

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Perry Village Council  
Perry Village Hall 7:00pm

Special Meeting for General Purposes  
November 20, 2025

Mayor James Gessic presiding.  
Pledge of Allegiance.

### ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL MEMBER PRESENT:

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

### PERSONNEL IN ATTENDANCE:

Randy Vermilya	Guest Solicitor
James Gessic	Mayor
John H. Roskos	Clerk/Fiscal Officer
Steve Williams	Police Chief

### OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Pam Jenkins, Brian Farley, Ed Zigman, Vanessa Rockwell, Barb Howley, Rick Traylor, Annette McGonnell, Jennifer Grega, Lee Lutes, John Ziamba, George and Liz Hanna, Ron and Lori White, Carrie Reid, Dan Wyatt, Joan Nelson, Brandon Wallis, Curtis Curd, Tara Chabot; others were present, but did not sign in.

### PUBLIC HEARING OF COUNCIL

to consider the removal of Planning Commission Member Heather Leonbruno for nonperformance of duty pursuant to Section 1330-1 Appointment and Organization of the Zoning Code of the Village of Perry, Ohio.

**Mayor Gessic:** The scheduled public hearing regarding the possible removal of a Planning Commission member for cause. The purpose of this hearing is to review documented concerns related to attendance, communication, preparation, conduct, and the ability of the Planning Commission to fulfill its duties. The hearing is administrative in nature; it is not related to any personal viewpoints, policies, positions, votes, or any other development matter. The Village will present a factual record. The member will have the opportunity to respond. Council will deliberate and take action.

Presentation of Facts:

**Mayor Gessic:** Extended non-response over several weeks. The member did not respond to repeated attempts by the Mayor, Planning Commission Chairperson, and Zoning Inspector despite multiple texts.

**Heather Leonbruno:** Excuse me. I'm sorry. You're talking so fast, I'm having a hard time following.

**Mayor Gessic:** Okay, I'll slow down. Over several weeks, the member did not respond to multiple attempts. When the Planning Commission Chair—and I believe Christian [Gray] also sent out a question through text—it went unanswered. The member did not notify the Village staff that she would be absent from the Planning Commission meeting, which is a longstanding, clear expectation of Village committee members.

**Mayor Gessic:** Failure to pick up and review required project materials. The member was notified that the Planning Commission packets and materials for the upcoming project were available for pickup at Village Hall. These materials were never collected, leaving her unprepared to participate in the meeting.

**Mayor Gessic:** Operational impact of business: Due to a combination of unresponsiveness and failure to notify of absences, the Village was unable to confirm a quorum on a planned scheduled meeting. This jeopardizes the Commission's ability to conduct required business. Because the quorum could not be confirmed, Council was required to call a special meeting to appoint a new member to replace a member who had stepped down. This act was solely to ensure the Planning Commission could legally meet and proceed with scheduled work.

**Mayor Gessic:** Consistent with Village standards, Council has clearly communicated expectations regarding attendance, preparation, and communication to all committee members and commission members. These expectations apply consistently to all members regardless of viewpoints. At this time, we will invite the member to address Council and provide any response and explanation. Do you have anything to add to that right now?

**Heather Leonbruno:** That was your full presentation?

**Mayor Gessic:** No, I have more to go over. You want me to go over the whole thing and then wait?

**Heather Leonbruno:** Sure, yeah.

**Mayor Gessic:** Okay. John [Roskos], I'm going to bring it up. [Adjusts projector/lights].

**Mayor Gessic:** This represents a group text created for the Village Planning Commission on November 10th, 2024. As you can see through the text on the left, everyone is responding. You see Heather circled down here; she's responsive. That was dated November 18th. On December 16th, another text chain. She also confirmed there. As you can see, Heather responded also on

January 1st, "Happy New Year." January 7th, there's another confirmation. She was participating. As you can see, and let's see here, and you can see where she responded to Jean's missing cell phone...that one day.

**Mayor Gessic:** May 28th, I sent out a text string to go over to New Albany to check out the data centers, to get sound measurements, to see how they operate, to see any problems that they have with them. Everyone responded. The only one that was able to go was Ashley, my wife and Jeanie went as part of President of Council. Heather did not respond to that text string. As you see on June 15th, she responded that she would get back to us.

**Mayor Gessic:** And you see On June 26th, T.J. Rockwell was unable to attend one meeting, which he communicated to us. On August 2nd, Christian Gray sent out a meeting request for August 14th to meet 6:00 to 7:00 PM. There was no council meeting that day. I corrected him and he says, okay, so the, there is a council meeting that day. So we made it at six. As you can see Lee responded, somebody else said that worked for me...Heather was non-responsive.

**Mayor Gessic:** On August 6th, T.J. decided he was going to resign from the Commission. People responded, "Thanks for your information," "Sorry to see you go," "11 years, great." There was no response from Heather on that.

**Mayor Gessic:** On August 12th: "Good morning. John at Village Hall has been putting together new zoning books for Planning Commission, that was the full zoning code. He has also been preparing other zoning documents for planning commission. Your copies are available for pick up at your convenience." Constant reminders to pick up her stuff. She was unresponsive; no word from Heather. The book is still sitting there to this date.

**Jean Schonauer:** I'd like to correct the record. She got it last night. Christian gave it to her last night.

**Mayor James Gessic:** Alright, well.

**Mayor Gessic, Council, Zoning Inspector, et al:** So it must be a different version because the one we put together is still sitting over there. Oh, okay. You gave her a different book. Do I have the wrong book? Maybe? I don't know. It's not the one we put together. It's the one that's put together. Okay. Just a different version. Not the one that was on the table. Okay. So she got it yesterday, about three months after the fact. So that's why we're here. In a normal job, if you were asked to perform duties...and if you didn't respond and didn't show up for the meeting, that would be considered job abandonment. And most businesses for you for that. So I'm going to give Heather an opportunity to explain why she did not communicate her absence and basically ghosted us for this one Planning Commission meeting. Can you get the lights back on please?

**Heather Leonbruno:** Thank you, Jim. You guys can just bear with me because I'm probably way more nervous that I need to be for this hearing... In preparation for this evening, I looked

through a lot of different, you know, Ohio Revised Code, this and that, and I've read through the processes and procedures for the Planning Commission. I've gone back to 2021 and read minutes from meetings, from committees and you know, really trying to put together dates and this, that, and the other. But at the end of the day, I'm not really here...I'm not. I know that I was requested to attend your hearing. I don't care, I'm speaking to the people here. I was asked to volunteer for this committee by Phil Cassella back in 2022 and I started attending meetings, as you'll see through the first section of your evidence: Heather responded, Heather attended. So I feel I've been a pretty active member of the Committee. The first charge written in the notice that I got from the mayor and bear with me. I'm looking for the charge. I've got too many papers. Do you have a copy of it just so I don't have to through?

**Heather Leonbruno:** ...Thank you. I'm sorry, so the first charge...Charge One: "During April of 2025... failed to respond to numerous requests to attend a fact-finding field trip in New Albany... no written or verbal excuse was provided for your ability, inability to attend." Since 2022, when I joined the committee, three years of participation, and during the time of that communication, I was very sick. And I was I had mentioned to you that I, you know, I ended up with a week in the hospital...

**Mayor Gessic:** I thought you said you cut your finger.

**Heather Leonbruno:** I did cut my finger. Because I don't have an immune system, this is way too much information, because I don't have an immune system and the infection went to the bone and I couldn't fight it. And that became, it turned into that...

**Mayor Gessic:** That one event is not that big of a deal. It's the multiple asking to attend a meeting.

**Heather Leonbruno et al:** I mean I'm very sorry [Mayor] It felt like we got ghosted...and then [Leonbruno] If I could finish [Mayor] Go ahead

**Heather Leonbruno:** Thanks. I mean, I do apologize. I vaguely remember some information flying about; you showed one of the text strings there are multiple different strings. Yes. So while that text string is going on, there are also other text strings that people are responding to. And I mean, it can get a little bit confusing. During that time...I didn't respond. And I was sick and...I'm sorry, Charge Two: "Failed to respond to repeated requests via text, email, and phone calls to attend the Planning Commission meeting on August 14th." I have never received an email from anyone in the committee until today when I called to follow up on our public records that we had not received regarding the attendance for all of the committees and was not provided to me. So there was a rush today and a couple of people tried to get me the information that we had requested. What I got was very incomplete. I just am confused because I was never provided any, you know I was not provided any formal notice of how to contact you guys or that this was chargeable and that I would be held to a hearing in front of the community and put on the front of the newspaper. I think I might have given a second thought to joining the committee

had I known all of that previously. I know that the village has a hard time getting volunteers for these committees, and a lot of 'em, it's several council members, you know, on the different committees and they're on separate ones and people miss a lot of meetings. I am not aware of anyone else ever being called to a hearing for missing the meetings. Elias, I think you missed six meetings for Parks—I don't mean to call you out. That was just included in the minimal amount of information that I received today. The New Albany trip, again, I was never told when I joined that trips out of town would be required. Even if I was able to go, I wasn't because I was hospitalized, but you know, that, that was never made known to me.

**Mayor Gessic and Heather Leonbruno:** I'm not really concerned about the Albany trip. It just showed we didn't get a response. [Leonbruno] Well, you are concerned about that one...[Mayor] That one incident isn't why we're here. Bear with me

**Heather Leonbruno:** Bear with me. You are concerned about the Albany trip because that was listed as charge one. And in the notice that you sent me, now you said my failure to respond and I just totally ghosted you. I didn't respond when I was sick in May. I missed a meeting in August. In between, I attended meetings. I was here in June. Nobody said, "Hey, here's your book." You know, nobody called you know, I haven't received, I didn't get any phone calls to say, you know, say, are you all right, where have you been or anything? So I just am very confused as to why.

**Mayor Gessic:** We're just trying to clarify.

**Heather Leonbruno:** I'm doing this right now and I think that it gives a bad look for you, to be honest. And I think everything should be out in the open. And I think problems that some people on the Council have with me arose when I started questioning decisions being made. I never said once that I am against this data center. I said myself and the community... have questions and could these questions be answered?...To my knowledge, not one community member's question has been fully answered to date. And so that's concerning to me. This event tonight is concerning to me.

**Mayor Gessic and Heather Leonbruno:** The event here tonight is to find out why you failed to respond to a meeting request when. We had to go through extra steps, but you just, you ghosted us. And then there was, you still haven't explained...why you did. [Leonbruno] Well I... [Mayor] You didn't respond on the 12<sup>th</sup> and also on the...let's see, on the sixth when Mr... resigned, Let's see...[Leonbruno] I didn't respond that TJ resigned. [Mayor] You didn't respond to TJ... You didn't respond to the well...[Leonbruno] I didn't know that I should have said, hey, I mean, our daughters are friends and so I, I think I've seen him said, hey, you know, I heard you resigned [Mayor] ...and you also didn't respond to the meeting request at all. And then a follow up question about picking your stuff up, there was no response. Also knowing that you had a meeting on your text ring. Right. Which we've proven that you answer that text string continuously up until this meeting. [Leonbruno] Exactly, so I have...[Mayor] and you still haven't provided explanation...[Leonbruno] responded to your information to your request.

And. I missed a meeting in August and I missed a trip, a non-required trip in May. I mean, explain to me why, out of the, what is it, five committees and how many members are involved that have missed meetings? [Mayor] People have missed meetings and... [Leonbruno] show, show me, right? Because I did ask for those records. They're public records. Those should have been afforded to us. Today, I start making the calls. Hey, what's the status? Can we get ahold of this? And got a complete runaround on who was supposed to provide the records. You should be able to call the village. You should be able to call the village and ask for records and not receive, Oh, I might be able to put that together. Let me talk to this person. That person is on it. We don't know who keeps the records. That's not how communities should be run... [Mayor] Once again, you're turning into a community. We're asking on the dates in questions. [Leonbruno] 'Cause I'm representing the community to volunteer... [Mayor] Why did you not respond to multiple requests to respond for a meeting? [Leonbruno] I don't know. I missed a text. [Mayor] You missed a whole text string. [Leonbruno] Sometimes when the kids are really active, you hand them your iPhone so they can watch a video... Sometimes they open up my messages or, you know, get in there and change my photos around. I missed some communication via text. But am I the only one who has missed a communication and a meeting? Is there anything... about even having to attend a meeting... I don't think I've known of committee members that have not responded... That's not, the issue is there was no response [Leonbruno] Well, right, because to my knowledge... [Mayor] That's our issue... There's no response—what's our guarantee when another big project comes up? Or we need to vote on something particular that you decide, oh, I don't feel like voting on that. I'm not gonna respond. That's our fear. Because then we gotta jumped through more hoops to try and get stuff done.

**Heather Leonbruno:** Then you could have called me and said, hey, we're afraid that you're not going, you're not in on this, that you're not here. You could've called me rather than, you know, drafting charges against me and sending the police to deliver it. That is so far beyond what it needed to be, and it is unfortunately a poor look.

**Mayor James Gessic:** Unfortunately, when you left here, the one day

**Heather Leonbruno:** ...and all of this, again, and I'm trying to say, you know, state, stick to the facts that like all of this. Occurred after I became a dissenting vote.

**Mayor James Gessic:** Unfortunately when you left here that one day, you left in a pretty...

**Heather Leonbruno:** Which one day?

**Heather Leonbruno:** I'm sorry. Are you speaking?

**Mayor James Gessic:** I think I, like I said, it's 20,

**Heather Leonbruno and Council:** is it the August 14th meeting?

**Mayor James Gessic:** No, it was the 20, I wanna say it's the 20th, but

**Heather Leonbruno and Mayor:** of what month? It was June. I wanna say it's June. The June. So the meeting that I came to, [Mayor] so talking to a few planning commission members. [Leonbruno] The time that you're saying I was unavailable Totally.

**Heather Leonbruno:** No one could find me. They couldn't reach me yet. I was here at the meeting and a participating member [Mayor] Yes. [Leonbruno] Member in June. And through all of that information, so you guys knew where I was. I was here. I was sitting here in June.

**Mayor James Gessic:** In June. Yes.

**Heather Leonbruno:** You could have handed me the book in June.

**Mayor James Gessic:** We didn't have the book ready then.

**Council Pro Temp Jean Schonauer et al:** It wasn't made until... was prepared for the August meeting... Yes. Prepared for... I think it was prepared for...

**Heather Leonbruno:** I have, whether it's the right book or not. I'm glad to have the book. I've looked through it and yeah. [Mayor] And so when you left here in the... [Leonbruno] read section 1330 in full

**Heather Leonbruno:** Yeah.

**Mayor James Gessic:** In June. In June, whatever meeting we had, June, you left here a little irate and a few of our members,

**Heather Leonbruno:** I left irate in June?

**Mayor James Gessic:** A few of our members thought you quit then, and then when you did not respond to the August meeting, we really thought you quit.

**Heather Leonbruno:** I'm sorry that you felt that way.

**Heather Leonbruno:** Everyone here knows where I live and you have my contact information and you could have called me. Did you call me?

**Mayor James Gessic:** Oh, I didn't call you.

**Heather Leonbruno:** So why in here does it say that I refused to answer?

**Mayor James Gessic:** I did. I did not call you. I'm not on...I'm not the person in charge of the planning commission.

**Heather Leonbruno:** To answer phone calls and emails.

**Heather Leonbruno:** Have you called me and have you emailed me?

**Mayor James Gessic:** No. We rely pretty much on text messages.

**Heather Leonbruno:** Okay. So why does it say that I refuse to answer...Your phone calls?

**Mayor James Gessic:** As you could've saw,

**Heather Leonbruno:** ...could you just answer that? Why does it say in charge number two?

**Mayor James Gessic:** I believe that I, well, there was some emails.

**Mayor James Gessic:** I don't respond to a lot of emails either and usually you can tell if someone read them. So I didn't, I did not re... Christian, I believe sent out emails about stuff.

**Heather Leonbruno:** Does that make sense to anyone? So he doesn't respond to emails. Okay. So I read them, the charge says I refused to answer your phone calls and your emails and the hot air balloon you sent to my house and every other way of communication.

**Heather Leonbruno:** Yet, in fact, what it was I missed was a text string

**Mayor James Gessic:** over multiple days.

**Heather Leonbruno:** Yes I did. I did miss that. And I'm sorry. So again, I mean maybe just if you, could we just back up and I could, if you could explain to me where it says that trips are required, you know, part of this volunteer position so that the next person who volunteers knows what they're getting into, if that could be explained

**Mayor James Gessic:** Well, we did talk about...

**Heather Leonbruno:** If it can be explained ...bear with me just one second. I'm gonna finish a couple of points before I lose it or my lips will get completely stuck under my teeth. If you could explain that, if you could also explain what emails and phone calls I missed, if you could provide me with the records that we've requested and have the right to obtain and we're not obtained prior to this meeting.

**Heather Leonbruno:** As was stated in front of everybody when they were requested. If you could explain that.

**Mayor James Gessic:** Yes. I believe you requested two years worth of planning commission notes, and then when you came in today, you asked for five years of all committee notes.

**Council Pro Temp Jean Schonauer:** No. When was the original records request provided?

**Heather Leonbruno and Council:** Last meeting, [Mike Glover] the record, the original records request was made by Sheriff Leonbruno, and he asked for two years of records for the planning commission.

**Council Pro Temp Jean Schonauer:** And that was done last week. What day?

**Heather Leonbruno and Council:** Thursday. Thursday.

**Heather Leonbruno:** So at the meeting? During the meeting...

**Heather Leonbruno and Council:** during the meeting. Right?

**Heather Leonbruno:** Well, we didn't have a lot of time to prepare for the meeting that was planned after the election and prior to I'm just trying the new council members coming in. Yeah, everybody did what can, and John did do what he could today to get me what he had available.

**Heather Leonbruno:** But you're saying that you can't put all that information together. Yet I called Becky and she was able to get me three years in an hour. I didn't say anything. I just simply asked, when did you ask for the records? I'm not saying anything. When I talked to John and he said, oh, we're working on it. We have a call into Becky.

**Heather Leonbruno:** Becky's supposed to be doing it. Okay, so call Becky. Becky says, I never heard from anybody that I was the one that was supposed to do this. So I called John. Hey, Becky's not aware. She's supposed to be doing this. Oh, I just asked her with, it was a half hour ago. Oh, well, John I got off the phone with Becky to answer your phone call.

**Heather Leonbruno:** She has not heard from you. Oh, well, actually, I asked Ashley to get the information for you. I said, okay, well, could you call Ashley and have Ashley get the information? And I said who is responsible for getting records? Which is a law, right? That they'd be provided to people that request 'em. Who is it that's in charge of getting the records?

**Heather Leonbruno:** That was all very difficult today.

**Heather Leonbruno and Council:** Well, it turned in from a two year of the planning commission records to a five year for every commission. Every committee.

**Heather Leonbruno:** No I, I said for the past two years. For all of the committees. What I thought today we had requested today. Today.

**Heather Leonbruno:** Today.

**Heather Leonbruno and Council:** Right. But the original request was for the planning Commission. Okay. But was that provided?

**Mayor James Gessic:** I don't know.

**Heather Leonbruno:** Even Okay. Let's say, right. Okay. So that's what was requested was that provided

**Fiscal Officer John Roskos:** the 2025 attendance records were provided that were available

**Heather Leonbruno:** and you said, well, I was able to get 2025. I don't have 2024,

**Fiscal Officer John Roskos:** which is accurate.

**Heather Leonbruno:** No one has 2024. I don't need it. Just for the record that we're not sure who has that. Well, that

**Mayor James Gessic:** Well that was under a different fiscal officer, so we're still trying to locate where she thinks these files are at.

**Heather Leonbruno:** Okay. Okay, so I can understand that. Right. I can say as a human. Absolutely. And a neighbor,

**Mayor James Gessic:** ... every time you get somebody new, they file something differently.

**Heather Leonbruno:** Get me the information. I wish that I had been provided the same courtesy. Hey, you missed a meeting, everything okay? What's going on? I mean, that's all. This is a volunteer position, right? Well, yeah. That's why I'm like, I can't stress enough that this is a volunteer position and this is nuts. It's become nuts that I am even at a hearing right now. We honestly that members of other committees have missed more than they've ever attended, and there's never been a hearing like this.

**Mayor James Gessic:** Yeah. But they communicate.

**Heather Leonbruno:** Dissenting member regarding a data center spoke up, have the audacity to ask a question. Regarding the data center, that's when hearings started and front page news started. You know, that's, is it fair? Do you think it's fair? Do you feel like you've ever been treated that way? I mean,

**Mayor James Gessic:** What's your question for,

**Heather Leonbruno:** did, have you ever been called to a hearing for missing meetings?

**Mayor James Gessic:** No.

**Heather Leonbruno:** Have you missed meetings?

**Mayor James Gessic:** I have, but I've also notified.

**Heather Leonbruno:** Okay, so you did the appropriate notification.

**Council Pro Temp Jean Schonauer:** Yes, now, I missed the council meeting last week, but they knew that I was outta town and unable to attend the week beforehand. And I tried to see if we could reschedule the meeting so I could be here.

**Council Pro Temp Jean Schonauer:** Right. Because I take my role very seriously.

**Heather Leonbruno:** Right and I, as you can tell from the participation that I have given in every meeting that I have attended. I have taken this position very seriously as well. So to infer that I don't,

**Council Pro Temp Jean Schonauer:** no, I'm not inferring anything. I'm simply, you asked the question, did we miss meetings and not, and then have to go before a hearing? I'm answering your question. No, and I just missed the meeting last week, but I contacted, I notified Council at the previous meeting that I wouldn't be at that meeting. And was there any possibility that we could change it so that I didn't miss it?

**Council Pro Temp Jean Schonauer:** Because I take this role seriously and I'm not in any way, shape or form suggesting that you don't, you asked me the question, I'm answering it. Okay. And now I have a question for you. Yes. If I might. So the August 12th, I mean, we understand that you had a medical emergency that prevented you from even being available to respond about the New Albany trip.

**Council Pro Temp Jean Schonauer:** And I'm sorry. Yes. And I'm sorry that happened and I'm thinking you better now. And it was a finger.

**Heather Leonbruno:** It was a finger and I did become very sick.

**Council Pro Temp Jean Schonauer:** Okay. But. Can I ask why you didn't come to the August 12th meeting? ...

**Heather Leonbruno:** I don't really know what was going on.

**Council Pro Temp Jean Schonauer:** You just didn't in August. You didn't know about it. Right?

**Heather Leonbruno:** All the kids are off. There's nine in our family. I watched all of them. They're off on break. I don't know. I missed a text ring. There are several. I have them all saved. I have every bit of communication that has ever gone on between us, saved from now back until 2022.

**Heather Leonbruno:** So we again, are talking about three years worth of communication. That I have been diligent about.

**Mayor James Gessic:** And that's why we thought it was odd that you just stopped communicating ...especially after you left here,

**Heather Leonbruno:** Yeah, that is odd. You could have called me. Hey.

**Mayor James Gessic:** Very irate. At the last meeting. So we just assumed

**Heather Leonbruno:** I, I was not ever very irate.

**Mayor James Gessic:** You were a little

**Heather Leonbruno:** No I don't believe that I was ever very irate.

**Heather Leonbruno and Council:** Was that the meeting that she was. Saying that we expected her to pencil whip everything, which was, I don't remember that one. She kept saying that we expected you just to pencil whip.

**Mayor James Gessic et al:** It was the meeting before the August 12th. [Leonbruno] I never pencil whip.

**Mayor James Gessic:** It was last.

**Heather Leonbruno:** I might have said rubber stamp.

**Council Member Mike Glover:** You sat right over there

**Heather Leonbruno:** and I said Pencil whip. Yeah. Do you have that in the minutes? 'cause I don't know that I've ever used the term pencil whip in my life. Well, I don't...I believe what I said was Rubber stamp. [Mayor] Rubber stamp. [Leonbruno] The reason I said that is because you've created a planning commission, right? And the meetings are called willy-nilly. And you come in and you're given that day, that minute, the information to vote on,

**Heather Leonbruno and Council Member:** read through it. Not when information's provided before the meeting. Days before the meeting. So review, I'm

**Heather Leonbruno:** talking about the meetings that I have attended. This is how the meetings have been handled.

**Heather Leonbruno:** When we had our last planning commission meeting, which was yesterday, right? It was agreed that the meetings would be more consistent. That they would provide the information ahead of time. That was all discussed yesterday as the new way. Right? Prior, it wasn't like that. And I did say I can't come in here and rubber stamp things that I'm not given any information prior to. Now when I was given information prior to, or asked to research something like the data center, I did and I went online.

**Heather Leonbruno:** 'cause where do you go? Right? Go over and use the Dewey Decimel system. I went online and I research, started researching data centers. And when I came to you with my concerns that I read about, he literally laughed in my face and said, you did your research on the internet or YouTube?

**Mayor James Gessic:** YouTube,

**Heather Leonbruno:** yeah. You YouTubed this as if I hadn't been reading articles and code and I think I know I was the only member that did that.

**Heather Leonbruno:** For the week prior when I was provided that information. The problem was that I asked those questions, right? That I said I'm not going to rubber stamp everything. That's when there became a problem with me. Specifically, not any of the other members who over years have missed meetings that we can't find.

**Heather Leonbruno:** 'cause we don't know who holds the records. I don't know. Is any of what I'm saying making sense? Yes. This is a little crazy.

**Mayor James Gessic and Heather Leonbruno:** We just want an explanation for why you did not respond August 12th. August...And you just said you don't have an explanation. [Leonbruno] I told you that apologize...[Mayor] ...and that is fine.

**Heather Leonbruno:** and I would like to ask you, why you didn't just call and ask me that, Jim.

**Mayor James Gessic:** Because Becky's the one that, the chair, I asked her. So Becky,

**Heather Leonbruno:** okay, wait. So Becky's in charge of making, to check on.

**Heather Leonbruno:** Why didn't you call and ask then? Hey, did you quit?

**Council Member Rebecca Shimko:** You are asking me. Yeah. I never thought you quit.

**Heather Leonbruno:** Okay. So I guess, so one of the members never thought that I quit. Who thought I quit? Could you raise your hand?

**Mayor James Gessic:** I thought you quit.

**Council Members:** [Schonauer] Oh, no. Nobody's involved. We weren't on the, [Mike Glover] we're not members

**Council Pro Temp Jean Schonauer:** of the committee.

**Heather Leonbruno:** Yeah, no, but it's the council that I'm answering to you are bringing the charges...

**Council Pro Temp Jean Schonauer:** ... But what I'm saying is as a council member who's not on the planning commission, it's not within our purview to reach out to committee members for committees we're not on to find out what they're doing and if they're showing up to meetings. Does that make sense? [Leonbruno] Yes. [Schonauer] Like if I'm not on a committee... why should I be calling you?

**Heather Leonbruno et al:** But Yeah, but if you're in the text ring, [Schonauer] I'm not in that text room. Okay. Okay. So you're saying, we were concerned that you quit. So who's the we?

**Mayor James Gessic:** I was one, I had a number... another member said they thought you quit.

**Heather Leonbruno:** Okay. So who's that?

**Mayor James Gessic:** I'm not gonna disclose that right now.

**Heather Leonbruno:** Okay, so it was a council member that's not in attendance...

**Mayor James Gessic:** No it's a Planning Commission member.

**Heather Leonbruno et al:** A planning commission member. [?] If you're referring to Rick's commission. [Leonbruno] Well, no, I'm just saying,

**Heather Leonbruno:** I just want overall, like who all involved in the village thought I quit.

**Mayor James Gessic:** I was really shocked that you...

**Heather Leonbruno:** I don't know that I even have much more to say because this whole thing is absurd. It's really absurd. And the community, my main goal was to let the community know this is how it's being operated. Because when you volunteer, if they can get anybody else in here to volunteer now, right? God forbid you miss a text. Your name is going to be, I'm the front

page of the newspaper. Saying how delinquent you were in your responsibilities for your volunteer position with the village. And you'll have to go to page four to find out right, who, what was, you know, the rebuttal to that it, it know that is what you're getting into. My whole thing is it does not matter whether I'm on the planning commission going forward or not. What does matter is that these people are aware that there are big decisions being made for our community, decisions that will change our community for our children and our grandchildren and our great-grandchildren. So, I believe that the committee members should be speaking for the community, and I do believe I've done my due diligence. On the committee in speaking for our community.

**Mayor James Gessic:** I agree.

**Heather Leonbruno:** Okay.

**Mayor James Gessic:** It has nothing to do with your opinion on anything. It has to do with,

**Heather Leonbruno:** No, I'm not talking about my opinion. I'm talking about my due diligence, which you're saying I haven't done. I'm sorry if you didn't understand that. Like you said, my opinion doesn't matter, but like, I'm saying I, I believe I've done my due diligence and you said you agree, right? So why am I standing here?

**Mayor James Gessic:** It your opinion, whether you're for the data center or that opinion doesn't matter to me. It really doesn't.

**Mayor James Gessic:** You can be for it or against it. It doesn't matter if you're on the planning commission.

**Heather Leonbruno:** Okay, perfect.

**Mayor James Gessic:** It really it...

**Heather Leonbruno:** What, what does matter then?

**Mayor James Gessic:** you showing up and being a part of the meetings and actually answering text messages. Okay.

**Heather Leonbruno:** So when I hear show up in June,

**Council Member Ashley Hacking et al:** Heather, if it's all right, can I go ahead?

**Council Member Ashley Hacking et al:** [Leonbruno] Yeah. Thank you. Maybe you can clarify for me. I confused, [Hacking] I guess I'm listening and I'm trying to go through this and I think this is, I think it's important to go back and I think we have to stop and pause. Your missing, when you didn't respond to the text, the ripple effect that happened here at the Village.

**Council Member Ashley Hacking:** I think that's what I think we need to understand. When you didn't respond to the text that you weren't coming to the meeting. We were having a meeting. Everything in the village is to do business. You have to post and you know how it works when there's a meeting. Then so many days later is when you have a council meeting and public hearings and everything's timed out. Well. When we set meetings, which we have done our, you know how it works, planning commission, you set these meetings, then you set public meetings 30 days later, public hearings, and then you set council meetings. Everything's timed. Well, we you know how it goes. That's how you set things. So when we set the meeting and we've posted it that, hey, we're doing a meeting and we are going through our text and [seeing if] everybody can make it...

Well, then you set it, then you count so many days out, you set the next meeting... That's gonna work with the timing of things. When you don't respond and everybody doesn't respond, you start to count. Do we have a quorum? You need a quorum in order to have a meeting. Or it messes up an entire timeline, right? Village business can't happen if you don't have a quorum. That's function. That's how things function. All of a sudden, you look in the text train, which the mayor showed. All of a sudden, TJ steps down. TJ steps down, oh my heck. Hey, we're not gonna have a quorum. But Heather doesn't respond.

Heather doesn't respond. Well, you can see in the next thing says, Heather, come get your packet. You need to come get this packet. The meeting's in four days, you gotta come to the Village Hall, get your packet because you need to read the material. 'cause we're having a meeting in four days. If you don't pick up your packet, guess what?

**Council Member Ashley Hacking et al:** We're not gonna have a quorum. Guess what? We can't do this. [Leonbruno] So you're just, you're not...quoting what was said. [Hacking] I'm just telling you what's the...if you go by.

**Heather Leonbruno:** Right...this isn't a quote as to how that all went.

**Council Member Ashley Hacking:** No, but I'm just telling you what is being said on what's going on behind the scenes of what, what's really happening. Okay, now you're seeing this, the blue little thing saying, okay, this is going on. So guess what's, look on the paper. You're gonna see on the thing that we have to have a meeting to call now a replacement for TJ. Because guess what? We don't have a quorum because you're not responding. TJ stepped down. We still have to do village business.

**Unknown et al:** Yeah.

**Council Member Ashley Hacking et al:** Okay. So guess what? What we have to do is do a meeting, the council has to have a special meeting now 24 hours before that meeting. We have to call a replacement because you are not responding. We don't have a quorum. So now there's a replacement that has to be called because guess what?

**Council Member Ashley Hacking et al:** Village still has to do business. You're still not responding. Okay? You didn't pick up your packet, you're not coming. So the village still has to do business. So I know you didn't see this text message, you didn't see another text message, you still didn't see a text message. Non-responding-- village didn't do business [Leonbruno] over the timeframe, right?

[Hacking] That timeframe. So I'm just saying, I know it's just one text message and it felt like you just missed one. But when the village is doing business, and this is not, I don't, we don't care about data center. I don't even know what's going over there. I tell people we have no clue. Who knows what will happen.

**Council Member Ashley Hacking et al:** So it's not about a data center, it's not about anything going over there. [?] Yeah, that's not true. [Hacking] It's about doing, it's about doing business. Any business comes in... Are they gonna want to come to a village that can't, or somebody, how if someone was building a house and they needed that lot split or they needed something done and we can't do business...

**Heather Leonbruno:** The whole village relies on one volunteer to operate?

**Heather Leonbruno:** We're in trouble... because I appreciate that. I'm gonna interrupt real quick if you'll allow... I appreciate what you're saying. And there's a decorum and you have to come and you have to vote and I've responded and attended these votes and, all of that. But the last meeting that I was invited to, I was sent the invite the day before and only two people responded.

**Heather Leonbruno:** I didn't know if anybody was even gonna be here when I got here. I mean, I can show you guys. So nobody responded.

**Council Member Ashley Hacking et al:** Rewind it, back up to even, like, remember Loreto, when he brought his, all those people in, he paid for people, all of his experts to come. The room was full of people. If we didn't have a quorum and he had all those people paid, [Leonbruno] I was here. [Hacking] I know, but just imagine if we didn't have a...

**Heather Leonbruno:** just imagine if I wasn't here

**Council Member Ashley Hacking et al:** ...then all those people that he had paid...we couldn't have done his business. That would've been very unprofessional.

**Heather Leonbruno et al:** It would've been, it would've, then gosh...the whole village would've fallen apart if one volunteer didn't show up, [Mayor]two [Leonbruno] or answer a text.

**Heather Leonbruno:** Two. Okay. Well, I'm not responsible for TJ retiring after 11 years of service on a committee. Okay. [?] Sorry. Go ahead.[Leonbruno] Wow. I, well give it to him. In, in June, when in between the two, unresponsive allegations at this point. I was here sitting next

to you and I explained why I couldn't come to the trip and apologize, and you said it's okay, we can do another one.

**Council Member Ashley Hacking et al:** Yeah. It's, it's not personal. It's not about on the trip. Explain. [Leonbruno] I'm not talking about you being personal. You told me I did. It's okay. [Hacking] I'm not. [Leonbruno] ...but you could you have said, by the way, there's a book here.

**Heather Leonbruno, Council Member Hacking, etc.:** The book wasn't, the book wasn't there yet. The book wasn't from... We don't know when the book was made.

**Heather Leonbruno:** ...but I've been here.

**Heather Leonbruno et al:** [Hacking] The book was, [Leonbruno]...and you all know where I live, and nobody made a phone call. The book was, and nobody sent a email. Nobody left a voicemail. Nobody walked down the street.

**Council Member Ashley Hacking et al:** You got a text...

**Heather Leonbruno:** ...to say, Hey, are you okay? Nobody sent an officer over for a welfare check and the whole community's operations fell apart.

**Heather Leonbruno:** That's concerning. That's something that our new council

**Mayor James Gessic:** actually, it didn't fall apart. We just had a scramble to get stuff done. That's all. It didn't fall apart.

**Heather Leonbruno:** But you got it done, right?

**Mayor James Gessic:** Yeah, we got it done.

**Heather Leonbruno:** You got it done. I am sorry that I put anybody in a pickle. That is never my intention. You know,

**Heather Leonbruno:** the more I think about it, I think about the, what, you know, that my phone was broken and I didn't have it for a week, and we had to go, I mean, I'm looking at my dad because he was trying to fix this phone. ... maybe that was what happened then. I don't know. I apologize. And I mean, that's really all I have.

**Heather Leonbruno:** I think it needs to be said. I'm all set.

**Mayor James Gessic:** Thank you. Thank you. Appreciate it.

**Mayor James Gessic:** Now where's my agenda now?

**Heather Leonbruno:** Can I ask what, what happens next?

**Mayor James Gessic:** We'll...

**Council ?:** ...did you send the police to the house to deliver? She mentioned, alluded to a

**Mayor James Gessic:** Yes. As a courier. Yeah, please. She...

**Council Pro Temp Jean Schonauer et al:** and I wanna respond to that. That's not the first time that's happened. I've actually had documents delivered to me at my house by the police department. Not to say that it's... standard. [Mike Glover] It wasn't unusual for council members to have...[Schonauer] no, this was before I was on council. I was given some documents at my house before I was on council, and the police department delivered them to me.

**Council Pro Temp Jean Schonauer:** So this is not, it's not like this is just, it just happened to you. I'm just, I just wanted. Just for the record say that it's not just you that happened to.

**Heather Leonbruno et al:** Right. And I just wanna that all real quickly say, you know, I mentioned that is how this information was delivered to me. I have since found out that is common practice across all the communities that the officers on duty, if they don't have anything going on that they'll deliver for, you know [Mayor]... it wasn't like a gotcha type thing. [Leonbruno] It's just common practice. Because it's common practice. Right. Does also doesn't mean that it's appropriate. Okay. There's two different things. Because my daughter was alarmed to have the police at the door asking for me by name and when it all it took was a phone call. All it took, all it would've taken would've been a phone call or a pop in at the house. You know, you know where we are down the street, but just, okay. That's it.

Elias Coss made a motion to adjourn the Public Hearing and return to the Special Council Meeting for General Purposes; Jean Schonauer seconded the motion.

Vote to adjourn Public Hearing: Jean Schonauer, yes; Mike Glover, yes; Elias Coss, yes; Rebecca Shimko, yes; Ashley Hacking, yes.

#### **Reading & Disposition of the Minutes:**

- a. Regular Council Meeting 11/13/2025 (emailed on November 19, 2025)

Rebecca Shimko made a motion to approve the minutes; Mike Glover seconded the motion.

Discussion: No corrections were noted.

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

**Legislation:**

**Resolution No. 51-2025** (Move to postpone to December 11 Regular Meeting)

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

Elias Coss moved to postpone Resolution No. 51-2025; Jean Schonauer seconded the motion. Discussion: none.

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

**Resolution No. 53-2025** (Move to postpone to December 11 Regular Meeting)

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

Jean Schonauer moved to postpone Resolution No. 53-2025; Rebecca Shimko seconded the motion. Discussion: none.

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

**Resolution No. 54-2025** (Move to postpone to December 11 Regular Meeting)

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.

Jean Schonauer moved to postpone Resolution No. 54-2025; Rebecca Shimko seconded the motion. Discussion: none.

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

**Resolution No. 55-2025** (Move to postpone to December 11 Regular Meeting)

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

Jean Schonauer moved to postpone Resolution No. 55-2025; Rebecca Shimko seconded the motion. Discussion: none.

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

**Resolution No. 56-2025** (Third 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.

Jean Schonauer moved to approve Resolution No. 56-2025; Rebecca Shimko seconded the motion.

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

**Resolution No. 57-2025** (Third 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.

Jean Schonauer moved to approve Resolution No. 57-2025; Elias Coss seconded the motion.

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

**Resolution No. 58-2025** (Move to postpone to January 8, 2026)

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

Jean Schonauer moved to postpone Resolution No. 58-2025; Elias Coss seconded the motion.

The current agreement does not expire until January 31.

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

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

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

Mike Glover moved to approve Resolution No. 59-2025; Elias Coss seconded the motion.

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

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

A resolution authorizing 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

Jean Schonauer moved to approve Resolution No. 60-2025; Mike Glover seconded the motion.

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

**Resolution No. 64-2025** (Second Reading)

A resolution authorizing the Mayor and Fiscal Officer to enter into a contract with TextMyGov for a municipal communication platform and declaring an emergency.

Resolution No. 64-2025 was presented for Second Reading.

**Ordinance No. 2025-10** (Third 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.

Elias Coss moved to table Ordinance No. 2025-10; Jean Schonauer seconded the motion.

Discussion: we will need to confirm with Solicitor O'Leary whether a Public Hearing is required.

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

**Ordinance No. 2025-11** (Move to postpone to December 11 Regular Meeting)

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

Jean Schonauer moved to postpone Ordinance No. 2025-11; Rebecca Shimko seconded the motion. Discussion: none.

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

**Ordinance No. 2025-12** (Move to postpone to January 8, 2026)

An Ordinance authorizing and approving the appointment of Steven Williams as Street Commissioner/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.

Jean Schonauer moved to postpone Ordinance No. 2025-12; Rebecca Shimko seconded the motion. Discussion: none.

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

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

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

Jean Schonauer moved to approve Ordinance No. 2025-13; Elias Coss seconded the motion.

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

**Purchases & Approvals:**

- a. Approval of Purchases- November 7 through November 18

Jean Schonauer moved to approve Purchases and Approvals from November 7 through November 18; Mike Glover seconded the motion.

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

**Adjournment:**

Mike Glover moved to adjourn the meeting; Jean Schonauer seconded the motion.

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

**The next Regular Council Meeting is December 11, 2025 at 7:00 PM.**

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

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

Posted 12/15/2025