

Village of Chauncey Council

December 11, 2025

CALL TO ORDER: Tamara Hawk called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m.

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

ROLL CALL: Taken by Tamara Hawk

Seat 1 – Connaught Cullen, Present

Seat 2 – Debbie Gibson, Present

Seat 3 – Karla Dellinger, Present

Seat 4 – Evelyn Nagy, Present

Seat 5 – Michael Kraus, Present

Seat 6 – Dylan Skees, Present

Mayor – Tamara Hawk, President Pro Tem, Present

Village Administrator – Present

Village Solicitor – Present

Fiscal Officer – Present

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *The November 13 meeting did not have a quorum so upon recommendation by Solicitor Robe a continuance was held on November 20. The fiscal officer separated the minutes for approval.*

Evelyn Nagy made the motion to accept the November 13, 2025 minutes; seconded by Karla Dellinger. All were in favor.

Connaught Cullen made the motion to accept the November 20, 2025 (continuance from Nov. 13) minutes; seconded by Michael Kraus. All were in favor.

APPROVAL OF BILLS:

Dylan Skees made the motion to approve the bills; seconded by Evelyn Nagy. All were in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

Kayak Launch

Boone Troyer, Executive Director of Visit Athens County, presented information pertaining to the proposed kayak launch near the new bridge along the bike path connecting to River Road. He stated the natural layout was perfect for a ready-made launch. There is another location by Le-Ax being considered and has been approved by the company.

He has spoken with Piper of Sunday Creek Horizons about a Department of Natural Resources grant for Riverway Designations. This grant provides for signage for approved launches but needs an upfront money designee. Boone stated that Visit Athens County would be that designee. The only issue that would need addressed if approved is who would be responsible for maintenance of the launch. Maintenance would entail regular trash cleanup and replenishment of sand after flood washouts. This would be considered a "rustic" launch with no construction required. A load of sand would be needed to improve the launch site. Signage would reflect the condition of the launch.

The next steps would be that Chauncey decides if they want to proceed; then Visit Athens County would manage the details and grant process. A meeting with DNR for approval would also take place.

Connaught Cullen expressed this would be a good opportunity for the village.

Frank Campbell: What side of the river would the launch be on? He has concerns of logistics of getting a kayak to the launch. Boone Troyer: The launch would be on the 682 side of the river. He mentioned that the construction crew has already made a way to get access.

Frank Campbell: I have concern of the sand washing out. Boone: It may be possible to put large pavers there also. This was done at Savannah Park in Stewart and it seems to work well.

Frank Campbell: Who owns the proposed launch area? Boone: The county owns it and has given verbal approval of the project. A formal approval would be required to proceed.

Connaught Cullen: Asked her friend Carol in the audience if she felt she would be able to get her kayak to the launch site. Carol replied she would not see an issue as the area is relatively flat and soft.

Boone Troyer: We would need to ask Connor Lavelle, Athens County Planner, about parking. He assumed that since the construction crew has parked at the location then it could be used for river access also. Chris Russell: The parking area belongs to the railroad and the construction company has a temporary easement to use the property.

Evelyn Nagy: Is the bike path still not open? Boone Troyer: It is not open due to a lack of railing on the ramp leading up to the bridge.

EV (Electric Vehicle) Charging Stations

Elle Dickerman of ORCA presented the RIDES EV Charger Program to council. She is working with SOPEC to apply for a federal grant for installation of EV charging stations throughout the area. One of the locations identified is the Chauncey-Dover Park Trailhead. She was only here to present the idea but was unclear on the details.

In order for the trailhead to continue to be considered council would need to pass legislation stating an interest in possibly becoming a charging location. This would not obligate the village to have one installed but the paperwork is necessary for future consideration. This legislation would need to be passed prior to June 2026. If the village should be selected for such a site a host agreement would be needed.

Karla Dellinger: I am concerned about parking which is limited already. I feel a charging station may take space from people using the park for recreation and events. How much room would the station take? How many stations are being considered for the trailhead? Elle Dickerman: I do not have these details but will take your questions back to the office.

Frank Campbell: Who will pay for the electric? Will the stations be able to be turned off at night? I have concerns of vehicles parked there overnight. Elle Dickerman: I will take these concerns back to the office also.

APPROVAL OF FINANCES AND REPORTS FROM FISCAL OFFICER:

Kevin provided temporary appropriations for the 1st three months of 2026. These included blanket certificates for the year as required by the auditor for items highlighted in red. Examples would be telephone and electricity. The paid holiday schedule was also provided.

After consulting with Mayor Hawk, Solicitor Robe and the Village Clerk; he requested that the Village Clerk take meeting minutes moving forward so that he would be able to get his children into bed. They have a

family routine and his children get upset when it is disrupted. Permission was granted as the council values family and employee satisfaction.

The books will be closed after December 21 to complete the end of the year balancing of the accounts.

Connaught Cullen asked about two outstanding checks to the same person. Kevin stated the first check was inadvertently made out to the business name so the recipient was unable to cash it. He requested Connaught contact the person to see if the second check was lost and needed to be voided and replaced.

Connaught Cullen made a motion to approve the finance reports and pay bills; seconded by Dylan Skees. Evelyn Nagy abstained as she hadn't had a chance to review the documents prior to the meeting. All others were in favor for approval.

OLD BUSINESS: None

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION 2025-22 A Resolution to Enter into a Contract for the Employment of a Solicitor (Jonathan E. Robe). (3rd Reading) The contract would begin January 1, 2026 and end December 31, 2026. Motion to accept third reading and adopt was brought forth by Karla Dellinger; seconded by Evelyn Nagy. All were in favor.

RESOLUTION 2025-23 A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with a Prosecutor. (3rd Reading) Motion to accept third reading and adopt was brought forth by Karla Dellinger; seconded by Dylan Skees. All were in favor.

RESOLUTION 2025-21 A Resolution Accepting the Reasonable Accommodation Policy and 504 Grievance Policy. (3rd Reading) These policies are required by the American with Disabilities Act in order to procure OWDA funding. Motion to accept third reading and adopt was brought forth by Evelyn Nagy; seconded by Michael Kraus. All were in favor.

RESOLUTION 2025-26 A Resolution Establish the 2026 Holiday Schedule for Employees/Paid. Resolution introduced by Karla Dellinger; seconded by Dylan Skees. Discussion: this is the same schedule as last year.

Evelyn Nagy made a motion to suspend the rules and declare an emergency; seconded by Karla Dellinger.

Roll Call Vote:

Connaught Cullen - Y

Debbie Gibson - Y

Karla Dellinger - Y

Evelyn Nagy - Y

Michael Kraus - Y

Dylan Skees - Y

Motion to Adopt Resolution 2025-26 made by Connaught Cullen; seconded by Karla Dellinger. All in favor.

RESOLUTION 2025-27 A Resolution for Temporary Appropriation Measures and Revenue Projections for the Village for the Year 2026. This is for the first quarter of 2026 with blanket certificates for the year as required by the auditor for utilities. Resolution introduced by Karla Dellinger; seconded by Connaught Cullen. Discussion: Clarification for the blanket certificates was given. They are for utilities such as electric and gas.

Evelyn Nagy made a motion to suspend the rules and declare an emergency; seconded by Karla Dellinger.

Roll Call Vote:

Connaught Cullen - Y

Debbie Gibson - Y

Karla Dellinger - Y

Evelyn Nagy - Y

Michael Kraus - Y

Dylan Skees - Y

Motion to Adopt Resolution 2025-27 made by Connaught Cullen; seconded by Dylan Skees. All in favor.

ORDINANCE 2025-06 An Ordinance Allowing for a 3% Inflationary Increase for Sewer Rates over the next 3 Years. (3rd Reading)

This ordinance would set rate increases each year for the next three years; 2026 - \$18.05, 2027 - \$18.59, 2028 - \$19.14. Evelyn Nagy suggested council hear from the incoming members of council and the Mayor Elect in regards to this ordinance.

Frank Campbell: I don't want my bills to go higher.

Chris Russell: No one wants higher bills but when applying for grants it is required for villages to raise rates appropriately to demonstrate willingness to bear some of the costs and the ability to maintain new infrastructure installed.

Karla Dellinger: Brought forth the example of Albany residents paying a \$10 surcharge each month in addition to monthly charges for their sewer system. She feels increases in small increments are more easily accepted by customers and necessary for future grants.

The Village Clerk shared her experience in her hometown of Coolville and how not raising rates affected her community. She states residents of her town would have loved to get sewer infrastructure at no cost and pay what residents here are charged. She expressed admiration for the current council for working hard to ensure residents here received so much grant funding and kept bills low.

Motion to accept third reading and adopt was brought forth by Evelyn Nagy; seconded by Karla Dellinger. All were in favor.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Robe has been working with Drew to complete the easement process for sidewalk installation during the Streetscape project. All easements have been completed.

There has been controversy over the Marathon intersection in regards to the Streetscape. Concern of those driving large trucks and equipment not having appropriate turning space has been driving the discussions.

Chris Russell: I have had a meeting with ODOT and Joe Johnson of Designing Local to look at revision to the designs. The discussion included a concrete slope similar to the ones used in roundabouts. The ADA pedestrian pad would be placed outside this area. Joe Johnson will draw up the design and give it to McKee Paving. Chris also brought up if the Streetscape and the Storm drain projects are not completed by August 2026 the state will not be able to pave as planned in the fall of 2026.

The solicitor also reported on the flooding complaint of a resident that occurred in May during the huge rain event. He has addressed his portion of the complaint, Bobby Fuller of DLZ has addressed their portion of the complaint and Mayor Hawk has answered the questions of the resident appropriately. He has determined the issues have been addressed and there are no public records to provide.

Kevin Simons: Rules of Council will be sent to the incoming members of council for review.

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Chris Russell reiterated he has met with ODOT and Designing Local and a resolution was reached that would work for all involved in the Marathon intersection. Karla Dellinger: What about the same intersection heading to The Plains? Chris Russell: There is only so much room there and the turn will be as large as there is space for it.

Chris advised council to keep 20 Converse Street on their radar. The drive was taken out during the Streetscape process but will be replaced prior to project completion.

Jerry Dowler contacted Chris in regards to possible flooding of the Senior Center with the new sidewalk installed. DLZ has assured Chris there will be a storm drain put in that location in the upcoming storm project.

Phase II Sewer is nearing completion and should be done next week with the exception of the area that needs railroad permission to bore under the track. The railroad has caused a long delay with the permit due to their complicated permit process. Connaught Cullen: How much has this cost the village? Chris Russell: We are not sure at this time but we will try to recoup some of the cost from the railroad. He is doubtful that will actually happen at this time however.

Chris reported that the Storm Drain project will begin next week. Karla Dellinger: Why are the sidewalks torn out, replaced and then torn out again? Chris Russell: The storm system will run parallel to the sidewalks and should not affect them too much hopefully. The equipment will be smaller as the holes will not need to be so large and deep. There are no drawings for the storm available at the moment. Also, grants require work to be completed for the grant payments, this includes roads and sidewalks. If they are not completed the construction company do not get paid until the job is complete in full. Therefore, each grant application includes repairing roads and sidewalks.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

The mayor reported that as of November 19, 2025 Evelyn Nagy resigned from her Planning Commission seat for a member of council. Mayor Hawk nominated Connaught Cullen to take the open seat left by the resignation.

She also stated that Angie Verity had resigned her Planning Commission seat held by a resident. Mayor Hawk nominated Evelyn Nagy for the vacant seat.

Karla Dellinger: Was the open seat posted? And did anyone else apply? Mayor Hawk: It was posted at Village Hall and the Post Office. Ashley Campbell approached her with verbal interest but did not submit a letter of interest. Karla Dellinger: I feel we should hear from both candidates before voting.

Discussion was held as to vote or to wait. Frank Campbell: I did not see it posted. Village Clerk: There is a posting on the front door of Village Hall and Chris placed one at the post office also. Mayor Hawk: I read through the rules for the Commission and a posting is not required.

A decision to vote on each position was made. Evelyn Nagy seconded Mayor Hawk's nomination of Connaught Cullen for the council seat on the Planning Commission.

Roll Call Vote:

Connaught Cullen - Y
Debbie Gibson - Y
Karla Dellinger - Y

Evelyn Nagy - Y

Michael Kraus - Y

Dylan Skees - Y

Connaught Cullen was confirmed for the council seat on the Planning Commission.

Connaught Cullen seconded Mayor Hawk's nomination of Evelyn Nagy to the resident seat on the Planning Commission.

Roll Call Vote:

Connaught Cullen - Y

Debbie Gibson - Y

Karla Dellinger - N, I would like to hear from Ashley

Evelyn Nagy - Y

Michael Kraus - Y

Dylan Skees - Y

Evelyn Nagy was confirmed for the resident seat on the Planning Commission.

Their swearing in will take place at the next Planning Commission meeting. Date for this meeting was undetermined at this time.

The mayor reported that Drew Daniels is working with the state to get the mobile home park up to safe housing standards. It was also determined that the village may ask for rental permits and vacancy registrations if it so chooses. LASCO, Drew and Evelyn will arrange a meeting to determine legal footing for regulations. Karla Dellinger requested to be included in the meeting.

Solicitor Robe states he has suggestions for Drew to revamp and simplify the vacant building registration process.

Tammy Hawk shared her appreciation for council and she has enjoyed her service. She has learned a lot over the past year. She thanked council for their service and hard work to improve the village. She let Frank know she will be meeting with him to turn over passwords after the holidays upon Frank's request.

COUNCIL'S REPORT:

Connaught Cullen: thanked Michael Kraus, Debbie Gibson and Evelyn Nagy for their service on council.

Dylan Skees: None

Evelyn Nagy: Albany and Nelsonville have resolutions to ban data centers. She would like to see the village develop one also. She encouraged council to consider legislation for tiny houses and multiple units for properties. She mentioned micro-structure warming centers during this cold weather also. The health department needs to issue an alert. Is the fire department a designated warming center? Some fire departments have that designation along with the Gathering Place.

She brought up that Athens is looking for areas to expand their Conestoga Huts to address the homeless crisis in the county. If the village is interested the county should be contacted and space identified.

Hapcap is offering winter crisis assistance to provide funds for gas and electric. They are also offering micro-loans to pay for bills. Visit their webpage for details.

Go-Bus is expanding their travel area and the Athens Transit has added a bus to the fleet. Hopefully full service will return to Chauncey with this addition.

Molly Fitzgerald from Athens Economic Development is no longer offering small business loans but the Athens Chamber of Commerce may have small business grants available.

Port Authority has asked her what is going on with the north side of town where the large parcel of vacant property is located.

Evelyn also added the Regional Planning Commission had great things to say about the 3-D printed homes in town.

Karla Dellinger: I would like ordinances and resolutions to be sent in email prior to meetings in which they will be brought up. She also asked about the possibility of using the notification system to send meeting notices. The village clerk will research if there is additional cost for this service.

Dylan Skees: None

Mike Kraus: It has been an honor to be on council I will miss everyone.

COMMITTEE REPORT:

Transportation and Utilities – Dylan Skees, Chair – None

Planning and Development – Evelyn Nagy, Chair – None

Parks and Recreation – Connaught Cullen, Chair – None

Finance and Personnel – Mike Kraus, Chair – We held a meeting on December 4 and propose to council a \$1/hour raise to all hourly employees and to give the fiscal officer an additional \$77/month. This will bring his pay to an even \$1400.00. This increase would begin on January 1, 2026.

Connaught Cullen made a motion to accept this recommendation and increase employee pay as recommended. Motion was seconded by Evelyn Nagy. All were in favor.

RESIDENT COMMENTS:

There were no resident comments.

NEXT MEETING DATE: January 8, 2026, 22 Birge Drive, 5:30 pm.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL



President of Council

RECORDED BY



Roxanna Chiki, Village Clerk