

On Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at 6:00 PM, 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		Tom Gray, Village Administrator
Sue Rogers		Eunice Collene, Fiscal Officer
Jim Ehrman		Gabby Toscano, Solicitor
Tammy Schachter		Chief Jon Earl, MPD

Also attending: Scott Summerlin; Bill Mahl; Chris Long; Tracy Sellers; Diana Nicholl; David Luna; Kayla Worcester; John Laviola; Andrew Brown; Aaron Pickrell; Tom & Tammy Vitaz; Melissa Zehnder; Sam Wiley; HRJFD Chief Curt Stang; Ted Caldwell; Lori Kaser; Will Grosswiler; Paul Skidmore; Tammy Jones; Tina Preece; and Josh Braucher.

The April 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. Ms. Rogers made a motion, seconded by Ms. Raftery, to approve the agenda. Motion carried with no discussion.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES

The mayor asked Council for a motion to approve the minutes from the special Council meetings on April 9, 2026, and May 4, 2026, and the regular Council meeting on April 14, 2026. Ms. Raftery made that motion, seconded by Mr. Ehrman. Motion carried with no discussion.

APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS

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

APPROVAL OF THE MONTHLY CREDIT CARD REPORT

The mayor asked Council for a motion to approve the April 2026 credit card report. Ms. Rogers made that motion, seconded by Mr. Ehrman. Motion carried with no further discussion.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CITIZENS TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Mr. Scott Summerlin addressed Council and posed the following question: What Ohio legal counsel or consulting firm would demonstrate its experience representing municipalities, not developers or utilities, in large-scale data centers and comparable industry negotiations, and advise the village, and whether the village would disclose any prior or current representation of developers, utilities, or related entities that could present a conflict of interest? The mayor replied that the village is currently advised by the firm of Duncan and Allen, and also uses Courtney and Associates for consulting services. Both of those entities have experience relating to data centers. The village is still evaluating what additional legal counsel and representation it may require in the future. Mr. Summerlin inquired whether Duncan and Allen or Courtney and Associates advised the village when it came to the agreements made with Gray Matter Data. The mayor confirmed they had both advised the village on Gray Matter.

Mr. Bill Mahl addressed Council and inquired why Decimal Digital selected Monroeville for a data center. During the work session that was held on May 7, 2026, Decimal Digital made it sound as if they were doing the village a favor by bringing a data center here. There were good points about how the data center may help the school. However, the life expectancy of a data center is 10 to 15 years. After that, the facility would have to be retrofitted. An electric contract is limited to a maximum duration of five years, and Mr. Mahl wondered if Decimal Digital would be able to bow out at that time. Mr. Mahl stated that he would prefer the decision regarding data centers be determined by a vote of community members instead of Council members.

Ms. Tracy Sellers addressed Council regarding the language in the at-large cat ordinance that is being proposed tonight. Some of the language in the proposed ordinance seems to have been pulled from the nuisance ordinance of another municipality, with the use of the term "abatement" in reference to nuisance cats. Ms. Sellers inquired what abatement looks like to the village. The proposed ordinance also contains language about posting a cash bond totaling the estimated abatement costs after a preliminary hearing on the matter. Ms. Sellers asked if the village would take on the responsibility of abatement, and if so, what does that look like? Does that mean the euthanasia of stray cats, or is it to trap the cats, have them spayed or neutered, and release them? The mayor advised Ms. Sellers that the village solicitor is running late tonight and will be able to offer more information about the term abatement once she arrives. The mayor said he believes that the term abatement refers to clean-up after damage, environmental clean-up, and excess waste. Ms. Sellers said it's her opinion that the language needs to be more specific regarding what abatement entails.

Mr. Andrew Brown addressed Council for discussion of a timeline for the downtown sidewalk project, as well as other related projects. Mr. Brown feels that village residents deserve clarity, accountability, and follow-through. Mr. Brown said he attended a regular Council meeting on February 10, 2026. At that meeting, Mr. Brown addressed Council regarding downtown sidewalks. At that time, Mr. Tom Gray advised that no formal agreement had been made yet. Mr. Brown submitted a public records request on February 22, 2026, relating to the downtown sidewalk project. On March 5, 2026, a proposal was signed by Makeever and Associates. On March 10, 2026, Mr. Brown addressed Council again, and he was given a timeline of 2026-2027 for the entire downtown sidewalk project. At that same meeting, Council approved Mr. Gray to enter into a contract with Makeever and Associates. On April 14, 2026, Mr. Brown addressed Council and was told that Makeever and Associates would complete a survey of the downtown sidewalks in May 2026. The next day, April 15, 2026, Mr. Brown submitted another public records request. Included in those records was an email dated April 13, 2026, which was the day before the April 14, 2026, Council meeting. The email was from Mr. Tom Gray, Village Administrator, to Ms. Eunice Collene, Fiscal Officer. The email stated that the appropriation of funds was still needed before Makeever and Associates could begin their survey project. Mr. Brown stated that this means nothing in the downtown sidewalk project was moving along prior to April 13, 2026. At that time, Mr. Brown had also learned that the village had not yet received a W-9 from Makeever and Associates for the village's administrative office to process payment. In his public records request, Mr. Brown had requested records of communication for payments, scheduling, and expected start dates. Mr. Brown was informed that no such communications existed at that time. On April 16, 2026, there was an email communication confirming receipt of Makeever and Associates' W-9. On May 6, 2026, Mr. Brown made another public records request related to payments and scheduling for the Makeever and Associates portion of the project. As of today, that particular public records request has yet to be fulfilled. Mr. Brown advised that he reached out to Makeever and Associates yesterday, May 11, 2026. Mr. Brown spoke with Dylan at Makeever and Associates, who advised Mr. Brown that he had not yet received a purchase order from the village. Dylan stated that he was told the

funds for the survey still need to be appropriated. Dylan also advised Mr. Brown that nothing will be scheduled in the village until Makeever and Associates receives a purchase order from the village. Mr. Brown asked why he was advised on April 14, 2026, that a survey would be completed by Makeever and Associates in May 2026, when Makeever and Associates didn't even have a purchase order from the village yet. Mr. Brown added that Dylan also advised him that if Makeever and Associates were to receive a purchase order, they would be able to schedule the survey, and they may still be able to complete the survey in May 2026. Mr. Brown said the downtown sidewalk project has now gone unresolved for more than five years, with a timeline that demonstrates that the only consistent, meaningful movement seems to occur after public records requests are submitted and after public questions are asked. This concern extends beyond sidewalks. There is the downtown public parking lot that has been unfinished for over two years; there was a safety grant that had to be pushed through by other individuals; and the floating solar panel project is still incomplete. On June 10, 2025, Mr. Gray stated that the downtown parking lot project was near-term, but didn't have a timeline for completion. The downtown parking lot project remains unfinished as of today. The safety grant that was written by Elisa Brown, Mr. Brown's wife, was only pushed forward because Ms. Brown and Ms. Collene worked with the Huron County Health Department to get the grant pushed through at the last minute. The safety grant project remains unfinished as of today. Mr. Brown said he was told that the solar panels on the village reservoir aren't even connected to our grid. If that's true, Mr. Brown said Council should be asking what benefit the village is getting from the solar panels if they aren't connected to our grid, and there is unknown plastic floating in village drinking water. Taken together, these projects suggest a broader pattern of lazy, incomplete execution and limited communication. Mr. Brown would like to see these projects completed and intends to continue following through professionally and cooperatively. Residents have a responsibility to ask questions when timelines shift, projects stall, and information is difficult to obtain. Accountability is not hostility, and transparency is not obstruction. As the village continues to discuss larger future developments, including a data center, residents have the right to ask whether the village administration currently has the processes, planning, and project management capacity necessary to oversee such projects. Mr. Brown stated he will continue to follow up on issues and will continue to submit records requests and advocate for the completion of these projects. Moving forward, Mr. Brown made a recommendation that the village provide residents with a public projects timeline and provide answers as to the delays of projects and why projects remain unfinished.

Mr. Paul Skidmore addressed Council and said that Hamilton Street is a total disgrace and has been for the last three years. The sound of the traffic is louder than normal because of the condition of the street. The potholes that had not been patched for five months were finally patched last week. Mr. Skidmore said he was told that an upcoming repair is scheduled for Hamilton Street. The mayor confirmed and said full reconstruction is being completed on Hamilton Street this summer. Mr. Skidmore applauded the work done by the street crew on patching the potholes and asked that they continue to be filled until the repair takes place.

Mr. Ted Caldwell addressed Council and inquired as to when the Hamilton Street repair project will begin. The mayor deferred to Mr. Gray, who advised that the start date is four to six weeks out.

Mr. Caldwell also asked if the village is hooked into the power at the reservoir, and inquired as to where the power is going. Mr. Gray advised that the power is scheduled to be energized on June 1, 2026. Mr. Caldwell asked if the power would go to Monroeville or go somewhere else. Mr. Gray advised that it's connected to the distribution system of Monroeville. Mr. Caldwell inquired about the expense incurred by the village to connect to it after the project's completion. Mr. Gray said the developers are funding the connection costs to the village, and it's built into the project costs. Mr. Caldwell requested that Mr. Gray

confirm that the village will incur no expense for this project. Mr. Gray said the developer is funding the project cost to connect the solar field to the distribution system.

Additionally, Mr. Caldwell inquired whether the village has purchased or intends to purchase a computer meter reading system, which would eliminate the need for village employees to manually read meters, resulting in the meter readings being conducted at the village administrative office. Mr. Gray responded that the village employees do not currently walk around and read meters. They have a drive-by system, where a computer and radio receiver are used to obtain water and electric meter reads. Mr. Gray said there are plans to establish a central site collector, which would allow the data to flow directly to a computer system in the village administrative office. Mr. Caldwell asked what that would cost the village. Mr. Gray advised that there are two components: water and electricity. They use slightly different systems and are in the price range of \$100,000. Mr. Caldwell questioned why the village would spend money to purchase meter-reading equipment rather than utilizing two employees to collect meter readings. Mr. Gray replied that he doesn't want that. Mr. Caldwell responded that the employees could utilize the drive-by system, to which Mr. Gray responded that drive-by meter reads are the current practice. Mr. Caldwell questioned the reasoning behind the village's purchase of a new meter reading system and suggested that those funds be spent on street repairs instead. The mayor said he is not sure if he follows what Mr. Caldwell is saying. The mayor asked Mr. Caldwell if he was inquiring whether the village is paying money to buy a new system for meter reading. Mr. Caldwell explained that village employees used to manually collect meter reads. Now, Mr. Gray has stated the village will be purchasing another computer system for meter reads. The mayor disagreed and said Mr. Caldwell had asked how much it would cost to purchase a new system, to which Mr. Gray replied with an amount. However, the village is not buying a new computer meter-read system, and the drive-by metering system will continue to be used. Mr. Caldwell responded to the mayor that Mr. Gray had just stated the village has plans to establish a central site collector system. Mr. Gray explained that it could be combined into a central site collector, which poses the question of what that would entail. Mr. Gray said a central site collector, placed at a high point in the village, like the water tower, would read both water and electric meters. However, that is not in the near-term plan, and the village will continue to use the drive-by system, which is a transceiver that reads all of the meters. The mayor informed Mr. Caldwell that the funds for water, electricity, and streets do not overlap with each other.

Mr. Scott Summerlin addressed Council again and said that he wanted to respond to the answer he received earlier in the meeting. The prior agreement made with Gray Matter Data, which was negotiated using the same legal counsel, resulted in a \$ 1.5 million unpaid obligation owed to the village by Gray Matter Data. Mr. Summerlin asked why Council would continue to use the same legal counsel and consulting services without seeking an independent review or a second opinion. What level of good faith does Council currently have regarding both Duncan and Allen, as well as Courtney and Associates? The mayor said that Mr. Summerlin's questions are fair, and he feels he cannot provide a fair answer. Mr. Summerlin advised that he located at least three law firms that specifically work with data centers, infrastructure, and utilities, and have offices in the Columbus and Cleveland areas. Mr. Summerlin said that it's obvious that Duncan and Allen, along with Courtney and Associates, overlooked something, resulting in a 1.5-million-dollar debt owed to the village. Mr. Summerlin requested Council find an alternative candidate, possibly someone who does not need to travel from Washington, D.C., resulting in the village paying for airfare and hotels, and asked that the candidate be suitable for providing guidance on data centers.

Additionally, Mr. Summerlin mentioned that the most recent time he raised a public question relating to village electricity and utility invoices, unexpectedly, during that same period of six months to a year, he

was approached by a village official who is no longer part of village administration. This official informed Mr. Summerlin that his service on the BZA (Board of Zoning Appeals) had reached its full term of three years, and he was being removed. Mr. Summerlin stated he wanted to ensure he wouldn't be removed from his current place on the BZA in response to asking questions tonight. The mayor assured Mr. Summerlin that it wouldn't happen.

Ms. Melissa Zehnder addressed Council regarding water safety in the village, noting that the solar panels have been installed on the reservoir and will soon be connected. Ms. Zehnder asked whether the water would be tested for toxins or if there would be any additional testing beyond the standard testing for the public water supply once it reaches the water treatment plant, in order to determine if further filtration is needed. The mayor deferred to Mr. Gray, who advised that the village is currently compliant with all EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) and PFAS (Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances) testing, which is done quarterly.

Ms. Zehnder also encouraged Council to do more research on the closed-loop system that Decimal Digital referenced during last week's Council work session. There will be a need to replace the water using the closed-loop system that the gentleman from Decimal Digital discussed, due to evaporation, and purging would be needed as well. Decimal Digital never disclosed that information, nor did they disclose how often it would happen, or how much water would be used. Water rates in Monroeville are expensive, and a data center would only cause the water rates to increase.

Ms. Tammy Vitaz addressed Council and asked for the status of the \$7,500 water study that was previously approved by Council for the location of 100 Sandusky Street, Monroeville. The mayor said the report findings were just submitted recently, and that Mr. Gray will share more information during his administrative report.

Mr. Will Grosswiler addressed Council, stating that earlier in the meeting, Mr. Ted Caldwell had asked Mr. Gray if there was a cost associated with connecting the solar panels. Mr. Gray had said the developer was funding the cost of the connection. Mr. Caldwell then asked again if the village was incurring any of the cost, and Mr. Gray stated no, that the developer was funding the cost. Mr. Grosswiler asked if the floating solar project is costing the village any money whatsoever, for materials or for anything else. He asked Mr. Gray if he could state that this project isn't costing the village any money. Mr. Gray said that the cost is included in the development cost, which is in the purchase power agreement. Mr. Grosswiler asked Mr. Gray to verify that this project will not cost the village any money. Mr. Gray said it's in the rate the village pays for the purchased power. Ms. Tracy Sellers interjected and said that the floating solar project is going to cost the village money, as it's part of the agreement.

Mr. Bill Mahl addressed Council again and asked if this means the village is buying electricity from the solar panels. Mr. Gray stated Mr. Mahl is correct, and it's from the existing fixed-tilt solar and the new floating solar. Mr. Mahl asked if that means the village is buying electricity from the organization that installed the solar panels, and then reselling it to the village residents, to which Mr. Gray confirmed.

Mr. Sam Wiley addressed Council. His inquiry was in relation to the purchase power agreement, and asked if it could be confirmed that, since it's linked to our distribution center, the village doesn't have to pay FirstEnergy for distribution? Mr. Gray said that as part of our power supply portfolio, and in the purchase power agreement, the village pays a fixed rate per kilowatt hour. The solar field generation has offset components that create a voided cost for the village for capacity and transmission energy. The village also

gets the solar renewable energy credits. Many costs have been avoided for the 2026-2027 planning year, resulting in savings of over \$300,000.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS

Administrator – Mr. Tom Gray said his report had been previously submitted to Council. Mr. Gray said that today, the village received the results of the engineering study done at 100 Sandusky Street, Monroeville. There were two components. The first component had a collector's system where all of the outfall pipes for the basins and the downspouts would be combined. Then a pipe would run the entire length of the topside property to a manhole up on Hilltop Court. That type of connection would be a direct connection to the stormwater system and a discharge into the Eagle View ditch. That particular connection would not be able to meet a 25-year rain event for stormwater management. That's a direct conveyance of water from one spot to another. The preferred approach is to, again, create some interceptor piping on the topside, from the downspouts and the basins. The interceptor piping would be taken, along with the rest of the service water, and put into a detention pond. The detention pond would be sufficient to manage a 25-year rain event. With the detention pond, the discharge would have two levels. It would have a normal discharge level at a managed, metered flow rate that would be acceptable to allow this water to be piped into the Eagle View stormwater system. The pipes on top would all be combined, the basins would be combined, and the discharge would go into a detention basin. The detention basin would rise and fall with a rain event, and it may not discharge during a particular rain event. It might discharge after three rain events, or it might not discharge at all. Storing the water and managing it is our best approach, based on Makeever's engineering study. As far as how it evolves from here, that is subject to further discussion and interaction with Nick Wade's attorney, Nick Smith, as well as village legal counsel, and the village. Mr. Mark Miller inquired where the pond would be located, and Mr. Gray responded that he didn't know. This will be reflected in a graphic pictorial that will be released. It would be pushed to the Hilltop side, but be partway back, where some of Mr. Wade's trucks are being parked now. Mr. Gray said he can't speak to the final design and final location. Mr. Miller asked Mr. Gray to verify that the detention pond will be placed on Mr. Wade's Property, and Mr. Gray confirmed. Mr. Caldwell asked if the village would be financing this project. Mr. Gray said he can't say what level of involvement the village would have, if any. Mr. Gray explained that he's been discussing with Mr. Wade and his attorney, Mr. Smith, and it's recognized that the issue is at 100 Sandusky Street. It's not necessarily a direct engagement with the village to provide the funding to create a solution. Those elements still need to be determined. Mr. Jim Ehrman said that he cannot get very involved in this, as it creates an ethics issue. Mr. Ehrman asked Mr. Gray to verify that a retention pond for heavy rain events, with the water flowing into the pond, allows the water to flow out at a lower rate so that it doesn't back up, to which Mr. Gray confirmed. It's a preferred solution instead of the conveyance or the direct discharge. Direct discharge of water cannot be managed correctly. Mr. Miller asked why piping wouldn't satisfy a 25-year rain event. Mr. Gray explained that it has to do with the volume of water in a 25-year rain event that's created on top and flows to the stormwater manhole that is located at the end of Hilltop. A 25-year rain event would affect Hilltop, Eagle View, State Route 99, and the entire north portion of the village. The ditch and the piping under North Street then become overloaded with the additional conveyance of a direct discharge of water. It's better to slow the flow, contain it, and discharge it formally. Ms. Rogers asked if Mr. Wade had been contacted with these results yet. Mr. Gray responded no, as the study results were just received today.

As a side note, Mr. Gray said that when he spoke with Dylan from Makeever and Associates, Dylan and his crew will be in the downtown area to conduct the sidewalk survey on May 18, 2026.

Fiscal Officer – Ms. Eunice Collene said her report had been previously submitted to Council. Her report had included a list of open 2026 Council projects, which will be discussed under Council business. Ms. Collene wanted to address Mr. Brown’s question about the purchase order for Makeever and Associates. Ms. Collene will be asking for Council’s approval to appropriate funds for that project this evening, and the purchase order will be in place tomorrow.

Police – Chief Earl presented his report that had been previously submitted to Council. Chief apologized for submitting his report late, as he is still working through some issues with GATSO. For the last several months, GATSO has been behind in processing citation events, and for the month of April, there are over 800 citation events that haven’t been processed. School zone citations have continued and remain high. Speeding violations are lower than this time last year. The SRO (School Resource Officer) proposal is gaining traction. Chief forwarded the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) to Solicitor Mr. Jim Barney, the MLS Superintendent and Principal, and to Council for review. Chief created a sample policy through the Ohio Collaborative, which was also submitted to Council for review. Recently, there were problems with police department cruiser #20. The estimated repair costs are between \$5000 and \$6000. Chief has been working with his former employer to secure the donation of two police cruisers. However, due to recent accidents, the donation has been pulled back for the time being. Monroeville remains in consideration to obtain a few older, donated cruisers if they are required. Chief has been working with Ms. Collene to assess funding for the purchase of new computers. The existing computers are eleven years old and require replacement. The funds that the police department receives from the State as a result of ongoing professional training will be used for the purchase of new computers, in addition to seized drug funds that are returned to the village. Officer Kelley Foor has been released to patrol on her own and will begin working shifts. Part-time Officer Derek Henderson has been awarded Officer of the Year. The SRO position will be subject to a vote at the upcoming Monroeville Local Schools board meeting. Should the school board approve, Chief would like Council’s approval to advertise the SRO job position immediately after the vote. A candidate will need to undergo an interview, complete the hiring process, receive training as a police officer, and also train as a school resource officer, which must be initiated by the end of this school year and be prepared for the start of the school year in the fall. Ms. Rogers asked whether an agreement had been made concerning the financial responsibilities for the SRO position, specifically the portion to be covered by the school and the portion to be covered by the village. The Chief confirmed that it will be a 50/50 split. Ms. Chris Raftery mentioned State Route 547 and Monroe Street, at the traffic light; the village previously did not permit semi-trucks to travel down that street, and inquired whether it could be reinstated. Chief stated that he was not employed by the village when that stopped, but he thinks the decision was made by ODOT. Chief said that it would be beneficial to reinstate this, as poles are frequently struck, yet ODOT required the village to take down the signs. Mr. Will Grosswiler asked about the issues with the cruiser, to which Chief responded that there were numerous problems, and Caranfa Ford is handling the repairs. Mr. Grosswiler asked if he could contribute the repair costs, provided the estimate was below \$5,000 with him providing the work. The mayor confirmed. Chief advised that the repairs have already been completed and that he and Ms. Collene are currently working on determining the funding. Mr. Paul Skidmore asked Chief whether the SRO would be solely for the public school, or if it would also include St. Joseph Catholic School. Chief responded that he has met with representatives from St. Joseph’s school as well. The schools are planning to work together to determine the financial responsibilities, and Chief would like the SRO to serve both schools. Chief said that even if the SRO is not assigned to St. Joseph’s, he will still ensure that the SRO is available for events and other activities at that school. Ms. Collene questioned whether an internal officer already employed with the village would apply for the SRO position. Chief clarified that the position will be advertised both internally and externally, and the school is also interested in participating in the selection process. An attendee said that she had recently turned off Broad Street onto State Route 20. Upon making a right turn towards St. Joseph Catholic School and

continuing towards Monroeville Public Schools, the school zone sign is located to the left. A driver approaching from the hill cannot see this sign until they are nearly at St. Joseph Catholic School, particularly if the school light is activated. Is there a possibility of placing a sign for drivers making a right turn off of Broad Street? Chief said that this has been a common question, and he is working with ODOT to find a solution. Additionally, Chief is working on getting lights installed on the back of those signs. If anyone receives a school zone violation in that vicinity, they may reach out to the Chief, who will waive it if the driver is coming from Broad Street. The school zone timings are odd and are communicated from the schools to ODOT. Mr. Sam Wiley inquired whether anyone had reported the downtown four-way light malfunctioning intermittently. Chief explained that it tends to go out of sync when sirens pass by, which is normal. Chief Stang noted that the lights malfunctioned recently, even in the absence of sirens. Chief said that he has observed that sometimes, when vehicles are passing through, Mr. Gray can be alerted if such an incident occurs. Mr. Gray said that the preemption system is not new, and he will research the matter tomorrow. Mr. Skidmore and Chief Stang raised questions regarding the stoplight at the intersection of State Route 99 and Route 20. Mr. Gray said that in collaboration with the Emerson Creek Wind Project, Apex Energy has identified the preferred transportation routes for the wind turbine components, which will use State Route 99 from the south, turning onto Route 20, and proceeding north on State Route 99 to the staging area located on State Route 4. The intersection at State Route 99 and Route 20 does not provide adequate height for the signal stacks. To elevate these signal stacks, it will be necessary to install taller poles. Should the village successfully secure the project with Apex Energy and Emerson Creek, they will finance the upgrade of the intersection, which will include new poles, new light stacks, a preemption system, and a new controller. Mr. Gray said that he cannot provide a guarantee, but discussions will be held in the near future as part of the traffic route planning. A clearance of at least 17 feet will be needed for the tall loads along this route. In the village, specifically on North Street, this will require raising certain fiber and communication lines. While most village distribution lines meet or exceed the necessary height, there is one segment that requires elevation. Mr. Gray stated that he will continue to provide updates from Logistic US. The mayor asked Ms. Collene if the funds had already been budgeted for an SRO. Ms. Collene said she didn't know the final percentage until tonight, so funds will have to be reviewed. Ms. Raftery made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ehrman, to approve the advertisement of a full-time School Resource Officer job posting. Motion carried with no discussion.

Solicitor – Ms. Gabby Toscano was attending on behalf of Mr. Jim Barney, and she had no information to report. Ms. Toscano apologized for her late arrival due to traffic. The mayor said Ms. Tracy Sellers had inquired about the term “abatement” in tonight’s proposed cat-at-large ordinance, and asked Ms. Toscano to expand on that term. Ms. Toscano explained that the term abatement refers to the abatement of the nuisance. If you identify the nuisance, it pertains to the violations in the sections. You’d have to figure out which part the individual is violating. For example, if an individual is engaging in outdoor feeding and watering, that’s a violation, and the abatement would be to cease providing food and water. Ms. Zehnder asked if the village has an ordinance stating that cats cannot be fed outside. The mayor explained that, as a result of many complaints to the police department, a proposed cat-at-large ordinance is being presented tonight.

Mayor – The mayor had no information to report.

BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS

HRJFD

Huron River Joint Fire District convened on Wednesday, May 6, 2026: Mr. Jim Ehrman reported that there were 12 calls in April and provided a copy of their minutes for the record to Ms. Collene. Training is

completed on the 3rd Monday of every month. CPR training is done as a two-year certification. The chicken BBQ was held on April 26, 2026. Truck maintenance has started for 2026 and is being done by American Diesel.

ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS FOR PASSAGE

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

Ordinance 2026-07 *An Ordinance establishing guidelines, rules, and regulations for at large cats, and declaring an emergency*, was presented for passage. Mr. Ehrman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Rogers, to pass Ordinance 2026-07 by title only. The mayor thanked committee members for their efforts in preparing this Ordinance. Motion carried with no further discussion.

Ordinance 2026-08, *An Ordinance amending or supplementing certain funds for appropriations Ordinance No 2025-24, and declaring an emergency*, was presented for passage. Ms. Collene explained that Section 1 of this ordinance relates to engineering for sidewalk improvements. Section 2 relates to the Makeever stormwater flow study. Section 3 is for the repair of the police department cruiser. Section 4 is in follow-up to the prior ordinance that was passed for Fund 629. Ms. Raftery made a motion, seconded by Mr. Ehrman, to pass Ordinance 2026-08 by title only. Motion carried with no discussion.

APPROVAL OF BILL SUMMARY

The mayor asked Council for a motion to approve the April 2026 bill summary. Ms. Rogers made a motion, seconded by Ms. Raftery, to approve the bill summary as presented, which included memo expenses and check # 047660 to check # 047714, for a total of \$1,677,673.78. Motion carried with no discussion.

COUNCIL BUSINESS

The mayor stated that Mr. Luna requested to be included on the agenda for tonight, concerning his previous reimbursement request to the Council in January 2026. The mayor had communicated, through email, to Mr. Luna that the village is currently in talks with the insurance provider. Yesterday, the mayor requested the contact information of the insurance adjuster's supervisor to put pressure on them. Mr. Luna acknowledged receipt of the mayor's email and thanked him for the information. The mayor said that he will continue to seek information in an effort to resolve this matter.

Ms. Collene addressed Council about the list of open Council projects for 2026 that she had shared with them. She believes this list will help keep Council informed about the projects that remain unfinished, and it will serve as a working document. The objective is to progress until the items on the list are addressed, after which they will be transferred to a closed list upon completion. Should Council wish to add anything to the list, they can contact Ms. Collene.

Mr. Jim Ehrman said that during the previous Council meeting, both Mr. Ken Underwood and Mr. Tom Sitterly had raised concerns regarding the chemical composition of the plastic pontoons and solar panels located on the reservoir, and had asked Mr. Gray to provide a list of the materials used in the pontoons and solar panels. Following that meeting, Mr. Ehrman asked Mr. Gray for that information, and Mr. Gray provided him with a brochure. However, the brochure didn't have details about the chemical composition. Mr. Ehrman repeated his request for that information. The testing for chemicals in the water cannot be done in-house. To identify a specific chemical, you have to know what to test for. From earlier discussions, Mr. Ehrman believed that the water was extracted from the river, sent to the water treatment facility,

and then distributed, with excess water being taken from the reservoir. Mr. Ehrman realized he had it reversed. The water comes out of the reservoir, with river water being pumped in to allow it to settle. If these solar panels are submerged and leach chemicals into the water, residents would be consuming that water. Mr. Ehrman believes that testing must be done on the water to confirm its safety. If the solar panels are compromised by hail, the water would not be safe for consumption. All of these issues should be researched and resolved before the panels are connected on June 1, 2026. Ms. Tammy Vitaz asked about the timing of the discussions that occurred before the installation of the floating solar panels. Mr. Ted Caldwell asked which Council members present this evening were involved in the discussions regarding the floating solar and whether any of them had requested information about the chemical makeup of the panels and pontoons. The mayor responded that they had discussed this matter and didn't have concerns since Mr. Gray had informed Council that the panels are constructed from food-grade plastic. Ms. Vitaz asked whether Mr. Gray resides in Monroeville, to which Mr. Gray replied that he does not. Mr. Caldwell said that children can no longer fish at the reservoir due to the floating solar panels. Mr. Ehrman noted that there are numerous pros and cons associated with this project. Ms. Vitaz requested a list of the cons. Mr. Ehrman explained that the panels are cooled by the water beneath them. They heat up during operation, and the water serves to cool them. However, this heat is transferred to the water, and if the temperature rises, it could impact the ecosystem. Mr. Ehrman said he is concerned that the water may become stagnant due to limited movement. Ms. Vitaz questioned whether the water could warm enough to cause an algae bloom. Mr. Ehrman said he didn't know. Another attendee asked if Monroeville is the only location with floating solar panels in its reservoir. Mr. Gray said no, and that research is currently being done to provide Mr. Ehrman with a list of locations in Ohio and across the United States. Mr. Caldwell asked about any nearby locations that have installed floating solar panels. The mayor and Mr. Gray confirmed that Delaware County has recently installed them. Mr. Caldwell asked how long the contract is with the company for the solar panels. Mr. Gray said it's a 25-year PPA, which is the same as the tilting solar.

Mr. Scott Summerlin addressed Council and stated his need to reiterate that data centers, AI, and infrastructure are outside of the general Council purview. He believes a lot of the ongoing issues could have been prevented by finding actual consultants who have experience with these types of things. Mr. Summerlin asked for Council to reach a consensus when it comes to finding someone else to advise them.

Mr. Mark Miller said he wants to ask about the Bitcoin mining operation again, and said that this is the fourth month in a row he has raised this issue. To date, he has received no advisement on the matter. The mayor mentioned that the receiver is currently assessing the noise levels. Mr. Miller pointed out that during the question-and-answer forum held at the school, Decimal Digital said that they conducted sound testing on the property they purchased. Mr. Miller insists that testing should also be performed at the Bitcoin mining site. The mayor clarified that he is referring to the receiver who operates the Bitcoin mining facility. Mr. Miller inquired about the methods used for noise testing. The mayor responded that monitoring stations are in place. Mr. Miller said that there is no justification for the lack of action regarding the violation of the village noise ordinance. The individual responsible for investigating this issue has not yet investigated it. An attendee said that Decimal Digital informed everyone last week that their hands are tied by the court-ordered receivership concerning the noisy Bitcoin mining container; nevertheless, they managed to pour concrete and install a fence. Mr. Miller stated that Zoning Inspector Mr. Dave Mahl should address the noise levels. He questioned what would happen if a device capable of accurately measuring noise decibels were acquired, and the readings indicate a violation of the noise ordinance. Chief said that the police department is unable to address noise issues at the Industrial Parkway. Mr. Ehrman mentioned that Mr. Mahl had recently issued a zoning ordinance violation for a collapsed fence at Surrey Court apartments. It raises concerns that while a collapsed fence can be addressed, a noise

ordinance violation cannot. An attendee asked who is accountable for ensuring that village employees fulfill their job duties, and who is responsible for ensuring that noise and zoning violations are reported or investigated. Mr. Ehrman stated that Mr. Mahl is the Zoning Inspector, and it is the responsibility of the Council to ensure that Mr. Mahl fulfills his duties. The mayor mentioned that he is currently reviewing the ordinance concerning who Mr. Mahl is supposed to report to. An attendee asked whether Mr. Mahl's job description specifies who he reports to. The mayor said no. Another attendee asked if an ordinance exists regarding permits, to which the mayor confirmed with a yes. The attendee said that if she constructs a fence without a permit, she shouldn't be fined since the entity that poured concrete pads at the Industrial Park was not fined. Mr. Will Grosswiler referred to this as selective enforcement. Mr. Ted Caldwell questioned when it would be determined who Mr. Mahl reports to. The mayor said that he would provide an update. An attendee asked if Mr. Mahl, Ms. Collene, and Mr. Gray all report to Council. The mayor confirmed. An attendee requested to see a chart illustrating this. Mr. Miller reiterated the need to investigate the noise from the Bitcoin mining operation. Mr. Brown asked what was preventing Council from making a motion for the solicitor to investigate the matter. Mr. Miller made a motion for the village solicitor to investigate this issue. Ms. Toscano interjected, asking if the objective is to cease the noise. Mr. Miller clarified that the primary goal is to ensure that the receiver follows the same rules that apply to the rest of the village. Ms. Toscano pointed out that there is a noise ordinance applicable to them, which represents the initial step. Funds would be needed for a court-approved sound-measuring device to determine whether the noise ordinance is being violated. If a violation is confirmed, the solicitor would then need to assess the initial steps for taking action regarding the infraction. A notice would be sent with a timeframe to correct the violation. A lawsuit must be initiated against the recipient, who is already researching the noise, and all of this will incur expenses. If a lawsuit is initiated for penalties, and the fines are paid, yet the noise ordinance continues to be breached, an injunction would need to be pursued. This entire process could extend over several years. Ms. Toscano proposed identifying the path of least resistance instead. Mr. Summerlin inquired about Ms. Toscano's legal expertise. Ms. Toscano replied that her primary focus is on municipal issues. Mr. Summerlin questioned whether Ms. Toscano was present during the discussions regarding Gray Matter Data. Ms. Toscano said no, indicating that Mr. Barney was present for those discussions. Mr. Summerlin asked why the village cannot shut down the operation once a data center zoning ordinance is established. Ms. Toscano explained that a new ordinance cannot be applied to an entity that has been grandfathered in. She reiterated that the path of least resistance is what the mayor previously mentioned, which involves having the receiver test the noise levels. Mr. Grosswiler noted that the noise ordinance is not being enforced against the receiver; however, residents like himself are struggling to obtain a standard zoning permit and are facing threats of lawsuits. It seems as if the receiver is getting a free pass for violating the noise ordinance and for constructing concrete pads without the necessary permits. Ms. Toscano indicated that she would reach out to the receiver via email. An attendee asked if a letter had been sent to the receiver at any point in the last four months. Ms. Toscano confirmed that she has not sent any letter. Mr. Miller asked Mr. Gray whether it is possible to disconnect their service in October 2026 after the contract expires. Mr. Gray said that disconnection would not occur as long as they continue to pay their invoices. He explained that while the purchase power agreement ends in October, the energy purchase rolls over to the open market. Therefore, as long as payments are made, disconnection cannot occur. Mr. Miller then asked if they had to settle the 1.3 million debt first. Mr. Gray said that a new contract would not be established; instead, they would be purchasing energy on the open market. An attendee asked what actions could be taken since no progress has been made in the four months since the request for action was made. The mayor stated that Ms. Toscano is not obligated to respond to that question at this time. Ms. Raftery said that no action can be taken due to the receivership. Mr. Grosswiler said that Mr. Mahl should be required to attend these meetings and provide updates on the measures being taken concerning the violation. An attendee questioned whether Mr. Mahl is required to attend Council meetings, to which the mayor responded no. Mr. Miller said he is

concerned that numerous issues in the village aren't reaching a resolution. An attendee asked why Mr. Gray's report differs from the Chief's report, and why Council has not addressed a list of ongoing projects that remain incomplete. The mayor explained that all administrators have the discretion to prepare their reports as they see fit, and Council can suggest changes if they prefer a different approach. The attendee said that residents deserve to be informed about ongoing matters without needing to request copies of the reports. The mayor then asked if there were any additional topics for Council discussion. Mr. Miller stated that Mr. Mahl needs to investigate the noise violation at the Industrial Parkway.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The mayor asked Council for a motion to enter into executive session to consider the employment or compensation of a public employee or official. Ms. Raftery made that motion, seconded by Mr. Ehrman. The regular Council meeting adjourned to executive session at 7:47 pm, and reconvened on record at 8:15 pm.

APPOINTMENT OF A COUNCILPERSON

Mr. Ehrman made a motion to appoint Mr. Andrew Brown for the vacant Council seat for the Village of Monroeville. The mayor explained that for record-keeping purposes, at a prior special Council meeting, Council had selected candidate Mr. Chris Scherley for Council per the vacancy created by Mr. Bob Whitacre's resignation. Upon review and discussion with Mr. Scherley, it was determined that Mr. Scherley had not been a resident in the village for at least one year before submitting his candidacy for Council, which is a requirement of the ORC (Ohio Revised Code). It was determined that, in conjunction with the village solicitor, Mr. Scherley wasn't eligible to hold the position of Council member. Per the ORC, Council has 30-days from the resignation of a Council member to appoint a new Council member. Due to being within that 30-day timeframe, Mr. Ehrman has made a motion to appoint Mr. Andrew Brown for the vacant Council seat for the Village of Monroeville, and asked if there was a second. Mr. Miller seconded Mr. Ehrman's motion. Ms. Rogers, Mr. Ehrman, Ms. Schlachter, and Mr. Miller all voted yea on the motion. Ms. Raftery opposed the motion and voted nay. Motion carried with no further discussion. The mayor congratulated Mr. Brown and said that he will be sworn in at a later date.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no other business to come before them, the mayor asked Council for a motion to adjourn. Mr. Ehrman made that motion, seconded by Ms. Rogers.

Meeting adjourned at 8:17 pm.

Eunice A. Collene, Fiscal Officer

Joseph Galea, Mayor

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

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