

# Village of Chauncey Council

October 9, 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, Absent

Seat 6 – Dylan Skees, Present

Mayor – Tamara Hawk, President Pro Tem, Present

Village Administrator – Present

Village Solicitor – Present

Fiscal Officer – Absent

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion to excuse Michael Kraus made by Karla Dellinger, seconded by Connaught Cullen, AIF

Motion to approve September 11, 2025 meeting minutes made by Connaught Cullen, seconded by Evelyn Nagy, AIF

Minutes from the Planning & Development Committee on September 10, 2025 are not ready and the motion to approve was tabled until the November 13, 2025 meeting.

Motion to approve the Parks & Recreation meeting minutes from August 13, 2025 made by Debbie Gibson, seconded by Connaught Cullen. AIF

Motion to approve the Parks & Recreation meeting minutes from September 10, 2025 made by Karla Dellinger, seconded by Connaught Cullen. AIF

## **APPROVAL OF BILLS:**

## **APPROVAL OF FINANCES AND REPORTS FROM FISCAL OFFICER:**

Motion was made by Dylan Skees to approve September 2025 Financial Statements, seconded by Debbie Gibson. AIF A note was made by the village administrator that the adjustment of \$6000 was likely to be from the audit for a correction to a posting.

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

Mayor Hawk reminded residents that if changes were made to a home or yard to be sure to get the appropriate permits from the Code Inspector.

Connaught Cullen inquired about the park restrooms. She wanted to know what ORCA was paying a cleaner to do and who was actually performing the maintenance at the facilities. Chris Russell stated that the village purchases the toilet paper and paper towels and leaves them in the supply closet. He states he also has to

unplug the toilets at least twice a week. This is caused in part by the low water pressure and from visitors not being respectful of the property. Mayor Hawk will speak to Jessie to ensure ORCA is aware of the issues.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Connaught Cullen asked about the bike shop that set up temporarily at the park. She states the shop was talking of adding a sidewalk and that didn't feel temporary to her. She asked about updating the resolution from "temporary" to "permanent" and adding language stipulating it would to be reviewed regularly. The village clerk has searched for the resolution but could only find short mention of the situation in earlier minutes. A resolution will be drawn up according to these guidelines.

ORCA is still searching for funding to build the Visitor's Hub in the park. The AMLER grant they received stipulates the ground has to be broken by 2026 to stay eligible for the funds. Chris Russell interjected the village may need to apply for a separate AMLER grant to help pay. The village owns the property and would be eligible. This raised the question of who would own the building if something should happen to ORCA. There has been no agreement between the village and ORCA for the original construction. Council asked if we had a lease? Mayor Hawk will ask Jessie about such an agreement when they speak of the park restrooms.

#### **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

**ORDINANCE 2025-06 An Ordinance Allowing for a 3% Inflationary Increase for Sewer Rates over the next 3 Years. (Introduction/1<sup>st</sup> Reading)** This ordinance would set rate increases each year for the next three years; 2026 - \$18.05, 2027 - \$18.59, 2028 - \$19.14. Dylan Skees introduced the resolution, seconded by Connaught Cullen.

Karla Dellinger – No  
Dylan Skees – Yes  
Connaught Cullen – Yes  
Evelyn Nagy – Yes  
Debbie Gibson - Yes  
Mike Kraus – absent

Dylan Skees followed this with a question of what improvements will the sewer plant need over the time frame of the ordinance. Chris Russell listed lining the sewer plant walls, complete replacement of the electrical system and the future possibility of a new treatment plant. The village received a small grant to cover part of the cost of replacing the electric system. He will confer with Ben Howard about the cost of a new plant and grant funding.

Mayor Hawk stated that water rates would need a separate ordinance if there was a similar increase brought before council.

**RESOLUTION 2025-22 A Resolution to Enter into a Contract for the Employment of a Solicitor (Jonathan E. Robe). (Introduction/1<sup>st</sup> Reading)** The contract would begin January 1, 2026 and end December 31, 2026. Dylan Skees introduced the resolution, seconded by Connaught Cullen. All were in favor.

Karla Dellinger – Yes  
Dylan Skees – Yes  
Connaught Cullen – Yes  
Evelyn Nagy – Yes  
Debbie Gibson - Yes

Mike Kraus – absent

**RESOLUTION 2025-23 A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with a Prosecutor.**

**(Introduction/1<sup>st</sup> Reading)** Dylan Skees introduced the resolution, seconded by Connaught Cullen. All were in favor.

Evelyn Nagy posed the question of how many cases were prosecuted each month. Solicitor Robe stated there were 4-6 cases. Cases are reliant on the State Highway Patrol and the Athens County Sheriff's Office to bring charges.

**RESOLUTION 2025-18 A Resolution Authorizing a Cost of Living Raise of 3% for Village Employees.** Evelyn Nagy introduced the resolution, seconded by Dylan Skees. All were in favor. A motion to declare an emergency and suspend 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> reading was brought forward by Evelyn Nagy, seconded by Connaught Cullen.

Karla Dellinger – Yes  
Dylan Skees – Yes  
Connaught Cullen – Yes  
Evelyn Nagy – Yes  
Debbie Gibson – Yes  
Mike Kraus – absent

Connaught Cullen made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-18, seconded by Evelyn Nagy. All were in favor.

The raise requested by the village clerk requires further discussion and a meeting of the Finance/Personnel Committee. Karla Dellinger requested a salary comparison done for village employees. Kevin Simons should have a report that was presented to the Finance/Personnel Committee on Sept 10, 2025. No meeting was scheduled at this time.

**RESOLUTION 2025-21 A Resolution Accepting the Reasonable Accommodation Policy and 504 Grievance Policy. (Introduction/1<sup>st</sup> Reading)** These policies are required by the American with Disabilities Act in order to procure OWDA funding. Evelyn Nagy introduced the resolution, seconded by Karla Dellinger. All were in favor.

**\*RESOLUTION 2025-24 See Village Administrator's Report**

**SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

There has been no complete resolution for the issue at 47 Main Street at this time.  
All but two of the sidewalk easements required for the Streetscape have been completed.  
Solicitor Robe is working with Drew Daniels to address enforcement of the vacant building code.  
The Edward's easement is still ongoing.

**VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

Chris reported that Travis Taylor (Sewer Operator) has turned in his resignation effective on October 31, 2025. He will provide services after that period of time until a new operator is secured. He is going to charge \$2500 per month for this service. Chris has explored other options and has spoken with two operators about the position. Rich Kasler stated he was not interested in the job and Kenny Beisser requested \$2880 (20 hours @ \$28/hour). This amount is not sustainable for the village.



Another option is for Chris to take the training to become the sewer operator. He would first need to pass the Class I in the next few months and then take the Class II test in 6 months or so. He would be able to incorporate the 20 hours required as part of his regular hours after getting his license. Travis agreed to continue on a month-to-month basis until Chris is certified.

**RESOLUTION 2025-24 A Resolution Authorizing the Village Administrator to Employ a Temporary Sewer Operator at \$2500 per month.** Evelyn Nagy introduced the resolution, seconded by Connaught Cullen. All were in favor. A motion to declare an emergency and suspend 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> reading was brought forward by Evelyn Nagy, seconded by Dylan Skees.

Karla Dellinger – Yes  
Dylan Skees – Yes  
Connaught Cullen – Yes  
Evelyn Nagy – Yes  
Debbie Gibson - Yes  
Mike Kraus – absent

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The Village Administrator located a used dump truck, 2008 750, for \$25,000. A spreader box would need to be installed and stated the one on the International would fit. Discussion on whether approval was given earlier in the year to purchase a new truck occurred but it was not clear that approval had indeed happened. A new truck would take several months to build and without the fiscal officer present it was determined that Chris could purchase the used one and save the village money.

The sewer installation is ongoing and Chris anticipates less issues down Main Street than occurred on Converse and other areas completed. This is due to improved compaction procedures.

Epler Paving will start paving soon beginning at Mill Street and work their way to the lower end.

Barbara Hamer asked Chris about her sidewalk. She stated the construction crew took up a section of her sidewalk and when they put it back it was damaged and the survey pin was not in the previous location. She expressed concern for safe passage for her elderly mother when taking her daily stroll. Chris will speak with the construction crew to view the pre-construction video and figure out if the pin had been moved. He stated the bids required the contractor to repair sidewalks and yards to previous or better conditions.

Debbie Gibson asked if there had been any issues with the sewer on Mill Street. She has been experiencing back up into her basement. She had photos on her phone but was unable to show them due to a dead battery. Chris told her there hadn't been any issues on Mill but there had been one on Ellis. He went on to add the contractor and himself had gone back over the lines from her prior complaints and determined that the flow was correct and should not contribute to her issue in the basement. He would check again for her assurance.

A vehicle with no plates is inhibiting the view on the corner of Lexington and Monroe. Chris will speak with Drew Daniels about it at the next opportunity.

#### **MAYOR'S REPORT:**

The Streetscape groundbreaking ceremony held on October 2 went well and had good attendance. Several good mentions were made on local news outlets about the project. She encouraged council and residents to watch the progress of the new murals that have begun on 21 Main Street and 70 Converse Street.

Mayor Hawk presented Drew Daniel's code report to council. He is working with the county planner for new flood route signage and emergency preparedness for the village. Drew is also looking into the possibility of contracted trash service for the village. The land bank has four properties out to bid for demolition: 20 Smith, 71 Main, 100 Main, and 14 Mound. It will include 55 Mill, 8 Ellis, 16 High and 16 Lexington in the next round. He is sending list of property owners in violation of rental permits and vacant building registration for 2024-2025 to the Solicitor for the next step of enforcement.

#### **COUNCIL'S REPORT:**

Evelyn Nagy reported on the Regional Planning Commission Meeting with the following highlights:

McKee is opening a concrete plant.

There will be a Floodplain Development Meeting on October 27, 5:30 pm @ 22 Birge Drive.

A grant for flood route signage is open for application.

The bike path is in use but is still a construction zone so this is not encouraged until it is officially open.

HAPCAP lost two drivers and so the Chauncey route ends at 3:00 pm.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORT:**

**Transportation and Utilities – Dylan Skees, Chair – None**

**Planning and Development – Evelyn Nagy, Chair – Working on legislation for shed/tiny homes**

**Parks and Recreation – Connaught Cullen, Chair – None**

**Finance and Personnel – Mike Kraus, Chair - Absent**

#### **RESIDENT COMMENTS:**

Barbara Hamer reiterated her sidewalk concerns addressed in the Village Administrator's Report. She passed photos of the situation around to the council members.

Richard Pierce informed council of the Ohio Dust Control Laws. He expressed that he would not stand for excessive dust during the sewer line installation at his residence and threatened litigation should this occur.

#### **NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday November 13 at 5:30 at 22 Birge Drive, old Quaker location.

Motion to Adjourn was made by Connaught Cullen, seconded by Dylan Skees. All were in favor.

Meeting was adjourned 7:59 p.m.

#### **APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

#### **RECORDED BY**

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Evelyn Nagy, President of Council

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Roxanna Chiki, Village Clerk

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