

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Perry Village Council  
Perry Village Hall 7:00pm

Regular Meeting  
October 9, 2025

Mayor James Gessic presiding.  
Pledge of Allegiance.

### **ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL MEMBER PRESENT:**

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

### **PERSONNEL IN ATTENDANCE:**

James O'Leary	Solicitor
James Gessic	Mayor
John H. Roskos	Clerk/Fiscal Officer
Christian Gray	Zoning Inspector
Steve Williams	Police Chief

### **OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Curtis Curd, Hope Gessic, Robert Parker, Brandon Wallis, Brian Farley, Larry W. Hackley, Bill Debus and Lee Glover. Others may have been present but did not sign in.

### **GOOD & WELFARE:**

Mayor Gessic expressed disappointment that no one seemed to notice that we striped several streets, including Center, Manchester, Portsmouth, the crosswalk by the school, the bend along Harper which was faded. Next year we will do Green and Harper. Next up, we got just some catch basins, four or five that need replaced. We received quotes and will get some work done on that. Also, we will be requesting a quote from Peroni Concrete for several addresses. He did our park pad for the bathroom, and that walkway going between the stage and pavilion, did pretty good work. He's pretty reasonable in price. Those funds would be taken out of our storm water money, so it won't affect our budget. Finally, due to the fact that the Perry High Football team might host a playoff game on October 31, 2025, the communities may move trick or treat to Saturday, November 1, 2025. They will confirm closer to the date.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None

## **READING & DISPOSITION OF THE MINUTES:**

### **Regular Council Meeting September 18, 2025 (emailed on October 3, 2025)**

Rick Walker made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 18, 2025 regular council meeting. Jean Schonauer seconded the motion

Discussion: No corrections were noted.

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

### **Public Hearing Minutes September 18, 2025 (emailed on September 19, 2025)**

Rick Walker made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 18, 2025 public hearing. Ashley Hacking seconded the motion

Discussion: No corrections were noted.

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

## **LEGISLATION**

Council considered the following legislation:

### **Resolution No. 48-2025** (Third Reading)

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Board of Commissioners of Lake County, Ohio to provide central dispatch and communication services and declaring an emergency.

Motion to Pass Resolution 48-2025: Rebecca Shimko  
Seconded: Jean Schonauer

Discussion: Several Council Members asked Chief Williams if there were any other options available to consider. Councilwoman Jean Schonauer clarified that we did have another option to look at. It was a lot more expensive, and if I'm recalling correctly when we talked about this, we have the ability to cancel that contract with notice. It's a five-year contract, and we can cancel it with six months' notice if there is a less expensive, viable option down the road. Councilman Walker voiced his displeasure as he feels they just pulled these numbers out of nowhere and we have no way to verify any of it.

Vote to Pass Resolution No. 45-2025: Ashley Hacking, yes; Rebecca Shimko, yes; Elias Coss, yes; Mike Glover, yes; Rick Walker, no; and Jean Schonauer, yes. Five Yes and One No. Resolution passed.

There was additional related discussion regarding the topic.

**Resolution No. 51-2025** (First Reading)

A resolution approving the Permanent Appropriations Funds for the Village of Perry, Ohio for the year 2026 and declaring an emergency.

**Resolution No. 52-2025** (Recommendation to Suspend the Three-Reading Rule)

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

Motion to Suspend the Rules: Rick Walker  
Seconded: Jean Schonauer

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

Motion to Pass Resolution 52-2025: Rick Walker  
Seconded: Mike Glover

Discussion: Fiscal Officer, John Roskos provided Council with information regarding accounts which require immediate adjustment. Councilman Glover inquired about the street light assessment refund? Mr. Roskos responded that when this came about, when those street lighting assessment bills were sent out in the second half a couple residents called inquiring about the amount of their street lighting assessment, and I checked the calculations and a couple, at least these two residents were overcharged based on the percentage that was being charged during that year. So, when they sent in the street lighting assessment sheet to the lake county auditor that year, it was the incorrect number. This was from probably 2024 some of them go back, probably about four or five years total. So, there were a number of years cumulative, \$1,000.

Vote to Pass Resolution No. 52-2025: Ashley Hacking, yes; Rebecca Shimko, yes; Elias Coss, yes; Mike Glover, yes; Rick Walker, yes; and Jean Schonauer, yes.

**Resolution No. 53-2025** (First Reading)

A resolution confirming the appointment of James R. O'Leary as legal counsel, affirming his agreement, determining compensation and declaring an emergency.

**Resolution No. 54-2025** (First Reading)

A resolution approving the continued employment of John H. Roskos as Chief Fiscal Officer and Clerk of the Village of Perry, Ohio, determining compensation and declaring an emergency.

**Resolution No. 55-2025** (First Reading)

A resolution approving the continued employment of Christian Gray as Zoning Inspector of the Village of Perry, Ohio, determining compensation and declaring an emergency.

**Resolution No. 56-2025** (First Reading)

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the dental and vision care provider offering the best and most reasonable rates through Acrisure for Village Employees for the year 2026 and declaring an emergency.

**Resolution No. 57-2025** (First Reading)

A resolution authorizing the Mayor to offer a cash benefit in lieu of major medical coverage for Perry Village Employees for the Year 2026 and declaring an emergency.

Mr. O’Leary suggested including a couple examples, so there is no question as to the calculation.

**Resolution No. 58-2025** (First Reading)

A resolution authoring the Mayor to renew and enter into an agreement with Public Entities Pool via Pollutro Rossley Insurance Inc. to provide for the continuation of property and casualty insurance coverage for Village Property and declaring an emergency

**Resolution No. 59-2025** (First Reading)

A resolution requesting the County Auditor to make advance payment of taxes for the Year 2026 and declaring an emergency.

**Resolution No. 60-2025** (First Reading)

A resolution authoring the Fiscal Officer of the Village of Perry, Ohio to transfer twelve thousand three hundred twelve dollars and fifty cents (\$12,312.50) from the General Fund (1000) to the Debt Service Fund (3101) and declaring an emergency

**Resolution No. 61-2025** (Recommendation to Suspend the Three-Reading Rule)

Chief Williams indicated the need to suspend the rules due to staffing.

A resolution confirming the appointment of Officer Milo Tilocco as a part time police officer for the Perry Village Police Department effective September 30, 2025 and declaring an emergency.

Motion to Suspend the Rules: Rick Walker

Seconded: Jean Schonauer

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

Motion to Pass Resolution 61-2025: Jean Schonauer

Seconded: Elias Coss

Discussion: None

Vote to Pass Resolution No. 61-2025: Ashley Hacking, yes; Rebecca Shimko, yes; Elias Coss, yes; Mike Glover, yes; Rick Walker, yes; and Jean Schonauer, yes.

**Ordinance No. 2025-10** (First Reading)

An Ordinance amending the Zoning Code of the Village of Perry to provide for more efficient service of Zoning Code and violation notices and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Roskos and Mr. O’Leary explained that this is first reading ordinance amending the zoning code of village of Perry provide for more efficient services of zoning code violation notices and declaring an emergency. This is something we've looked at before. In addition to certified mail, being able to use FedEx or UPS or other means in order to satisfy the requirement for notice, because what we're running into is, we send them a certified mail and they don't sign for it. You can't move on to next steps. So this will alleviate that prolonged, version anyways, but it's a lot longer if they don't sign for the document. Councilman Coss asked whether we could use our Officers to serve the documents? Mr. Roskos responded, in some of the code it's permitted, but some of it's specifically certified.

**Ordinance No. 2025-11** (First Reading, need wage and salary figures still) An Ordinance documenting and recording the compensation of certain officials and employees of the Village of Perry, Ohio during Fiscal Year 2026, and declaring an emergency.

**Ordinance No. 2025-12** (First Reading)

An Ordinance authorizing and approving the appointment of Steven Williams as Street Commission/Road Supervisor of the Village of Perry, Ohio pursuant to the provisions of Section 735.31 of the Ohio Revised Code and declaring an emergency.

**Ordinance No. 2025-13** (First Reading)

An Ordinance amending Chapter 121 of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of Perry, Ohio and declaring an emergency.

(Chapter 121 contains the current committees approved by Council) There has been a recommendation to add several committees, and this would address those additions if Council decides to do that.

**Reports:**

a. **MAYOR GESSIC**

Mayor Gessic announced that fall leave pickup will begin the first Monday after Halloween.

That'll be the third of November, I think that's the date, once again, we borrow the equipment from North, the township to get that done. I'll let Bob speak about storm water; we do have a project with that.

b. **SOLICITOR O'LEARY**

Solicitor O'Leary had a couple of items. First, I'd like to publicly apologize to the mayor. He asked me to do two things couple weeks ago, and I let them slip through the cracks. I got one done tonight, but recognizing Girl Scouts, I forgot to put that resolution, that proclamation, together. So I'll do that for the November meeting.

Secondly, I just want to make a public statement. There was in the candidates portion of the News Herald article on those running for the upcoming council elections, there was a statement made by one of the candidates that basically implied that Perry Village Council doesn't follow the law, and that infuriated me, because I make it a point wherever I am, the Law Director or Solicitor to pound into the council that I work with how to follow the Sunshine Law to make sure that we're in compliance. You all can verify. How many times have I stopped correspondence between councilmembers that was should not happen because it has to happen in open forum. The three reading rule, as you saw tonight, there are times when it's absolutely necessary, and we discuss why we suspend the three reading rule, but by and large, and I know Bill Debus will remember this, because I've said this many times, if it's not an emergency, you need to let it go to three readings. As for executive sessions, we are bound to confidentiality and I harp on every executive session that we go into the Council and to the Mayor and anyone that's present that you cannot disclose what's discussed in Executive Session. So, I take offense to the assertion that Perry village doesn't follow the law, because we follow the law. Thank you Mayor. That is all I have.

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

Engineer Robert B. Parker, P.E. reviewed the progress on various projects.

So two things, one is really no update on the stormwater project. We're still waiting for Enbridge. We're hoping that it's going to happen soon with Enbridge, but we're looking at again, starting end of November, beginning of December, on that project. We did get a change order executed with the contractor, with Bentley, so that now we've extended the time for the completion. There was a no cost change order. It just...changes that time. So they're not bound to a contract that they can't do because now they are authorized. They may start Center sooner, because there is no Enbridge conflict on Center, and the fact that they're close to here, they can actually do it pretty quickly. So if they have some downtime between their other projects, they may come out, knock Center out, but they'll coordinate. We're having a pre-construction meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 AM, so that's where all that will be set, all that schedule and everything and the notifications. So that could happen and then follow as soon as we get started, once they're out there working and we know kind of when they're going to be done on Green. Specifically, then we'll set up the contract for the Green Street, the paving and the water line, because we don't want to get those dates all mixed up until we know for sure. If we put it out to bid right now, those dates would be a shot in the dark; we've coordinated with Lake County Department utilities, they're aware of what's going on. And then the second thing that was...OPWC... we have to finalize our application for Maple and get that submitted by December 1. So in the next council meeting, we

will have to do a resolution again. Right now, it looks like we'll be funded under this small government fund, and since the deadline is December 1, it will have to be passed as an emergency measure. We can't do three readings even if we had it ready for today. The project is a grind and resurface; we're just matching what the Township did; some base work might need to be completed (10% estimate).

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

The Fiscal Officer gave an oral monthly report.

The General Fund ended with a balance of \$2,024,103.45. Monthly revenue was \$148,478 versus expenditures of \$111,753 for a net surplus for the month of \$36,725. Expenditures were in line with expectations for the month, with expected increases year over year for wages and contractual items, while revenue exceeded estimates due to robust income tax revenues. By comparison, revenue in September 2024 was \$105,437 and expenses were \$98,160.

Net income tax revenues in September 2024, were \$80,874 versus \$120,298 September 2025.

Activity in Other Funds: \$3,778 was paid to the Illuminated Company for electricity for street lights out of fund 2902. Perry Local Schools paid their first installment for the SRO contract on the amount of \$45,811.73 and this goes to fund 2904, and the village expended \$12,255 towards SRO personnel and expenses in September. Finally, \$52,224 in income tax and profits tax for the JEDD was remitted for the month. Other discussion. I'm still awaiting a final report from the state auditors. Haven't received any new information in the last few weeks, the 2026 budget appropriation is mostly complete, with the exception of adjustments to wages and benefits, which hopefully will be ready by the November Council Meeting.

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

Police Chief: Chief Williams submitted his report. In addition he reported During the month of September 2025, there were 436 calls for service, which resulted in 11 incident reports- three arrests, five traffic reports, drug reports, mental evaluation, commits, two of those. One was not a commit. Theft (report), noise, traffic enforcement. There were two traffic complaints. 25 traffic details were conducted. 52 warnings were issued, 63 citations were issued, containing 67 code violations. Officers are currently attending and completing the 2025 annual continuing professional training. We still have the effective and continuous collaboration with the Perry Local School District Administration to enhance the safety and security on campus and 2026 budget preparation is still in progress and we're still working towards that. Two new part time officers were sworn in, and training has commenced for both Nathan Stone and Milo Tilocco. Taser certification is in process and will be completed in October, along with firearms qualifications.

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

Street Commissioner Williams submitted his report. He further reported for the Public Works Department- set up of the Fall Festival, tear down, clean-up of the fall festival. They had to replace the rear left axle boot on the ATV; the battery as well was serviced on the ATV. That was a necessity because we actually needed it the police services and we were unable to use it at

that time. Power washed the dog park, shelter and benches; stained the shelter and benches and other items at the dog park, we repaired the front corner cage of the loader, did preventative maintenance on the 7400 truck, 4700 truck one ton; relocated the stop sign in the park to the proper side of the roadway. Backhoe repairs have been completed. Prime and painted the auger and bumper of the 7400; replaced the air hose on the 4700, assembled and installed the picnic table at the dog park and sprayed natural weed killer around the dog park fences. We're still in the process of getting quotes for the snow plow truck that we're going to purchase next year and they're all over the board as far as prices. So I really want to sit down and look at to compare and see where we want to go. We may be able to get one sooner rather than later from one particular vendor, but before I have a chance to look at it and get a confirmation on that, I'd had to really expand upon that. The Chief indicated he is comfortable with the number that we have in the budget for 2026 for the purchase of the vehicle.

g. **CHRISTIAN GRAY – ZONING REPORT**

Mr. Gray stated that to date there's been 204 total permits. Our fees total, \$29,445. We need to plan to set a date and schedule for recurring planning commission meetings and establish agenda and meeting topics.

Councilman Glover inquired about construction on the property on the land where the townhouses are going. Once they start putting those in, do they have to permit each address, or is it one permit per building? Mr. Gray responded It would be one permit per building. They're also beginning with the grading of the property for the storage too, right? I'll be reaching out to Loreto. We met as village Planning Commission to approve that lot split, but we have not seen a building permit.

h. **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT – MAYOR GESSIC**

Mayor Gessic reported that the JEDD meeting is next Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 am at the Township Offices. We'll be scheduling a planning commission meeting...getting that together this week or two? We haven't had a PDC in awhile. We do have a governmental affairs forum meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup>...8:00 AM at the Township Hall.

i. **COUNCIL MEMBER REPORTS**

The following reports were made by Councilmembers:

1. **Rick Walker**: Distributed the Fire Board report. I just wanted to follow up on executive session. There's been a couple times we've been in here quite late, and I'll get home and my wife will say, how come you're so late? I said, we were in Executive Session. And she goes well, what'd you guys talk about, I can't tell you...I just, I can't she gets mad at me, but it is what it is because I explained to her that...

Just a couple things to note with the Fire District. Calls are up. Incident counts are up already. We're already surpassed the 2024, almost surpassed 2024, numbers; total calls last year were 1216... at the end of last month, was already 1214, so that has gone up a little bit. You can see the training topics, and they've done live fire training at the nuclear plant and CPR... they've been to the village festival, Fall Festival and JV and varsity football games, the North Perry Dog Fest and the Homecoming parade

of course. They conducted a CPR class at the high school for the STNA students. They assisted the Perry AmVets with the flag burning behind station one, the flag burning ceremony. They had 486 students participated in the elementary schools Fire Safety Week.

Bailout training has started. There were nine recommendations after a Firefighter fell during an incident, and hurt his back. So they got together and talked about what steps to take. So now they have this bailout training that they're working with, which is going to be very important if an incident like that arises again; all the pumps on the engines have been passed and part time firefighter Ty Leonard has resigned. He took on a full time position elsewhere.

We are reviewing Pitch In requests and should have more of an update next month; we do have calls for leaves. We'll probably start that in the next week or so.

Councilwoman Schonauer asked you mentioned at the last meeting that there would be a fire Levy? Can you give us any information on that? When is that expected to be on the ballot, and what's the millage? Mr. Walker responded that the Fire Board is still discussing those options. So that's about all we have and looking towards Spring or Fall, there's some laws that have recently changed within the State regarding levies and as such, and one of the specifically impacting one of our's, so with so many seats up between the township and on the council, the focus is to kind of see who's going to be at the table and determine what's going to be best course of action, and who we're gonna reach out to from the County and State level to determine what's gonna be the best course for the...fire department.

2. **Rebecca Shimko:** Well, the first thing I want to say is I apologize to everybody for not securing a date and time for the Planning Commission meeting. I got a new phone, and I lost half my contacts. So between Jim and Christian, they're helping me get it together. Second thing is, I want to give out a shout out to Officer Orf - because my neighbors are thanking me, which I had nothing to do with increased patrols. And I don't know how many people he stopped, but it seems like a lot. So, it's nice to see and it's nice to hear from the neighbors when I do tell them; that was his decision, not mine.

Councilwoman Schonauer interjected, you know, I'm going to say it, you have brought that to the attention of Council and to the Chief on many occasions, and sounds to me like the Chief is talking to his officers and they're complying, and they should, because I agree with you. It irritates me every time I go there and I go past your house daily just to go places. It's the best route for me. Mayor- slow down, less complaints...

3. **Jean Schonauer:** I've got a few things. Finance Committee has been working diligently, along with department heads and the mayor, to finalize the budget, so we're moving forward with that, and it should be done hopefully real soon. Ashley, John and I had a Zoom meeting where we were able to see a demonstration of the

“TextMyGov” application, which is fabulous. It is amazing. And it's basically, it's very similar to a Remind program, if anybody's familiar with that. So with the TextMyGov, we would have a database of residents phone numbers if they give it to us that we can text when there's an emergency situation ... when we can text reminders about meetings. We can text pretty much anything we want- public service, notices and everything else. So I just wanted to mention that that's another avenue for us to seriously consider with regards to improving communications in the community. And you know, I've said it before, I'm gonna say it again, when we had people here, and when we had our town hall, and we heard that people were saying, well, I didn't know anything about the data center because I don't have Facebook and I don't read the newspaper and blah, blah, blah, blah, blah. We know everyone has a cell phone. So this is going to be a really great opportunity to connect. It's one more way to connect with our community and keep them informed. We can't make them come to meetings. We know we do these meetings. We know we advertise these meetings. We know we welcome anyone to come to our meetings. It's their choice not to. I won't be accountable to their inability to know what's going on, because I think that we've done a really good job of trying to keep the community informed, this is just one more way. So here's another option that we're going to provide our community, so I'm very excited about that.

And the other thing I wanted to mention, and Bob Parker I'm glad you're here... John Roskos and I and the mayor are having regular meetings once a month with the school district just to talk about village business that affects the school districts. And one of the things that we talked about in our last meeting had to do with the timing of all of these projects with our roads, and they have every right to be concerned. I know we all are. I know you are as well. Their concern is that a lot of these projects on Green, Thompson, Center and Manchester with that bridge, are all going to happen about the same time, and that's going to seriously impede the bus traffic and then the parents that self-transport their children to school. So we gave them the update that we had a week ago, and we have assured them that we're going to continue to update them, but I would request that, as you know dates, if you could let us, let either John myself or the mayor know, so that we can loop the school in because there, and especially their transportation department, because there's some key issues that the school has and rightfully so. So I wanted to bring that up. The other thing is, is that we have been... the other purpose for our meeting is to talk about economic development, especially with this property. The school is very supportive; they're very on board with economic development on that property the on that property and we're working together on any kind of tax abatements and pilot programs that might happen anything like that. So that was also in the last week or so. And other than that, I'm just not too busy. And that's all I got.

Mayor Gessic noted that Bob Parker, provides weekly updates on grants, stormwater projects. County is pretty quiet, and that's been the concern is that, you know, we have, we kind of had some dates.

Councilwoman Schonauer stated. We, well, not dates, but we had months that we thought those projects. But now with this Enbridge thing, and it's delaying it, and it's changing it. At this rate, it might get delayed enough that it'll be summer and no one will be in session at that point.

Engineer Parker noted that the funds must be encumbered prior to June 30, 2026; there was additional related discussion. The bridge project has already been awarded to Union Industrial out of Ashtabula. The water line still has to be bid. Parker indicated that the bridge project will take 4-6 months once it begins. The water line will take about 6 weeks; there was other discussion related to the maintenance of traffic and logistics.

Mayor Gessic and Robert Parker agreed to keep Council and the School District informed as time lines are established and as they change.

4. **Mike Glover**: Mike Glover reported that the community garden is scheduled to be shut down October 31; everything has to be removed. So as of November 1, it should be empty. So chief, I'm gonna have to get with you, see if we can get the guys to go down there and pull those posts out, so we can get it cleaned out. But I need to get with you first, so I can make sure to go through there, make sure there's no metal in there, so nothing happens. But it was a successful year. Barb and John went down there the other day, removed the garden hose, rolled it up, put it in the shed.

Mayor Gessic asked how the shed looked? Glover said pretty beat up and one of the speed bump control devices was displaced and had to be put back into place. Yeah, that's one of the original ones that we had. And I had John buy three more, four more last year (*Editor's note: earlier in 2025*). So, I just put the three old ones with it and I think we're going to get another three more sections for it. The one section we threw out because it was ruined, but just that one section of the hose was damaged, so that's what we put it in the shed. We will probably be looking at purchasing one new hose and three more sections of speed bumps. But looked like it was a successful year. Everyone seemed to have a good time and sorry to see it come to an end. Looking forward to next year. This has been the fifth year for the community garden.

5. **Elias Coss**: Elias Coss started off by addressing Mr. O'Leary's comments, and while I appreciate you acknowledging and sharing your thoughts and opinions on that, I personally didn't take offense to anything in there. I know what this council is all about, what our mayor is about, the solicitor and so you know, and I know what we stand for. So regardless of what was disclosed or stated or what people stand on, I know what we're about and how we are actively evolving.

That being said, I did a ride along to kind of comment on what Becky stated as well regarding Officer Orf, or I did a ride along this past Sunday before, the Sunday before with one of our newer officers, and he did a phenomenal job. I was with him for five hours, seven to 12 on a Sunday, it was hopping from the moment I got in his car until the moment I got out of this car. I mean, it was call after call after call that was the

day that the gentleman in Painesville shot his two dogs and then committed suicide. And also, minutes later, guy who escaped out of Teen Challenge got hit by a car on Park Road, all within that time... so I want to commend Officer Klugh on a phenomenal job during my ride along, he did a fantastic job. He was very safe in everything that he did so a great job with him. If you look at any of the data or any of the reports that Chief Williams provides us on a monthly basis, they gotta be Councilwoman Shimko's favorite two officers- they are pulling people over. They are being very fair. They're giving warnings when they need to give warnings. Our cases of Operating a Vehicle under the Influence (OVI) have significantly increased over the past, just this year, and I think they're doing a bang-up job. I think all of them collectively are doing a great job. But if you look at the numbers, and you look at the reports, those two specifically have done a phenomenal job, and to kind of piggyback more on what Becky said when it comes to Officer Orf, Klugh had nothing but phenomenal things to say about him and it seems like he gets just a lot of good rapport with everybody in the group.

Chief Williams added that Officer Orf is a tremendous asset and has pulled us through quite a few tough times, because really, he's a retired individual, really only wants to work about 20 to 30 hours a week and because of us being short handed, he's really stepped up and taken more shifts than what I could ever even ask for. Just a little bit of background about Michael. He's a 28 year veteran of the Mentor Police Department. Out of those 28 years, I believe he was a field training officer for 27 of those. So during that tenure, he probably trained every officer, including the chief himself.

The Fall Festival was a huge success. So, I was the chairperson for the second year for the Fall Festival. We had some phenomenal numbers. The weather was great this year. Many of you people here in this room attended so thank you guys for supporting it. I will share some numbers with you guys today. I'll be sharing this via social media at some point this weekend or next week, but we have record setting numbers in many different avenues here. After all the bills were paid, we generated a profit of \$18,700 and some change, which broke last year's record by \$7,000 we broke the sponsor's record that I set last year, so we had 53 this year which was six more than we had last year, another indicator that the weather was great, despite the fact that I raised the prices on the wrist bands from \$7 to \$10. The highest number of wrist bands from what the reports that I could pull said that we had in any given year was right around 270 to 280 wrist banks that were sold, I think, was the highest, like in the past six or seven years. So, despite the fact that I increased the price from seven to 10, we sold over 450 wrist bands this year.

So, you know, we did have some areas of opportunities (*for improvement*), such as porta potties and a few other food trucks, no matter how many times I reminded them that you will run out of food. And so those are all things that I will share and provide for next year's committee so that they can improve on. Also, I did inform the committee this year that while I will support them, and if the village decides to have me back as its representative for the village, but I will not be running the Fall Festival

next year, so the group will be looking for somebody to run it next year, if anyone's interested. A couple things, you know, 18,700 and some change is great. There were some bills that were a little bit higher than what we kind of expected, and one that we had never paid for in the past. So, I'll share those with you. The police was slightly higher than it was last year by \$455 which we paid, and then one bill that we've never paid in the past. But I thought that it was imperative that we did this year, and especially because the inspector, the fire inspector, that we had retired this year, so he was part of you know, the crew that was paid by the fire department every other year because of the fireworks. But this year we didn't have an inspector, so we had to pay for one. Because of how well we did with the sponsors, I picked up that bill, which was right around \$1,300 so if you factor those two things, we would have been over \$20,000 so we're pretty excited that we were able to pay those two things and still generate \$18,700 plus dollars.

Then finally, the senior center is going to have some visitors tomorrow, and possibly one or more Lake County Commissioners are coming, as well as the director for the Lake County levy grant, whatever. I don't know what she is, but her and some other people are coming. They're going to visit the four Eastern Senior Centers, Painesville, Fairport, Perry, Madison, in that order. Our director, which I hired in July, is newer. She's not going to be there tomorrow because she's on the trip with the seniors somewhere. I want that job. So even if she were there, I would want to be there just because she's newer. So I have freed up my day, and I will patiently waiting for our commissioners to come, and I will greet them with a smile and open arms. I'm super excited about their visit. So that will be tomorrow... so for those people that are not aware, we have a Commissioner who wants to kind of look at what's going on with the senior centers. So they are doing a study, and they hired a firm to do the study. And so as part of the study, they are visiting those four Eastern senior centers. I think what they're looking for is to see what, how the centers look, the conditions they're in, what they offer to the seniors. So it's part of the study. That's how it's being presented.

Councilwoman Schonauer asked what the purpose of the study is?

Councilman Coss responded, the purpose of study is to see how they can maximize the money from the levy, there's a consideration of kind of condensing and so instead of having, for instance, the Fairport, Madison and Perry senior centers, probably just having one paid one director and kind of facilitate work and or utilizing the three in different capacities. So it's just, at least the way it's been presented, is how to maximize that money, you know, for the duration of what it's been approved for and there's obviously other little things that come with it, but a study has to be done, and they're paying over \$100,000 and it's going to take anywhere between 10 to 12 months to do it. So, a lot of this got kicked off when our director, back in May, or I'm sorry, late April, resigned, and so it came from that. One of the commissioners saw that as an opportunity to try some things different, and ... everybody knows kind of what I did in this situation, but I still went ahead and hired the director specifically for the Perry Senior Center. So I'll definitely continue to provide feedback. Again, it's a

study that's going to take a minimum of 10 months, maybe a little bit longer than based off of what results come from that. Well the county or commissioners will determine what course of action, if any is going to happen. That's it.

6. **Ashley Hacking:** Ashley Hacking started with the parks committee. Parks committee, we have a meeting on October 21 at 6:00 p.m. and big, huge shout out to the Chief and to the Mayor. Thank you for getting the dog park painted and also thank you for replacing the dog bowls. Thank you so much for putting in new ones and getting them all situated when it was closed. So thank you.

So yeah, anybody wants to come, you're welcome (October 21<sup>st</sup> @ 6:00 p.m. at Village Hall). So then the other thing is, Jean kind of brought it up is the TextMyGov demo, absolutely, that was, we kind of left giddy, yeah, absolutely, when we were watching it all the things that it could do, it's such a simple thing, they were actually texting us and doing that on our phone. And it was kind of cool...being able to text little things like, you know, you just go to the number and you can text zoning permit, and it will actually send you the links for the zoning permit. Or if you have a question about, like, you want to report a light out, you can text light and then it, you text it to the number, and then it will see which, what, what's the address, and then you can send it in. And we were doing, definitely like, take a picture of a tree down, and you, I did, it sends the picture in for the tree down, and it will send it to the road department to inform them a tree is down. So it's pretty exciting about the things that can people can do within our community, to get services and to communicate. It's kind of nice because it's, it's not drama. I'm too old for drama. It's nice that it's just information and it's just good straight information for access for people. People can ask questions, get facts. People can send facts and get results, and it's just straight back. (Council Pro Temp Schonauer) And the other nice thing about it is it's not an app. So it's not like you have to have an app on your phone to be able to participate in it, because a lot of people either just don't want a bunch of apps on their phone, or if you're you know, like me, the apps you didn't even know you had.

Councilwoman Schonauer added you could include we had a council meeting tonight. Or, like Ashley said, if you see a power line down, you can text power line down, and it's an interactive kind of thing that will just tell you and all of the information is stored as well.

Councilwoman Hacking continued we can put anything, any you know, like someone says, meeting minutes for this date. We have it where you type in meeting minutes for this date, and it gives you automatic link to the website, and you can click on it, and it puts it right on your phone. So, it's one of those things where it's where you can load everything ...they all front load it into the website, and it links everything right to the phone, so the community has everything that they've been looking for. So it's pretty cool. The mayor and John found it, and so me and Jean, this is everything we've been looking for. So when we left, like, get it, get it, get it today. So I was like hoping. I told John, put it on the agenda. Let's do three readings ASAP. So, and it's very affordable. It's one of those things that, it's something that I feel it is a very good cost

and investment. The cost was \$1,000, correct me if I'm wrong, John. It's a \$1,000 initial setup fee, and then it's about \$2,500 and honestly, that's more affordable with the price of stamps today than it would be sending out newsletters and flyers and you know, actually we can have a link and, hey, newsletter's ready? It's right there and it goes out to everyone and click and you can have the newsletter, and it's, you get to decide how much information you want, what you don't want, right, exactly, and that's nice. As a resident...you're not getting overloaded. You can ask if you want more. You can keep going and ask the app for more. I'm sure a lot of you have seen this on your own phones with, you know, other websites. ...if you get a text and you just don't want them anymore, you can text...stop, and then it will stop sending it to you. And so then you're, you're out of the loop on it, if you don't want to be in the loop. And it's the same phone number. So then all sudden, you're like, never mind. I need to know, there's a light out and there's something down. You just pull that phone number and you can send the information, and you're right back in. Because, I guess, did it... I'm like, stop. And then all sudden, I'm like, Okay, no, I want to tell you about this. ... I type in something like, tree down and a shrub, and then I'll send it...I'm ... So it was kind of, it was fun.

Solicitor O'Leary asked whose domain is it? Who manages it? (Google, Honeywell)

Councilwoman Hacking said it is an independent company. There's a couple places in this area that use it, the Village of Woodmere, several other Ohio municipalities use it.

Mayor Gessic said the challenge is going to be getting everyone to sign up for it.

Councilwoman Schonauer responded there's a database that they can acquire and upload. So everybody that has public record of the cell phone, they could be in the database, they would get a text, and then they can opt in or opt out right off the bat.

There was some discussion on whether information shared would be viewable or accessible by all residents like on Social Media. Fiscal Officer Roskos clarified that if someone sent something to the Village it would not automatically go out to everyone in the community. There is an administrative function to review the information.

Councilwoman Schonauer agreed, let's say somebody in that that lives in the township reports that there's a tree down in the township, because it will interactively ask you for the address, it will be able to know. It can also suggest residents contact 911 or emergency services, if that is more appropriate.

Councilwoman Hacking added no one can harass someone through it, right? It's it keeps it very business, very professional, and it's all information, and it's giving us, on this end, information that can help people, information to make the village better, right? Information to improve things. And that's what we want. I'm so excited.

Councilwoman Schonauer I even did a test with a text message, a group text message. I included Ashley in the text message to this to this phone number, and I said, tree down. She got my message because she was part of my group about the tree down, but nothing else, this application only replied back to me because I was the originator of it. It didn't go to all of the... I could have included everybody in this room. You would have gotten my initial one tree down, but you would have seen nothing else from the other end of it. So it's very singular.

Councilwoman Hacking said and then only, only Jean got it was the tree down. I'm like, great. I know trees down, yeah. And she was like, down over here. So we were really trying to see how it worked. Chief Williams inquired whether the service would be monitored (*see below discussion on Communication Committee for more details*).

Councilwoman Hacking continued with her report: So, as you can see there's a few, three committees being proposed. The first one is the Beautification Committee. That one's just kind of, that was just really exciting, that was fun. We're on a roll to go just to have a committee that goes around and make sure...and this came up because of Barbara and Pam, they always make sure everything's really pretty, and they decorate the front. And I know Jean was helping doing that. And what happens, you know, that we don't have someone to decorate the front and to decorate this like we should have someone that could do that. So, that's how we came up with the Beautification Committee .... So that's what it is. It goes down and explains the Beautification Committee- what it looks like, how it works... we copied it from four other municipalities in our area, kind of what they do...

The next one is. This is the main one that I'm really excited about, the Communication Committee. I sent you guys... it last meeting. It's the exact same thing. But the cool thing with the Communication Committee, this is where the Communication Committee is, who would oversee and watch TextMyGov, we were talking to them, and they said that it could be monitored. ...Administrators could oversee it. So, the Communication Committee is who would be overseeing to make sure, because we don't have an administrator currently in the position who would normally see it. The village financially doesn't have that position. So it would have to fall on pretty much the committee to oversee it. So, when stuff comes up, you can take it and you can just forward the information. If something like a tree down, we can forward it over to the proper (department) because we would know who's who we would forward right over to the department and say, hey, there's a tree down over here, Chief, you have a tree down- stuff that's 911 emergencies, we're not talking about those types of incidents. That's not what this is for. But it's like trees down, lights out, type of things...

Councilwoman Schonauer: And we get to define what phrases we have in there, what keywords. So, you know, maybe our keyword is tree. If you want to report a tree ... but we don't have to put anything. And then, you know, Mayor, what I'm saying we can have as many codes or as few codes as we want, because it's all user defined.

Councilwoman Hacking et al: If it is emergency, if they type in, the thing can tell them to call dispatch, and it's a number to call, and it's just a click it, and it takes a right to dispatch. So you can have it where messages instantly come and it's the correct number to take them to, you know, 911, or the correct thing. So that's something. When we do set it up, we'll make sure everything safety wise, is correct for safety, legally. We'll make sure legal checks it to make sure it's all legal. Mr. O'Leary expressed concern about Village wide communications, and whether some residents might be confused about whether to use this platform or contact 911.

I think the schools are using some type of version of communication, I know this year with this exact same thing. And if I'm not mistaken, I get the communications from the school, but I cannot respond to it. So it's literally used and facilitated by the schools to communicate with us, changes things for us to look at, you know, updates and stuff like that, in the masses and quickly, which is great, but I, as a recipient, cannot initiate a text. I can't respond to it, nothing. It is strictly them just notifying me of what's going on or what they want me to look at, and what I do with it. From there is, that's the nice thing about this, is we can. We can literally just restricted to we send out information blast to everybody of what we want them to know. And there's no other there's no way for them to contact us about anything, if that's what Council wants that's fine. We might decide we're only going to do zoning forms, yeah, or only going to do stuff that's on the website, or we're only going to do, you know, however we want to set it up when it comes, and they'll work with us. And it's whatever works with other municipalities. They've done this. We're not their first one. They've done it a lot of places. So that is the Communication Committee. Thank you.

And then the last one is the Workforce Development Committee. We talked about that a couple times, about the Workforce Development Committee and we talked about the Finance Committee. This is really exciting about getting a committee together, and we can get a representative from the school district, representative from technical from Auburn and from local colleges, and get them together, and then we can work with Ohio Jobs, and we can start putting together a plan and a program where people can apply for opportunities to get the skills that they need, whatever goes over there for economic development in our community, there's a lot of we're trying to build up so people can work here, involved. And we need people to have skills, whatever is coming here, or whatever we're going to have going over there, we need people to be able to do whatever those jobs are. And the cool thing is, is, by getting this community together, we start to get a feel for what could those jobs be? What are the growing jobs do we need? You know, we work with different unions to (*get*) people into these union jobs. You know, what can we do? And maybe it is for people that need help, and they apply for funding for babysitting. And we, you know, with Ohio jobs, can help get financial support for the, you know, to help pay for their babysitting- while they go to school, or whatever. So there's different types of scholarships...out there that we can do with this, but it's getting the community together. Once we create the committee, then we figure out what type of funding we

can create, or what type of scholarships. But you first have to create the committee, get everyone together, then figure out what is out there.

Councilwoman Schonauer: This is not, this is not a committee that's going to be up and running tomorrow. This is a very big project, a lot of effort, and it's going to entail people outside of our community. Obviously, we're talking about school district, the Auburn Career Center, places like that, trades.

Mayor Gessic et al: I think you're missing one of the biggest things. So we have a government forum meeting and First Energy will be there. How do we train the next generation for this power plant? Yeah, exactly. And that's what we're looking at. We're looking at our community, and it's all community. And how can we plan? How can we give employment opportunities to our community. It would be a win-win; you have jobs and a way to get a tax base...

Councilwoman Schonauer: I'm saying that some of these outside people have expertise to bring some real talent to the table in developing and getting this thing up and running. That's why it's not going to happen overnight. So that's it. We're taking the first steps. That's what this committee is, is we have to, to get council to approve it, so then we can get the ball rolling, to organize it, to start having the meetings, to start get the meeting with all the contacts, to get the HR departments involved.... Because the cool thing is, is the way that it works with Ohio Jobs is you get HR programs, and they donate 50%; the state will match 50%, so that's how we get funding to give to our residents, to pay for tuitions, whatever different ways we want to do it, to pay for our residents to get training.

Councilwoman Hacking et al: So, this is, that's what's exciting about this is it's getting training, and it's not for necessarily just high school kids. This is adults. This is for everyone. And this is getting people in our community opportunities to get more skills and to be clear, then you're going to ask Council first to approve the formation of the committees, and then, after you've developed that, you're going to come back to council with the framework and ask secondly, to approve the implementation of the committee. Okay? Because I think that's key, because I think there would be confusion that we're going to approve a committee and then all of a sudden they're going to make up all the rules. No, this has to be done in steps because this is a big committee and a big commitment for council.

Finally, the pickleball court. I still don't know anything. Mr. Roskos indicated that hopefully we will hear something in the next few weeks, usually by the end of October.

#### **PURCHASE & APPROVALS:**

Mr. Roskos submitted purchase and approvals to Council for the time period from September 12, 2025 through October 2, 2025. Councilman Rick Walker made a motion to approve. Jean Schonauer seconded the motion.

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** (Intended to address topics discussed during the meeting):

Rick Walker: public service announcement, Perry is up 28-0 at halftime of the football game.

Curtis Curd: Did the company that runs the TextMyGov give you any indication of like their safeguards for like external, third party using that information, like selling it anything?

Councilwoman Hacking That's one thing they did say, yes, they do not sell any numbers. Absolutely do not, no third party selling. Nothing, no advertising, nothing; I don't need any more than I already have. We were concerned. We didn't want another app on our phone, right? And we didn't want to give them information, and then they sell it...All it ends up being is a contact in your phone, and there's nothing else that comes with it.

Brian Farley: So, two things. One, the TextMyGov sounds awesome. That's really exciting for the community. And I know we talked about, now picture this- texting a link to the meeting. Boom, meeting pops up, and if people can either witness it live or witness it the next day, everybody that's at the football game right now, can listen in, kind of like I brought up a few months ago. So I think that the TextMyGov in correlation with some type of recording of the meetings would be awesome and really incorporate the public.

Mayor Gessic: Yeah, we looked at that. There's another avenue that could be done with that. They talked about a security system here, and the security company did say with the right kind of cameras...they should be able to capture audio and sound without the additional equipment. That was a possibility, and that could be linked to a YouTube...That was what we looked at...because originally it was 10 to 15 grand for all these microphones, all these wires and stuff, and the security company said they could wire it through some kind of camera and get the visual and the audio possibility.

Mr. Farley: That would be awesome.

Councilwoman Schonauer: We did talk about that. The school board does their meetings that way. And when we were there for our last meeting, we talked to them about their system and how they do it. So it's definitely something we're working on. We just don't have anything concrete yet.

Mr. Farley: and the second thing following up from last meeting with the Pitch-In contract, has there been any movement on that.

Councilman Walker: I have not had a chance to follow up with Mr. O'Leary on that yet.

Bill Debus: Mr. O'Leary said earlier the meeting, there are a couple of pieces of legislation, 61-2025, a police officer appointment and there's one other. O'Leary said it was like a separate, I didn't get that. Is it something that could be emailed to me or do you have a handout?

Mr. O'Leary et al: I can get you a handout. I'll make a copy of this...

Mr. Debus: Then just to clarify with TextMyGov, the popular topic of the night, what's going to happen? I know it's in conjunction with communications committee, but is there going to eventually be three readings to acquire this system and implement it? Or What happens?

Mayor Gessic: Most likely we'll have to get a proposal from them. We'll probably have to put it in next year's budget. Since we are working on next year's budget, we don't have that expense for this year already. We're already moving money around already for this last reading, so we'll probably do it in January.

Mr. Debus: The committees, what Jim O'Leary was talking about, first, council would have to vote on actually forming each committee. And then what was the next step? Jim O'Leary, you're talking about what has to happen before they can start sitting and having meetings...

Solicitor O'Leary: Two issues. One is formation. The council can approve the additional committees, because committees are approved by Council. Once the committee is established that would allow the committee to go back and define itself and then come back to council for implementation, so they wouldn't be able to begin to implement anything that they've got until they bring it back to council. Does that make sense as far as a framework of how it's gonna work and such? Right?

Mr. Debus: Right. Yeah. Okay. So there'll be really two steps.

Solicitor O'Leary: They don't get a blank slate to just go out and start doing stuff.

Mr. Debus: At least two steps involved before they could start sitting in meetings.

Solicitor O'Leary: They'll set up meetings once they're allowed to form, but those meetings would simply deal with a mission statement? What is the scope of the committee? What are we going to included with each one? Once they have the framework, then they bring it back to Council for approval, and then that, with that will be the makeup of the committee, how many council people, how many community members, as well as their schedule? Because I would expect just, just like the Planning Commission is going to meet once a month, right? We would have those committees meet on an ongoing basis, because it certainly is going to be important if there are new committees that they meet on an ongoing basis, like the parks committee does, so they would need to go on a schedule. And it would make sense. It'll make it easier for all of Council, if those what now five committees, planning commission, Parks committee, and these three new ones rotate which weeks they're on, so that there's no right or conflict, because you know you've got people on multiple committees. Does that help?

Mr. Debus: Yes, thank you that is all I have.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION:**

Solicitor O’Leary informed the audience that Council had requested Executive Session to:

- (a) 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.
- (b) Conferences with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action.
- (c) To consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official.

Inviting Council, Mayor Gessic, Robert Parker and Solicitor O’Leary. No action is planned after Executive Session.

Rick Walker made a motion to go into Executive Session  
Seconded by Rebecca Shimko

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

Perry Village Council went into executive session at 8:28 p.m.

At 9:39 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; Rick Walker, yes; Ashley Hacking, and Mike Glover, yes.

The Council door was opened, and the meeting continued.

**ANNOUNCEMENT:**

Perry Village Council will call a special meeting of Council for Thursday, October 30, 2025 @ 6:00 p.m. for Executive Session to discuss compensation.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

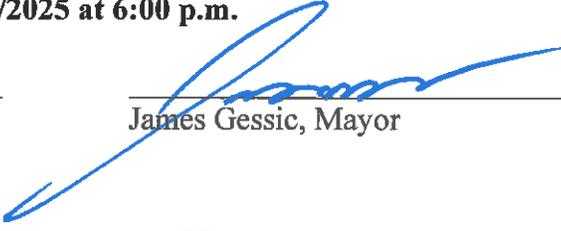
Rick Walker made a motion to adjourn and was seconded by Elias Coss

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

The Perry Village Council Meeting was adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

**A Special Meeting will be held  
10/30/2025 at 6:00 p.m.**

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John H. Roskos, Fiscal Officer

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
James Gessic, Mayor

Posted \_\_\_\_\_