

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of Mt. Orab Village Council Meeting

Held

JUNE 16, 2026

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Howser called the regular council meeting to order with a roll call vote of the following members: Shane Ogden, Zane Cordrey, Carl Vineyard, Anna Howell and John Waits.

MINUTES

Councilman Ogden moved to approve the minutes for the May 19 & 22, 2026 council meeting as presented. Seconded by Councilman Vineyard.

A roll call vote was administered by Mayor Howser. Ogden, Yea, Cordrey Yea, Vineyard Yea, Howell Yea, Waits Yea. Motion carried.

VISITORS

The following visitors approached council regarding a variety of subjects:

Kandy Bullis and Sandy Eversole

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Ogden moved to enter executive session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22(G)(3) for conference with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action and/or litigation.

Seconded by Councilman Cordrey.

A roll call was administered by Mayor Howser. Ogden Yea, Cordrey Yea, Vineyard Yea, Howell Yea, Waits Yea. Motion Carried.

Council entered executive session at 7:13 p.m.

RECONVENE MEETING

Councilman Ogden moved to reconvene the council meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Seconded by Councilwoman Howell. A roll call vote was administered by Mayor Howser. Ogden Yea, Cordrey Yea, Vineyard Yea, Howell Yea, Waits Yea. Motion Carried.

Solicitor Chris Moore addressed the meeting. One matter that he has reviewed was a pending case of Christopher Hicks versus Mt Orab, Case #2026-0089 in the Brown County Court of Common Pleas concerning an executive session. Solicitor Moore received council's permission to try to resolve that case. Solicitor Moore also asked council to reconsider the action for the reappointment of Mr. Carl Vineyard which took place on February 3, 2026.

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JUNE 16, 2026**REAPPOINTMENT OF CARL VINEYARD**

Councilman Ogden moved the reappointment of Carl Vineyard as Council Member effective February 3, 2026.

Councilwoman Howell seconded the motion. A roll call was administered by Mayor Howser. Ogden Yea, Cowdrey Yea, Vineyard Yea, Howell Yea, Waits Yea. Motion carried

At this time Mayor Howser administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Vineyard.

RESOLUTION #875

Discussion was held regarding the desire of Council to ratify prior actions taken since February.

Councilman Ogden moved to declare an emergency to adopt Resolution #875 RATIFYING, AFFIRMING AND RE-ENACTING PRIOR ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS, AND ORAL MOTIONS OF THE VILLAGE FROM FEBRUARY 3, 2026 TO PRESENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilman Waits seconded the motion to declare an emergency. A roll call was administered by Mayor Howser. Ogden Yea, Cowdrey Yea, Vineyard Yea, Howell Yea, Waits Yea. Motion carried.

Councilman Ogden then moved to adopt Resolution #875 RATIFYING, AFFIRMING AND REENACTING PRIOR ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND ORAL MOTIONS OF THE VILLAGE FROM FEBRUARY 3, 2026 TO PRESENT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. Councilman Waits seconded the motion. A roll call was administered by Mayor Howser. Ogden Yea, Cowdrey Yea, Vineyard Yea, Howell Yea, Waits Yea. Motion carried.

RESCIND MOTION FROM MAY 19

Discussion was held concerning the prior oral motion to give funds to the Community Playground and the recent grant provided by the State of Ohio of \$150,000.00 toward the Community Playground and that the park now only needed \$5,412.32 and a short term advancement for the remainder of funding.

Councilman Ogden moved to rescind the motion from May 19, 2026 to give the Community Playground Fund \$155,412.32 from village funds.

Councilman Cordrey seconded the motion. A roll call was administered by Mayor Howser. Ogden Yea, Cowdrey Yea, Vineyard Yea, Howell Yea, Waits Yea. Motion carried

RESOLUTION #876 TRANSFER

Councilman Vineyard moved to declare Resolution #876 an emergency to adopt Resolution #876 AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE INTERIM FISCAL OFFICER TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM

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THE GENERAL FUND TO THE COMMUNITY PARK IMPROVEMENT FUND #2042 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilwoman Howell seconded the motion. A roll call was administered by Mayor Howser. Ogden Yea, Cowdrey Yea, Vineyard Yea, Howell Yea, Waits Yea. Motion carried.

Councilman Vineyard then moved to adopt Resolution #876 AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE INTERIM FISCAL OFFICER TO TRANSFER MONEY FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE COMMUNITY PARK IMPROVEMENT FUND #2042.

Councilwoman Howell seconded the motion. A roll call was administered by Mayor Howser. Ogden Yea, Cowdrey Yea, Vineyard Yea, Howell Yea, Waits Yea. Motion carried

RESOLUTION #877 ADVANCE

Discussion was held regarding the need to advance funds toward the Community Park pending the receipt of the \$150,000.00 approved by the State.

Councilman Ogden moved to declare an emergency to adopt Resolution #877 AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE INTERIM FISCAL OFFICER TO EFFECTATE AN ADVANCE FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE COMMUNITY PARK IMPROVEMENT FUND #2042 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilwoman Howell seconded the motion. A roll call was administered by Mayor Howser.

Ogden Yea, Cowdrey Yea, Vineyard Yea, Howell Yea, Waits Yea. Motion carried.

Councilman Ogden then moved to adopt Resolution #877 AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE INTERIM FISCAL OFFICER TO EFFECTATE AN ADVANCE FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE COMMUNITY PARK IMPROVEMENT FUND #2042 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Councilman Cordrey seconded the motion. A roll call was administered by Mayor Howser. Ogden Yea, Cowdrey Yea, Vineyard Yea, Howell Yea, Waits Yea. Motion carried

Rob Meyer addressed the meeting that the Playground Fund did not receive 2 grants despite the letters of recommendation. However, he got word that Representative Bird was able to secure a grant from the State of Ohio in the amount of \$150,000.00. He also addressed the removal of the old playground equipment.

Discussion was held and the decision was made to table the subject of the removal of the old playground equipment to the July meeting.

POLICE DEPARTMENT HIRE

Chief Hahn discussed recommending new hires for the Police Department.

Councilman Ogden moved to hire Drake Dockery as a full-time police officer effective June 16, 2026 at the Probationary Officer Pay Rate of \$56,555.52 per year.

1430

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Councilman Waits seconded the motion. A roll call was administered by Mayor Howser. Ogden Yea, Cowdrey Yea, Vineyard Yea, Howell Yea, Waits Yea. Motion carried.

Councilman Ogden moved to hire Drake Battista as a part-time police officer effective June 16, 2026 at the part-time officer pay rate of \$27.00 per hour.

Councilman Cordrey seconded the motion. A roll call was administered by Mayor Howser. Ogden Yea, Cowdrey Yea, Vineyard Yea, Howell Yea, Waits Yea. Motion carried.

Councilman Ogden moved that since Officer Elijah Beck has completed his one-year probationary period, he be moved to non-probationary officer at a rate of \$57,553.60 per year.

Councilman Cordrey seconded the motion. A roll call was administered by Mayor Howser. Ogden Yea, Cowdrey Yea, Vineyard Yea, Howell Yea, Waits Yea. Motion carried.

FIRE DEPARTMENT RESIGNATION

Councilman Ogden moved to accept the resignation of Ben Hoop effective June 16, 2026.

Councilman Cordrey seconded the motion. A roll call was administered by Mayor Howser. Ogden Yea, Cowdrey Yea, Vineyard Yea, Howell Yea, Waits Yea. Motion carried.

BPA BOARD APPOINTMENT

Councilman Ogden moved to appoint James Slack to the open seat on the Board of Public Affairs. Councilman Cordrey seconded the motion.

Discussion was held and a roll call was administered by Mayor Howser. Ogden Yea, Cordrey Yea, Vineyard Yea, Howell Yea, Waits Yea. Motion failed.

ORDINANCE #1347 CYBER SECURITY POLICY

Discussion was held concerning a Cyber Security Program and Policy for the Village.

Councilman Ogden moved to declare an emergency to adopt Ordinance #1347 A CYBER SECURITY PROGRAM AND POLICY PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE 9.64 AND DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

Councilman Waits seconded the motion. A roll call was administered by Mayor Howser. Ogden Yea, Cowdrey Yea, Vineyard Yea, Howell Yea, Waits Yea. Motion carried.

Councilman Ogden then moved to ADOPT ORDINANCE #1347 A CYBER SECURITY PROGRAM AND POLICY PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE 9.64. AND DECLARE AN EMERGENCY.

Councilwoman Howell seconded the motion. A roll call was administered by Mayor Howser. Ogden Yea, Cowdrey Yea, Vineyard Yea, Howell Yea, Waits Yea. Motion carried.

FIRE TAX LEVY RENEWAL

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Councilman Ogden offered Resolution #874 RESOLUTION DETERMINING TO PROCEED TO LEVY A RENEWAL TAX IN EXCESS OF THE TEN-MILL LIMITATION

Resolution #874 was given it's second reading by title only.

INTERIM FISCAL OFFICER

Discussion was held regarding the extra work being performed by Donna Wallingford as Interim Fiscal Officer since May 19, 2026.

Councilman Ogden moved to hire Donna Wallingford as Interim Fiscal Officer effective May 19, 2026 and receive a stipend of \$2,000.00 per pay in addition to her regular rate per hour.

Councilman Cordrey seconded the motion. A roll call was administered by Mayor Howser. Ogden Yea, Cowdrey Yea, Vineyard Yea, Howell Yea, Waits Yea. Motion carried

JOB POSTING

The posting for a new fiscal officer has been done. It is in the Brown County Press, Clermont Sun, Ohio Municipal League and the Southwest Ohio Tax Administrators Association.

ACCOUNTING CONSULTANT

Councilman Vineyard moved to enter into a contract with Fraunfelter Accounting Services from June 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026 at a rate of \$125.00 per hour not to exceed \$20,000.00.

Councilman Waits seconded the motion. A roll call was administered by Mayor Howser. Ogden Yea, Cowdrey Yea, Vineyard Yea, Howell Yea, Waits Yea. Motion carried

EASEMENT ON HALES WAY

Councilman Cordrey moved to approve the easement on Hales Way as presented and authorize the Mayor and Interim Fiscal Officer to sign.

Councilman Ogden seconded the motion. A roll call was administered by Mayor Howser. Ogden Yea, Cowdrey Yea, Vineyard Yea, Howell Yea, Waits Yea. Motion carried.

REPLAT ON CRESCENT DRIVE

Councilman Ogden moved to approve the replat on Crescent Drive Tract 2 and 3 as presented and to authorize the Mayor and Interim Fiscal Officer to sign.

Councilman Waits seconded the motion. A roll call was administered by Mayor Howser. Ogden Yea, Cowdrey Yea, Vineyard Yea, Howell Yea, Waits Yea. Motion carried

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JUNE 16, 2026**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

Councilman Ogden moved to enter executive session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22 (G)(8) to consider confidential information related to the marketing plans, specific business strategy, production techniques, trade secrets, or personal financial statements of an applicant for economic development assistance, or to negotiations with other political subdivisions respecting requests for economic development assistance, provided that both of the following conditions apply: The information is directly related to a request for economic development assistance that is to be provided or administered under any provision of Chapter 715., 725., 1724., or 1728. or sections 701.07, 3735.67, 3735.70, 5709.40 to 5709.43, 5709.61 to 5709.69, 5709.73 to 5709.75, or 5709.77 to 5709.81 of the Ohio Revised Code, or that involves public infrastructure improvements or the extension of utility services that are directly related to an economic development project. A unanimous quorum of the public body determines, by a roll call vote, that the session is necessary to protect the interests of the applicant or the possible investment or expenditure of public funds to be made in connection with the economic development project.

Seconded by Councilwoman Howell. A roll call vote was administered by Mayor Howser. Ogden Yea, Cordrey Yea, Vineyard Yea, Howell Yea, Waits Yea. Motion Carried.

Council entered executive session at 8:21 p.m.

RECONVENE MEETING

Councilman Ogden moved to reconvene the council meeting at 9:21 p.m.

Seconded by Councilwoman Howell. A roll call vote was administered by Mayor Howser. Ogden Yea, Cordrey Yea, Vineyard Yea, Howell Yea, Waits Yea.

INCENTIVES

Councilman Ogden moved to offer the proposed water and wastewater incentives to Project AWB.

Councilman Cordrey seconded the motion. A roll call was administered by Mayor Howser. Ogden Yea, Cordrey Yea, Vineyard Yea, Howell Yea, Waits Yea.

PARK TREES

Mayor Howser indicated that there was another tree in the park that needs to come down in addition to the ones previously.

Councilman Vineyard moved to approve the additional \$2,800.00 for removal of the tree.

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Seconded by Councilwoman Howell. A roll call was administered by Mayor Howser. Ogden Yea, Cordrey Yea, Vineyard Yea, Howell Yea, Waits Yea.

HIGH AND MAIN LEFT TURN SIGNAL

Mayor Howser informed the council that the estimated cost of engineering for the new left turn signal at High and Main Streets would be \$25,553.00. Compass would like to send out to three different contractors notice for cost estimates.

Councilman Ogden moved to authorize Mayor Howser to bid the cost of the left turn signal project. Councilman Cordrey seconded the motion. A roll call was administered by Mayor Howser. Ogden Yea, Cordrey Yea, Vineyard Yea, Howell Yea, Waits Yea.

RETIREMENT

Mayor Howser announced that he would retire as mayor effective June 30, 2026. He indicated that he has worked for the village for 32 years as either council member or mayor.

ADJOURN

Councilman Ogden moved to approve the bills as presented to council and adjourn. Seconded by Councilman Cordrey. A roll call was administered by Mayor Howser. Ogden Yea, Cordrey Yea, Vineyard Yea, Howell Yea, Waits Yea. Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.



Interim Fiscal Officer



Mayor