



COUNCIL MEETING
VILLAGE OF JACKSON CENTER
REGULAR SESSION

Held: Monday, September 14, 2026

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INVOCATION / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Called To Order By: Jesse Fark Session Begin: 7:00 PM Session End: 7:53 PM Session Location: Council Chambers

MEMBERS AND VISITORS IN ATTENDANCE/ROLL CALL:

Mrs. Leisha Elchert	Present	Ms. Gina Ludwig	Present
Mr. James DeVine	Present	Mr. Wayne York	Present
Mr. Luke Doseck	Present	Mr. Ross Ludwig	Present

Name	Visitor/Employee	Comments
Drew Sosby	Employee	Village Administrator
Jim Gooding	Employee	Fiscal Officer
Ed Maxwell	Employee	ZEO/EDD
Mike Burton	Employee	Solicitor

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

MOTION TO APPROVE MINUTES OF:	Monday, August 24, 2026	
TYPE OF MEETING:	Regular	
MOTION TO APPROVE BY:	Doseck	
MOTION SECONDED BY:	R Ludwig	
DISCUSSION:		
VOTING ROLL CALL:	VOTE	
	Yes	6
	No	0

PRE-SCHEDULED:

None

OLD BUSINESS:

None

NEW BUSINESS:

a. LEGISLATION

NUMBER:	2026-018
TITLE:	An Ordinance Establishing The Village Policy For Mailboxes Located Within The Street Right Of Way.
CLASSIFICATION:	Ordinance
STATUS:	1st Reading
DISCUSSION:	There is a need for private mailboxes to be located within the right-of-way of the Village. Improperly installed mail boxes could pose a condition that may be hazardous to the safety, health and welfare of pedestrians. The Village of Jackson Center has determined the location of mailboxes in the street right-of-way should be discouraged, especially if the installation needs to be on an existing sidewalk, but when the need arises, the installation must be approved by the Village of Jackson Center. All mailboxes that shall be erected within the boundaries of any right-of-way of the Village of Jackson Center require an installation permit. The installation permit of a mailbox requires a signed guarantee delivery as determined by the United States Postal Service. The permit fee for an installation in the grass utility strip is Twenty-five Dollars. If the mailbox is to be attached to a new or existing sidewalk, the permit fee is One Hundred Twenty-Five Dollars. Mailboxes shall not be installed on and within sidewalks measuring less than 48” wide with the exception of hardship cases as determined by the United



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States Postal Service. Any installation on a sidewalk less than 60" wide, the mailbox must allow 36" of clearance to comply with ADA guidelines.

Mailboxes shall be placed within the utility strip if one exists, located between the curb and sidewalk.

Mailboxes will be at least forty-two inches from the street to the bottom of the mailbox and mounted on a break-away post not larger than four inches by four inches. Said mail box will have dimensions that do not exceed twelve inches wide, twelve inches tall and twenty-four inches deep. All mailboxes shall be approved per USPS regulations and specifications. Any damage to public property which may occur during the installation or removal of a mailbox shall be repaired at the abutting property owner's expense. Failure to repair within ninety (90) days will result in the repairs being made by the Village, and the costs, including labor, materials, and administrative costs, assessed to the property owner.

All mailboxes remain the property and liability of the property owner. Any damage to an installation within the Village Right of Way remains the responsibility of the property owner to replace or repair.

Village Administrator Drew Sosby elaborated on the ordinance reporting that this ordinance will replace the existing ordinance from 2003. It establishes permits to establish mailboxes in the right-of-way. In order to be able to get a permit for a mailbox you must have a guarantee of delivery from the Post Office. If there is a grass strip you must use the grass strip. If not, they can be installed in the sidewalk. The grass strip is a \$25 permit. If in the concrete, it will be a \$125 permit.

Ed Maxwell gave some background. In the past, people wanted to erect mailboxes on the sidewalk. The Village did not want them on the sidewalks. The Post Office did not want to make the deliveries. New mailboxes were not allowed. There were exceptions for hardship cases. The cases were determined by the Post Office. It made it difficult to get hardship cases approved. We have also found out that in other communities, if you are not on the route and you have to have a PO box, that box is free. In Jackson Center you have to pay for the PO Box. This ordinance will put the decision on the post office on whether a person on the route can put up a mailbox. The Village will no longer have to be the bad guy. If the Post Office says they will deliver to the address, then the Village can approve the permit for the mailbox. We hope that this leads to most people getting relief from paying PO Box rent. We have tried to schedule meetings with Postmaster, but we have not been successful in meeting yet.

Councilman DeVine asked who the citizens should contact to find out if they can erect a mailbox. Maxwell said there is a place on the form that must be signed by the Postmaster or an authorized postal employee. Maxwell said if you are not on the route, you are not going to be able to put up a mailbox. We are trying to get to the point where if you are on the route you can choose to put up a mailbox or pay for a post office box. And if you are not on the route, you can't have a mailbox, but the post office box would be free. This is the case in Botkins.

Councilwoman Ludwig asked if the Post Office would tell a person where the route is. Maxwell thought they would be able to.

The ordinance will stand as a First Reading



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b. LEGISLATION

NUMBER:	2026-009										
TITLE:	A Resolution Authorizing The Village Administrator to Execute and File an Application for Financial Assistance with The Department of Natural Resources through the Land and Water Conservation Fund and Declaring an Emergency.										
CLASSIFICATION:	Resolution										
STATUS:	Emergency										
MOTION TO:	Suspend The Three Reading Rule										
MOTION MADE BY:	Elchert										
MOTION SECONDED BY:	DeVine										
DISCUSSION:	The State of Ohio through the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, administers financial assistance for public recreation purposes, through the federal Land and Water Conservation Fund program. The Village of Jackson Center desires financial assistance under the Land and Water Conservation Fund. The Council of the Village of Jackson Center approves filing this application for financial assistance. Administrator Sosby reported that this will authorize the Village to submit an application to receive federal funds from the ODNR's Land and Water Conservation Fund. We have received these grants in the past to improve the pool and add the splash park. Sosby summed up a survey that community members responded to. Here are the results: Village of Jackson Center Parks & Recreation Community Needs Assessment <i>Survey Results Summary — 64 Responses (August 2026-September 2026)</i> Executive Summary Sixty-four residents and park users responded to the Village's Parks & Recreation survey. The results point to a community that is generally satisfied with its parks but is asking clearly for two things: better restrooms and maintenance at both parks, and continued build-out of Tiger Trail Park into a full sports complex. Across ranking questions, residents consistently prioritized improving what already exists over building new facilities. Key takeaways: • Overall satisfaction is positive — 59% rated the parks Satisfied or Very Satisfied, though 33% were Neutral, suggesting room to convert fence-sitters into fans. • Restrooms are the single most requested improvement at both parks. • Tiger Trail Park is the clear favorite (67% of respondents' most-visited park) and the focus of the most vocal, detailed comments — mainly finishing the ball fields, adding a playground, and building restroom/concession facilities. • At Wally Byam Park, pickleball/tennis court resurfacing and general maintenance (weeds, mulch, litter) are the top concerns. • When asked to rank funding priorities, residents ranked 'Improve existing parks' highest and 'Build new parks' lowest. • Accessibility is a soft spot: only 53% said parks are fully accessible to all ages/abilities, with 34% saying only 'somewhat,' citing mobility/distance issues. Who Responded <table><tr><th>Metric</th><th>Value</th></tr><tr><td>Total responses</td><td>64</td></tr><tr><td>Live in the Village 10+ years</td><td>39 (61%)</td></tr><tr><td>Family w/ Children households</td><td>42 (66%)</td></tr><tr><td>Visit parks weekly or more</td><td>51 (80%)</td></tr></table> Respondents skewed toward established residents and families. The 25-44 age bracket accounted for over half of all responses (34 of 64), with smaller but present representation from seniors (17) and young adults 18-24 (5).	Metric	Value	Total responses	64	Live in the Village 10+ years	39 (61%)	Family w/ Children households	42 (66%)	Visit parks weekly or more	51 (80%)
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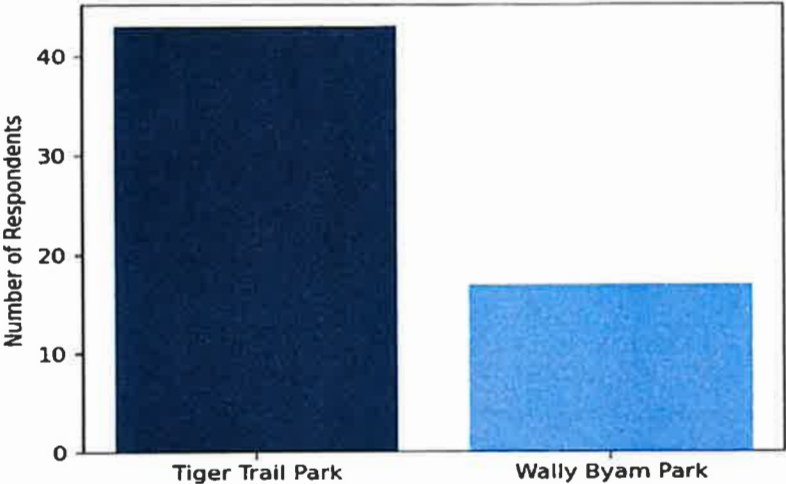
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Park Usage & Activities

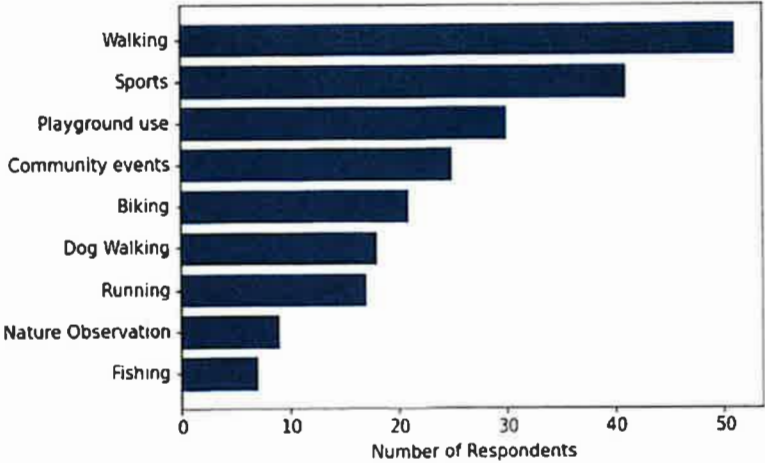
Most-Visited Park



Tiger Trail Park is visited most often by 43 respondents versus 17 for Wally Byam Park (4 did not specify). This is echoed throughout the open-ended comments, where Tiger Trail is repeatedly called the Village's 'showpiece' project.

Walking, sports, and playground use are the dominant activities, followed closely by attending community events and biking — a mix that spans both passive recreation (trails, walking) and organized youth sports.

Most Common Park Activities





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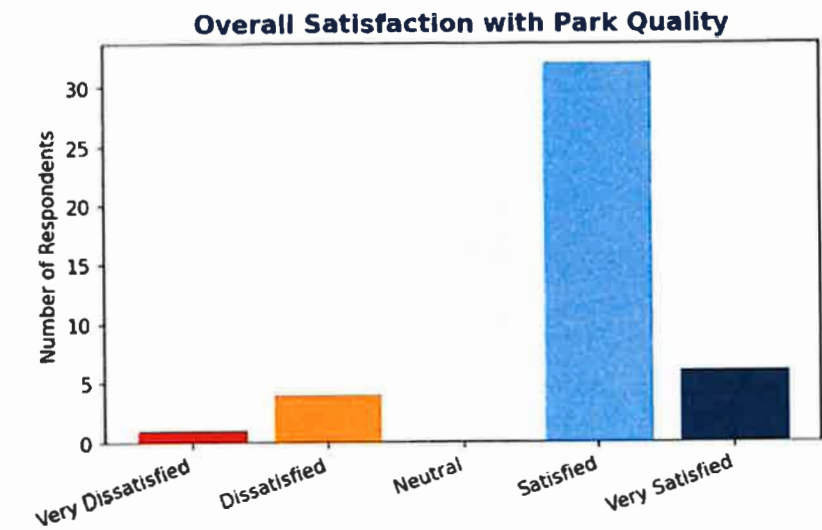
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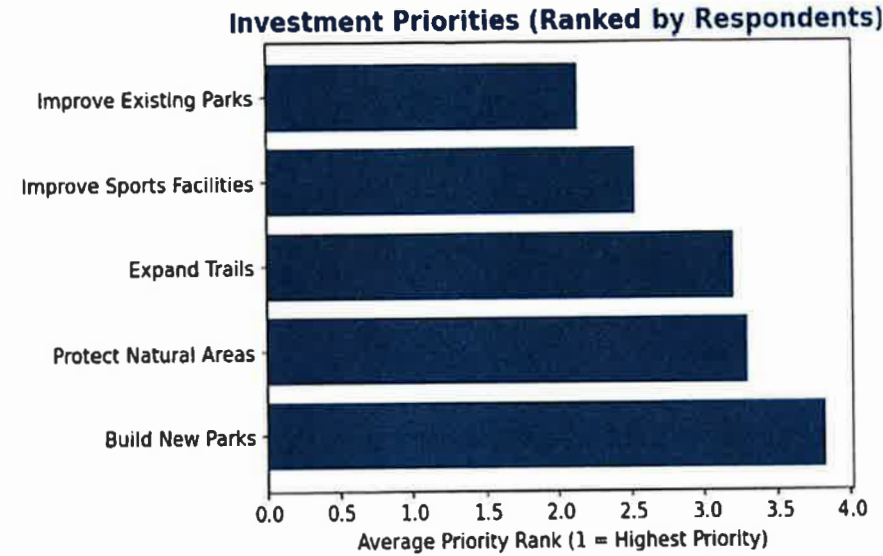
Overall Satisfaction & Accessibility



Accessibility Response	Count
Yes, fully accessible	34 (53%)
Somewhat accessible	25 (39%)
Unsure / No	5 (8%)

Several respondents flagged specific accessibility gaps: distance from accessible parking to the soccer fields at Tiger Trail, a lack of handicap-accessible swings, and no paved path to the Wally Byam shelter house for wheelchair users.

Investment Priorities



Respondents ranked five investment categories from highest to lowest priority. 'Improve existing parks' came out clearly on top, followed by improving sports/recreational facilities. Building entirely new parks ranked last — residents want the Village to finish and maintain what it has before expanding further.



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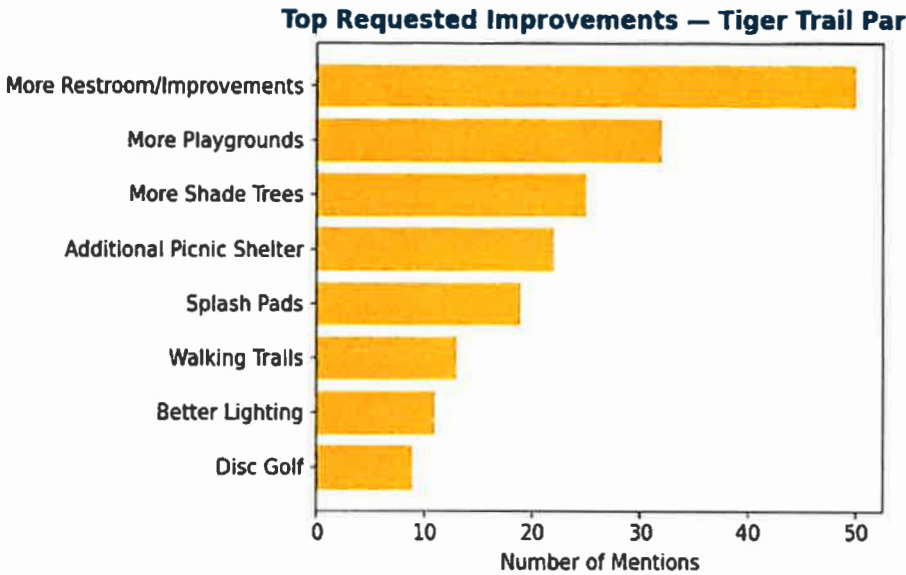
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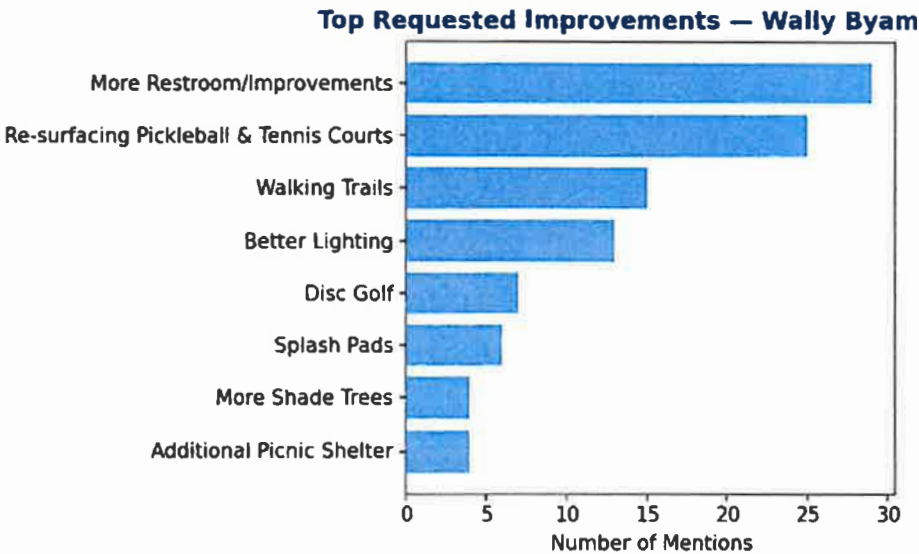
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Tiger Trail Park — Top Requests



Restrooms and concessions dominate the feedback for Tiger Trail — 50 mentions, far ahead of any other request. This lines up with dozens of open-ended comments from parents and youth-sports families describing games and practices with no nearby bathroom or shade. Finishing the baseball/softball fields, adding a playground, and building picnic shelters round out the top requests.

Wally Byam Park — Top Requests



At Wally Byam, the top request is restroom improvements (29 mentions), closely followed by pickleball/tennis court resurfacing (25 mentions) — several respondents specifically called out cracking court surfaces as a trip hazard. General upkeep also came up repeatedly in open comments: overgrown weeds, muddy/poorly-mulched playground areas, and inconsistent trash pickup.

Recurring Themes in Open-Ended Comments

- Strong, repeated interest in a dog park.
- Multiple requests for a splash pad, including a suggestion to theme it around the Village's Airstream heritage.
- A consistent 'maintain what we have before building new' sentiment.
- Safety and nighttime lighting concerns, particularly near the pool-area playground.
- A few respondents noted a gap in activities for teens and young adults without children, since most current offerings center on kids or organized sports.

Suggested Next Steps

- Prioritize restroom/concession construction at Tiger Trail Park — it is the most requested single improvement across the entire survey.
- Resurface the Wally Byam pickleball/tennis courts and address routine maintenance (weeds, mulch, litter) there.
- Continue the Tiger Trail ball-field build-out (fencing, dugouts, bleachers) given the volume of detailed support from youth-sports families.
- Evaluate accessibility improvements — accessible parking near the soccer fields and a paved path to the Wally Byam shelter house.
- Explore a dog park and splash pad as the next new-amenity additions, once existing-park improvements are underway.



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	We did the survey to get more data from public input. This is a very competitive grant. Choice One has reported that 40-50 application are submitted while only 10-12 are awarded. This type of funding is 50% reimbursement from \$50,000 up to \$500,000. If you align your application with the Ohio State Comprehensive Recreation Plan you tend to be more successful. Our Park and Rec Board met on September 1st to review data. The deadline for application is October 31. We are looking into getting additional walking trails in the woods and the Tiger Trail Park. This could also aid in getting a cross country course. We are looking into adding playgrounds and shelters. The full concession/restroom project is not part of this. But that will happen in the future. Choice One will help with the budget quantities and estimates. Sosby met with a playground equipment representative. We are looking into PIP on the playgrounds whether than mulch. It could be half and half for cost effectiveness. The trails will be natural surfaces (not paved). Shelters will be between 800 and 1,800 square feet. We will find out in early Spring if we receive a grant.
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VOTING ROLL CALL	VOTE		
Elchert	Yes		
G Ludwig	Yes		
DeVine	Yes		
York	Yes		
Doseck	Yes		
R Ludwig	Yes		
VOTING RESULTS	YES: 6	NO: 0	ABSTAIN: 0

MOTION TO:	Adopt		
MOTION MADE BY:	York		
MOTION SECONDED BY:	R Ludwig		
DISCUSSION:	No Further Discussion		
VOTING ROLL CALL	VOTE		
G Ludwig	Yes		
DeVine	Yes		
York	Yes		
Doseck	Yes		
R Ludwig	Yes		
Elchert	Yes		
VOTING RESULTS	YES: 6	NO: 0	ABSTAIN: 0

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COMMITTEE:	Finance
CHAIR NAME:	York
DISCUSSION	No Report
COMMITTEE:	Utility
CHAIR NAME:	York
DISCUSSION	No Report
COMMITTEE:	Wage & Benefits
CHAIR NAME:	G Ludwig
DISCUSSION	No Report



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COMMITTEE:	Safety
CHAIR NAME:	Elchert
DISCUSSION	The Safety Committee met before the Council Meeting. The Police Department has had 84 service calls this month. Everything in the school zones is going well. They are assisting at the ROOTS Daycare with school buses picking up and dropping off during the day. It taking some education for the bus drivers and the general public. The PD is telling the bus drivers to not pull over to the curb when picking up and dropping off. Drivers thought they could go around the bus when it pulled to the curb. Everything is going well. The Fire Department has had 73 runs for the year. 39 are in the village. 23 runs have been in the township. They have been mutual aid with Anna Rescue 21 times. They have been called to mutual aid for car accidents 9 times. They have gotten some false calls from iPhones. The phone will call for help if there is a sudden stop. If a person leaved there phone on the roof of their car and pulls away it will call for help when if falls off the car. The PD has a tenderloin dinner coming up on Friday, September 25 from 5 – 8 PM. It is \$10. There are no presale tickets. The safety committee discussed overall funding for the FD. There are equipment and truck needs. They are starting to get some numbers together for future planning. Mayor Fark added that the Norther Shelby County Joint Ambulance District received two bids. Anna Rescue's bid came in at \$795,000. Spirit's bid came in at \$825,000. They held interviews last Thursday. There is a meeting in Jackson Center Council Chambers on Thursday, 9/17/2026 at 7:00 pm to decide on who gets the contract.

COMMITTEE:	Public Property
CHAIR NAME:	DeVine
DISCUSSION	No Report

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

DEPARTMENT:	ZEO/EDD
REPORT BY:	Ed Maxwell
DISCUSSION:	Maxwell reported that the JC Hardware is for sale. We are actively looking for someone who might be a potential buyer. The museum had a grand reopening this past Sunday. Maxwell reported that it is a nice display. They are very thankful to the Village for helping install ramp and other things. Sip and Stream has expanded into Anna. There will be another coffee shop where the pharmacy use to be. They hope to be open late this year. Village Prints should be opening soon. They have done a lot of work to the building with all new signs. We have been working on revamping the zoning ordinance with Choice One. The ordinance is about 22 years old. It is vague on fencing. There is a rather large leeway on accessory buildings which needs to be tightened up. There are misprints in the old ordinance. The Village of Ansonia is referred to at one point in the ordinance. Mayor Fark asked if our zoning ordinance covers windmills. Maxwell said that it doesn't. But the new ordinance may add it. They are also looking at adding sections about marijuana dispensaries, data center, windmills and solar.



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DEPARTMENT:	Village Administrator
REPORT BY:	Drew Sosby
DISCUSSION:	<u>Streets Department</u> • Concrete work, Curb Painting • Fixed Sink hole at Rising Sun Express • Working on Tiger Trail Park Ballard Implementation. This will help keep cars out of the park but allow golf carts to still get through. <u>Water Department</u> • Assisting w/Robb Ave- Watermain. Sturm Construction started last Tuesday. They hot tapped the 12-inch water main on SR 65. They had some issues with the bit getting stuck. The water main had to be depressurized. Everything was fixed. They are almost to the cul de sac with 12-inch water main. Hopefully that will be finished this week and get it all tied in and pressure tested and bacteria tested. Then they will start the service laterals. • Handling WTP issues on Labor Day Weekend. It's possible that lightning may have affected the plant. We had issues with output on our flow meters. The meters went down. So we had to manually pump the chemicals. Employees were coming in over the weekend to run the plant manually. • Old WTP Demo/Clean <u>Sewer Department</u> • Jake (Sewer Superintendent) passed Water Class 2 Exam. • New Landfill Dump truck. We bought a truck from Celina. It came from Texas. It has no rust. It is in good shape. It has about 200,000 miles. We paid \$56,000. Cummins engines can go for 500,000 miles. We feel good about the purchase. We retired Unit #4 which was a 1980's model GMC. <u>Electric Department</u> • Finished State Sign Install. We will be getting some arborvitae to put around it. We are also going to do some landscaping around the cemetery. • West Street Underground Phase 3 work • "DAY" 1CP = 3,457 he 18 (9/2; our load at HE 18 = 4.109MW & we peaked at HE 15 6.6 MW. Last year the 1CP was July 25th and the load was 3.6. This is why we participate in peak shaving. <u>Parks Department</u> • Mowing/Spraying • Met w/Midstates Recreational "Playground Equipment" • Pool Finance Summary:



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2026 Pool Financial Summary

Revenue:

Items	2024	2025	2026
Swimming Pool Passes	\$6,600.00	\$7,200.00	\$9,350.00
Entry Fees	\$15,645.00	\$16,750.00	\$14,955.00
Pool Party Fees	\$5,100.00	\$3,500.00	\$4,700.00
Total	\$27,345.00	\$27,450.00	\$29,005.00

Notes:

- Pool Passes- \$50/Individual
- Entry Fee- \$5/person
- Pool Party- \$200

Expenses:

Items	2024	2025	2026
Labor	\$49,720.11	\$44,623.22	\$44,644.40
Reimbursements	\$119.62	\$1,813.60	\$1,545.40
Contractual Services	\$23,164.06	\$10,830.45	\$21,759.15
Supplies/Materials	\$15,671.27	\$16,932.30	\$21,322.00
*Debt-Service	\$45,128.86	\$45,128.86	\$45,128.86
Total	\$133,803.92	\$119,328.43	\$134,399.81

Notes:

- 26'-pay structure increased
- In 25'- started to reimburse certifications/swim gear 100%
- Contractual- includes water/sewer/electric bill (\$14,198.02 water bill)
- Supplies/Materials accounts for "chemicals" = \$13,404.60
- Debt-service- still paying off the debt we issued for 2018 improvements. Debt will retire in 2030.

Summary:

	2024	2025	2026
Total Revenue	\$27,345.00	\$27,450.00	\$29,005.00
Total Expenses	\$133,803.92	\$119,328.43	\$134,399.81
Net Income	\$(106,458.92)	\$(91,878.43)	\$(105,394.81)

Notes:

- Public Pools will never be "profitable" business
- Pool currently still leaks-we are unknown of where its at.
- Harder and harder to find guards- do we increase pay?

Admin Report:

- Attended Park and Rec Committee Mtg (9/1)
- AMP DOE grant- funds used will be to help cybersecurity
- Sturm Construction started Robb Avenue Project (9/8)
- Coltin Rose new W/WW Apprentice; started last Tuesday (9/8)
- Attended Choice One Project mtg w/Ed (9/9)
- Attended EMA Mtg (9/10). We are working on a Hazard Mitigation Plan.
- Met w/Midstate Rec at Tiger Trail Park (9/10)
- Met/ CC Coach Mcpherson at Tiger Trail Park to discuss CC Course. We are going to have a small cross country meet soon, possibly October 6th. There are things that need done. The course must be mowed to a shorter length. There are spots that need rolled. There are spots that need dirt added.
- Paws to Path 5K (11/7) @5pm at Tiger Trail Park
- Reviewing "Mass Notification Systems" Software's. We currently have Telematic. We are looking at different vendors. We want to be cost effective. But we want a reliable service. We are looking at a system the integrates the phone call with social media posts.
- D&S finishing up Public Works Bldg. Hail Damage Clam



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	- Working on Community Foundation Grant Application- Tiger Trail Park . Up to \$20,000 could be awarded. - CDBG Income Survey – will be mailed out very soon at random; need 300 responses. Please encourage people to fill these out and return them. - October 31 there will be a craft show at the American Legion to help raise funds for the 8th grade class trip. - Groundworks Ohio will be doing a site visit at the ROOTS Daycare. They are an advocacy group for childcare. - We have established that Trick-or-Treat will be the Sunday before Halloween from 5:00 to 6:30. Mayor Fark said we can leave it that way. But if we hear any negative feedback we can revisit the issue. - Kendall Hilbun- group to clean/paint bathrooms at Wally Byam Park. - Starting to work on FY 27’ Budget Appropriations & Capital Improvement Plan - Superintendent Budget Mtg’s next week - Continuing to work on great projects for THE Village of JC!!!!!!!!!!!!
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CITIZEN COMMENT:

None

OTHER BUSINESS:

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

None

UNSCHEDULED BUSINESS:

None

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:

TYPE OF MEETING	Regular
DATE	Monday, September 28, 2026
TIME	7:00 PM
LOCATION	Council Chambers
COMMENTS	None

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION TO ADJOURN BY:	G Ludwig	
MOTION SECONDED BY:	DeVine	
VOTING ROLL CALL:	VOTE	
	Yes	6
	No	0

MINUTES PREPARED BY

SIGNATURE	TITLE	DATE
	Fiscal Officer	9/15/26

ATTESTED BY

SIGNATURE	TITLE	DATE
	Fiscal Officer	9/28/26

MAYOR/PRESIDENT PRO-TEM CERTIFIED

SIGNATURE	TITLE	DATE
	Mayor	9/28/26

All formal actions of the Council of Village of Jackson Center concerning and relating to the adoption of resolutions and/or motions passed at this meeting were adopted in a meeting open to the public, in compliance with the law, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.