

VILLAGE OF ALEXANDRIA REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 20, 2026

Meeting was called to order by President Pro Temp Lyle Simpson at 7:00pm.

Pledge of Allegiance.

Council Members Present:	Sarah Chambers	Spencer Giese
	Herb Lower	Cari Meng
	Mitch Peters	Lyle Simpson
Village Representation Present:	Mayor Sean Barnes (7:38pm)	Solicitor David Ball
	Administrator Kendra Borrer	Police Chief Dan Bunting
	Zoning Inspector Jacob Brooks	

Village Representation Not Present: Fiscal Officer Carol Gissing

Citizens Present: Shelby Simpson, Jeff Baer, & Robert Hughes

Approval of Council Minutes

Councilman Giese made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Chambers, to approve the 01-06-2026 Organizational Council Meeting minutes. Roll Call Vote: All Yes. Chair declares motion carried.

Councilman Peters made a motion, seconded by Councilwoman Chambers, to approve the 01-06-2026 Regular Council Meeting minutes. Roll Call Vote: All Yes. Chair declares motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS/COMMUNICATIONS

Museum Annual Report – Exhibit A – Museum board is short a member. Bud Young is interested, needs to go to Sean.

LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-03 AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND VILLAGE OF ALEXANDRIA ORDINANCE NO. 2019-06, EXHIBIT A, SECTION 1 AUTHORITY TO LEVY TAX; PURPOSE OF TAX, AND SECTION 3 IMPOSITION OF TAX, TO PROVIDE FOR AN INCREASE IN THE INCOME TAX IN THE AMOUNT OF ONE-HALF OF ONE PERCENT (0.50%) COMMENCING JULY 1, 2026 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FUNDS FOR THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS OF THE VILLAGE OF ALEXANDRIA AND DECLARING IT AN EMERGENCY

Councilman Giese made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Meng to suspend reading of Ordinance 2026-03. Roll Call Vote: All Yes. Chair declared motion carried

Councilman Giese made a motion seconded by Councilman Peters to pass Ordinance 2026-03. Roll Call Vote: 5 yes 1 abstain. Chair declared motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2026-06 A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR SUBMISSION OF AN AMENDMENT TO VILLAGE INCOME TAX, STATING THE RATE OF INCOME TAX, THE PURPOSE OF THE INCOME TAX, THE DATE OF THE ELECTION AT WHICH THE QUESTION IS TO BE PUT BEFORE THE VOTERS AND DIRECTING THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO CONDUCT THE ELECTION. AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Councilman Peters made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Chambers to suspend reading of Resolution 2026-06. Roll Call Vote: All Yes. Chair declared motion carried

Councilman Peters made a motion seconded by Councilman Giese to pass as a Resolution 2026-06. Roll Call Vote: All Yes. Chair declared motion carried

Moved Councilman Giese to amends as discussed seconded by Councilwoman Chambers Roll Call Vote: All Yes. Chair declares motion carried.

ORDINANCE 2026-04 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES FOR THE VILLAGE OF ALEXANDRIA, OHIO, THROUGH FEBRUARY 3, 2026, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Councilwoman Chambers made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Meng to suspend reading of Ordinance 2026-04. Roll Call Vote: All Yes. Chair declared motion carried

Councilman Peters made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Meng to pass Ordinance 2026-04. Roll Call Vote: All Yes. Chair declared motion carried.

Mayor Barnes arrived in Council at 7:38 pm

RESOLUTION 2026-07 A RESOLUTION ENACTED BY THE VILLAGE OF ALEXANDRIA OF LICKING COUNTY, OHIO, HEREINAFTER REFERRED TO AS THE LOCAL PUBLIC AGENCY(LPA), WHEREAS THE LPA HAS DETERMINED THE NEED FOR THE DESCRIBED PROJECT PEDESTRIAN CROSSING AND SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS ALONG SR 37 IN THE VILLAGE OF ALEXANDRIA AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilwoman Chambers made a motion seconded by Councilman Giese to suspend reading of Resolution 2026-07. Roll Call Vote: All Yes. Chair declared motion carried

Councilwoman Chambers made a motion seconded by Councilman Giese to pass Resolution 2026-07. Roll Call Vote: All Yes. Chair declared motion carried

RESOLUTION 2026-08 A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT PROVIDING FOR THE PURCHASE OF WATER FROM THE VILLAGE OF GRANVILLE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Councilman Peters made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Chambers to suspend reading of Resolution 2026-08. Roll Call Vote: All Yes. Chair declared motion carried

Councilman Peters made a motion seconded by Councilman Giese to pass Resolution 2026-08. Roll Call Vote: All Yes. Chair declared motion carried

RESOLUTION 2026-09 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SEAN BARNES, MAYOR, TO EXECUTE A REAL ESTATE PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR PROPERTY OWNED BY ST. ALBANS TOWNSHIP AT 19 NORTH LIBERTY STREET, ALEXANDRIA, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Councilwoman Chambers made a motion seconded by Councilman Giese to suspend reading of Resolution 2026-09. Roll Call Vote: All Yes. Chair declared motion carried

Councilman Giese made a motion seconded by Councilman Peters to pass Resolution 2026-09. Roll Call Vote: All Yes. Chair declared motion carried

RESOLUTION 2026-10 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SEAN BARNES, MAYOR, TO EXECUTE A LICENSE AGREEMENT FOR THE INSTALLATION OF A SIGN MARKING THE WEST ENTRANCE TO THE VILLAGE OF ALEXANDRIA, OHIO AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Councilman Giese made a motion seconded by Councilwoman Chambers to suspend reading of Resolution 2026-10. Roll Call Vote: All Yes. Chair declared motion carried

Councilwoman Chambers made a motion seconded by Councilman Giese to pass Resolution 2026-10. Roll Call Vote: All Yes. Chair declared motion carried

Moved Peters to amend agreement as discussed seconded by Simpson Roll Call Vote: All Yes. Chair declares motion carried.

VILLAGE COMMITTEE REPORTS

Fiscal Committee

- Carol is still recovering; it was reported that she is working on W-2 and should have them by EOM. She has also been working on getting the temporary appropriations finished up and bills are being paid. Just received her UAN computer back after it had crashed.
- Sarah would like to have future discussions on rolls of Finance Committee Chair with Carol. We should continue to receive monthly financial statements from Carol.
- Mitch suggests reading each account balance in every meeting like a cash flow summary report
- Mitch asks how much we have spent to date on water & sewer JAG & is it worth pursuing. We have spent \$0. We are still working with Granville and are wrapping that up. It is important to have future planning in place.
- Planning Commission is working on infrastructure maintenance schedule

Public Safety Committee

- Kendra & Sean continue working on paperwork with ODOT for the sidewalk & crosswalk grant.
- Mitch – asks for Police Budget. As of 12/8/2025, Finance Committee discussed an estimated appropriation for Police Department starting around \$60,440.
- Chief Bunting – 1 cruiser ready for sale, another 2 being stripped down. Maybe sell other equipment as restricted.
- 4 auxiliary officers now

Service Committee

- No update on a new maintenance worker.
- Plow truck is fixed
- Old Dump Truck is being processed to list on GovDeals.com, as is not drivable parts truck.
- Water & Sewer Johnstown exit of MOU, Mayor Barnes met with them to reconsider partnership

Planning Commission

- Looking at grants
- Waiting to hear back on Captain Scott House
- Looking at Dark Sky initiatives
- Looking at signs for businesses

OLD BUSINESS

Sarah discussed Alexandria Community Hero Recognition Program has been completed by Museum board and is ready to go.

ROW Permit from planning commission 2023-09 last updated. Need new ordinance.

NEW BUSINESS

none

Citizen Comments (3-minute time limit)

Sarah – should we move citizen comments to beginning of meeting. Discussed moving to section 5- public hearings & communication section and have at the end of meeting as well.

Mitch suggests recording meetings.

Meeting Announcements

Planning Commission Alex Next Meeting January 28, 2026 at 5:30 pm

Regular Council Meeting February 3, 2026 at 7pm

Safety Committee Meeting February 17, 2026 at 7pm.

Public Service Meeting February 17, 2026 at 7pm

Regular Council Meeting February 17, 2026 at 7pm.

Adjournment

There was no more business to come from Council.

Councilman Peters made a motion, seconded by Councilman Meng to adjourn the council meeting. All voted in favor; the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 9:34p.m.

Respectfully submitted, (Feb. 3, 2026)



Kendra Borrer, Administrator

Certified 
Sean Barnes, Mayor/Chairperson

Date 2/3/2026
Approved: Feb. 3, 2026

Annual Report of Alexandria Museum Board for 2025

Membership of the board changed during 2025 as Brooke Belcher went into the US Army in June. Barb Beck, longtime volunteer & docent, took her place. Martha Sturgill, Betsy Young, and Jessica Belcher remained on the board, with Jessica Belcher as treasurer and Martha Sturgill as chair. There is still one board position unfilled.

Our volunteer hours held steady at 300 hours. This year for the second year in a row our visitor numbers were up. We had 50% more visitors than last year. I want to highlight the many volunteers who have helped us with various projects around the property. Barb Beck and former board members, Howard & Judy Kern, put up a special exhibit of "Hats Through History". In April, Sarah and Bob Chambers headed up a mulch project. Aided by other board members, the mulch between the buildings was changed to long-lasting rubber mulch. Then in May volunteers from the Church of Christ, headed up by Barb Beck, did a spring cleaning of the flower beds. This summer Bud and Betsy Young power washed both buildings, did much-needed repairs on the small building, and painted the small building with paint donated by another board member. At Christmastime, cleaning and decorating were done by Sarah Chambers and Jessica Belcher. The commemorative bench was delivered by Bob and Carrie Strong and secured in place by Josh and Jessica Belcher. We could not keep up the museum property without the many hours of volunteering. In addition, a docent volunteers each time the museum is open. Board meetings also take an hour each month of the board members' time. A huge thank you to all of our very generous and active volunteers.

This Year at the Museum:

Our "Hats Through History" exhibit was a huge success. We hosted a special tour of local women and had many positive comments on the hats. Beginning with cotton bonnets from the pioneer period, we progressed into the late 1800's, and into modern times. Both summer and winter headgear were featured with men's hats, military hats, and women's hats. For our older visitors it was a walk down memory lane.

We reopened the museum on the first Sunday in April and stayed open through the "Christmas in the Village" Day in December. Each year we have special hours whenever there is a village event such as the Fun Days Parade.

Another special event this year was a small ceremony honoring Robert Hickman. A reception followed. In the spring, the sign will be placed naming the alley beside the museum in honor of this 101-year-old veteran. Many of his family and several local people attended to honor Robert and toured the museum.

The Board decided to raise money to purchase a bench in honor of Dr. Fred Nichols who was so active in volunteering at and for the museum. The bench was made locally by Amish craftsmen and was delivered in the fall. It sits between the buildings. We plan to have a dedication ceremony in the spring. Thank you to all who donated to help this bench become a reality.

Other Programs & News:

We were fortunate again this year to have an AmeriCorps volunteer who is being made available to the museums and historical societies in Licking County. He has already helped us

to draft a mission statement, and he will be helping us with displays and the house history project, under the direction of Jessica Belcher.

In May, we again helped to organize a small ceremony at Maple Grove Cemetery on Memorial Day weekend. Howard Kern, veteran and former board member, organized the veterans for the gun salute and color guard. Carrie Strong from the library arranged for the 4-H band to come and play. Members of the Trail Life Scouting Troop came to raise the flag and to help distribute the 300 flags to the graves of veterans in Maple Grove Cemetery. Carrie Strong spoke about the meaning of the holiday. We are planning to keep helping with this annual event.

This year the Licking County Historical Alliance has been very active and we have taken part in several of their programs. In June there was a commemoration of the 200th Anniversary of the opening of the Erie Canal at the Canal District in Newark. The Governor of Ohio came and a whole day of historical events happened. Our museum was one of many from the county that participated with a display table. Many people stopped by our booths to learn about local history.

The other big project by the Alliance is the America 250 Passport Program. This program began in July and will run through December of 2026. Participants visit 45 historic sites around the county and can win a commemorative coin for finishing the project. The Alexandria Museum is one of the stops on the county-wide tour. This has been very well received and is partially responsible for the large increase in our number of visitors this year.

Donations:

In addition to donations for Fred's bench and monetary donations from visitors, we receive, each year, many donations of historic items, letters, diaries, maps, books, etc. We are thankful for all the local people who give us their history to preserve.

Our Mission:

The Alexandria Museum Board continues to work hard on behalf of the village and the St. Albans Township, to record and preserve local history. We are always grateful for donations of historical items, photographs and family papers or any items of local interest. We have the museum that we have today thanks to all the people who have entrusted us with these items, and it is our mission to preserve this local history for future generations.

Submitted by,

Martha Sturgill
Chair of the Alexandria Museum Board