

VILLAGE OF SWANTON

Council Meeting Minutes

March 10th, 2025

6:00 p.m.

Prayer

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Samantha Disbrow

Noah Kreuz

Derek Kania

Patrick Messenger

John Schmidt

Dianne Westhoven

Councilman Kania moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Councilman Kreuz. No Discussion. Roll Call. ALL YES. Motion Passed 6-0.

Councilman Schmidt moved to approve the minutes from the February 24th, 2025, Council Meeting. Seconded by Councilman Kania. No Discussion. Roll Call. ALL YES. Motion Passed 6-0.

Finance Report

The required filings for year-end have been completed with both the state and the county. We should officially be “in” 2025 for our records now. I have had several meetings with the department heads on an individual basis in order to gear them towards creating their Capital Improvement requests for the next 5 years so that I can collect them into the Capital Improvement Plan that needs to be updated this year. Time of writing of this finance report is prior to completion, but it is planned to bring the permanent budget forward at this meeting. I have gone back over it and made alterations in conjunction with the department heads that have requested them. I have registered for the annual Local Government Officials Conference in Columbus on March 27th & 28th. This is an annual training I go to and is usually where I get the most broad-spectrum training on a variety of issues. One item of interest was a report being made by the State Auditor’s office on our issue of the Kari Rowe Theft in Office that details how her scheme was perpetuated, caught, and then subsequently corrected. I’ll be attending that lecture to see what they have to say about it. I am continuing work on putting together a proposal for the Water and Sewer department to establish a pay structure similar to what has been done in the other departments. I am currently in discussions with the two relevant department heads, then I will be talking to the employees about what their thoughts are, then I will be ready to bring it forward to the council.

Public Safety

Swanton Police Department

There were 450 calls for service in February 2025. Second LEADS Audit on February 12, 2025, with the Ohio Dept. of Public Safety went well and received verification that we are following DPS policy and procedures. I attended Fulton County Chief's Meeting and participated in the monthly SRT training on February 21, 2025. February 28, 2025, I met with the Supervisory Special Agent from the Toledo FBI Field Office and Supervisory Special Agent of the Joint Terrorism Task Force for Northwest Ohio. Handled several citizen questions regarding interactions they had with the police department. Attended sentencing hearing for Edward Polansky Jr. Polansky received a total prison term of a minimum of 16 years and a maximum of 21 years. Two to five years of post-release control through the Ohio Parole Board. 2011 Chevy Silverado and two firearms are forfeited to the Swanton Police Department for use, sale or destruction.

Motion to accept the termination of Full-Time Patrol Officer Michael Welch effective March 8, 2025.

Councilman Messenger moved to accept the resignation of Full Time Patrol Officer Michael Welch effective March 8th, 2025. Seconded by Councilman Kania. Roll Call. ALL YES. Motion Passed 6-0.

Swanton Fire & Rescue

Motion to accept the resignation of Part-Time Firefighter/EMT Colin Fessenden effective March 14, 2025. Colin has accepted a Full-Time position with another agency and will be focusing his time on his new position.

Councilman Kania moved to accept the resignation of Full Time Firefighter/EMT Colin Fessenden effective March 14th, 2025. Seconded by Councilwoman Westhoven. Roll Call. ALL YES. Motion Passed 6-0.

Mayor Report

Regular and informal meetings and discussions with the administrative team including the Police and Fire Chiefs, Administrator and Fiscal Officer. Addressed several residents' concerns. Re: Water, streets, annexation issues, etc. Several communications with the Village solicitor regarding legal matters. Met with parties regarding potential economic development project. Attended the staff meeting. Attended Farewell Reception for Matt Gillroy.

Administrator Report

Personnel

Motion to accept the resignation of Water Resource Recovery Facility Full-Time employee Bennett Stamper effective February 28, 2025.

Councilman Kania moved to accept the resignation of Wastewater Level 1 Operator Bennett Stamper effective February 28th 2025. Seconded by Councilman Messenger. Roll Call. ALL YES. Motion Passed 6-0.

All Village Staff will be attending a Harassment Training on either March 11, 12, or 13th presented by WorkSpring (previously EA).

Attended

Fulton County Economic Development Director, Matt Gilroy's farewell event.

Meeting with Earl Mechanical, Ryan Yackee, and Joe Tillison: Earl Mechanical has been handling significant work at both plants, and the owner, Matt Earl, wanted to connect, assess progress, and ensure their services are meeting expectations.

Mayor & I met with Jimmy Harmon CEO of Bennett Management, a local restaurant management company that owns several Burger Kings and all of Tony Packo's locations.

Road Construction/Project Updates

Waterville-Swanton Road/State Route 64 South:

Reached out to ODOT regarding the projected closing of Waterville-Swanton Road/ State Route 64 South. Project consists of rehabilitating two bridges, LUC-64-11.48 over Swan Creek and LUC-64-11.74 over Neiss Ditch. It will also fully replace a culvert at LUC-64-10.79 and resurface approx. 3.5 miles of pavement of SR64 from Waterville-Swanton Rd. (SLM 8.96) to US-20A/Airport Hwy. (SLM 12.41). Tentatively, the referenced ODOT project is scheduled to **begin work Monday 3/17/25**, this will start an estimated approx. **130-consecutive day closure** (March 17, 2025- End of July 2025) of SR64 between US-20A (Airport Hwy.) and Waterville-Swanton Rd. The proposed alternative detour route is SR-2 (Airport Hwy.) to US20A to SR295 to SR64 or reverse. The project will begin work at the LUC-64-11.74 (Neiss Ditch) bridge first approx. 50-days (Mid-March to Mid-May), then once Neiss Ditch bridge work completed, begin LUC-64-11.48 (Swan Creek) for approx. 50-days (Mid-May to July). These bridges cannot be constructed simultaneously to maintain local access between the two bridges. The culvert replacement work is estimated to begin at the end of June and re-open by end of July 2025. Local access only on SR64 shall be maintained

except at the points of full road closures at each of the structures noted above. The 3.5 miles of pavement resurfacing will be completed in stages after beginning of May 2025. Will start with some initial isolated pavement repair locations.

Remove and replace operation to intermediate course only between Waterville-Swanton Rd. to Monclova Rd. (Estimate ~2-weeks in May 2025)

Remove and replace operation to intermediate course only between Monclova Rd. to US-20A/Airport Hwy. (Estimate ~2-weeks in July 2025)

Surface course (final asphalt wearing course) – Entire project limits from Waterville-Swanton Rd. to US20A (Airport) Hwy. (Estimate Fall 2025) Traffic for paving operations will be maintained by flagger operations on SR64. Final work, adjustments and punch list should be completed by end of October 2025.

Hallett Ave Phase A:

The project meeting was held on Monday, March 3, 2025. Ebony is still waiting for confirmation on the asphalt plant reopening and has not yet received an update from Gerken Paving regarding the exact date. As of now, work is scheduled to resume the week of March 31st, starting where they left off. This means southbound Hallett will once again be closed between Chestnut and Airport Highway. If weather conditions allow, the project is expected to be completed on both sides within four weeks of resuming work.


Councilwoman Westhoven moved to approve the Final reading of Ordinance 2025-07 to Amend Title XV: Land Use, Chapter 150: Zoning Code, Article 150.27 Business and Industrial District Regulations. Section 150.278 Accessory Buildings of the Codified Ordinances. Seconded by Councilman Schmidt. Roll Call. ALL YES. Motion Passed 6-0.

Councilman Kania moved to approve the First Reading of Ordinance 2025-08 Approving the permanent appropriations to provide for the current expenses and other expenditures during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2025. Seconded by Councilman Schmidt. Roll Call. ALL YES. Motion Passed 5-0.

Councilman Kania moved to adjourn. Seconded by Councilman Messenger. No Discussion. Roll Call. ALL YES. Motion Passed 6-0.



Neil Toeppe, Mayor

Attest: 

Holden Benfield, Fiscal Officer