On Tuesday, July 14, 2026, at 6:00 p.m., Mayor Joseph Galea opened the Council meeting with a word of prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited by those present.

The regular meeting for the Council of the Village of Monroeville was then called to order.

Present at roll call:		
Chris Raftery	and	Joseph Galea, Mayor
Mark Miller		Eunice Collene, Fiscal Officer
Sue Rogers		Jim Barney, Solicitor
Tammy Schachter		Chief Jon Earl, MPD
Jim Ehrman		

Also attending: Sam Wiley, Tom Vitaz, Jill Tangeman, Paul Skidmore, Melinda Gies, Justin Kerner, Max Upton, Curt Stang, Bonnie Beck, Roshan Shah, Aaron Pickrell.

The Mayor asked Council to excuse Mr. Andrew Brown from tonight's meeting. Ms. Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tammy Schlachter. Motion carried with no discussion.

The June 2026 financial reports, bank statements, balance sheets, check reports, and bank reconciliations were previously distributed to the Council via e-mail.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Mayor asked for Council's approval of the agenda. Mr. Mark Miller made a motion to amend the agenda to remove Ordinance 2026-10 from the agenda, seconded by Mr. Jim Ehrman. Mr. Miller stated he did not think we were ready. Ms. Raftery noted this was only the first reading and that it would go through two more readings. Mr. Miller said he did not have enough time to review. Mayor Galea asked for a vote. Mr. Miller and Mr. Ehrman voted yes to the amendment while, Ms. Chris Raftery, Ms. Sue Rogers, and Ms. Tammy Schlachter voted no. Agenda was approved as presented.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES

The Mayor asked Council for a motion to approve the minutes from the regular council meeting on June 9, 2026, and the special Council meeting on June 16, 2026, 2026. Ms. Chris Rafterey made that motion, seconded by Ms. Sue Rogeers. Motion carried with no discussion.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

The Mayor asked Council for a motion to approve the June 2026 financial reports. Ms. Sue Rogers made that motion, seconded by Ms. Chris Raftery. Motion carried with no discussion.

APPROVAL OF THE MONTHLY CREDIT CARD REPORT

The Mayor asked Council for a motion to approve the June 2026 credit card report. Ms. Chris Raftery made that motion, seconded by Mr. Jim Ehrman. Motion carried with no further discussion.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Administrator – The Mayor presented the report given by the department superintendents in lieu of the administrator report. Recertifications were performed for employees of the water treatment plant. All four passed and received their new lab certificates. Water service line inspections will continue. Quotes are being sought for inspections of the water towers and the treatment plant Clearwell. Quotes are also being sought for a Vac truck. The electric department delt with a lightning strike at the Herbert Substation, resulting in an outage. Work on the baseball fields at Clark Park is underway including work on the infields and a sprinkler system. Repairs from vandalism of the park restroom was completed and were reopened. Yard waste continues for the street department along with daily check ins on the Hamiton road construction project.

Fiscal Officer – Ms. Eunice Collene presented her report that had been previously submitted to Council. Ms. Collene informed Council that the village ended the month of June with a cash balance of $5,939,3445.75 across all funds. Revenue and expenditure figures were provided as well. 911 utility invoices were sent out with 909 being paid by month end. An update was given of the camera and door being installed in the lobby. Work with ES Consulting is continuing with changing our emails over to .gov for improved security. Ms. Collene informed council that she was notified by the State Auditor's Office that they will be contracting out our 2026 to 2030 fiscal year audits to an independent public accountant. That's not uncommon. They do that just to help with their staff shortages, and they are restricted as to how long they're allowed to contract that out before the state takes it back in-house. A Request for Proposal process is being worked on for this.

Discussion regarding the waiving of a demolition permit fee of $75.00, approval of a requisition for Encompass Engineering for $7,300 for testing the 5 Megawatt solar recloser and a requisition for Main Lite Electric for $14,214 for emergency work in the Industrial Park circuits. Also, a wage increase for Colton Ott as he has completed his journeyman lineman training.

Mr. Dave Hamons was asked to elaborate on the request for Colton's wage increase. Mr. Hamons stated that council has received the letter regarding Colton's wages. He is requesting a wage increase of $3.00/hr., bringing Colton up to $31.00/hr. Mr. Hamons noted that we have not had a certified lineman since 2008, which is when he became the superintendent. He has had five apprentices; however, Colton is the first to complete all four years. He noted that Colton steps up when he is off on sick leave, or vacation. Mr. Hamons stated that Colton is the future, as he won't be around forever.

Mr. Miller asked about the requisition request for Encompass Engineering as Tom Gray had previously stated at a council meeting that we don't have to pay a dime. They're taking care of everything. Mr. Hamons stated that is a safety issue as he cannot close the recloser without having it tested and certified. Mr. Miller said he understands that, however, Tom did say we wouldn't have to pay anything. Ms. Collene suggested, for clarity, that from what was communicated to us, she thinks it was that D3 was handling this. But do you know why D3 is not completing this and that we have to have MainLite do it? Mr. Hamons stated that he could not answer that. All he knows is that it had to be certified before we could energize it and get it into the system before they try to push back on us with the five megawatts. Mayor Galea asked if it was because of what side of the circuit it was on. Mr. Hamons replied, No, it has nothing to do with the circuit. The recloser is programmed and D3 took care of the programming. This is the safety aspect to make sure all parameters are met for this recloser. Mr. Hamons explained that he was told that this had to be done before we energized it. Ms. Raftery asked if Mr. Hamons could explain what it energizes. He replied that once we have power going out to the solar field, it takes AC to bring DC back. DC is what the solar produces. So, we must have everything in place on our end, certified and tested so they can turn around and turn their DC part back on so they can put the DC back into our system. Mayor Galea asked for clarification if this was at the substation. Part of it is the solar field, the other part is we have a recloser in place as of right now at Janotta and Herner. Before we can bring the five megawatts into the Herbert substation where it's going to go, we have a recloser that must be reprogrammed for the higher load coming back. Mr. Ehrman asked if the Janotta and Herner connection is part of the solar. Mr. Hamons responded that it was as when it's producing power, it'll come back and go back down over to the Herbert sub, which is, that's where the Janotta and Herner recloser's at. So yes, that must be changed because the load from a five-megawatt solar field is higher than the load that's coming back now. Because we're going to split the two solar fields having one going to the Gerber/Lee substation and the other to the Herbert Substation. Solar one is the land base. Solar two is the floating solar. Jim added that Tom had shared with him several times that the floating solar is, the unpaid affordability has no responsibility for any payout on that. The Mayor stated that it doesn't hurt to investigate this, obviously it delays the work being done, but I know that we can't send a bill. Chris asked for clarification that this work must be done for it to work. Mayor Galea commented that it says point of interconnection recloser at the five megawatts. His question is when you say point of interconnection I envision there's their equipment they own and our equipment they own. Is this at that point where they meet? Mr. Hamons replied yes. The mayor continued, so they're probably, my guess is, and I'm only speculating that they're saying that's your recloser on your side of the circuit. So, is that something that council would like to check with these guys, double check that that's the case before we spend, and we can investigate and take up at the next meeting. Ms. Collene stated that she may have contact with an email. The mayor indicated he have their contact as well. He continued by asking council if they are tabling the requisition on the recloser. Ms. Raftery asked if we could put it into a motion that once we know that it is our responsibility or theirs, that we are able to proceed with that, or they have to proceed with it, so we don't have to hold up that vote. Mr. Miller stated he would agree with that. Mayor Galea asked for a motion to approve the requisition contingent upon confirmation from D3 Solar about the responsibility for this. Mr. Mark Miller made the motion, seconded by Ms. Chris Raftery, motion carried. The mayor asked for a motion to accept the requisition for emergency work. Ms. Tammy Schlachter made a motion, seconded by Ms. Sue Rogers. Motion carried. Next, the mayor asked for a motion to approve refunding Monroeville Schools the $75.00 demolition fee. Ms. Chris Raftery made a motion, seconded by Ms. Sue Rogers. Motion carried. Discussion regarding Colton Ott's lineman schooling through AMP as well as his wages as he completed each step of the program of which Dave is asking for an increase of $3.00/hr. Ms. Chris Raftery made a motion, seconded by Ms. Sue Rogers to approve the wage increase for Colton Ott retroactive to June 22, 2026. Ms. Collene added that she will probably be coming back to council for an increase in the appropriations and the wages, because if you'll recall, we made a lot of cuts and stuff in the electric department, so we'll have to appropriate more money because it was not in the budget. No further discussion. Motion carried.

Police – Chief Earl presented his report that had been previously submitted to Council. He began with the recent vandalism at Clark Park and indicated that they have a couple of suspects in mind that they are looking into. The Chief presented multiple camera options for the parks in the past. He has recently written a $52,500 grant for cameras to be installed at both of our parks, the reservoir and the track and field, which comes with a guardian mode, which will alert our officers at night should any movement be occurring at any of those locations during the night. That's through the FLOC system, and that is a video. He submitted that grant through OCJS and is still waiting to hear about that. In the meantime, since this has occurred, we're going to take it upon ourselves as a police department to go ahead and purchase a camera through the community fund, potentially, to get something at least up and running that we can have at our park until we get that grant done. Which is good, because it's costing the parks a lot of money to replace those windows, and we understand that. This past month AMCOR requested active shooter training, which he is trained in. It ran for two hours for each shift. He thanked the American Legion for providing rifles and blanks. Chief Earl stated that if anyone is interested in this training, our police department does offer it.

We recently had a flock camera intentionally struck and destroyed and he is currently working with Ashland County with the suspect in jail at this time. Chief noted that this person has damaged six to ten cameras all over this part of the state and we will be seeking restitution. Council was informed that the police department received a $24,000 grant from the Department of Homeland Security for the flock cameras with that money going to help cover the cost in 2027. His first action item for the police department is a section of the wage ordinance regarding fees for special services as well as a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for mutual aid requests with the Put-N-Bay police department. If they have a very busy weekend, they can request one of our officers to go there and help as they have funding that is needed to be paid out and this would cover not only their pay, but also contributions to workers comp, and retirement. This would also give our officers valuable experience in situations they would typically not deal with here. The second item is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Monroeville Schools for the School Resource Officer. The chief stated that interviews have been conducted for this position and we will be hiring officer Frank Sirse, who comes to us from the Woodville police department. The final action item is for a wage increase for Office Logan Gale, who has completed his probationary period, at a rate of $27.00/hr. Mayor Galea asked for a motion to move Office Gale to a Level 2 Officer with a pay of $27.00/hr. Ms. Sue Rogers made a motion, seconded by Mr. Jim Ehrman. Motion carried. The mayor then asked for a motion to approve the MOU that was negotiated with between the village and the school. Ms. Chris Raftery made a motion, seconded by Ms. Sue Rogers. The Mayor stated that he had looked it over a couple of times and it looks reasonable to him. Mr. Miller asked if the 50 – 50 split included benefits, it does. Motion carried with no further discussion. Mayor Galea asked for a motion to accept the appointment of Frank Sirse as the school Recourse Officer beginning on July 28, 2026, at a rate of $25.00/hr. Ms. Chris Raftery made a motion, seconded by Ms. Tammy Schlachter. Motion carried. The Mayor asked if there were any thoughts on our officers assisting the Put-N-Bay police department if needed. He clarified that we do have immunity if there were any concerns with regards to any type of lawsuit. Jim Barney added that he has seen a lot of change for the good under the new Chief of Police for Put-N-Bay. Chief Earl added that he had worked with Chief Dillon for 16 years in Columbus as one of the field training officers. The expectation is not to have our officer out there on their own, they would be with one of the Put-N-Bay officers as backup. Ms. Chris Raftery made a motion to approve, seconded by Ms. Sue Rogers.

Solicitor – Jim had no information to report.

Mayor – The Mayor had no information to report.

BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS

HRJFD

Huron River Joint Fire District convened on July 1, 2026: Mr. Ehrman reported that the department had a total of 16 calls, which included the Townships of Peru, Ridgefield, and Sherman. The Village, as well as mutual aide. Firefighters have Ladder Evolutions Training, which is required, as climbing a ladder as a firefighter adds a twist to that. They practice ladder placement, climbing, rescue tactics, locking into a ladder as well as the use of a hose stream while on a ladder. Types of ladder rescues are also practiced.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Ken Underwood stated that he was still not comfortable with the solar panels being on the reservoir. He did read the very detailed description and speck sheet and was thankful for the information it provided. Mr. Underwood continued that with or without the Data Center we need to put our best impression forward to get other small businesses interested in our village, and with that in mind we need to press forward on the downtown sidewalks, clean up some unsightly debris and get some buildings painted. He

would like a progress report regarding the sidewalks. Mayor Galea stated that he had spoken with the engineer from McKeever and Assoc. and that they are working on preliminary drawings and are also going to apply for a grant. He indicated that this is something that will not be completed this construction season. Dan Bemis then inquired about a tree stump that he has had in front of his house for approximately five years and had approached the then village administrator about having it removed. He stated that if we can't manage stump removal how can we manage a Data Center. Dave Hamons informed Mr. Bemis that his stump is on the current list to be removed. Eunice confirmed that this was discussed at a recent department meeting and a list is being compiled and she will make sure he is on it and our crew will be completing that work. Mindy Gies then asked about the science fair that was scheduled to be held at the American Legion in August. She wanted to know if the information was going to be unbiased information. An attendee stated he was not going to answer that question today. She also wanted to thank council for looking into the reservoir project and answering questions regarding the water and marine life in the reservoir.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS FOR 1ST READING

ORDINANCE 2026-10

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING A REINSTTING THE ZONING ORDIANCE FOR THE VILLAGE OF MONROEVILLE, OHIO.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS FOR PASSAGE

The Mayor asked for a motion to suspend the rules for the following legislation. Ms. Sue Rogers made that motion, seconded by Ms. Tamy Schlachter. Motion carried with no discussion.

ORDINANCE 2026-11:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING OR SUPPLEMENTING CERTAIN FUNDS FOR APPROPRATIONS ORDINANCE 2025-24 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Motion made by Ms. Chris Raftery, seconded by Ms. Tammy Schlachter. Eunice provided an explanation for each of the sections to be amended. Motion carried with no further discussion.

APPROVAL OF BILL SUMMARY

The Mayor asked Council for a motion to approve the June 2026 bill summary. Ms. Tammy Schlachter made a motion, seconded by Ms. Sue Rogers, to approve the bill summary as presented, which included memo expenses and check #47740 to check #47809, for a total of $986,917.92. Motion carried with no discussion.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

Discussions for scheduling meetings for the Handbook, Finance, and Utilities Committees as well as a special council meeting. Sue Rogers asked where we were with interviews for the Village Administrator position. The Mayor stated that we were close to the end of the application period and scheduling for interviews can be scheduled depending on availability. Eunice informed the members that she had received a phone call from the Huron County Commissioners office regarding donations for their basket raffle at the Huron County Fair. Eunice stated that the village cannot provide that but wanted council to know if they wanted to possibly reach out to our local businesses.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Galea asked Council for a motion to enter into executive session to consider the employment or compensation of a public employee or official. Ms. Sue Rogers made that motion, seconded by Mr. Jim Ehrman. The regular Council meeting adjourned to executive session at 7:09 pm and reconvened on record at 7:46 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before them, the Mayor asked Council for a motion to adjourn. Ms. Sue Rogers made that motion, seconded by Ms. Chris Raftery.

Meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

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Eunice A. Collene, Fiscal Officer

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Joseph Galea, Mayor

The minutes of this meeting were recorded by Administrative Assistant Ann Beck. Fiscal Officer Eunice A. Collene examined them for both form and content, subsequently approving them as transcribed.

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