



COUNCIL NEWSLETTER

September 25, 2026

UPCOMING MEETINGS

HR Committee Meeting	September 28	8:30 AM	Council Chambers
Special Council Meeting	September 29	7:00 PM	Council Chambers
Special Council Meeting	September 30	7:00 PM	Council Chambers
Safety Committee	October 1	8:30 AM	Council Chambers
Zoning Commission	October 20	5:00 PM	Council Chambers
Joint Rec Board	October 21	8:00 AM	Council Chambers

Special Council Meeting September 30, 2026

1. A motion will be needed to appoint April McDonald as Acting Clerk/Treasurer for the beginning of the meeting.

Clerk/Treasurer Appointment

Mayor Thompson intends to appoint Mr. Kevin Merrill, with Council confirmation, at the Council meeting. If approved, he will need to run for the unexpired term in 2027, per Lucas County Board of Elections.

We expect amounts and rates from Lucas County in the next few weeks. Lucas County has stated we have a deadline of November 1st to pass legislation, once we receive the documents from them. This is the legislation to accept the amounts and authorize advances from the County.

Council intends to appoint a new Council member on September 30th. Interviews will be conducted during an executive session on September 29th.

Edgevale Road Update: The boil advisory was lifted on September 24th. Water main installation is complete. Water service connections are complete. The next progress meeting is next week so Council will have an update at the meeting by Ms. McDonald.

Hardman Field project: Work has started with an estimated timeline of substantial completion around Mid-October.

FUTURE MEETINGS

- **HR Committee (September 28)**
- **Safety Committee (October 1)**
- **Zoning Commission (October 20)**
 - 2500 Hasty (TBD)
 - 3574 Ridgewood (TBD)

FUTURE LEGISLATION

Accepting tax rates
Authorizing Property Tax Advances
State of Ohio grant acceptance
2027 Appropriations
2027 Salary Ordinance

VILLAGE OF OTTAWA HILLS
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

September 30, 2026 – 7:00 P.M.

AGENDA

- I. Motion to Appoint Acting Clerk/Treasurer
- II. Roll Call
- III. Pledge of Allegiance
- IV. Appointment of Clerk/Treasurer
 - a) Kevin Merrill
- V. Approval of Minutes
 - a) September 9, 2026
- VI. Citizen Comments
- VII. Committee reports:

Finance and Future Planning	-	Mark Mockensturm
Human Resources	-	Heather Phillips
Safety	-	Darren Moore
Services and Environment	-	Wendy Greeley
Streets and Bridges	-	
Utilities, Equipment, Buildings & Grounds	-	Dan Wimmers
- VIII. Solicitor's Report
- IX. Manager's Report
- X. Mayor's Report
- XI. Old Business
- XII. New Business
 - a) Motion to appoint a new Council member due to vacancy
- XIII. Ordinances and Resolutions
- XIV. Citizen Comments

XV. Executive Session

- a. Pursuant to ORC §121.22(G)(2) for the purpose of discussing the potential purchase and/or sale of real property.
- b. Pursuant to Section 121.22(G)(3) of the Ohio Revised Code for the purpose of conferring with the Village solicitor in regard to pending or imminent court action.
- c. Pursuant to the ORC §121.22(G)(1) to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of a public employee.

XVI. Adjournment

Public comments are limited to three (3) minutes per speaker, unless extended by the Mayor or Council. Comment is permitted only during designated citizen comment periods on the agenda.

Individuals wishing to speak must sign in prior to the meeting, providing: Name; Address; Affiliation (if applicable); Topic of comment

Council and staff will generally not respond during public comments, but limited responses may be given at the Presiding Officer's discretion. The Presiding Officer may limit repetitive comments on a single topic after 30 minutes, provided viewpoints are not restricted based on content.

The full and complete public comment policy is set forth in Section IV of the Rules of Council.

**OTTAWA HILLS VILLAGE COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
September 9, 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 Dan Wimmers
Councilwoman Heather Phillips

Councilwoman Wendy Greeley
Village Administrator April McDonald
Solicitor Kati Tharp

Citizen Attendees

Nasrin Afjeh
Tim Cummins
Vincent Rochr
Elena Stemaszak
George Benson

Yarko Kuk
Chris Hardman
Phil Runyan
Adam Smidi
David Karmol

Acting Clerk

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

Minutes

A motion was made by Ms. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Mockensturm to approve the August 31, 2026, Council meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Citizen Comments

Mrs. Afjeh addressed Council regarding a letter she received and a potential conflict of interest. She encouraged Council to review the letter.

Mr. Runyan addressed Council regarding fiscal responsibility and the expenditure of taxpayer dollars. He referenced Mr. Shimborske's resignation and expressed concerns regarding recent expenditures, including the bucket truck and the Hardman Field project. He encouraged Council to carefully consider the use of tax dollars and supported Ms. McDonald taking on a more prominent role.

Mrs. Stelmaszak addressed Council regarding concerns with Edgevale road construction, water service interruptions, and the boil advisory, and suggested improved communication with affected residents. She also questioned expenditures, including the new clock and bucket truck, and raised concerns regarding tax collection, White Field, Council vacancies, and staffing. She expressed concerns regarding leadership and fiscal responsibility.

Mr. Karmol addressed Council regarding a neighboring rental property on Bexford. He stated that while he has no concerns with the tenant, the property is in disrepair, including damage from a

OTTAWA HILLS VILLAGE COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
September 9, 2026 7:00 PM

July 3 tree incident, debris, and a deteriorating porch. He offered to provide photographs of the property.

Mr. Cummins addressed Council regarding rental properties. He stated that property owners should be responsible for maintenance and repairs and expressed support for allowing rentals while addressing issues such as noise complaints through enforcement.

Finance & Future Planning – Mr. Mockensturm

Mr. Mockensturm reported August tax collections of approximately \$317,000. He stated that 2026 revenues are budgeted at \$4.5 million, with approximately \$3.4 million collected to date. Operating expenditure is at 49% and overall expenditure at 38%. He noted that cash reserves decreased from approximately \$10.087 million to \$9.5 million, largely due to an Edgevale project payment, and are expected to decrease as the project continues.

Human Resources – Ms. Phillips

Ms. Phillips shared that the committee is scheduled to meet on September 22 to discuss updates to the employee handbook.

Safety – Mr. Moore

Mr. Moore reported that the committee is scheduled to meet October 1 to discuss e-bikes, parking, safety issues, and other outstanding matters.

Services & Environment – Mrs. Greeley

Mrs. Greeley reported on the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the wetland restoration project, noting that representatives from ODNR and The Nature Conservancy attended the event.

Streets & Bridges

Ms. McDonald provided an update on the waterline service taps. A boil advisory remains in effect for consumption, with another interruption anticipated Friday as the remaining taps are completed.

Council discussed improving communication through Facebook and providing, when possible, 48-hour notice of scheduled water interruptions. Ms. McDonald reported that the inspector is on site and responds to resident concerns, generally within an hour. Ms. McDonald explained that the contractors are completing the service taps on behalf of the County, allowing the work to proceed more quickly. Mayor Thompson noted that approximately 12–14 taps are currently being completed per day, compared to the County's anticipated rate of two to three per day, and acknowledged that the complex project will cause some inconvenience.

Equipment, Utilities, Building & Grounds – Mr. Wimmers

No report

Solicitors Report – Mrs. Tharp

No Report

OTTAWA HILLS VILLAGE COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
September 9, 2026 7:00 PM

Administrator's Report

No report

Mayors Report

Mayor Thompson stated that the Village had intended to appoint Mr. Merrill as Clerk/Treasurer that evening; however, Mr. Merrill had a scheduling conflict.

Mayor Thompson acknowledged Mr. Shimborske's resignation and thanked him for his service and positive contributions to the Village and community.

Old Business

Ms. Phillips asked about the new finance reports that had been discussed a couple of months ago. Mr. Mockensturm stated that the finance report now includes cash balances, which was the primary information he had requested. He explained that the purpose was to better track the Village's cash balance.

Ms. Phillips asked Ms. McDonald about the RITA letters that were sent out and whether additional information would be available at the next meeting. Ms. McDonald confirmed that she would have more information soon to send Council.

New Business

A motion was made by Ms. Phillips and seconded by Mr. Mockensturm to approve the payment to Kati Tharp in the amount of \$3,913 for the period of August 2026. The motion passed unanimously.

Mrs. Greeley stated that she would like to make a motion to appoint Mr. Wimmers as Vice Mayor, noting that Mr. Shimborske had previously served as Vice Mayor and had since resigned from Council.

Mayor Thompson stated that, because the meeting was a special meeting, he understood that new business could not be added if it was not listed on the agenda. Solicitor Tharp clarified that a special meeting may include additional business when the meeting is a full-agenda special meeting rather than one limited to a specific matter. Solicitor Tharp stated that Council could proceed.

A motion was made by Mrs. Greeley and seconded by Mr. Mockensturm to appoint Councilman Wimmers as Vice Mayor. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Moore asked about the 30-day timeframe to fill the Council vacancy. Mayor Thompson stated that, pursuant to the Ohio Revised Code, Council has 30 days from the date of resignation to make the appointment.

Mrs. Tharp explained that Council must meet within the 30-day period to make the appointment; if necessary, a special meeting may be called. The appointment would require a nomination, motion, and second.

**OTTAWA HILLS VILLAGE COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**

September 9, 2026 7:00 PM

Ms. Phillips suggested posting the vacancy on the Village website. Council discussed soliciting interest from the community and potentially interviewing interested candidates. Mr. Moore asked about compliance with the Sunshine Law when meeting with candidates. Mrs. Tharp stated that Council may meet with candidates in various formats, but any documentation created would be a public record. She noted that a committee or special meeting could be considered if multiple Council members wished to meet with candidates.

Mr. Mockensturm asked whether the 30-day period could be extended if additional time were needed to consider candidates. Mrs. Tharp stated she would research whether an extension is permitted.

Mr. Moore asked about the Streets Committee. Ms. McDonald stated that no Streets Committee meeting is currently scheduled.

Mr. Wimmers reviewed several items remaining on Council's prior to-do list, including a June 2025 safety concern regarding additional traffic on side streets, Police and Service Department renovation needs, opportunities for additional grants through TMACOG, solicitors, updates to the employee handbook, and concerns regarding access to the non-emergency and 911 lines following the transition to central dispatch. Mr. Wimmers noted that several of these items had remained outstanding for an extended period and questioned whether they had been brought back to the appropriate committee or Council for follow-up.

Ms. McDonald stated that department head meetings had been held during the past two months and that the employee handbook updates were in progress. She also stated that TMACOG had previously met with the Village regarding grant opportunities; however, many of the available grants did not meet the Village's eligibility requirements.

Mr. Wimmers raised concerns regarding the process followed for a recent resolution, 2026-14, stating that he believed the resolution should have first been reviewed by the appropriate committee, potentially the Safety Committee, before being brought before Council.

Mayor Thompson stated that the resolution had been discussed at multiple Council meetings and that Council had the opportunity to consider the matter. He also referenced the decision to waive the additional readings. Mr. Wimmers acknowledged that he had waived the readings but maintained that the resolution should have been considered by committee before coming before Council.

Council discussed whether the resolution should have been referred to a committee and whether sufficient opportunity had been provided for Council and residents to provide input. Mr. Moore stated that, based on his prior Council experience, matters of this nature would typically be considered by a committee and questioned whether that was the normal process. Mr. Wimmers stated that, in his experience, matters brought directly to Council are generally referred to the appropriate committee for review.

**OTTAWA HILLS VILLAGE COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
September 9, 2026 7:00 PM**

Mayor Thompson questioned whether the concern was that Council had not had sufficient opportunity to discuss the resolution. Mr. Wimmers stated that his concern was primarily the process and that the matter should have been reviewed by the appropriate committee. He suggested that a joint committee could have been used if multiple departments were involved.

Council members also discussed communications with residents regarding the resolution. Mr. Wimmers stated that an email had been circulated indicating that individuals would be reaching out to Council members individually and that he and some other Council members had not been contacted. Ms. Phillips stated that she had spoken with individuals who were interested in the matter, and Mr. Mockensturm confirmed that he had also been contacted.

Mr. Moore stated that, in his understanding, the Council discussion had ultimately resulted in a decision to move forward rather than continue spending additional time and resources on the matter. He stated that the Village should remain focused on outstanding municipal matters and that issues outside the Village's direct authority could be addressed at the appropriate state or federal level.

Ms. Phillips stated that she wanted to clarify her position regarding the motion and explained that, based on comments she had received during meetings, she believed there was significant support for continuing the matter. She stated that additional discussion would have provided the community with another opportunity to provide input.

Discussions continued regarding the amount of time and resources devoted to the resolution, including staff, legal, and Police Department resources, as well as whether those resources could be better directed toward outstanding Village matters.

The discussion concluded with Council members reiterating differing views regarding the appropriate committee process, the amount of public and Council input provided, and the use of Village resources. Council also discussed the need to continue reviewing outstanding items on the Village's internal to-do list and determine appropriate follow-up through committees or Council.

Ms. Phillips referenced the updates to Hardman Field and the work at White Field, noting that the Foundation is funding the Hardman Field work and approximately half of the White Field project. Ms. Phillips suggested having a central location or communication that would allow residents to see the projects being completed for the community while also clarifying which projects are funded by the Village and which are supported by other funding sources.

Mr. Wimmers agreed and stated that the Foundation should also receive recognition for its contributions and support of the Village's projects.

Resolutions and Ordinances

Mayor Thompson read Resolution 2026-18:

Resolution 2026-18:

Authorizing a contract with Armstrong Field Solutions, LLC., for the 2026 Hardman Field

**OTTAWA HILLS VILLAGE COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
September 9, 2026 7:00 PM**

Improvement Project, and declaring an emergency.

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
Unanimous Approval

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

Nays (0) –

Mayor Thompson read Resolution 2026-19:

Resolution 2026-19:

Entering into an agreement with the Board of
County Commissioners of Lucas County,
Ohio, and declaring an emergency.

Motion to waive three readings:

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

Motion to declare an emergency:

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

Motion to adopt legislation:

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

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

**OTTAWA HILLS VILLAGE COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
September 9, 2026 7:00 PM**

Nays (0) –

Citizen Comments

Mr. Runyan questioned why Council was voting on Hardman Field project. Mayor Thompson explained that the Village owns the property and the contract with Armstrong Field Solutions is between the Village and the contractor, requiring Council authorization. He stated the emergency action was necessary to complete the work this year so the field would be ready for baseball in the spring. Mr. Runyan also questioned the use of Village property for profitable games that Coach Hardman has scheduled.

Mrs. Afjeh stated she intends to submit a letter regarding her concerns with the Solicitor to the appropriate board. She also expressed concerns regarding the Mayor's conduct and disagreement with his actions.

Mrs. Stelmazak thanked Council for allowing discussion and stated that she believes Council should engage in more discussion. She shared concerns regarding a prior 911 call involving a juvenile riding a bicycle and questioned the use of Lucas County Dispatch. She also referenced the 30-day timeframe for filling the Council vacancy and encouraged Council to conduct thorough research before making an appointment.

Mr. Cummins expressed disagreement with comments regarding residents feeling safe and stated that federal immigration issues can affect local communities. He expressed disappointment that Council previously voted to end discussion of the matter and stated that the issue had been discussed since January.

Mr. Benson introduced himself and expressed disappointment with Council's resolution concerning racism, stating that he believed the resolution did not go far enough beyond affirming existing practices. He disagreed with comments made during the discussion and recommended that Council members receive education regarding systemic racism.

Executive Session

At 8:14 PM Ms. Phillips made a motion to move into an executive session for the purpose of discussing the potential purchase and/or sale of real property, Mr. Moore seconded the motion, which passed unanimously

At 9:05 PM Council returned to regular session.

Next Meeting Date

TBD

Adjournment

9:08 pm

Mayor Thompson

VILLAGE OF OTTAWA HILLS
September FINANCIAL RECAP
As of 9/25/2026

REVENUE *

Operating:

September income tax collections totaled approximately \$272,269 and the revenue budget for 2026 is \$4,534,117. Our ytd income tax collections total: \$3,676,895.

Other revenues in September include \$635,748 from the 2nd half real estate settlement, \$22,222 from Village Life & Yard waste and \$17,786 in gas excise.

EXPENDITURES *

Operating:

We have expended 58% of our operating budget and 47% of the overall budget. In addition to normal and OT payroll costs, other expenses included \$151,546 for engineering for Evergreen Bridge and Edgevale, \$75,000 for the quarterly fire contract, \$967 for Village Life instructors, \$5,711 for tax refunds and \$17,741 for police pension.

Capital: We expended \$406,680 to Salenbien Trucking for our Edgevale Rd project.

**monthly reports have not been finalized, and these figures will change.*