

**OTTAWA HILLS VILLAGE SPECIAL COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
February 03, 2025 7:00 PM**

Call to Order – Mayor Thompson

7:00 PM

Village Representatives in Attendance

Mayor Thompson
Councilwoman Dana Dunbar
Councilman Dan Wimmers
Solicitor Kati Tharp
Interim Village Administrator April McDonald

Councilman Edward Shimborske III
Councilwoman Heather Phillips
Councilman John Lewis

Citizen Attendees

Nasrin Afjeh
Yarko Kuk
Larry Nameche

Scott Medling
Jason Medling
William J. Gall (BJ)

Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Phillips and seconded by Mrs. Dunbar to approve the minutes from the November 11, 2024, special Council meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Phillips and seconded by Mrs. Dunbar to approve the minutes from the January 6, 2025, Council meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Ms. Phillips and seconded by Mrs. Dunbar to approve the minutes from the January 23, 2025, special Council meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments

N/A

Finance & Future Planning – Mr. Lewis

Mr. Lewis shared that the municipality's income tax revenue for the year totaled just over \$4.3 million, exceeding the budget by \$77,000. Expenditures came in at 87% of the operating budget, below the target of 94%, largely due to challenges in staffing. We also have delays in capital projects, like the tennis courts. This resulted in a surplus rather than a deficit, with the unencumbered balance increasing from \$5.3 million to \$5.72 million, though it is expected to drop just below \$5 million by year-end. The Finance Committee is focusing on long-term budget projections, a potential structural deficit and the need for additional revenue. No conclusions were reached in their latest meeting, but further discussions are scheduled for the end of the month.

Human Resources – Ms. Phillips

No Report

Safety – Mrs. Dunbar

No Report

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Services & Environment – Mrs. Greeley

Mayor Thompson stated the Ecology Club helped harvest bamboo in the Village and it was delivered to the Toledo Zoo for panda food which was a great experience.

Streets & Bridges – Mr. Shimborske

No Report

Utilities, Equipment, Buildings & Grounds – Mr. Wimmers

Mr. Wimmers inquired about the status of White Field, specifically regarding the contractors who had assessed the site and provided recommendations. Ms. McDonald responded they are still waiting for a third contractor, expected either this week or next. No quotes have been received yet from the other two contractors.

Solicitors Report – Mrs. Tharp

No Report

Administrator's Report

Ms. McDonald provided an update on the capital projects, noting that items like tennis courts, Geresy and other capital improvements were not expended in the 2024 budget. Those items were carried over to the 2025 budget.

Ms. McDonald said the Lucas County Auditor's office has requested to use the council chambers on March 19th from 12-7 pm for residents to discuss their property valuations, if they choose to. The Village will be informing residents through the newsletter and social media.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Thompson addressed the ongoing discussions regarding property tax valuations from the county. He mentioned that the Village has been working internally on communication for residents and have reached out to the auditor's office to ensure any information shared is accurate. While they haven't received a response yet, the scheduled meeting is seen as a positive step. Residents can check their property valuations online via Aeries, and the Village plans to inform residents about the process of filing an appeal. The meeting, set for March 19th, will be open to all, not just Ottawa Hills residents.

Mayor Thompson shared that Patty Koury, a member of the Zoning Commission, is expected to resign soon as she has purchased a home outside the Village, though she has not yet moved. He has asked Susan Assi to take her place on the Commission. Additionally, there will be presentations on Wednesday at 1pm from two companies that are being considered to update the zoning code. Contractors with knowledge of the zoning code have been invited to attend to offer feedback.

Mayor Thompson reminded Council about previous discussions regarding proposals for improvements to Geresy Field, specifically for a new backstop and an awning over the bleachers. He pointed out that, as of February, no proposals have been received yet. Mayor Thompson and

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Ms. McDonald will be reviewing the status of the project later this week. He also noted that members who wish to update Geresy Field will need to present their proposals to both the Zoning Commission and the Council, as the Village is responsible for the field.

Old Business

N/A

New Business

A motion was made by Mr. Shimborske and seconded by Ms. Phillips to approve the payment to Kati Tharp in the amount of \$693.00 for the period of December 2024. The motion passed unanimously.

A motion was made by Mr. Wimmers and seconded by Mr. Shimborske to approve the payment to Promedica for the October invoice in the amount of \$125.00. The motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Phillips proposed a motion, alongside other communities, to support residents' rights and avoid using local resources to enforce any federal executive orders until they are officially made into law. She expressed concern for residents who might be affected by these orders and wanted to assure them that no actions would be taken against them prematurely. Mayor Thompson stated the issue is complex and suggested that it would be appropriate to approach it thoughtfully. Mr. Wimmers emphasized the need to review the specifics and legality of the orders. Mrs. Tharp noted that some executive orders would immediately be legal, while others may face challenges, and she expressed interest in gathering feedback to determine if any local legislation should be drafted. Mayor Thompson decided to refer the matter to the Safety Committee to better understand the implications and the Village's role in this issue.

Ordinances & Resolutions

Mayor Thompson read Resolution 2025-3:

Resolution 2025-3

Resolution recognizing March 10th through March 14th, 2025 as Pedestrian Safety Week.

Motion to waive three readings:

Motion – Mrs. Dunbar
Second – Ms. Phillips
Unanimous Approval

Motion to adopt legislation:

Motion – Mrs. Dunbar
Second – Ms. Phillips

Yeas (5) – Mrs. Dunbar, Mr. Wimmers,
Ms. Phillips, Mr. Lewis,
Mr. Shimborske

Nays (0) –

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Mayor Thompson read Resolution 2025-4:

Resolution 2025-4	Authorizing the purchase of one Police Interceptor SUV all-wheel drive vehicle and authorizing the trade-in or sale of one police vehicle, and declaring an emergency.
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Motion to waive three readings:

Motion –	Mrs. Dunbar
Second –	Mr. Lewis
	Unanimous Approval

Motion to declare an emergency:

Motion –	Mrs. Dunbar
Second –	Mr. Lewis
	Unanimous Approval

Motion to adopt legislation:

Motion –	Mrs. Dunbar
Second –	Mr. Lewis

Yeas (5) –	Mrs. Dunbar, Mr. Wimmers, Ms. Phillips, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Shimborske
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Nays (0) –

Executive Session

At 7:26 pm, Mr. Shimborske made a motion to move into an executive session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee and a second purpose regarding real estate property Mr. Wimmers seconded the motion, which passed unanimously

At 7:58 pm, Council returned to regular session.

Next Meeting Date

March 3, 2025

Adjournment

7:59 PM



Mayor Thompson