

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Perry Village Council
Perry Village Hall 7:00pm

Regular Meeting
February 27, 2025

Mayor James Gessic presiding.
Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL MEMBER PRESENT:

Ashley Hacking
Elias Coss
Jean Schonauer
Rebecca "Becky" Shimko
Mike Glover

PERSONNEL IN ATTENDANCE:

James O'Leary	Solicitor
James Gessic	Mayor
John H. Roskos	Clerk/Fiscal Officer
Steven Williams	Police Chief/Street Commissioner

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Pam Jenkins, Bill Debus, Dominic Chiappone, Fire Chief, Jake Coss, Lieutenant, Josh McBride, Firefighter/Paramedic and Lee Glover. Others may have been present but did not sign in.

GOOD & WELFARE:

Mayor Gessic requested Fire Board Member and Councilman Elias Coss to present the proclamations. Councilman Coss asked Fire Chief Dominic Chiappone to provide Council and those present with a summary of the events from January 24, 2025. Chief Chiappone said:

Good evening, everyone. I would like to start off by saying thank you to the Mayor, Council and guests, our fire board members and to the rest of the village for recognizing our members involved in the events of January, 24, 2025. Briefly, seven members were on duty that day. We had four at our station working on Center and three at our station on South Ridge. Each member works a 24-hour shift, and they have two days off. They start at 7:30 in the morning, (and finish) the following day at 7:30 and so on; this is a shift. They received their first call that day at 11:51 am, a motor vehicle accident. Pretty much from that day, that time on, they were nonstop. They received six calls from 11:51am until 3:10pm those ranged from the motor vehicle accident and general illness. Then at 4:52pm, one was a cardiac arrest and one was a residential structure. The cardiac arrest was the fourth call of the five at that time, we had members scattered all across the town dealing with other emergency medical calls. We called for mutual aid for Madison Fire District and Painesville Township Fire Department. During that time, firefighter Josh McBride

responded in a chase vehicle that was on another call, and he found a male patient in a vehicle in a cardiac arrest. He removed that patient from the vehicle administered CPR and successfully resuscitated that patient. During that time, Lieutenant Coss was off duty in the area, when his phone began to let him know of the multiple calls. Lt. Coss responded in his personal vehicle and assisted McBride with the resident in cardiac arrest. Then, at 5:32 we received a call for a residential structure fire that was actually just around the corner. So, Lieutenant Coss left that scene, drove to station two and got the fire engine to go to a residential structure. Also, during that time, a manpower page was called out to staff all our stations, to bring guys in off duty to staff those in case of other calls. In all, the Perry Fire District responded to 14 calls (that day) with the last call at 4:34 am. Chief Chiappone thanked all those Fire District members who came in on the recall.

Councilman Elias Coss read the Proclamation for Lieutenant Jake Coss and asked him to come forward to receive the proclamation signed by all members of Council and the Mayor.

Councilman Elias Coss read the Proclamation for Firefighter/Paramedic Josh McBride and asked him to come forward to receive the proclamation signed by all members of Council and the Mayor.

Councilman Elias Coss read the Proclamation for the Perry Joint Fire District and asked Fire Chief Chiappone to come forward to receive the proclamation signed by all members of Council and the Mayor.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Pam Jenkins inquired about a streetlight being out on her street. She said a neighbor brought it to her attention. Councilman Glover responded that Pam or the resident can contact the electric company directly to notify them of the outage; the poles are numbered, if you cannot locate the number, provide the address to First Energy.

READING & DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES:

Regular Council Meeting February 13, 2025

Jean Schonauer made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 13, 2025 regular council meeting. Elias Coss seconded the motion.

Discussion: No corrections were noted.

Vote to approve: Elias Coss, yes; Jean Schonauer, yes; Rebecca Shimko, yes; Ashley Hacking, yes; and Mike Glover, yes.

LEGISLATION

Council considered the following legislation:

Resolution No. 07-2025 (3rd Reading)

A resolution authorizing the Mayor and Fiscal officer to take all necessary action to apply for and accept the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) 2025 Energized Community Grant and declaring an emergency.

Motion to Approve: Jean Schonauer
Seconded: Rebecca Shimko

Vote to Approve: Ashley Hacking, yes; Elias Coss, yes; Mike Glover, yes; Rebecca Shimko, yes; and Jean Schonauer, yes.

Resolution No. 11-2025 (2nd Reading)

A resolution declaring surplus personal property and directing the Fiscal Officer and authorizing all actions necessary to effect the sale and/or credit value of same and declaring an emergency.

Resolution No. 12-2025 (Recommendation to Suspend the Rules)

A resolution amending Resolution No. 66-2024 and approving the Permanent Appropriations Funds for the Village of Perry, Ohio for the Year 2025 and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Roskos noted that the need to pass this legislation is related to Resolution 08-2025, passed on February 13, 2025 in establishing the 2908 Law Enforcement Professional Training Fund for the Village of Perry, Ohio.

Motion to Suspend the Rules: Jean Schonauer
Seconded: Mike Glover

Vote to Suspend the Rules: Ashley Hacking, yes; Elias Coss, yes; Mike Glover, yes; Rebecca Shimko, yes; and Jean Schonauer, yes.

Motion to Approve: Jean Schonauer
Seconded: Ashley Hacking
Discussion: None

Vote to Approve: Ashley Hacking, yes; Elias Coss, yes; Mike Glover, yes; Rebecca Shimko, yes; and Jean Schonauer, yes.

Resolution No. 13-2025 (Recommendation to Suspend the Rules)

A Resolution authorizing the Fiscal Officer to amend the Certificate of Estimated Resource for the year 2025 and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Roskos again noted that the need to pass this legislation is related to Resolution 08-2025, passed on February 13, 2025 in establishing the 2908 Law Enforcement Professional Training Fund for the Village of Perry, Ohio.

Motion to Suspend the Rules: Jean Schonauer
Seconded: Rebecca Shimko

Vote to Suspend the Rules: Ashley Hacking, yes; Elias Coss, yes; Mike Glover, yes; Rebecca Shimko, yes; and Jean Schonauer, yes.

Motion to Approve: Jean Schonauer
Seconded: Elias Coss
Discussion: None

Vote to Approve: Ashley Hacking, yes; Elias Coss, yes; Mike Glover, yes; Rebecca Shimko, yes; and Jean Schonauer, yes.

Reports:

a. **MAYOR GESSIC**

Mayor Gessic reviewed the Board of Zoning Appeals. He is reaching out to potential candidates including his wife who expressed an interest. He asked whether Council would object to her serving in this capacity and no one objected. He further mentioned that he is waiting on the Gas Well owner and his attorney to respond to the latest revision.

b. **SOLICITOR O'LEARY**

Solicitor O'Leary had nothing to report.

c. **ENGINEER ROBERT B. PARKER, P.E.**

Engineer Robert B. Parker, P.E. reported that we were finally successful in getting the OPWC paperwork verified. This is a small government grant program project. They did a self-score which was originally 61 and by changing some of the funding requests from loans to grants a little; I think we shifted \$1,800 out of the OPWC request and put it into local match. We raised our score, five points from 61 to 66. So, we did that today. It's all updated, so we're ready. They're due by next Friday. The project will address drainage issues at Center Rd and Main St.

The design is this year; bid it (the project) in the fall, because now we do the waterline with it. That gives a contractor the chance to start this fall all the way through spring to get the waterline done before we do the road.

The bridge project; the county still doesn't know when the bridge (project) is going to start, but it is scheduled for this year.

A question was raised concerning the Route 20 expansion and resurfacing along Perry. Mr. Parker responded that the project, it'll be under construction starting this year. It could be a multi-year project. Council Members noted that it may be a bit chaotic in certain areas with all the construction; Mr. Parker noted that there may be some flexibility in the timing of our project. Green St. would remain partially open during construction. The County would be in charge of communicating (and coordinating) with all the different entities affected by the construction.

Mayor Gessic indicated that Mr. Parker informed him that there was a federal grant funding opportunity for bike path. It is pretty much 100% funding, just a matter where you want it. There is a fair amount of work up front to determine the location and projected cost. The grant is for 2026, but must be applied for in 2025. Ashley Hacking asked to be informed and volunteered to work on the project.

d. **JOHN H. ROSKOS - FISCAL OFFICER**

The Fiscal Officer reminded council that the monthly financials will be available the next meeting, but he did contact the state auditor regarding what can be done with the mayor's court funds. So according to the auditor, the village could pass a resolution transferring the funds to the general fund, with the transfer being contingent upon the approval of the tax commissioner of the state. If the Tax Commission Commissioner does not approve it, then the village can submit a request to the Court of Common Pleas to release the funds. The second thing Mr. Roskos discussed with the state auditor was that Perry Village probably qualifies for another agreed upon procedures audit, which is like a short, abbreviated version of the audit. This will be a cost savings to the Village. The budget is \$7,000.00 for the audit which is approximately half of what a full audit would cost.

e. **CHRISTIAN GRAY – ZONING REPORT**

Mr. Gray was not required to be present.

f. **POLICE CHIEF WILLIAMS – POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT**

Police Chief: Chief Williams has no additional report.

g. **STREET COMMISSIONER WILLIAMS – PUBLIC WORKS REPORT**

Street Commissioner Williams had no additional report.

h. **COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

The following reports were made by Councilmembers:

1. **Rick Walker**: was not present.
2. **Rebecca Shimko**: Becky Shimko had nothing else to report at this time.
3. **Jean Schonauer**: Jean Schonauer briefly discussed the strategic plan. Her plan is to meet prior to the next council meeting, to just go over the plan and get the updates put in and make sure that some of the things that are in there have been completed. She would like to meet at 6:00 p.m. on March 13th prior to the next council meeting.
4. **Mike Glover**: Mike Glover reminded council that the next Parks Committee meeting is scheduled for March 4th, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. at Village Hall.
5. **Elias Coss**: Elias Coss had nothing to report.
6. **Ashley Hacking**: Ashley Hacking had nothing to report.

PURCHASE & APPROVALS:

Mr. Roskos submitted purchase and approvals to Council for the time period from February 7, 2025 through February 20, 2025. Councilwoman Schonauer made a motion to approve. Rebecca Shimko seconded the motion.

Vote to approve: Ashley Hacking, yes; Elias Coss, yes; Mike Glover, yes; Rebecca Shimko, yes; and Jean Schonauer, yes.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Bill Debus, News Herald asked Fiscal Officer Roskos and the Mayor how much the NOPEC grant was, and they responded approximately \$3,600.00.

Mr. Debus asked the Mayor, has there been any other movement on any definitive information about the new windows and the Mayor said they are working on quotes.

Mr. Debus inquired of Councilwoman Hacking concerning the pickleball grant letter. What was talked about at last meeting, about putting a template of a letter to support the project on the Perry Village Community Facebook page? Ashley (and Fiscal Officer Roskos) responded that it is on the Perry Village website, under Parks and Recreation. Nothing is on the Facebook page, but there has been a pretty good response thus far; Council discussed how to upload the information. The deadline is March 15, 2025. Mr. Debus also inquired about departmental reports; they will be ready at the first meeting of the month.

Perry School District Superintendent Jack Thompson commended Chief Williams and the Police Department. Last week we had that bomb threat. His ability to get personnel in here swiftly to do a sweep to give our community and our kids peace of mind was critical, and also in solving the incident, he did an outstanding job for the schools. Dr. Thompson expressed his appreciation for the quick action of the Police Department.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Solicitor O’Leary informed Council that a request was made to go into Executive Session for two reasons:

First, to consider the appointment, employment, or compensation of a public employee or official (ORC 121.22 (G)(1)) and inviting the members of Council, the Mayor, the Solicitor, Police Chief and Perry School Superintendent Thompson.

No action is to be taken after executive session.

Secondly, to consider the purchase of property for public purposes, the sale of property (ORC 121.22 (G)(2) at competitive bidding, or the sale or other disposition of unneeded, obsolete, or unfit-for-use property in accordance with section 505.10 of the Revised Code, if premature disclosure of information would give an unfair competitive or bargaining advantage to a person

whose personal, private interest is adverse to the general public interest. Inviting members of council, the Mayor and Solicitor.

No action will be taken after executive session

Jean Schonauer made a motion to go into Executive Session,
Seconded by Ashley Hacking.

Vote to go into Executive Session: Elias Coss, yes; Jean Schonauer, yes, Rebecca Shimko, yes; Ashley Hacking, yes, and Mike Glover yes.

Perry Village Council went into executive session at 7:32 p.m.

At 9:12 p.m. Elias Coss made a motion to come out of Executive Session, which was seconded by Jean Schonauer.

Vote to come out of Executive Session: Elias Coss, yes; Jean Schonauer, yes, Rebecca Shimko, yes; Ashley Hacking, and Mike Glover, yes.

The Council door was opened, and the meeting continued.

Mayor Gessic asked if there was anything else to come before Council this evening. Hearing none he asked for a motion to adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT:

Jean Schonauer made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Elias Coss.

Vote to Adjourn: Elias Coss, yes; Jean Schonauer, yes, Rebecca Shimko, yes; Ashley Hacking, yes, and Mike Glover, yes

The Perry Village Council Meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

**The Next Regular Council Meeting will be
3/13/2025 at 7:00 p.m.**



John H. Roskos, Fiscal Officer



James Gessic, Mayor

Posted

3/14/2025