurfaced.

RESIDENT COMMENTS:

Fauna – Requested a Planning Commission/Board of Zoning Appeals meeting to be scheduled. There has only been one since she was appointed to the board. She also thanked Chris and Roxanna for a job well done. Fauna requested council to look into flashing speed signs as on East State Street to possibly slow traffic down. Frank Campbell interjected that it might be possible to use SOPEC funds to install some. She also thought perhaps purchasing a brick or planting a tree in memory of Rich Arnold.

Barbie – What internet does the village have? Chris said most likely Spectrum. She also asked about when the benches at the Lion's Club would be picked up. Chris said he would get them the next day. She also approached council about deterring graffiti in the park by installing a wall for people to use instead of the sidewalks/buildings. Amanda Moore brought up she had discussed having angel wings painted on the park buildings for photo ops for visitors. Connaught Cullen volunteered to paint two; one large for adults and one small for kids. Barbie also said that she was in support of repealing the resolution/ordinance voted on earlier.

Alex - Reiterated hope that the ordinance/resolutions would not be repealed. They cover protections for sexual orientation, income, marital status, and age not covered by state and federal laws.

Joanna – Opposed the repeal of unlawful discriminatory practices as they allow for equality for all. She shared her experience of discrimination based on her marital status. She was not able to rent a home because she and her significant other were not married.

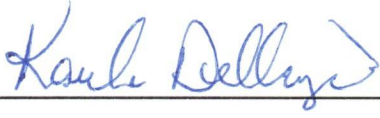
Autumn – She introduced herself as she is running for Athens County Commissioner in November. Autumn provided the strategic plan for Chauncey a couple years ago and presented her qualifications and history in the area.

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting date will be Thursday June 11, 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. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 9:44 pm.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL



Karla Dellinger, President of Council

RECORDED BY



Roxanna Chiki, Village Clerk