

VILLAGE OF CRIDERSVILLE COUNCIL MINUTES
Regular Meeting –April 9, 2026
6:30 p.m.

Call to Order
Pledge of Allegiance
Roll Call

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

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

Mayor Walls read the following “To the Cridersville Village Council this is my letter of resignation effective April 9, 2026, tonight. The reasons for leaving are personal, and I don’t believe I can give the needed attention to the Council at this time. Thanks for letting me serve the Village, best wishes and hopes as the Village moves forward. – Joe Bailey”

Mayor Walls and the Council thanked Joe for his many years of service.

It was motioned by Cook and seconded by Thompson to accept Joe Baileys letter of resignation Passed 5-0 (Joe Abstained)

It was moved by Thompson and seconded by West to approve the meeting minutes from March 9, 2026. **Passed 6-0**

Zach Ferrall- Common Pleas Court Judge candidate for Republican Primary May 5th, 2026

- Twice Elected law director for the City of St Mary’s.
- Prosecuted criminal cases on behalf of the city in Auglaize County
- Past president and active member of the Auglaize County Bar Association.
- Appointed by the Auglaize County Probate Court to represent individuals in mental illness hearings.
- Over a decade of civil legal experience in Auglaize County, including probate, family law, estate planning, litigation and real estate.
- Elected to serve on the Ohio State Bar Association Board of Governors.
- Lifelong Auglaize County resident.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Committee of the Whole:

Utilities & Surface Water: Thompson stated EJ Prescott was in to assist in installing a new valve on a water main on W. High St. which was step one of replacing the fire hydrant at W. High St. and S. Gay Street. Village crews along with Prescott’s then worked to replace the fire hydrant and while the water around the water hydrant could not be shut down or isolated, village crews went to the next water valves in hopes to shut down the flow to the hydrant and that water valve on S. Waverly St. then busted. With multiple main water breaks going on at a time, the village administrator had no choice but to shut the entire town down of water to make the needed repairs. This entire town has not been shut down for over 20 years. Crews worked through the night without any breaks and after a long 30-hour shift, crews finally were able to reestablish water. The village was without water for roughly 12 hours during this time. Expenses for these repairs cost more than \$27,000 without asphalt repair and overtime wages. Our village administrator thanks everyone for their understanding, their patience, and for so many positive words and thank you’s as they worked hard in making these repairs. A big thank you to our village personnel for their commitment, dedication, and hard work along with the staff from EJ Prescott’s, which was with our crew all through the night providing parts and support as needed

Planning Lauck stated we did have a resident install a driveway extension without a building/zoning permit being issued and our village administrator contacted the contractor that installed it and they are working out what needs to be done. The main issue with this driveway extension is that it is encroaching into a village utility easement that has a water main through that easement. This, along with many other reasons, is why residents should always check or call to see if their project needs a building/zoning permit.

Finance: Our village administrator has had many conversations with Allen County's Sanitary Engineer regarding the agreement between the village and Allen County that has been in effect for many decades. Allen County is looking to collect the Shawnee Oaks Subdivision's wastewater themselves instead of sending it to our wastewater facility for treatment. With that withdrawal we would lose roughly more than \$100,000 annually we receive from Allen County in service and collection fees. This will affect our Sewer Fund negatively and we will need to look at our budgets now and move forward for any additional funding sources to offset this loss in revenue.

Park: Bailey stated our village administrator submitted our application to the state Capital Improvement Program which included items such as a splashpad for Legacy Park, a replacement structure for the shelter house in Tower Park, and a storage/garage facility for the police dept. This grant was estimated at \$900,000. Our village administrator heard back from the state regarding this request, and they are currently only interested in the splashpad project of this request. At this point we are waiting to hear back from the state regarding these funds

Jarid stated that Johnathan Holtzapple started April 1st he is learning the new job and the village itself. He also stated Jeff Mckenzie left the village at the end of March after 19 years, and Jarid thanked him for many years of hard work and wished him the best in his new endeavors.

Furthermore, Jarid had Buhler paving to give a quote to refinish the tennis courts. The quote was around 27K The paving company stated they needed to grid 1 ½ inches off the top to get the waves out of the current pavement. Jarid stated he did not know when they would get to the project as the 2026 season is pretty full, but they plan on fitting this project in. Council recommended going forward with the quote as it was already budgeted in for this year, and we need to start making improvements where things can be best used for the village residents.

Streets: No Report

Properties: Cook stated our village administrator has been working with our solicitor drafting an agreement for the Perry's and Sprucewood Apts. for the extension of S. Waverly. Talks have been very positive, and we are currently waiting on the representative of Sprucewood for some last feedback before presenting them with the agreement. The agreement is just in rough form, and nothing has been presented to any parties to date.

As many have seen, we did lose shingles on the Village Hall/Library building as well as a lean-to at our wastewater facility during the heavy wind storm a few weeks back. Our insurance company was called, and an adjuster did come out to assess damages. We are waiting to hear from them about what will be covered. Quotes are being collected currently as well.

The property at 120 W. Main St. has been demoed and removed and Ben's Construction did a great job for us in that removal.

Murphy Tractor was called in to service our skid steer as there were some issues it was having and took our backhoe to Murphy Tractor for routine service as well. Lastly, our skid steer along with our GMC utility truck was taking to RRR Tire for new tires.

Safety:

Fire:

Chief Miller stated 65 EMS 8 Fire 73 Month total 217 YTD

They had 4 Mutual Aid calls this month

Chief stated they are gearing up for the jeep invasion hosted on April 24th they have tons of vendors, jeeps coming from all over the United States as well as 6 bands scheduled for the event. It is going to be a great community event so please come out and support the vendors and food trucks.

Chief Miller stated he ordered the new hose lines for the fire truck that was awarded from the grant of \$49,999.74.

Police:

Chief Chiles stated 104 calls 7 traffic stops 5 citations

Chief stated he has three radar units that need repaired. He also put in to Back the Blue for two new radar units in case any of these cannot be repaired.

This month the police department have handled 4 felony arrest one of them they had to involve the Attorney Generals office. Chief stated they are still handling all felony arrests in house instead of sending them to the county sheriff like it has previously been done.

Lauck asked about how our code enforcement officer Ron Mertz was coming on the trailer park. Lauck stated he wanted every trailer park treated as if it was a house on main street, they need to clean up the trailer parks and if they do not continue to cite the property. If they do not pay the citation assess the property taxes. Chief stated Ron Mertz had worked last week on giving notices to the properties.

Cook wanted to address the kids on dirt bikes etc. as well as people still parking incorrectly on streets.

OLD BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

Fiscal Officer Motter brought the council up to date on our health insurance coverage. We had filed for a material modification as we knew we had high risk coming off our health care policy to hopefully get a better rate. Unfortunately, this modification was not what we expected, and we will continue with our current coverage for the term. The council would like to shop around for next year's policy.

It was motioned by West and seconded by Wenrick to renew the liquor permits within the village Passed 6-0

It was motioned by Wenrick and seconded by West for the PD to transfer their four-wheeler to the parks/village maintenance to utilize for watering flowers etc. passed 6-0

It was motioned by West and seconded by Lauck to donate \$500.00 to the Cridersville Garden Club for flowers throughout the village. Passed 5-0 (cook abstained)

It was Motioned by Lauck and seconded by Wenrick to donate \$500.00 to Back the Blue for their event in September Passed 5-0 (Bailey abstained)

Bailey stated this organization gives us a lot of money each year for our police department and this is a great cause.

Other:

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

Meeting minutes were taken and recorded by Darci Motter.

Darci Motter, Village Fiscal Officer

Rick Walls, Mayor