

VILLAGE OF CRIDERSVILLE COUNCIL MINUTES
Regular Meeting – January 12, 2026
7:30 p.m.

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call

Mayor Walls called the regular meeting to order and lead with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Council Members: Eric West, Dorance Thompson, Shaun Wenrick , Stacey Cook, Joe Bailey, Dylan Lauck were present. Also present: Fiscal Officer Darci Motter, Police Chief Donnie Chiles, Fire Chief Rick Miller, Village Administrator Jarid Kohlrieser and Solicitor James Hearn.

It was moved by Bailey and seconded by Wenrick to accept the minutes of the December 8, 2024, Regular Council Meeting and January 6, 2026. Motion passed 4-0. With West and Thompson abstaining.

Mayor Walls asked for nominations for the 2026 Council President. Thompson nominated Eric West, seconded by Lauck. Motion passed 5-0. E. West abstained.

Mayor Walls had **Resolution #2529 appointing James F. Hearn Senior as the Village Solicitor for 2025**. West motioned to accept the resolution; Bailey seconded the motion. Motion passed 6-0.

Mayor Walls asked for a motion to accept the Rules of Council as written, with no changes being made for 2026. The motion to accept the Rules of Council was made by West and seconded by Bailey. Motion passed 6-0.

Mayor Walls asked for nominations for 2026 Village Engineer. Jairst Kohlrieser recommended Choice One Engineering. West made a motion to accept Choice One, seconded by Lauck. Motion passed 6-0.

Mayor Walls asked for a Prevailing Wage Coordinator. Thompson nominated Eric West, seconded by Wenrick. Motion passed 5-0. E. West abstained.

Mayor Walls asked for 2 representatives for the Auglaize County Regional Planning Commission for 2025. West made the nomination to appoint Bailey and Lauck. It was seconded by Wenrick. Council voted to approve Bailey and Lauck 4-0 with Bailey and Lauck abstaining.

Mayor Walls asked for 2 representatives for the Wapakoneta Area Economic Development Council. Bailey made the motion to appoint Mayor Walls and Lauck to the Wapakoneta Area Economic Development Council. Motion was seconded by Thompson. Council accepted Mayor Walls and Lauck 5-0 with Lauck abstaining.

Mayor Walls asked for 2 representatives for the Volunteer Firefighters Dependent Fund. Thompson and Wenrick volunteered to represent the village. Motion was made by West and seconded by Bailey. Council voted to approve Thompson and Wenrick 4-0 with Thompson and Wenrick abstaining. Fire Chief Rick Miller stated that Charlie Chapman, John Bayliff, and David Reichelderfer were the Fire Departments representatives.

Mayor Walls presented **Resolution #2530, appointing Randy LaMarr Jr. to serve as magistrate of the Village of Cridersville Mayor's Court for 2026 and declaring an emergency**. Mayor Walls said that Mr. LaMarr served as magistrate for several years he only sees a few cases a year for the village. Motion to approve was made by West and seconded by Thompson. Motion passed 6-0.

The 2026 Committee assignments were out per the Mayor's assignments. The chairman for each committee is as follows:

Streets & Sidewalks – Shaun Wenrick

Utilities & Surface Water – Dorance Thompson

Parks & Recreation – Joe Bailey

Finance – Eric West

Properties & Equipment – Stacey Cook

Planning & Annexation of Land – Dylan Lauck

Safety – Mayor Walls

Council Member Cook expressed her extreme disappointment with the assignments of the Committee chairs.

Mayor Walls expressed how busy Cook is with her three social clubs and that having new people on committees could benefit the community.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Committee of the Whole:

Utilities & Surface Water: Thompson reported we had some electrical issues on one of our lift pumps at the wastewater plant and repairs were completed by Global Electric. Our Ohio EPA inspector was in and conducted their biennial wastewater plant inspection and found no issues or concerns. Village crews also dug and repaired a water service leak located at 306 Dixie Hwy. Jarid stated they were sent the wrong stem hopefully should have the correct one this week for the fire hydrant.

Planning: No Report

Finance: No Report

Park: Bailey stated the cameras for the camera project at Legacy Park have been installed and running. This was a longer than expected process, but we are pleased with the overall outcome of this project and to be able to protect our new facility and park area around it.

Streets: Wenrick stated Just a reminder to residents, now that we are in the middle of our winter season, that if snow accumulations reach 4" or more, a Snow Emergency could be issued which would require all vehicles be removed off of Main Street. We ask that all other streets, if able to, please remove your vehicles as well to aid our village crews in removing as much snow as possible.

Lastly, per our villages Codified Ordinance 94.11 owners or occupants of lots or land are required to remove accumulated snow and ice from sidewalks after any storm which snow and ice has accumulated. This is a punishable offence and is a safety issue and concern for all residents.

Properties: No Report

Safety:

Fire:

Chief Miller reported that there were 60 EMS calls and 7 Fire calls for a total of 67 calls for service for the month of December for a total of 905 calls for the year 2025, which is down 52 runs.

The Fire Department has placed David Reichelderfer, John Bayliff, and Charlie Chapman on the Fire Fighter's Dependence Fund in addition to Shaun Wenrick and Dorance Thompson.

Chief Miller stated he is actively applying for two grants, one for 50k and another for up to 15k. These grants are free money with a no match policy. The one grant for 50K the Cridersville Fire Department was originally not eligible for, Chief Miller and a few other local Chiefs met with State representative Susan Manchester to get access to the 50k grant.

She was able to help get them access to the grant the grant should be awarded sometime in February. Chief Miller hopes to be able to purchase all new fire hose replacements with this grant.

Council member Thompson asked if the old hoses could be used by Walter. Chief Miller stated he hoped to sell them.

Police:

Chief Fried reported they had 17 traffic and 11 citations. Chief stated he had hired Gavin Jones as a full time officer and will be a weekend officer once he is trained. Chief Chiles is also working on hiring another officer he will be interviewing another officer this week to fill the last open full time position. Chief Chiles stated the department has slowed down on the felony arrest giving them some time to start preparing to remodel the police department offices.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Mayor Walls introduced Resolution 2528, authorizing the Village administrator to apply for, accept and enter into a water pollution control loan fund (WPCLF) agreement on behalf of the Village of Cridersville. Jarid stated this will allow us to replace all pumps and plumbing for around 1.1 Million. It is a 20 year loan with 0% interest.

Bailey asked Jarid if this would effect the price of water and sewer. Jarid stated it would not increase the rates for the residents.

Lauck stated there are other benefits to this such as going from a 5 pump system to a 3 pump system. Jarid added the pumps will be larger, it will automate the system instead of the guys having to manually do it. The plant will overall run better. Looking at the price to rebuild pumps and as old as our pumps are the loan would be a benefit to be able to do it all at one time and at a 0% interest is a huge benefit. Motion to accept the resolution as read and declaring an emergency was made by Lauck and seconded by Bailey. Motion passed 6-0.

Mayor Walls introduced Resolution 2531, authorizing the Village Mayor to enter a Contract and Lease with the Cridersville Fire Department. Mayor Walls said this is for the annual contract with the Cridersville Volunteer Fire Department stating they will provide the Village with fire and rescue services for 2026 for a fee of \$69,000.00 to be paid in four (4) equal quarterly installments. Motion to accept the resolution with amendment to include the attachment of the Fire contract provided by Joe Schimpf as read and declaring an emergency was made by Bailey and seconded by Wenrick. Motion passed 6-0.

Mayor Walls introduced Resolution 2532, authorizing the Village Mayor to enter a Contract with the Village of Buckland. The Cridersville Volunteer Fire Department will provide the Village of Buckland with EMS services for 2026 for an annual fee of \$1,500.00 Motion to accept the resolution with amendment to attach the contract from Buckland and declaring an emergency was made by Bailey and seconded by West. Motion passed 6-0.

Mayor Walls introduced Ordinance 1720, An ordinance establishing conditions for the extension, modification, and expansion of municipal water and sanitary sewer services outside the corporate limits of the Village of Cridersville, County of Auglaize, State of Ohio, including annexation requirements. Motion to accept the ordinance as read for the first of three readings was made by Lauck and seconded by Bailey. Motion passed 6-0

Other:

Village Administrator Kohlrieser stated the following community events have been put into place:

Easter Egg Hunt – March 21st 10am

Food Truck & Jeep Invasion – Saturday April 26th @ Fire Station

Annual Garage Sales are May 9th

Community Clean-up Day will be May 16th from 8:00 a.m. to Noon (This event is free & only for village residents)

Fireman's Jamboree – Friday July 10th & Saturday July 11th @ Fire Station

Halloween Festival (Parade) – October 26th @ 5:30 p.m. (Main Street)

Trick – or – Treat – October 29th 6-7:30pm

Santa at the Fire station November 28th

Christmas Tree Lighting –December 7st

Christmas on Main Street –December 12th

Cook added she had hoped to add a 250th dedication at the park since last year the bathrooms were not up and running yet to this year's agenda.

Bailey also stated Back the Blue would be doing a car show at Midwest Shooting Center he would work on getting a date for that.

Bailey stated Back the Blue would be bringing in Travis Howze a US Marine Veteran, former police officer and fire fighter to speak on PTSD for first responders. This event will be on September 26th at the Wapakoneta High School. The tickets will be \$20.00 each and will be available to all Auglaize County first responders first, then will open ticket sales to the surrounding counties. Bailey expressed how great of a show Travis puts on and highly suggested all first responders attend.

Mayor Walls opened the floor to visitors

Ryan Pohlman, resident 724 Briarwood, asked if the Village had considered running our water and sewer utilities to the City of Lima, he expressed maybe that would be cheaper than taking a loan out for 1.1 million and the water would be better. Pohlman stated he previously lived in Shawnee and had Lima water it was around the same price and better quality.

Jarid stated the Village has always liked providing their own utilities as it is a revenue stream for the village, but it also allows us to set the rates. When you tap into other cities' utilities you are at their mercy of prices. They can set the rates as high as they want and you must pay them. Furthermore, if something happens with the water supply the City of Lima is going to take care of the city limit residents first and our residents could be waiting for their water to be fixed.

Lauck stated if we did not supply our own water and sewer utilities there would have been nearly 2 million dollars in grants, we wouldn't have been able to apply for also.

Pohlman asked if the water could be better.

Jarid stated softening would make the water better but would be very costly, most people in town do have water softeners and usually for around the cost of 12.00 a month. It would increase the residents bill more than 12.00 a month to soften all the water.

Angela Knotts, resident of 313 West Main Street, stated she had seen the advertisement for vacant council seats. She asked which council members were leaving.

Fiscal officer Motter, explained council members Thompson, and West had errors in their paperwork to have their names on the November 2025 ballot. Therefore, the village had to post the vacancy and then interview the applicants who applied out of the 5 that applied 2 candidates were unable to be appointed due to not living in the village for a full year prior to the appointment. The Council voted to appoint Dorance Thompson and Eric West to fill the 2 empty seats for the year.

Cliff Spees, resident 719 Briarwood, asked if there was an ordinance for weeds and trash in residents yards.

Mayor Walls stated we do enforce an ordinance for weeds, trash etc. Our Code enforcement officer Ron Mertz would be the one to take care of that. Mayor walls told Cliff he could take his complaint to Chief Chiles and they could follow up with Ron Mertz.

Spees also asked if they would have more police patrolling with the new hires. He stated they have had lots of kids on dirt bikes out where he lives and most do not have headlights on at night. Spees was concerned for the safety of the kids.

Ryan Pohlman, resident 724 Briarwood, stated he is a teacher at Shawnee schools and they had a child hit on the road going to school that morning. He is concerned about the kids he watches in the morning going down National road to get to the Cridersville elementary school. Pohlman asked if a sidewalk could be put down national road to Meadowbrook.

Jarid stated that is county property we do not have the ability to put a sidewalk on their right a way.

Mayor walls asked if there could be a grant for a safe walk to school.

Lauck stated most of the homes in Meadowbrook are not in city limits therefore they are past our city limits. If residents wanted to annex into the village the village would entertain the idea of putting sidewalks in Meadowbrook.

Cook stated she would be mad if they got their sidewalk paid for, yet she has to pay for her sidewalk on her taxes. Lauck stated that it would have to be something we look into if someone chose to annex in to get a sidewalk.

Jarid scheduled a committee of the whole meeting January 21st at 7:30pm

Members of the Planning Commission include: Joe Schimpf, Mark Phillips, Dave Reichelderfer

Members of the Zoning Board of Appeals include: Jeff Bassitt, Jim Bauman, Matthew Zwiebel, Beverly Wood

Thompson wanted to thank the council and residents that did purchase nut from the Lions Club Nut sale back in November.

Cook stated to Mayor Walls that she was busy with social clubs and she stated they are not social clubs they are service clubs.

Chief Miller stated they have been doing a membership drive. They reported passing out 10 applications and 6 had been returned 4 of those applicants already have training and 3 of the 6 reside in the village. They were very pleased with the turnout.

Motion to adjourn was made by West and seconded by Lauck. Motion passed 6-0.

Darci Motter, Village Fiscal Officer

Rick Walls, Mayor