

OTTAWA HILLS VILLAGE COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
July 6, 2026 7:00 PM

Call to Order – Mayor Thompson

7:00 PM

Village Representatives in Attendance

Mayor Thompson
Councilman Darren Moore
Councilman Mark Mockensturm
Councilman Edward Shimborske III
Councilwoman Heather Phillips

Councilman Dan Wimmers
Village Administrator April McDonald
Solicitor Kati Tharp

Citizen Attendees

Nasrin Afjeh
Glenn Reihing
Jenn McCullough

Lora Wimmers
Tim Cummins
Krista Schneider

Acting Clerk

A motion was made by Mr. Shimborske and seconded by Ms. Phillips to appoint Ms. McDonald as acting clerk for the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Thompson read Ordinance 2026-2:

Ordinance 2026-2:

Confirming the appointment of Rick Schnoor as Police Chief of the Ottawa Hills Police Department effective August 24, 2026 and waiving the residency requirement as described in section 737.15 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Motion to waive three readings:

Motion – Mr. Shimborske
Second – Mr. Wimmers
Unanimous Approval

Motion to adopt legislation:

Motion – Mr. Shimborske
Second – Mr. Wimmers
Unanimous Approval

Yeas (5) – Mr. Mockensturm, Mr. Moore
Ms. Phillips, Mr. Wimmers,
Mr. Shimborske

Nays (0) –

Swearing In

Mayor Thompson introduced Officer Frederick Schnoor and swore him in as the new Ottawa Hills Chief of Police, effective August 24, 2026.

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Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Mockensturm to approve the minutes as amended from June 2, 2026, Council meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments

Mr. Reihing introduced himself as Chairman of the Northwest Ohio Passenger Rail Association. He discussed the importance of affordable passenger rail and the need for additional infrastructure funding. He provided information regarding public banking as a potential funding source for infrastructure projects and referenced federal legislation, House Resolution 5356.

Mr. Cummins introduced himself and expressed appreciation for the work completed on the resolution. He noted he had reviewed the draft and had additional concerns they believed could strengthen the resolution, while expressing support for its continued progress.

Mrs. Afjeh commented that the blue colored time clock was bothering her eyes and made additional remarks regarding the organization of government.

Finance & Future Planning – Mr. Mockensturm

Mr. Mockensturm reported tax collections of \$491,474, bringing the year-to-date income tax collection total to \$2,738,932. He noted that another significant collection period is expected as the extension deadline approaches.

He reported that 39% of the operating budget and 27% of the overall budget have been expended. He noted that Edgevale Road Improvement project invoices will begin arriving.

Mr. Mockensturm stated the Village began the month with approximately \$10.1 million across all accounts, including approximately \$4 million in the general operating account, with remaining funds committed to various capital projects and other purposes. He noted that the available reserve balance will decrease as Edgevale project expenses are paid.

Human Resources – Ms. Phillips

No Report

Safety – Mr. Moore

No Report

Services & Environment – Mrs. Greeley

Ms. McDonald reported that a committee meeting will be scheduled to discuss the deer cull. She noted that two hunters have expressed interest in attending the meeting to share their experiences and perspectives. The floristic assessment is not expected to be completed prior to the meeting. Mayor Thompson stated that he believes it would be beneficial for the committee to hear the hunters' perspectives as part of the discussion.

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Streets & Bridges – Mr. Shimborske

Mr. Shimborske reported that a meeting will be scheduled with the Finance Committee to discuss long-term street planning beyond the projects currently identified in the Village's capital improvement plan.

Equipment, Utilities, Building & Grounds – Mr. Wimmers

Mr. Wimmers reported that the committee did not hold a meeting. The maintenance building roof project has been completed, and there have been no reports of leaks following the recent rainfall. A few people also met with engineers regarding White Field improvements. The engineers are completing the necessary work to allow the Village to move forward with the bidding process, and the project continues to progress.

Solicitors Report – Mrs. Tharp

Mrs. Tharp explained that the Village typically does not conduct three readings of legislation. Under Ohio statutory code, only the title of a proposed resolution or ordinance is required to be read unless a Council Member makes a motion, which passes, to read the legislation in its entirety. Additionally, a Council Member may make a motion to waive the three readings of proposed legislation.

Mayor Thompson stated that the first reading of the zoning legislation amending the Zoning Code regarding short-term rentals was being held over three meetings, as previously discussed. This would allow property owners who may be impacted by the proposed changes an opportunity to review the legislation and provide comments. Any legislation may proceed through three readings unless Council makes a motion to waive the readings, as was done previously for the appointment of Chief Schnoor.

Administrator's Report

Ms. McDonald reported that the Village Engineer has completed two of the three resident meetings for the Edgevale Road Project. Each meeting has had approximately 10 residents in attendance and has provided an informal opportunity for residents to ask questions, discuss concerns, and review the project timeline. The final meeting is scheduled for July 7 from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Edgevale Road.

Ms. McDonald also reported that she met with the Lucas County Sanitary Engineering Department regarding the 13 outstanding projects within the Village. She anticipates that several remaining projects and restoration work will be completed within the next few weeks. Mayor Thompson added that nearly all of the orange barrels currently visible throughout the Village are related to projects that are the responsibility of Lucas County.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Thompson reported that he has asked Mr. Moore to become involved in discussions regarding E-Bikes. The Village will begin reviewing potential regulations and safety measures to determine what actions can and cannot be taken, as there are certain restrictions in place. He noted that this is a concern being addressed by municipalities throughout the area, with a focus on

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ensuring the safety of E-Bike riders and the community. The Village has already begun discussions on this topic and will continue to explore options.

Mayor Thompson also commented on the recent property tax bills received by residents. He explained that approximately 13.6% of property taxes paid by Ottawa Hills residents go to Lucas County, 72.4% goes to the school system, 6.9% goes to the Village, and 7.1% goes to the combined Park District and Library levies.

Old Business

Ms. Phillips asked whether there had been any progress in filling the vacant Clerk-Treasurer position or if Council should begin discussing restructuring the role. Mayor Thompson reported that he had recently spoken with an individual who expressed interest in the position. He noted that if a qualified candidate is not identified soon, the Village may need to consider alternative options.

Mayor Thompson emphasized the importance of maintaining the Clerk-Treasurer position, explaining that it provides an additional level of oversight for the Village's small finance team. He also noted that the position has historically served as a pathway to Council service, citing Mr. Mockensturm and several former Council Members as examples. While his preference is to retain the position, he acknowledged that doing so depends on finding qualified individuals willing to serve.

Mr. Wimmers asked whether the appointment would be to an elected position and if the term would correspond with Mr. Mockensturm's service. Mayor Thompson explained that the appointment would fill the unexpired term through the end of 2027, after which the appointee, or another candidate, would be required to run for election. He added that the individual he recently spoke with understood those terms and would provide a response.

New Business

A motion was made by Mr. Mockensturm and seconded by Ms. Phillips to approve the payments to Kati Tharp in the amount of \$1,268.50 for the period of May 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolutions

Mayor Thompson read Ordinance 2026-3:

Ordinance 2026-3:

Making appropriations and deductions from previous appropriations, amending Ordinance 2025-9, and declaring an emergency.

Motion to waive three readings:

Motion – Mr. Mockensturm
Second – Ms. Phillips

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Motion to declare an emergency: Unanimous Approval

Motion – Mr. Mockensturm
Second – Ms. Phillips
Unanimous Approval

Motion to adopt legislation:

Motion – Mr. Mockensturm
Second – Ms. Phillips

Yeas (5) – Mr. Mockensturm, Mr. Shimborske
Mr. Moore, Ms. Phillips,
Mr. Wimmers

Nays (0) –

Mayor Thompson read Ordinance 2026-4:

Ordinance 2026-4: To assess a special tax to pay the cost and expense of lighting the streets and public ways of the Village of Ottawa Hills, for the year ending December 31, 2026.

Motion to waive three readings:

Motion – Mr. Shimborske
Second – Mr. Wimmers
Unanimous Approval

Motion to adopt legislation:

Motion – Mr. Shimborske
Second – Mr. Wimmers
Unanimous Approval

Yeas (5) – Mr. Mockensturm, Mr. Shimborske
Mr. Moore, Ms. Phillips,
Mr. Wimmers

Nays (0) –

Mayor Thompson read Ordinance 2026-5:

Ordinance 2026-5: To assess a special tax for the planting, maintenance, and removal of shade trees on and along the streets and public right-of-way of the Village of Ottawa Hills in accordance with Section 727.011 of the Ohio Revised Code, for the year ending December 31, 2026.

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Motion to waive three readings:

Motion – Mr. Shimborske
Second – Mr. Wimmers
Unanimous Approval

Motion to adopt legislation:

Motion – Mr. Shimborske
Second – Mr. Wimmers
Unanimous Approval

Yeas (5) – Mr. Mockensturm, Mr. Shimborske
Mr. Moore, Ms. Phillips,
Mr. Wimmers

Nays (0) –

Mayor Thompson read Ordinance 2026-6:

Ordinance 2026-6:

Fixing the salaries for Village employees for 2026 and repealing Ordinance 2024-14, Ordinance 2025-7, and Ordinance 2025-10, and declaring an emergency.

Motion to waive three readings:

Motion – Mr. Shimborske
Second – Ms. Phillips
Unanimous Approval

Motion to declare an emergency:

Motion – Mr. Shimborske
Second – Ms. Phillips
Unanimous Approval

Motion to adopt legislation:

Motion – Mr. Shimborske
Second – Mr. Wimmers
Unanimous Approval

Yeas (5) – Mr. Mockensturm, Mr. Shimborske
Mr. Moore, Ms. Phillips,
Mr. Wimmers

Nays (0) –

Mayor Thompson read Ordinance 2026-7:

Ordinance 2026-7:

An ordinance amending ordinance No. 2002-8, as amended, the Zoning Code of the Village of Ottawa Hills, by adopting Article XVI regarding short-term and mid-term rental regulations.

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The ordinance received its first reading.

Mayor Thompson introduced the proposed short-term rental ordinance, stating it was developed in response to resident concerns and reviewed by the Zoning Commission. He noted this was the first reading only, allowing property owners and residents an opportunity to provide comments before any action is taken.

Mr. Shimborske asked whether affected property owners would be notified. Mayor Thompson stated the Village would make reasonable efforts to identify and contact known operators.

Mr. Wimmers asked about a rental permitting process. Mrs. Tharp explained that a registration program had been considered but was determined to be an unnecessary administrative burden, adding that property maintenance concerns can already be addressed through existing code enforcement. Mayor Thompson stated the idea could be revisited.

Mr. Shimborske questioned the Village's authority to regulate short-term rentals. Mrs. Tharp confirmed municipalities have the authority to prohibit or regulate short-term rentals and explained the proposal distinguishes between short-, mid-, and long-term rentals to allow temporary housing while limiting weekend rentals.

Mr. Moore asked whether exceptions could be made for major events. Mrs. Tharp stated the ordinance could be amended if Council chose to include such provisions.

Mayor Thompson concluded that the three-reading process allows time for public input and possible revisions, emphasizing the ordinance is intended to balance property owners' interests with protecting neighboring residential properties.

Mayor Thompson read Resolution 2026-14:

Resolution 2026-14:

A resolution affirming the Village's commitment to the provision of municipal services, public safety, and compliance with applicable law.

Motion to waive three readings:

Motion – Mr. Wimmers

Second – Ms. Phillips

Unanimous Approval

Motion to adopt legislation:

Motion – Ms. Phillips

Second – Mr. Mockensturm

Unanimous Approval

Yeas (2) – Mr. Mockensturm, Ms. Phillips

Nays (3) – Mr. Wimmers, Mr. Shimborske,

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Mr. Moore

The resolution was not adopted.

Citizen Comments

Mr. Reihing announced that the Rail Passenger Association will be holding a convention at the downtown train station.

Mr. Cummins expressed disappointment that the proposed resolution was not discussed further or adopted, stating the group would continue advocating for the issue and increase public outreach. He said the resolution was intended to demonstrate support for residents who may not feel comfortable speaking publicly or interacting with law enforcement.

Mrs. Schneider echoed Mr. Cummins' comments, stating she believed the resolution was a reasonable approach and expressed concern for residents who may feel vulnerable.

Mrs. McCullough also expressed disappointment that the resolution was not adopted, stating she believed it would have reaffirmed the Village's commitment to public safety and inclusivity. She thanked the Police Department, Village Administrator, Mayor, Solicitor, and residents for their collaboration and said the group would continue its efforts.

Executive Session

At 8:03 PM Mr. Shimborske made a motion to move into an executive session for the purpose of conferring with the Village Solicitor in regard to pending or imminent court action and for the purpose of discussing the potential purchase and/or sale of real property. Mr. Wimmers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

At 8:44 PM Council returned to regular session.

Next Meeting Date

August 3, 2026

Adjournment

8:45 PM



Mayor Thompson