

**VILLAGE OF ALEXANDRIA REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES -
JANUARY 21, 2025**

Mayor Sean Barnes called to order the Village of Alexandria Regular Council Meeting of January 21, 2025 at 7:00 pm. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Council Members Present: Jeff Baer, Andrew Bottar-Dillen, Herb Lower, Cari Meng.

Council Members Absent: Mike Miller; (One vacancy remains.)

Village Representation Present - Mayor Sean Barnes. Solicitor David Ball, Fiscal Officer Carol Gissinger, Village Zoning Inspector Jacob Brooks, Police Chief Dan Bunting (arrived late), Village Administrator Kendra Borrer,

Citizens Present: Dean Schiller, Lyle Simpson, Shelly Simpson

Minutes from Organizational Meeting 1-7-2025

The minutes from the January 7, 2024 Organizational Meeting were Council Meeting were read and approved. . Cari Meng made a motion, seconded by Andrew Bottar-Dillen, to approve them as presented. All voted in favor, and the Chair declared the motion carried.

Minutes from Regular Council Meeting 1-7-2025

Amendments to the minutes: Correct the incorrect date on the 2nd reading of ORDINANCE NO.2025-01 from 2026 to 2025; correct the date of the Public Service Committee in the announcements section of the minutes. Per Council Rules, the committees will meet as part of the 2nd monthly Council meeting.

Andrew Bottar-Dillen made a motion, seconded by Cari Meng, to approve the amended 1-7-2025 Regular Council Meeting minutes. All voted in favor and the Chair declared the motion carried.

Public Hearings/Communications-

Alexis Futzsommons from Grow Licking County delivered a presentation introducing the organization and highlighting how Grow Licking County could serve as a resource for Alexandria.

Questions/Discussion

- What is the cost for joining Grow Licking County? The cost could be approximately between \$1,500 and \$3,000 depending on the services that would be provided.
- Does this do the same thing as our current MORPC membership? MORPC is more about planning and this is more about the economic arm for business and development.
- David Ball offered that this organization is a good resource for Granville as they are working on development plans.
- Council will make no decision on this at this time.

Legislation-

3rd Reading Resolution

Resolution 2025-02 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.

Andrew Bottar-Dillen made a motion, seconded by Jeff Baer to pass RESOLUTION NO. 2025-02. All voted in favor and the Chair declared the motion carried.

3rd Reading Ordinance

ORDINANCE NO.2025-01 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, 2025 FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING FUNDS FOR THE GENERAL MUNICIPAL OPERATIONS OF THE VILLAGE OF ALEXANDRIA

Jeff Baer made a motion, seconded by Cari Meng, to pass **ORDINANCE NO.2025-01**
All voted in favor and the Chair declared the motion carried.

Village Officer Reports

According to the Council Rules adopted at the January 7, 2025 Organizational Meeting, Village Officer Reports will be presented only during the first meeting of the month.,

Committee Reports-

- All Council Members on All Committees: Under the council rules adopted on January 7 2025, all council members are automatically considered members of every committee.
- Committee Meetings Schedule: Committees are set to meet and report as part of the second Regular Council Meeting each month.
- No Village Officer or Committee Reports Given at This Meeting: At the most recent meeting, no committee reports were provided because:
 - Reports were already given at the last meeting.
 - This aligns with the new rules.

Andrew Bottar-Dillen made a motion, seconded by Cari Meng, to strike the Village Officer and Committee Reports (Agenda Items 7 and 8) from the January 21, 2024 Meeting Agenda. All voted in favor and the Chair declared the motion carried.

Old Business

- Magistrate – Tracy Van Winkle has been hired as magistrate with her pay slightly exceeding what Jeannette Gunn was receiving. David Ball will determine if we need a resolution or ordinance to address the pay difference.
- Charter Government Discussion - The council has decided to table or abandon the idea of transitioning to a charter-based government at this time, citing difficulties in assembling the required 15-member commission.
- Council Vacancy – There were two candidates for the vacant council seat.
Andrew Bottar-Dillen made a motion, seconded by Jeff Baer, to enter into Executive Session to interview the candidates and deliberate.
With regard to Executive Sessions, these shall be conducted as set forth in Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code. Executive sessions of the Village Council may be called at such time and place as required with discussion limited to the following: 1. The appointment, employment, discipline, dismissal, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official or the investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee, official, licensee, or regulated individual, unless the said individual requests a public hearing.

All voted in favor of entering Executive Session and the Chair declared the motion carried.

The Council entered Executive Session at 7:35 p.m. and concluded it at 8:34 p.m..
The regular Council meeting reconvened at 8:35 p.m.

- The decision to fill the vacant council seat has been postponed until the next meeting to allow absent members to participate in the decision-making process.

New Business-

Granville has increased water rates for the Village, with further scheduled increases over the next five years: 20% immediately, 10% next year, and 3% annually for the following three years. By year five, rates will reach \$11.70 per 1,000 gallons. The previous 20% increase in 2023 was absorbed by the Village and not passed on to residents. However, rate increases are now necessary to offset rising costs.

Questions/Discussion

- Timing: When is the best time to raise water rates, especially given that this coincides with a request for a tax increase?
- Rate Adjustment: Should the rates be increased now to align with the projected rate for year five? On average, this would result in an additional \$6 to \$9 per month for residents.
- Surcharge: David Ball will investigate the percentage of surcharge the Village can charge above what it pays Granville for water to cover repairs, maintenance, and operational expenses.
- Uniform Rates: If the MUCLUC JAG (Joint Agreement for Government) is approved, it would establish consistent water rates across the three municipalities..

A decision on increasing water rates was tabled until there is a full council present to vote on this issue.

- Hot Sealing Street Joints Jacob Brooks stated that to protect the recent street paving project, hot sealing the joints is a necessary maintenance task.. Jim Jasper confirmed with ODOT that this type of work is not currently on their schedule to complete or fund. While it is part of their regular street maintenance rotation, it could take 3 to 10 years before the Village is on that schedule. Therefore, it is in the Village's best interest to address this maintenance proactively. Mayor Barnes will discuss with Jim as how best to proceed.

Citizen Comments (3-minute time limit) No comments were made.

Meeting Announcements

Regular Council Meeting February 4, 2025 at 7pm.

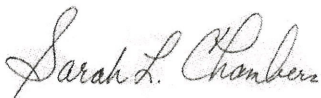
Planning Commission Meeting-TBD

Committees will convene during the second regular council meeting of the month, scheduled for February 18th.

Adjournment

Andrew Bottar-Dillen made a motion, seconded by Cari Meng to adjourn the council meeting. All voted in favor and the Chair declared the meeting adjourned at 9:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Sarah Chambers,
Village Secretary
January 24, 2025

Certified

Sean Barnes, Mayor/Chairperson



