



# VILLAGE OF GIBSONBURG

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## Village Council Meeting – MINUTES

February 19, 2026

6:00 pm

MEETING ROOM – 526 N. WEBSTER ST.

**Call to order:** Mayor Fought at 6 pm

The Pledge of Allegiance was said by all.

Meeting via Facebook Live also.

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

**Recognition of Visitors/Special Reports for council meeting** none

**Review and Approval of Minutes of Previous Council Meeting:**

A motion was made by Katafias to approve February 5, 2026, Regular Council Meeting Minutes as written, seconded by Morelock.

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

**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 Kirwen, seconded by Gerwin.

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

**Motion Passed.**

**Old Business:** none

**New Business:**

**1. ORDINANCE #3-2026**

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$2,800,000 OF NOTES, IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING A PORTION OF THE COSTS, IN COOPERATION WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, OF IMPROVING THE VILLAGE'S DOWNTOWN BY CONSTRUCTING AND IMPROVING SIDEWALKS, PATHWAYS, CROSSWALKS, CURBS AND GUTTERS, UTILITY CONDUITS, WATER LINES AND RELATED WATER SUPPLY FACILITIES, SANITARY SEWERS AND RELATED SANITARY FACILITIES, STORM SEWERS AND RELATED DRAINAGE FACILITIES, INSTALLING DECORATIVE LIGHTING, SIGNAGE AND TRAFFIC SIGNALIZATION, LANDSCAPING AND EQUIPPING AND IMPROVING RELATED SITES, AND RELOCATING EXISTING UTILITIES AS NECESSARY, TOGETHER WITH THE NECESSARY RELATED IMPROVEMENTS AND APPURTENANCES THERETO, AS DESIGNATED IN THE PLANS APPROVED OR TO BE APPROVED BY COUNCIL, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. (EMERGENCY)

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

Roll Call: Morelock-yes, Katafias-yes, Gerwin-yes, Kirwen-yes, Slack-absent, Castillo-absent.  
**Motion Passed.**

**A motion to adopt Ordinance #3-2026 by Gerwin, seconded by Morelock.**

Roll Call: Morelock-yes, Katafias-yes, Gerwin-yes, Kirwen-yes, Slack-absent, Castillo-absent.  
**Motion Passed.**

**2. ORDINANCE #4-2026**

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2026 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE VILLAGE OF GIBSONBURG, SANDUSKY COUNTY, OHIO. (EMERGENCY)

**A motion was made to suspend the rules, waive the 3 readings and pass as an emergency Ordinance #4-2026 by Kirwen, seconded by Katafias.**

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

**Motion Passed.**

**A motion to adopt Ordinance #4-2026 by Morelock, seconded by Gerwin.**

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

**Motion Passed.**

**Mayor's Report:** none

**Administrator's Report:**

- **Omni Fiber-** No further updates since the last meeting.
- **Amplex-** No further updates since last meeting.
- **Frontier-** Frontier continues their project inside of the corporation limits. We have daily communication with them on the project. *As a reminder to the public, for any Frontier/Verizon specific issues, they can be reached at 855-266-5649.*
- **LTCP Phase IV Project Update-** Materials continue to be delivered for the project and it will begin (weather dependent) on February 23<sup>rd</sup>. D2 has an estimate of a 36-day work schedule and then rehab, and paving will take place soon after that. We will communicate project updates to the residents in the work area as best as we can throughout the project.
- **Downtown Improvement Project-** We are meeting with Colliers weekly on the project as things pick up speed. We will also be continuing to meet with Downtown Business Owners in the coming weeks to begin the process of working with each of them.
- **BAN Process-** We have submitted all requested paperwork to the Bond Counsel and on tonight's agenda is legislation that will allow us to finalize the process. We are asking that it be passed in an emergency so that we can move forward with Bond Counsel and Huntington National Bank as soon as possible.
- **State Capital Budget-** We are finalizing an application for the coming 136<sup>th</sup> General Assembly Capital Budget. The deadline for submitting the application package to both Senator Reineke and Rep Click is March 12<sup>th</sup>. We intend to have our package to them early next week at the latest. We are submitting an application for \$500,000.00 to be used with the Downtown Improvement Project.
- **ARPA Funds-** We have officially closed out the American Rescue Plan Act funds with the US Treasury that were allocated to the Village of Gibsonburg. \$262,502.44 were granted and fully accounted for with the majority of these funds being used on the E. Yeasting/Rodriguez St Water and Sewer Project.
- **US Census Bureau Boundary and Annexation-** The annual survey document has been completed and submitted to the US Census Bureau.

- **Arbor Day Foundation/Tree City USA-** The Village of Gibsonburg has once again been designated as a “Tree City” as a part of the Tree City USA Program. Awards will take place later this spring.
- **2026 Sandusky County Visitor’s Guide-** The Sandusky County Visitors Bureau has once again produced another outstanding guide. A copy of it is at each of your places.
- **TNR Program-** From the presentation at the last Council Meeting, the group has been connected with a local donor and took its first group of cats to a vet. We will continue to work with them to identify “hot spots” in town.
- **SCEDC Housing Study-** At each of your places there is an informational sheet that came from the Sandusky County Economic Development Corp’s recent county wide housing study. The Village of Gibsonburg continues to take part in the process that the SCEDC has begun to study housing needs in Sandusky County.
- **Vibrant Community Grant/Pharmacy-** We are finalizing the Memorandum of Understanding between all involved parties with the project and hope to have this done tomorrow and submitted to JobsOhio so that the project can move forward.
- **Personnel Policy-** Updates to the Personnel Policy are completed and we expect to have a draft copy for your review in April and formally approved after that.
- **OPWC Emergency Grant Program-** We have finalized an application to the OPWC for a grant to assist with the replacement of a transfer switch at the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The grant request is for \$20,000.00 and will address a failure in an outdated component of the system that assists in controlling the plant.
- **Employee Annual Reviews-** Reviews for full-time employees have been completed and will be reviewed with each of them individually by the end of February.
- **Sandusky County EDC Annual Meeting-** The annual meeting will be held on Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> at the Neely Center (Terra) and will begin at 7:30am. We will once again have a table for 8 reserved. Please let us know if you plan to attend.
- **Trash and Refuse Transition-** As a reminder to residents:
  - 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](mailto: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 All trash must be inside Stevens cans. Bags, boxes, etc... not in a can will likely not be picked up.
- **Youth Sports Director Position-** Troy DeAnda Jr has been selected as the Youth Sports Coordinator. We have been meeting with Troy to get him up to speed on the coming sports activities.
- **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 Sports Registration-** Online registration for Baseball, Softball and Soccer is now available on the Sports Engine site. Another flyer has gone out to the school.
- **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 in order 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.

**Fiscal Officer’s Report-**

State Auditor’s office notified us on February 10<sup>th</sup> that the bi-annual audit of the Village will be starting within a couple of weeks. This will cover the time period of FISCAL years 2024 and 2025. We have already provided basic information for the audit to start. It should be another AUP (Agreed Upon Procedures) audit, which is less expensive and not as detailed, and therefore should not take as long. The last audit was completed in May 2024.

Thank you to Marc for working to get the allocation of Local Governmental Funds changed. We are receiving more than double than we have before.

**Committee Reports:**

- Economic Development-Kirwen-** nothing
- Finance- Gerwin-** nothing
- Joint Cemetery Board-Slack-** N/A
- Planning Commission- Morelock-** Need to set up a meeting.
- Public Service Parks-** N/A
- Public Utilities- Gerwin-**N/A
- Recreational Committee – Castillo –** N/A

**Individual Council Member Report:**

- Slack-**N/A
- Katafias** –nothing
- Gerwin-**nothing
- Morelock-** Congrats to GHS Players. Congrats to GHS BB Players Reese Walby & Elly Evarts named players of the year in SBC League and Other players who were recognized.
- Kirwen-** nothing

Castillo- N/A

**Report of Officials: Police – Chief Don Karr-**

**Residence- Open Forum/Comment:**

Eric Watson- Running for State Representative

Tim Newman running for County Commissioner

**A motion to adjourn at 6:29 pm was made by Kirwen, seconded by Morelock.**

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

**Motion Passed.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Jeff Holcomb  
Fiscal Officer Village of Gibsonburg

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Steve Fought  
Mayor Village of Gibsonburg