

OTTAWA HILLS VILLAGE COUNCIL
MEETING MINUTES
March 2, 2026 7:00 PM

Call to Order – Mayor Thompson

7:00 PM

Village Representatives in Attendance

Mayor Thompson
Councilwoman Wendy Greeley
Councilman Mark Mockensturm
Councilman Darren Moore
Councilwoman Heather Phillips

Councilman Edward Shimborske III
Councilman Dan Wimmers
Village Administrator April McDonald
Solicitor Kati Tharp

Citizen Attendees

Nasrin Afjeh
Yarko Kuk
Lori Tomblin
Gabriella Tomblin
Dennis Sherry
Linda Sherry
Sherri Kennedy
Karen Ranney Wolkins
Ric Wolkins
Laura Randall
Tim Cummins
Jennifer Cowley
David Cowley
Sarah Puffenberger
Katie Timmers
Phil Runyan
Liza Halloran
Kevin Daley

Ann Heckler
Jenn McCullough
Tim Heckler
John D. McBride
Andon Chambers
Barbara Chambers
Kyle Randall
John Arnold
Allison Arnold
Jaelie Cummins
Chad Niemann
Michele Myerholtz
Larry Nameche
Kristin Kirschbaum
Maria Ellingson
Shelia Carter
Michael Veh
Zach Hubbell

Acting Clerk

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

Proclamation

Mayor Thompson presented a proclamation to Michele Myerholtz recognizing March as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

Minutes

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

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Citizen Comments

Several residents addressed Council regarding concerns about potential cooperation between Village officials and federal immigration enforcement. Speakers expressed a desire for the Village to maintain community trust, safety, and inclusiveness, and requested that Council consider clarifying or limiting the role of Village resources, including police personnel, in federal immigration enforcement activities related to civil immigration matters.

Residents emphasized the importance of preserving positive relationships between the Ottawa Hills Police Department and community members, noting that many families view local law enforcement as a trusted source of safety. Several speakers referenced the Village's diversity and expressed concern that immigration enforcement actions could create fear among residents, particularly those from immigrant backgrounds.

Speakers also encouraged Council to proactively consider policies or an ordinance establishing clear guidelines for cooperation with federal immigration authorities while maintaining cooperation in serious criminal matters such as terrorism, human trafficking, or violent felonies. Some residents noted that other local governments in the region are exploring similar approaches.

Additional comments referenced personal experiences, concerns about national immigration enforcement practices, and a desire to ensure Village resources remain focused on local services and community safety.

Council Action

A motion was made by Mr. Shimborske and seconded by Mr. Mockensturm to approve the adoption of Council rules. The motion passed unanimously.

Finance & Future Planning – Mr. Mockensturm

Mr. Mockensturm reported that although it is still early in the fiscal year, revenues are currently running ahead of budget projections. Total tax collections for the month were \$350,655, with \$608,000 collected to date toward the projected \$4,534,117 in annual tax revenue. He noted that the majority of revenue came from real estate tax advances totaling approximately \$330,000, along with \$8,000 from Village Life and \$17,000 from the gas excise tax.

Human Resources – Ms. Phillips

No report

Safety – Mr. Moore

Mr. Moore reported that the committee held its first meeting of the year on February 10, during which several items were discussed. Topics included a no-parking request on Boshart Way, which the Police Department will review for possible solutions; a discussion regarding Flock cameras, noting that the cameras belong to the schools and any inquiries should be directed to the school district; and traffic flow considerations for Ashborne/Osborne/Bexford, including the potential for converting the streets from two-way to one-way traffic, which would require a traffic engineering study.

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Additional discussion included speed concerns on Exmoor and Central, with the possibility of pursuing a speed study through the Lake Erie West Regional Council; road painting on Exmoor, which the Exmoor HOA will review and report back to Council; and Village school delays and closures, including the communication process and decision-making matrix so Village resources can be appropriately allocated depending on whether school is in session.

Services & Environment – Mrs. Greeley

Mrs. Greeley reported that the committee did not meet. She asked about options for residents to place leaves at the curb following the late leaf fall and early snowfall this season.

Ms. McDonald responded that the Village plans to conduct a spring leaf pickup, likely in early April, due to the unusual weather conditions that delayed fall collection. She asks residents to avoid placing large piles in the roadway in case additional snow removal is required. She noted that the season was particularly challenging due to equipment freezing and other weather-related delays, and that the spring pickup period may last longer than usual. She stated that the spring pickup will be advertised in the resident newsletter and on social media.

Streets & Bridges – Mr. Shimborske.

No report

Equipment, Utilities, Building & Grounds – Mr. Wimmers

Mr. Wimmers reported that the committee has not met. He stated that the soil sample results were received for White Field, and a meeting will be scheduled with Mr. Hull and Verdantas to review the findings. He also noted that future discussions will include Hardman Field, cybersecurity, and building maintenance at the Municipal Service Building.

Solicitors Report – Mrs. Tharp

Mrs. Tharp reported that during the previous meeting Mrs. Afjeh raised concerns that the citizen comments recorded in the minutes may not have accurately reflected the statements made. She stated that the meeting video is being reviewed to determine whether a proposed resolution or correction may be necessary.

Administrator's Report

Ms. McDonald reported that the Ohio financial reports were submitted to the Hinkle System and will be posted on the Village website as unaudited financial statements. She noted that 2024 and 2025 are scheduled audit years and explained that the audit process will be largely digital, allowing auditors to review materials remotely through the Village's software system.

Ms. McDonald also reported that requests for health insurance proposals have been sent to providers and that a Human Resources Committee meeting will be scheduled once proposals are received.

Ms. McDonald announced the Pedestrian Safety Walk is scheduled for March 10 at 7:00 p.m. at the flagpole. Council briefly discussed the event and potential weather considerations.

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Mayor's Report

Mayor Thompson stated that the condition and future of the Village buildings have been discussed for many years. He noted the buildings are approximately 100 years old and no longer efficiently meet the operational needs of the Village. He noted the location of the buildings limits the Village's ability to utilize the remainder of the property, limiting its potential value to the Village.

He asked the Finance Committee to investigate the Village's long-term facility needs and develop a plan considering operational needs and potential use of the property. He noted the process may involve professional consultants, possible budget amendments, and input from Village staff, Council committees, the community, and potentially the local school district.

Old Business

Mayor Thompson requested advance notice for any old business items so staff can prepare appropriately. Ms. McDonald noted that this is especially important for financial documents, and she is willing to gather historical records as needed.

New Business

A motion was made by Mr. Mockensturm and seconded by Mr. Shimborske to approve the payments to Kati Tharp in the amount of \$1,161 for the period of January 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolutions

Mayor Thompson read Resolution 2026-5:

Resolution 2026-5:	Authorizing the purchase of property, casualty, and liability insurance for the Village of Ottawa Hills, and declaring an emergency.
Motion to waive three readings:	
Motion –	Mr. Wimmers
Second –	Mrs. Greeley
	Unanimous Approval
Motion to declare an emergency:	
Motion –	Mr. Wimmers
Second –	Mrs. Greeley
	Unanimous Approval
Motion to adopt legislation:	
Motion –	Mr. Wimmers
Second –	Mrs. Greeley
Yeas (6) –	Mrs. Greeley, Mr. Mockensturm Mr. Moore, Ms. Phillips, Mr. Shimborske, Mr. Wimmers
Nays (0) –	

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Mayor Thompson read Resolution 2026-6:

Resolution 2026-6:	Authorizing the transfer of \$630,000 from the General Fund of the Village of Ottawa Hills, with \$530,000 to the Capital Projects Fund, and \$100,000 to the Police Pension Fund.
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Motion to waive three readings:

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

Motion to adopt legislation:

Motion –	Mr. Wimmers
Second –	Ms. Phillips
Yeas (6) –	Mrs. Greeley, Mr. Mockensturm Mr. Moore, Ms. Phillips, Mr. Shimborske, Mr. Wimmers
Nays (0) –	

Mayor Thompson read Resolution 2026-7:

Resolution 2026-7:	Resolution declaring the official intent and reasonable expectation of the Village of Ottawa Hills on behalf of the State of Ohio to reimburse its capital grant fund, street repair fund, and/or road levy fund for the Edgevale, OPWC Project No. CL26AC/CL27AC, with the proceeds of tax exempt debt from the State of Ohio.
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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
Yeas (6) –	Mrs. Greeley, Mr. Mockensturm Mr. Moore, Ms. Phillips,

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Mr. Shimborske, Mr. Wimmers

Nays (0) –

Mayor Thompson read Resolution 2026-8:

Resolution 2026-8:	Accepting the proposal of Archer Energy, LLC. to extend an agreement providing natural gas supplies through opt-out aggregation to eligible residential and small businesses in the Village of Ottawa Hills, and declaring an emergency.
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Motion to waive three readings:

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

Motion to declare an emergency:

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

Motion to adopt legislation:

Motion –	Mr. Wimmers
Second –	Mr. Mockensturm

Yeas (6) –	Mrs. Greeley, Mr. Mockensturm Mr. Moore, Ms. Phillips, Mr. Shimborske, Mr. Wimmers
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Nays (0) –

Next Meeting Date
April 6, 2026

Adjournment
8:04 PM



Mayor Thompson