

# Village of Chauncey Council

April 9, 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, Absent

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, Present

Mayor – Frank Campbell, Present

Village Administrator – Present

Village Solicitor – Present

Fiscal Officer – Present

Karla Dellinger made a motion to excuse Connaught Cullen from the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dylan Skees. All were in favor of the motion.

## **APPROVAL OF BILLS AND FINANCIAL REPORTS FROM FISCAL OFFICER:**

Fiscal Officer, Kevin Simons reported he was working with the auditors for the upcoming audit for 2024-2025.

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

The fiscal officer presented a resolution to request certification from the Athens County Auditor's Office. The auditor will then supply the amounts to be generated by the levy if it gets on the ballot.

**RESOLUTION 2026-05 A Resolution Requesting Certification from County Auditor Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 5705.03.** A motion to introduce the resolution was made by Karla Dellinger; seconded by Joe Jenne. 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 Joe Jenne; seconded by Karla Dellinger. Motion was passed by roll call vote as follows:

Connaught Cullen – Absent

Karla Dellinger – Yeah

Natasha Taylor - Yeah

Joe Jenne, Jr – Yeah

Amanda Moore – Yeah

Dylan Skees - Yeah

Motion to adopt Resolution 2026-05 was made by Karla Dellinger; seconded by Joe Jenne. All were in favor of the motion.

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

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

A motion to approve the March 24 special meeting minutes was brought forth by Dylan Skees; seconded by Joe Jenne. Karla Dellinger and Amanda Moore abstained from the vote as they had not attended the meeting. Joe Jenne, Dylan Skees, Natasha Taylor all voted in favor to approve the minutes. Connaught Cullen was absent from this meeting.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Code Enforcement Officer, Drew Daniels submitted his resignation on March 27; effective April 10, 2026. Mayor Campbell stated he had reached out to Drew thanking him for his service to the village. He also stated he had no intention to fill the position in the future.

The Village Clerk reported she had reviewed customer accounts for those that would qualify for a lien for non-payment. There were seven accounts with a combined outstanding balance of \$3051.79. Letters to the property owners will be sent in June, July and August. If left unpaid they will be submitted to the Athens County Auditors Office on Sept 1, 2026 for certification. An administrative fee of 5% will be added to each balance.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Mary Nally, liaison for SOPEC, and Jessica Arnold, Regional Director for SE Ohio, appeared before council to answer questions brought up in the March meeting and listen to additional concerns about the EV chargers they would like to install at the Bailey's Hub Visitor's Center. The charger installation and maintenance would be funded by a CFI federal grant. The idea is to create a corridor of such chargers with easy access from highways. They need to be installed within communities along the corridor. The grant will pay for installation; paving, lighting, and electrical upgrades. Mary Nally explained they would like council to approve legislation stating the village is willing to participate in the study. Passing the legislation only says the village is interested in participating; not obligating the village to have them installed.

One concern from council is the risk of fire that is difficult to put out and may have lasting effects on the area. Jessica explained the risk level is low for fires and SOPEC will carry insurance compliant with EPA standards. Joe Jenne expressed the following concerns: toxic oil inside the chargers, water supply is susceptible to contamination, and environmental risks. He suggests yearly training for the fire department, financial assistance for special equipment required to fight an EV charger fire and possibly a retention pond to have enough water readily available to put a fire out. He also asked how SOPEC intended to protect the town and how much financial input they would provide to protect the drinking water. He stated he is against having the chargers in the town.

The deadline for legislation for participation in the study is June 15, 2026. Mary Nally reiterated passing the legislation down not commit the village to installing the chargers. She also expressed environmental impact studies would be included as part of the process. She will take the concerns to her organization and hopes to supply answers at the next council meeting.

Clean-up Day will be turned over to Chris Russell with the resignation of Drew. It will be held Saturday May 2, 2026 from 8 am-noon. The village clerk will design posters to put up throughout the village and prepare social media posts leading up to the event. Amanda Moore placed a call to Bateman's to clarify what items may not be placed in the dumpsters; tires, liquid or sharp objects at the top of the dumpster are not eligible in the dumpsters.

## **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTION 2026-06 A Resolution to Adopt the Athens County Hazard Mitigation Plan. 1<sup>st</sup> reading.** A motion to introduce and accept first reading of this resolution was brought forth by Natasha Taylor; seconded by Amanda Moore. All were 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). 1<sup>st</sup> reading.** Karla Dellinger stated this type of action had no place in village government and therefore was not necessary for village business. A motion to introduce and accept first reading of this resolution was brought forth by Karla Dellinger; seconded by Dylan Skees. All were in favor of the motion.

**ORDINANCE 2026-02 An Ordinance to Repeal Ordinance 2024-03 (Unlawful Discriminatory Practices). 1<sup>st</sup> reading.** Karla Dellinger stated this ordinance had a lack of rational basis and was redundant as the State of Ohio already had laws and restrictions on discriminatory practices. A motion to introduce and accept first reading of this resolution was brought forth by Karla Dellinger; seconded by Natasha Taylor. All were in favor of the motion.

## **SOLICITOR'S REPORT:**

Solicitor Robe reported the City of Athens had withdrawn for ORCA and the Mayor of Athens had resigned his position on the board. Mayor Patterson felt ORCA lacked sustainability and the organization was surviving only on grant funding. Robe stated the future of ORCA is uncertain at this point and the village would need to wait to see what repercussions this may have on village interests. Karla asked what would happen with the Visitor's Hub if ORCA would fail; would the construction still move forward? Mayor Campbell stated ORCA had a fundraising plan to aid in raising monies to complete construction as planned. The hub would most likely be built but without all of the planned amenities. Chris Russell had concerns about the continuance of the bike races that occur in the park and trail maintenance should ORCA fail.

Robe stated there have been a couple issues with installing a master water meter at the Green Meadows Mobile Home Park. These issues pertain to easements for a line extension and the meter needs to be placed on village right of way. He asked Chris if we would read the master meter and the individual meters then charge the MHP the difference? It is unclear how this would be set up at this time.

## **VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:**

Chris Russell reported working on solutions for the water issues at the lower end. Three storm drains did not get properly hooked back up during construction. The area is currently being dewatered by pumps. Reports on social media of sewer being pumped into the lower end were unfounded. EPA was called to verify and took photos of the area.

Storm 2.2 bids will be opened on May 7; 10:30 am; Village Hall. New storm will be installed on 2<sup>nd</sup> street and the lower end of the village will move to top priority when construction begins.

Karla Dellinger asked about the streetscape project and shared concerns of the curbs and their proximity to the main road. Chris stated the village would need to allow the project to be completed to satisfy the grant and then make the changes council feels are necessary. These changes would be at the village cost. He added there would be an 18" retaining wall created at 7 Converse Street and the crew will be installing decorative lighting and bollards along Converse Street.

There have been issues with the digester at the sewer treatment plant. Chris and the operator have differing ideas on how to correct the problem. He says there may be a large bill to get it pumped out but he is working to get some emergency grant funding to help alleviate the cost.

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

Mayor Campbell reports he feels the new sidewalks create a tripping hazard at the crossings. He feels the curbs are too close to the traffic. He stated this may be corrected as the new storm drains are installed. He is not pleased with Designing Local who designed the streetscape project and said the village would not hire them in the future.

ORCA sent a fundraising plan proposal to council that would generate revenues to complete the Visitor's Hub as designed. In the photos a brewery sign was shown and council took offense to the presumption that would be the business housed in the hub. They did not feel alcohol should be served in the park and ORCA had overstepped their bounds by making this decision without council's input. Joe Jenne stated he did not want drunken bikers in the park where children were playing. Dylan Skees expressed this was an inaccurate depiction of mountain bikers and breweries. Several council members were also concerned with the alcohol sales. Solicitor Robe advised them that council was able to draw up an ordinance prohibiting the sale of alcohol on village property. Karla made a motion instructing the solicitor to draw up such an ordinance; seconded by Natasha Taylor. All were in favor of the motion.

There were two fundraising ideas in the proposal by ORCA. One was to sell bricks along the pathways and in certain areas to those who would like to remember a loved one; advertise a business; recognize a veteran or a cause. Dylan Skees suggested the village donate bricks for veterans from the village. Another suggestion was to create a stamp at the beginning of the walkway for veterans or give them a discount. The second proposal was to sell naming rights to the connector trail. This could be sold as a legacy name (permanent) or as a business name (specified period of time). Papers were provided outlining the suggested price and amount of expected revenue. Mayor Campbell expressed that council needed to have the final say on anything that happens on our property at the hub.

Mayor Campbell presented a frisbee/disc golf course idea that he, Dylan Skees, and Joe Jenne have been researching. He stated Commissioner Chris Chmeil knows a group that may be potential investors in this project.

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

Dylan Skees was excited about the possibility of adding a premiere 18-hole disco golf course to "Karmegeddon." Currently there are no 18-hole courses in the area and would present tourism opportunities for the community. He says these courses are low cost and low maintenance; some of which could be paid through selling advertising space on the baskets and holding tournaments in the park. The discs could be sold in the Visitor's Hub. He is working on planning and funding for this idea.

Joe Jenne had nothing more to add.

Amanda Moore asked about lighting in the parking lot by village hall. She wondered if the streetscape would correct this with the proposed lights. She also requested Chris to install some lights at the back of the building. The Party in the Park event is coming up.

Mayor Campbell brought up a resident suggestion of a 4-way stop on the corner of May & Plum. Discussion consisted of the issues of sign placement due to a driveway being in the space. Karla Dellinger also brought up additional stop signs to be placed on Lexington. She and Chris will look at the area for best placement.

Solicitor Robe left the meeting at 8:18 pm.

Karla Dellinger brought up the annual community yard sale and the need to set a date. June 6 was the suggested day.

Connaught Cullen had requested the village clerk speak for her at the meeting. The book grant was not approved so this project will be abandoned. She is waiting word about the tourism grant offered by Visit Athens County. She also wanted to see where the kayak launch plans were at this time. Mayor Campbell stated he would like to speak with Boone Troyer about the launch as he feels it should be a much more elaborate launch to accommodate handicap access.

**RESIDENT COMMENTS:** There were no residents in attendance.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:** No executive session was held.

**COMMITTEE REPORT:**

**Parks and Recreation:** Amanda Moore (Chair), There is a meeting planned for Friday April 10. The mayor requested consideration for an "Outdoor Expo"; a vendor event for demonstration and sales of outdoor equipment.

**Finance and Personnel:** Karla Dellinger (Chair), Brandon Matheny was hired as the village administrators assistant and will begin on Monday April 13.

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

**Planning and Development:** Natasha Taylor (Chair), None. Mayor Campbell expressed he was in the process of creating ordinances/resolutions for items he would like to see continue from the zoning laws such as grass, parking and noise. The village administrator would be responsible for enforcement. The mayor plans to vote out zoning in the near future.

Village Administrator was called for an emergency and left at 8:30 pm.

**NEXT MEETING DATE:**

The next meeting date will be Thursday May 14, 2026 at 6:00 pm in the regular meeting location at 22 Birge Dr.

Motion to adjourn was made by Karla Dellinger; seconded by Natasha Taylor. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned at 8:36 pm.

**APPROVED BY COUNCIL**

**RECORDED BY**



Karla Dellinger, President of Council

Roxanna Chiki, Village Clerk