

Village of Chauncey Council

June 11, 2026

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Frank Campbell called the meeting to order at 6:02 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, Absent

Seat 6 – Dylan Skees, Present

Mayor – Frank Campbell, Present

Village Administrator – Present

Village Solicitor – Present

Fiscal Officer – Absent

Karla Dellinger made a motion to excuse Amanda Moore and Kevin Simons from the meeting. The motion was seconded by Joe Jenne. All were in favor of the motion.

Connaught Cullen made a motion to amend the agenda to allow for public comment prior to the readings and vote for Ordinances and Resolutions. This was seconded by Dylan Skees; all were in favor of the motion. Mayor Campbell requested comments not be repetitive and within the 3-minute time allowed for each person.

APPROVAL OF BILLS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS FROM FISCAL OFFICER:

Fiscal Officer, Kevin Simons was absent. He did leave notice the village needed to have a Cybersecurity Policy in place by July 1. This policy does not need to be detailed but does need to show the state the village has intent to comply and contain definitive actions that can be followed through on. For example: a hacker is discovered; the village would notify the state within 30 days.

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

RESOLUTION 2026-08 A Resolution to Proceed to Taxing Authority (2nd Reading). A motion to accept second reading of the resolution was made by Karla Dellinger; seconded by Dylan Skees. All were in favor of the motion.

RESOLUTION 2026-10 A Resolution to Adopt a Cybersecurity Policy in accordance with OVC 9.64 (comply with HB96). A motion to introduce this resolution was brought forth by Karla Dellinger; seconded by Dylan Skees. All were in favor of the motion.

Karla Dellinger made a motion to waive second and third reading and declare an emergency due to time constraints; seconded by Joe Jenne. Roll call vote as follows:

Joe Jenne – Y

Karla Dellinger – Y

Dylan Skees – Y

Natasha Taylor – Y

Connaught Cullen – Y

Amanda Moore – Absent

A motion to adopt the resolution was made by Connaught Cullen; second by Dylan Skees. All were in favor.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A motion to amend the May 14, 2026 meeting minutes was brought forth by Karla Dellinger; seconded by Joe Jenne, Jr. The amendment was to the Mayor's Report section replacing *"After a disagreement with the Chauncey-Dover Fire Department the mayor directed the village administrator to now mow or trim around the department buildings as he has done in the past"* to *"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."* Dylan Skees abstained from the vote as he was absent from the meeting. All others were in favor of the motion.

Motion to accept the May 14, 2026 meeting minutes with the amendment was brought for by Connaught Cullen; second by Natasha Taylor. Dylan Skees abstained from the vote as he was absent from the meeting. All others were in favor of the motion.

NEW BUSINESS:

Temporary Liquor Permit for Bike Race: Mayor Campbell received a request for a temporary liquor permit for a bike race to be held in the park on July 25, 2026. Charlie Morgan, president of Team Athens has received a donation from Jackie O's of a keg of beer for his race as they had each year prior since the race inception. The mayor felt since having alcohol served in the park has been a concern of council that they should weigh in on the decision. Joe Jenne adamantly opposed the signing of the permit. All other members of council took no issue with the permit and requested the mayor to sign the permit. Karla Dellinger encouraged council to take the initiative to attend the race and witness how the alcohol was served and how it affected those in the park. This would allow council to be able to judge future requests.

Connor Lavelle, Athens County Planner: Mr. Lavelle spoke of the importance of council to adopt the Athens County Hazard Mitigation Plan. He explained this is a five-year plan that is a requirement of the state to access emergency monies in response to natural hazards such a tornadoes and floods. He encouraged questions from council and residents. Barbie asked if the plan covers how to respond to a train wreck with hazardous chemicals involved. Connor explained this was not a natural disaster and is handled by a different agency. Karla Dellinger asked how many other villages in the county has adopted this plan and why would someone not choose to adopt. All villages in the surrounding area have adopted the plan and Mr. Lavelle was not sure why someone would opt out. Solicitor Robe stated there were consequences to not adopting but did not elaborate on what they may be. He also explained council could add an amendment stating the village did not want to participate in NFIP. Mayor Campbell expressed disdain for FEMA and stated it was difficult to get back into NFIP. Mr. Lavelle stated that each agency dealt with different situations and encouraged council to not confuse the two agencies. Karla Dellinger requested time to read through the plan and asked the deadline for adopting. Connor explained December 26, 2026 was the deadline and to plan ahead for the three readings. Joe Jenne asked has anyone not adopted the resolution; no. He asked who has adopted; everyone but Chauncey. Barbie asked how exactly do you mitigate? Connor explained updating and creating flood routes, public education, and creating objectives and goals of the community are examples of mitigation. Village Clerk asked if council did not adopt this plan would council have to create their own. Solicitor Robe stated yes.

Summer Skills Cafe: Mayor Campbell presented the Summer Skills Café after being approached by Bethany Luzny of Athens County Job & Family Services to possibly set up in the Chauncey Park. This is a new mobile youth program with a drop-in setup. It focuses on career exploration, life skills and encouragement. Youth from 7th-12th grades are encouraged to attend. Date and time will be announced at a later date. Council was all in favor of this program.

Chad Springer, Superintendent of Athens City Schools: Mr. Springer wanted to highlight activities and progress of the school district to all in attendance. He stated a \$60K grant was received for a Kindergarten JumpStart program, four students had received National recognition in art and a few had received summer intern scholarships in the amount of \$10K. He shared the new high school construction was behind but “not overbudget” and should be dried in soon. The completion date is slated for February 19, 2027. He touched on the pursuit of solar power, state funding and HB 129. He also let everyone know the district will be asking for a continuing levy in the next year. He highlighted Maya Lin had been born in Athens and designed the Vietnam Memorial as a project. Her professor gave her a bad grade and was not complimentary of the design. However, her design later won national attention and high favor. Mayor Campbell shared he enjoyed the graduation ceremony held recently.

OLD BUSINESS:

SOPEC: Mary Nally was not in attendance. Mayor Campbell stated the village needed the saving provided by being a part of SOPEC and encouraged residents to opt out if they so choose.

RESIDENT COMMENTS: Regarding Resolution 2026-07 & Ordinance 2026-02

Star: Hate is a dreadful ugly thing. This is our meeting house and we welcome everyone. Please remain a community of acceptance.

Josh, statewide advocacy manager for Equality Ohio: There are no statewide protections for sexuality. Some grants require protections to be in place to receive monies. Ohio ranks 4th in anti-LGBTQ+ incidents and there is a high suicide rate for this segment. Everyone deserves respect under the law.

Natalie, advocacy strategist ACLU of Ohio: I plead for no repeal of Ordinance 2026-02. I would not feel comfortable spending my money here if it is repealed.

Alex: I am against the repeal of both pieces of legislation. Source of income is not protected elsewhere. Veterans use vouchers for rent and would be affected without this protection. She and her friends would not be comfortable here if passed.

Peggy: Let's not go backwards. Why from those who would vote for repeal?

Kathy: I moved away and came back to the area. I am disappointed this is up for a vote. I currently own property here but if passed I will take my money elsewhere.

Rob: Retired to Chauncey because I loved the progress and optimism. I noticed a new rule to have pledge so council should practice liberty and justice for all.

Tara: I was stoked about the original ordinance and will consider leaving if it is repealed. You are elected to do as the community wants not what you want.

John, Clerk of Athens Friends: I urge you to not repeal. Gays and lesbians are part of this place. If you don't keep the protections in place the Friends will have to revisit the consequences of council meeting here.

Barbie: Read a list of people who are protected under Ohio Revised Code. She mentioned Bostock vs. Clayton and states this ordinance is in violation of Ohio Civil Rights. HUD enforces housing discrimination. She said she experienced personal attack on Facebook from her comments and stated it is ridiculous we are having this conversation from those who don't live here.

Nick: I oppose the repeal of the cease-fire. What does Chauncey stand to gain from repealing Ordinance 2026-02? Welcoming communities grow and thrive; otherwise, they fail.

Marissa: I am new to town and if I had known council wanted to repeal protections I would not have moved here.

Daniel: I have three kids and my middle child is trans. I don't think anyone here is a bad person but I implore you to "care for my children as you would care for your own."

Selena, Tend Space Art Center: I oppose the repeal of Ordinance 2026-02 and am frustrated council is working on this instead of other more important issues. I am angry Karla Dellinger and Joe Jenne are against me.

Joe: Elections have consequences. I feel many here are "virtue signaling" and the silent majority are not represented. I don't feel this is an issue because no one has been turned away. We are neighbors but do not have to agree on everything.

Damen: Ohio Courts have not universally applied Bostock vs. Clayton and higher government is not encouraging protections for all.

Taber: "Virtue signaling" goes both ways here.

Amy: I miss the town of the past and feel you will shoot yourself in the foot if you repeal these protections.

Sue: We should all try to understand each other and enjoy the diversity. I am opposed to the ordinance.

Anita: How people live is nobody's business and you should leave people alone.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION 2026-06 A Resolution to Adopt the Athens County Hazard Mitigation Plan. 3rd reading. No motion was made to accept 3rd reading of this resolution. Motion to table was brought forth by Connaught Cullen; second by Dylan Skees. All in favor of the motion.

RESOLUTION 2026-07 A Resolution to Repeal Resolution 2024-05 (Calling for an Immediate Cease-fire in Israel and Occupied Palestine). 3rd reading. Motion to accept 3rd reading and adopt was made by Joe Jenne; second by Karla Dellinger. All were in favor with the exception of Connaught Cullen who opposed.

ORDINANCE 2026-02 An Ordinance to Repeal Ordinance 2024-03 (Unlawful Discriminatory Practices). 3rd reading. Mayor Campbell advised council and the audience he would present an argument why this should be passed after the vote. Connaught Cullen expressed many grants have been received because of the Bailey's Trails and fears being seen as an unwelcoming community would endanger future funding. Karla Dellinger stated the audience deserves to know why she would vote for the repeal. She takes offense to the notion council is unaccepting because there are laws in place already for these protections. She researched several rental applications and could find no instance in which sexual orientation was asked. Joe Jenne expressed his anger at "My family was threatened to be burned."

Karla Dellinger made a motion to accept final reading and to adopt Ordinance 2026-02; Joe Jenne seconded the motion. Karla Dellinger and Joe Jenne were in favor of the motion; Connaught Cullen, Dylan Skees and Natasha Taylor were opposed. Motion failed; Ordinance 2024-03 is still in effect.

Mayor Campbell passed out his argument and encouraged everyone to read as a wrong impression may be discovered.

RESOLUTION 2026-11 A Resolution Authorizing the Fiscal Officer to sign the Agreement with SOPEC and declare an emergency. Motion to introduce the resolution was brought forth by Dylan Skees; second by Karla Dellinger. All were in favor of the motion.

Connaught Cullen made the motion to waive 2nd and 3rd reading and declaring an emergency; second by Karla Dellinger. Roll call vote as follows:

Joe Jenne – Y

Karla Dellinger – Y

Dylan Skees – Y

Natasha Taylor – Y

Connaught Cullen – Y

Amanda Moore - Absent

Karla Dellinger made the motion to adopt Resolution 2026-11; second by Dylan Skees. All were in favor.

SOLICITOR'S REPORT:

Solicitor Robe stated he was contacted by Molly Fitzgerald regarding a possible letter to Governor Dewine for Recertification of Opportunity Zones. Mayor Campbell explained this was for a tax reduction on the property behind the cemetery. He also requested permission from council to be able to sign documents with a short time frame without council approval. Karla Dellinger stated council couldn't give the mayor a blanket yes to sign anything. Connaught Cullen asked if the letter was referring to property owned by David Funk. She stated if so she would be against any tax breaks for him as he has caused too many issues in the village. The mayor says that Mr. Funk has no plans for future business in that location. Karla Dellinger shared Mr. Funk has obtained the property as a "pass through" deal with another entity who planned to develop with grant funding. When the funding fell through the property went to Mr. Funk by default. It was decided no letter would be signed at this time.

There have been a couple public record requests: Mr. Robe handled one from the press. The other was made through Legal Aid and residents of the mobile home park. Account records are being compiled and sent to Kaitlyn. Many thanks to her, Roxanna Chiki, and Mayor Campbell for their work on these requests.

The complaint of Mr. Bumpass from the May meeting has been resolved as it is unlawful to spend public funds for a private purposed. Mr. Bumpass returned the paperwork sent from the contractor without completing.

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

Chris Russell reported the owner of 8 Ellis Avenue asked about setback regulations in the zoning code. He would like to build a room addition that would set six feet from the line instead of the regulated eight feet. He asked if council would like to approve it at the meeting or go through the zoning process in place. Connaught Cullen asked if it would cause an issue with the neighbor? Chris stated it would be in violation of the current zoning rules. Karla Dellinger recommended the owner to go through the zoning process in place and apply for a variance through the Board of Zoning Appeals. Mayor Campbell asked Solicitor Robe if the council decisions supersede the BZA; Robe stated no. The village clerk will notify the owner to file for a variance.

ORCA has agreed to pay for installation of six park benches in the park. They have purchased two to install; the Chauncey Lion's Club donated two in memory of two residents. They will be placed facing the pump track.; Tammy Hawk donated one in which she collected plastic to have made through an organization; and one donated by the Kiwanis Club of Athens. This one and Tammy's will be placed facing the playground.

Field's Excavating plan to replace the poorly installed sewer lines on Nye St by July 2026.

Cal Electric is estimating a price to replace the electric in the sewer plant. Funds for this project were secured from Congressman Troy Balderson community funding project recommendation.

Mayor Campbell asked Chris if Bobby (DLZ) would be able to store construction materials for the welcome center in the park. Chris will meet with them to discuss a safe place. He and the mayor are concerned with park users being injured. The mayor suggests they would be best stored at the welcome center location.

Natasha Taylor requested Brandon to hang the lights and other décor for America's 250 while Chris is on vacation. The mayor will have Brandon call Natasha about her plans for placement.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Campbell reported the grant he applied for to build a sledding hill in the park was denied. Steve Buck has complained of the bollards placed in front of his property. There was an issue at the Cee Dee Mart in which a couple elderly ladies fell while walking due to the varying sidewalk levels. The mayor spoke with McKee Paving about placing appropriate safety equipment to prevent this in the future. Both ladies are doing fine and the issue has been resolved. The mayor gave kudos to the Parks & Recreation committee for the top-notch Party in the Park event.

Mayor Campbell would like to use COVID funds that were originally appropriated for a garage to be used to build a 24'X24' two car garage to store Parks & Recreation equipment.

Chris Russell received a quote for paving Spring & Plum Streets and gravel for the alleys that are being opened at a lower cost than the original. McKee quoted \$21K; Brothers Asphalt Maintenance quoted \$27K. Mayor Campbell was impressed the newest quote and is looking forward to the work to be completed. Karla Dellinger made a motion to accept the McKee bid; seconded by Joe Jenne. All were in favor of the motion.

Barbie asked about poison hemlock mitigation as part of the road work being done.

COUNCIL'S REPORT:

Connaught Cullen expressed concern there was no shade in the park and asked about having some trees planted for future shade. Mayor Campbell asked about sun sails instead of trees as the shade would be immediate. Council will look into cost of having these installed. Connaught also invited all to the Music Series beginning with the performance of Steve Zarati on June 17 from 6-8 pm.

Dylan Skees – None

Joe Jenne asked about the steps of a residence on Converse Street protruding onto the sidewalk. The mayor felt this was not ADA compliant. The village administrator felt the bollards were placed too far onto the sidewalk. The situation requires further investigation.

Natasha Taylor – None

Amanda Moore – Absent

Karla Dellinger – Community Yard Sale was held the weekend of June 6. She reported there had been 10 advertised sales and a couple pop-up sales and feels the event went well.

Barbie gave Joe Jenne thanks for giving much needed assistance to a veteran.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: Karla Dellinger made a motion to enter into executive session to discuss the village administrator pay; the motion was seconded by Natasha Taylor; all were in favor. The solicitor and village clerk were invited to stay. Session began at 8:29 pm and ended at 8:36 pm with a motion from Karla Dellinger;

seconded by Natasha Taylor. 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), Connaught Cullen made the report in Amanda's absence. The music series will begin with Steve Zarati on June 17; Caitlyn Kraus on July 15; Athens County Dixie Stompers on August 26 and ending with Tim Gowens on Sept 16. All performances will be held from 6-8 pm in the park. Connaught encouraged everyone to attend. She also asked for suggestions to increase attendance. One suggestion was for the village clerk to send notifications prior to the performances and another was to put them on the park calendar which is visible to everyone who visited the village page.

Natasha Taylor asked about the angel wings for the park. The design needs to be chosen then Connaught will paint them on her porch. Dylan Skees volunteered to help hang them once completed.

Finance and Personnel: Karla Dellinger (Chair), The committee met on May 26 to discuss the village administrator's pay. He has passed his operator's test and received a license to run the Sewer Plant. The committee recommends a raise increase of \$4 per hour retroactive to June 1, 2026. Karla Dellinger made the motion; seconded by Joe Jenne. All were in favor of the motion.

Transportation and Utilities: Joe Jenne, Jr (Chair), This committee proposed an increase to the water to match the increase in the sewer at the end of last year; 3% each year for 3 years. Solicitor Robe will create the resolution for the July meeting. Minutes from the prior meetings were signed.

Planning and Development: Natasha Taylor (Chair), Paul Chesser donated an additional \$300 for America 250 decorations. The materials have been received and Brandon will be installing the decorations the following week.

RESIDENT COMMENTS:

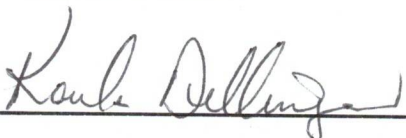
Joe – Cats are overrunning the town. Why are there laws for dogs and not them?

NEXT MEETING DATE:

The next meeting date will be Thursday July 9, 2026 at 6:00 pm in the regular meeting location at 22 Birge Dr. Karla Dellinger advised council she would not be able to attend.

Motion to adjourn was made by Connaught Cullen; seconded by Joe Jenne. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

APPROVED BY COUNCIL


Karla Dellinger, President of Council

RECORDED BY


Roxanna Chiki, Village Clerk