

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
VILLAGE OF FORT RECOVERY COUNCIL

Minutes of

Meeting

GOVERNMENT FORMS & SUPPLIES 844-224-3338 FORM NO. 10148

Held September 15 , 20 25

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Dave Kaup called to order the Regular Council Meeting on September 15, 2025 at 7:30 pm in the Village of Fort Recovery Council Chambers to conduct regular business.

Roll call was conducted with the following Council members present: Cliff Wendel, Luke Knapke, Greg Schmitz, Scott Pearson and Al Post. Absent: Erik Fiely

Also Present: Randy Diller, Erin Abels, Aaron Rengers, Jared Laux, Roberta Staugler, Bailey Cline and Jennifer Schoonover.

The mayor led with prayer and the pledge of allegiance.

Reports to Council: VA Report, August Finance and Police Reports.

Minutes: Schmitz made a motion to approve the minutes for August 18, 2025 Regular Meeting seconded by Knapke. Vote all yes.

Mayor: The Mercer County Squad held their 50th Anniversary party on Saturday night. It was pretty impressive. The August Tax report looks like it is down a little bit, not a good sign but expected.

Chief: The stats are in dropbox. Just a note it is not tallying all of them, so totals are not all accurate. We did get the dot.gov emails set up if you aren't aware. The old emails will work but we do want to try to get everyone to use the new fortrecoveryohio.gov.

Mayor: Also, we can discuss the letter chief had in drop box? It's from a gentleman that grew up in this area. We might have the opportunity to pick up another officer. I always like to have the opportunity, not sure whether timing is good. Laux: We can wait until first of year, for budget purposes. Mayor: I have given it some thought, but we also have to find a way to fund that. Income is down, not sure the best time. Does council have some input? Post: Agree now not a good time, but it wouldn't be bad to have more coverage. Rengers: With new people coming on and the other job, budget will be pretty tight for labor, is it something we want to look at first of year, or won't it happen for a while or ever? We have had 3 in the past; problem is he is not a new guy, he will want a decent wage. Laux: Similar to officer Bird, with experience, need to be able to compensate the man. If up to me I would be excited, don't know balance wise if good time, let's see how the year falls out. Schmitz: I would agree. Kaup: If council is against this, there is no reason to put it on hold. Post: I have no problem, wait until first of year to see if things turn around. Knapke: Lets wait until end of year, first of year and base it off that. Pearson: Word on street J&M is picking up little, let's wait to see. Knapke: Let's see what happens in November. Kaup: Chief let's tell him we will look at it again at the end of the year.

RESOLUTIONS/ORDINANCES:

RES 2025-23 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES FOR THE VILLAGE OF FORT RECOVERY AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION, AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES, AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Pearson made the motion to suspend the rules which was seconded by Schmitz. Vote all yes. Post made the motion to pass the resolution which was seconded by Schmitz. Vote all yes.

RES 2025-24 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUND AMOUNT AND RATE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Pearson made the motion to suspend the rules which was seconded by Schmitz. Vote all yes. Post made the motion to pass the resolution which was seconded by Pearson. Vote all yes.

Staugler: The Local Government revenue will increase an estimated \$2,000 and the total levy revenue will increase by about \$7,500 or about \$1,500 each.

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ORD 2025-11 AN ORDINANCE SETTING FORTH THE SERVICES THE VILLAGE

WILL PROVIDE TO THE 15.588 ACRE TERRITORY IN RECOVERY TOWNSHIP PROPOSED FOR ANNEXATION TO THE VILLAGE, ESTABLISHING THE BUFFER REQUIREMENTS THE VILLAGE WILL ENFORCE PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE SECTION 709.023, CONSENTING TO AND SUPPORTING THE ANNEXATION OF THE TERRITORY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Pearson made the motion to suspend the rules which was seconded by Schmitz. Vote yes by roll call vote. Post made the motion to pass the ordinance which was seconded by Knapke. Vote all yes by roll call vote.

Diller: This is for the Ruhenkamp property. They plan to build a home in the next couple of years. This will be for utility extension; it has been approved by the commissioners. After this ordinance they will have 25 days to reply. In the past no response within the 25 days was considered consent. The Commissioners will then pass, we wait 60 days to accept by legislation and then we will wait an additional 30 days until it will be in effect. Wendel: What cost do you anticipate, will you need to go much further? Diller: The sanitary will come up the drive from the pump station. Kaup: You will tie it in the back? Diller: The issue, going up the back is to avoid need to go deep by the house and down the road and across. This will keep the elevation. They are not in a hurry; they won't build for another year. Schmit's may need in future for utilities to house, not the business. Wendel: Are we voting to do without costs? Diller: This is the consent to provide services upon annexation not to accept the annexation, that will occur later. Wendel: Dale Kaiser wants to come in too, how would that work? Diller: We can deliver to the site. Ruhenkamp is next to our drive, plan not any further from town then that now. The procedure is to deliver to the site, if they annex and we don't have an attachment they would pay 100% of the cost for the sanitary, what do we do with water? Run it across the front of Leverette's lot. Wendel: Is this in flood zone? Not where the house will be built. Kaup: The storm runs across the river.

Staugler: The Auditor has completed obtaining information, they are in the review process. The August Bank Reconciliation was presented for approval.

Erin Abels: nothing new to report.

Diller: Wastewater: Nothing new to report.

Water plant: This is still being held up. I talked to Marvin briefly, ready to finalize plans but need the well siting plan to provide the final plans to EPA. We have the August billing from PMG Consulting Inc in the amount of \$8,085.00 which is based on the contract. **Pearson made the motion to pay the invoice in the amount of \$8,085.00 to PMG Consulting which was seconded by Schmitz. Vote, yes.** Mayor: How long have they been working on this? Diller: About a year. There isn't a time frame, they have more to go to complete the contracted price.

Water Tower: The electricity has been supplied; SCADA should be here one day this week to be installed. Will see a final bill by end of the month, based on numbers, slightly less than the bid, which is good.

Well: The 4th test well to be drilled later this week. If this does not work, we will take a step back and see what we need to do next. We may have to make a decision to wait as we don't need it to operate but need OEPA to allow us to submit the plant design without this siting plan.

Systemic Funding: Nothing new, lots of emails between ODOT and Choice One.

Safe Routes: They are ready to move forward with the right-of-way and should begin in October. They plan to get it done in the winter; it shouldn't take but few weeks. Only four property owners are involved. This is a 2027 construction project.

Butler Street: Shelly showed up sometime on Saturday to finish the repairs. They did not contact anybody. It is done, we will see if it will solve the spot by Charlie's. Kaup: Why did they dig up the spot on this street? Diller: The water valve was not working. They had no

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they dig up the spot on this street? Diller: The water valve was not working. They had no excuse, blamed it on Tom's Construction by Charlie's. Kaup: Can we get rid of the tree on Butler Street? Diller: The only thing is it will change the policy we have been following forever. I asked him if he wanted it down. He said if not in way let's just leave it. It's our tree but we will be changing policy if it is not a sight issue. I drive through and don't notice it.

Annexation: We are waiting until 60 days is up for the Fortkamp Annexation which will be October 7th. We will be ready to pass legislation when that happens.

Legislation: The House and Senate are on vacation.

Tax Rate Increase: Randy went to a couple of meetings, very little feedback, most say they agree with it. Knapke: Should we have another open-house opportunity? Diller: Based on the other meeting we can probably do it here. Hold an open house ½ hour before the meeting to allow them to come in to ask questions, where they can come and go, may be mid to late October? It will probably make sense. Generate a few more people to come in.

Comm Reinvestment Area: Waiting on school and possible annexation and development. Kaup: The young man building a house at end of the cul-de-sac called me, he wants to know if happening now or when? Diller: At this time, it has not been accomplished; we don't have approval from the school. Don't think we will finalize anything this year. Rengers: We will meet with the school board in October. We don't need their approval for residential for up to 100%. We could go up to 75% on commercial and industrial. They do have the final say on commercial and industrial, it is more about just getting them to understand. We want to make sure the school board is at least understanding.

Park Board: We will get started on the batting cage, walkway fence and repair pony league fence after final approval insurance company.

Rengers: I met with the pool builder. At this point looking at replacing the stainless steel, add a zero-line entry and convert kiddie pool to a splash pad. Cost would be approximately \$1.7 Mil or \$1.4 Mil to replace the gutter, decking. Filters and pumps \$1.3M. It would be \$440K to convert just the kiddie pool. We do have a capital budget grant of \$450K and still a lot of uncovered money. Will come back with updated plans and numbers for new pool. We need to get together a committee. Kaup: Would we be down for a summer? Rengers: We would shut down early August and finish up by Memorial Day. Diller: Does not include any improvement to the bath house, we may have to tackle that in-house. Rengers: It also needs an extensive electrical renovation. The main leak is when it is pressurized, Diller: It dropped 3-4" below the stainless so it must be somewhere above that. We tried to find it in the gutter a few years back. Without cutting completely open, it will crack somewhere you don't expect. It's 43 years old. Not unusual, we have to figure out what makes sense, a new liner could last another 15-20 years. A liner 15 years, cost for liner replacement only \$150K Pearson: What about St Henry? Rengers: It was built in 2019 for \$3-4Mil same as we have, not a splash pad. Diller: A lot of options, we will start talking about what makes sense. Looking at \$2Mil with a bath house. Still going to be pushing, if it lasts for 30 years, not a bad investment.

Important Dates: Trader Days will be held Oct 2nd-5th. The Merchants Fort Street Car Classic Cruise-In will be held October 11th.

Downtown Speakers are 100% complete and paid for. The Village cost was approximately \$1,000.00 for installation. There is nothing hanging on buildings anymore.

The Merchants are proposing changes to Halloween. Looking at making it a Fall Fest, final plans will be forthcoming by the next council meeting.

Poll Council: Post: Someone asked the status on fire hydrant repairs near his home, after fire nearby is curious. Parts have been ordered and should be a quick fix once they arrive.

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Diller: We have 2 running for 4 spots on council, after the first of year, council will need to appoint two members. Our policy is to open up the public asking for those interested to apply for seats that will be open in January. I have had some feedback with a couple of people interested. We will put it out mid-October for those interested. Kaup: Yes, I think we need to.

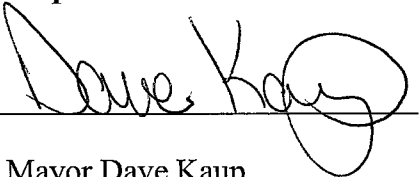
Mayor: Do I have a motion to enter executive session to discuss employment in accordance with Ohio Rev Code 121.22(G)(1)? **Knapke made the motion to enter into executive session which was seconded by Schmitz. Vote all yes by roll call vote.**

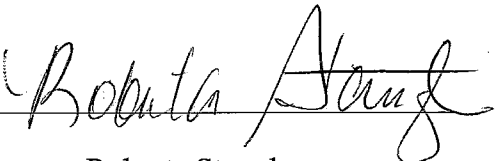
Pearson made the motion to exit executive session which was seconded by Knapke. Vote all yes.

Wendel made a motion to create the Asst. Fiscal Officer/Utility Billing Clerk position and prepare a Wage Ordinance at a rate of \$20 per hour with a \$1.00 per hour increase after a six-month probation. This was seconded by Knapke. Vote, all yes.

Council reviewed invoices for checks 33755 through 33798 including then and now certificates, and electronic payments 664-2025 to 710-2025 inter-departmental transfers and adjustments **Pearson made a motion to approve as presented; this was seconded by Knapke. Vote all yes.**

Pearson made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Wendel. Meeting adjourned at 8:22 pm.


Mayor Dave Kaup


Roberta Staugler