



VILLAGE OF GIBSONBURG

Village Council Meeting – MINUTES

January 22, 2026

6:00 pm

MEETING ROOM – 526 N. WEBSTER ST.

Call to order: Mayor Fought at 6:00 pm

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all

Meeting via Facebook Live also.

Roll call: Morelock-absent, Gerwin-here, Kirwen-here, Slack-here, Castillo-here.

Kirwen made a motion to appoint Kirk Katafias to fill the vacant council seat open, seconded by Castillo.

Roll Call: Morelock-absent, Gerwin-yes, Kirwen-yes, Slack-yes, Castillo-yes.

Motion passed.

New Council Member Kirk Katafias was sworn in by Mayor Fought.

Recognition of Visitors/Special Reports for council meeting. None

Review and Approval of Minutes of Previous Council Meeting:

A motion was made by Slack to approve January 8, 2026, Regular Council Meeting Minutes as written, seconded by Castillo.

Roll Call: Morelock-absent, Gerwin-yes, Kirwen-yes, Slack-yes, Castillo-yes, Katafias- abstain.

Motion passed.

Correspondence: none

Motion to approve payment of invoices reviewed tonight for the Fiscal Officer to pay.

A motion was made to approve payment of invoices by Gerwin, seconded by Kirwen.

Roll Call: Morelock-absent, Gerwin-yes, Kirwen-yes, Slack-yes, Castillo-yes, Katafias- abstain.

Motion passed.

Old Business: none

New Business:

1. ORDINANCE #1-2026

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF NOTES, NOT TO EXCEED \$2,800,000.00 IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING COSTS OF ACQUIRING, CLEARING AND IMPROVING REAL PROPERTY FOR CONSERVATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND PRESERVATION OF OPEN SPACE AND MUNICIPAL PARKING PURPOSES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (EMERGENCY)

A motion was made to suspend the rules, waive the 3 readings and pass as an emergency Ordinance #1-2026 by Kirwen, seconded by Slack.

Roll Call: Morelock-absent, Gerwin-yes, Kirwen-yes, Slack-yes, Castillo-yes, Katafias- abstain.

Motion passed.

A motion to adopt Ordinance #1-2026 by Slack, seconded by Castillo.

Roll Call: Morelock-absent, Gerwin-yes, Kirwen-yes, Slack-yes, Castillo-yes, Katafias- abstain.

Motion passed.

2. ORDINANCE #2- 2026

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE 2026 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE VILLAGE OF GIBSONBURG, SANDUSKY COUNTY, OHIO. (FIRST READING)

A motion was made to suspend the rules, waive the 3 readings and pass as an emergency Ordinance #2-2026 by Slack, seconded by Kirwen.

Roll Call: Morelock-absent, Gerwin-yes, Kirwen-yes, Slack-yes, Castillo-yes, Katafias- abstain.

Motion passed.

A motion to adopt Ordinance #2-2026 by Slack, seconded by Gerwin.

Roll Call: Morelock-absent, Gerwin-yes, Kirwen-yes, Slack-yes, Castillo-yes, Katafias-abstain.

Motion passed.

Mayor's Report:

- Solicitors' opinion on moratorium resolution proposal
- Discussed NDA legality
- Mayor to join webinar through OML regarding Data Center Issues. Open to 25 residents.

Administrator's Report:

- **Omni Fiber-** No further updates since the last meeting.
- **Amplex-** No further updates since last meeting.
- **Frontier-** Frontier has begun their project inside of the corporation limits and we met with them again on Tuesday and will continue to do so for the duration of their project.
- **LTCP Phase IV Project Update-** We met with D2 yesterday and reviewed the project again. Materials will continue to be delivered, and the tentative start date (weather dependent) is March 9th. Letters to residents in the work area have gone out this week.
- **Downtown Improvement Project-** We would like to schedule a Work Session with Colliers on January 29th so that we can go through the design process step by step and finalize some items before the next milestone submittal to ODOT is due later this spring. This Work Session will be very important as we put some of the final project planning pieces in place.
- **Weather Issues-** Staff have been working through the weather issues as they come up. No major issues of note, but we are behind on salt deliveries and are working with Cargill to have these addressed as soon as possible.
- **TNR Program-** As a reminder, there will be a presentation by the individuals working on the program at the February 5th Council Meeting to discuss the plan in more detail.
- **Personnel Policy-** With the assistance of our liability insurance carrier, PEP, we are in the final stages of updating our Personnel Policy and are targeting the first part of May to have a draft copy for your review prior to having any updates formally approved.

- **Ohio EPA Water Accountability Report-** At each of your places is the 2025 Water Accountability Report, which is required to be submitted to both the Ohio EPA and ODNR. Please review it and ask any questions that you may have. IN short, we can account for roughly 86% of the water in the Gibsonburg Public Water System. Credit to Brad Hershey for his efforts with this.
- **OPWC Emergency Grant Program-** We will be making application to the OPWC for a grant to assist with the replacement of a transfer switch at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. It should be in the \$20,000.00 range and will address a failure in an outdated component of the system.
- **Data Center Moratorium Resolution Request-** At each of your places is a legal opinion from Solicitor Ruck on the sample Resolution handed out at the last meeting by Mr. Gerwin to “impose a 12-month moratorium on the receipt, processing, issuance or approval of any application for a permit or petition for zoning for Data Center facilities in all zoning areas.”
- **TMACOG Winter Assembly-** The event will be held in Perrysburg on Friday, January 30th.
- **Employee Annual Reviews-** Reviews for full-time employees have been started and will be completed by the middle of February.
- **Sandusky County EDC Annual Meeting-** The annual meeting will be held on Friday, March 13th at the Neely Center (Terra) and will begin at 7:30am.
- **Trash and Refuse Transition-** Stevens has done a very good job with the transition and has been very responsive to any issues that have come up. A reminder to the community:
 - o If they would like an additional can (at no cost), are in need of a smaller can, or have any other trash related issues or questions, to please contact Stevens at (734) 279 2611 or support@stevensdisposal.com
 - o For all Bulk Item pickups, they will also need to contact Stevens directly. Pickup and payment will be handled directly through them, and tags will no longer be available at Town Hall.
 - o If residents still have a Rumpke/Cyclone can, they can be brought to Town Hall and placed by the north overhead door or contact Town Hall and we will come and pick it when we have the time to do so. Do not put trash in a Rumpke/Cyclone can and set it out as it will not be picked up by Stevens.
 - o All trash must be inside Stevens cans. Bags, boxes, etc.... not in a can will likely not be picked up.
- **Youth Sports Director Position-** Interviews are being scheduled with qualified applicants and we hope to have the position filled very soon.
- **Ohio EPA Source Water Protection Grant-** No further information on the grant submittal in the amount of \$16,880.00 for the purpose of adequately tiling and draining the perimeter of the well field along S. Main Street.
- **Youth Soccer Registration-** Online registration for the spring season is now available on the Sports Engine site. A flyer will go out to school soon.

- **WWTP Upgrades-** Planning on the project continues with the assistance of Colliers for a modification to the plant to incorporate a block building close to the drive for the Compost Site. This building would house new chemicals and feed systems that we will have to utilize to comply with Ohio EPA mandates on how we treat phosphorous that comes into the plant.
- **Clearwell Repairs-** Demolition to the failed sections of the block on the Clearwell will continue during the winter as time and weather permits. We have reviewed estimates for the construction of a new Clearwell and are in the process of determining funding opportunities and sources.
- **Vibrant Community Grant/Pharmacy-** The presentation to JobsOhio for the Vibrant Community Grant to re-establish a Pharmacy downtown will be taking place on Wednesday, January 28th at 1:30pm. A copy of the “pitch” is at each of your places. We would hope to have an announcement to make to the community by the middle of February.
- **Town Hall-** Town Hall will be closed on Monday, February 16th in observance of Presidents Day.
- Meeting with Colliers on 1/29/26 at 5:30 pm to discuss Downtown project.

Fiscal Officer’s Report-

Appointment of council member for finance committee. Mayor appointed Morelock.

Authorization for BAN

Fiscal Officer submitted Hinkle system year end reports to the State Auditor’s office on January 9, 2026.

Welcome Kirk.

Committee Reports:

Economic Development-Kirwen- nothing

Finance- Gerwin- Next meeting after council meeting on 2/5/26

Joint Cemetery Board-Slack- Next meeting 2/5/26

Planning Commission- Morelock- N/A

Public Service Parks- N/A

Public Utilities- Gerwin-Rate Study meeting 1/23/26

Recreational Committee – Castillo – Baseball, Softball & Soccer open registration.

Individual Council Member Report:

Slack-Welcome to Kirk, Thanks to the Village for assistance with the fire and casualty .

Gerwin-Welcome Kirk
Morelock- N/A
Kirwen- Welcome Kirk
Castillo- Welcome Kirk
Katafias – N/A

Report of Officials: Police – Chief Don Karr-

Cruisers – No major issues. New cruiser Ford F150 cruiser has been ordered.
Staff – Officer Kisha is doing well. She will be off FTO status very soon.
MARCS – Mobiles and some portables are active. Station installation was canceled due to weather.
Training – We continue to use the consortium at Owens. We scheduled early and every officer has 4-5 training sessions scheduled in addition to CPT.

Residence- Open Forum/Comment:

Data center questions.

A motion to adjourn at 6:53 pm was made by Kirwen, seconded by Slack.

Roll Call: Morelock-absent, Gerwin-yes, Kirwen-yes, Slack-yes, Castillo-yes, Katafias-abstain.

Motion passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Holcomb
Fiscal Officer Village of Gibsonburg

Steve Fought
Mayor Village of Gibsonburg