

## RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS VILLAGE OF DEGRAFF COUNCIL REGULAR SESSION

The Legislative body of the Village of DeGraff convened in regular session on June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2026, from 6:58p.m. to 8:08p.m. at 107 S. Main St., DeGraff, OH 43318.

Mayor Stephanie Orsborne called the meeting to order at 6:58p.m. with the following Council Members and staff Present:

|                                           |                                            |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Mayor Stephanie Orsborne – Present        | Jenny Purtee, Council Member – Present     |
| Gabe Kean, President Pro Tempore – Absent | Amber Armbruster, Council Member – Present |
| Nancy Hall, Council Member – Present      | Wesley McBean, Council Member – Present    |
| Heidi Duckro, Council Member – Present    |                                            |

Staff Present:

Stephanie Knight – Fiscal Officer  
Clinton Buchenroth – Asst. Fire Chief  
Merle Orsborne – Zoning Officer

Ms. Armbruster made the motion to excuse Mr. Kean as he is on vacation, seconded by Ms. Hall.  
Roll Call – All ayes.

**MOTION**

Ms. Duckro made the motion to suspend the reading and accept the June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2026, minutes as presented, seconded by Mr. McBean.  
Roll Call – All ayes.

**MOTION**

### Visitors –

- Darren Andrews, Danni Andrews, and Derrik Andrews; to discuss property clean up assistance.

### Zoning – Merle Orsborne provided the following information:

- There are 10 permits completed and another 10 in the process of being approved.
- Thankful for the support of Council regarding the process of approval of property clean up, sending out letters, and moving the process forward.
- The Andrews brothers run a clean up business and want to discuss their services and how to assist with the Ellis St. property in particular.
  - Ms. Purtee advised it all needs to go. Ms. Armbruster advised trailers have been tarped but there are still too many. Mayor Orsborne stated it is not zoned for business and needs cleaned up.
  - The Andrews brothers are willing to donate their services to this project in particular, but need clear direction of clean up from the council. What is considered excess? They visited with the resident for 2 hours and are open to possibilities. Mayor Orsborne advised that the neighbors have rights as well. Ms. Purtee asked what he willing to part with and Darren stated that the resident isn't sure and is having a hard time letting go of anything, so council will need to set parameters.
  - Mr. Orsborne advised council needs to set a firm date. He appreciates the Andrews brother's assistance but the date must be final. Mayor Orsborne advised we must move forward and define what is excess as it is a residential area and there should be limits to the number of items and things that definitely must go; such as abandoned refrigerators, bathtubs, etc. Darren advised the resident has reasoning behind the number of items on the property. Mr. Orsborne asked for advice. Mayor Orsborne advised to set deadline and begin clean up immediately. Darren stated it should be put into writing so it's clear. Have a copy sent to resident by the solicitor. Mr. McBean advised that council should set scope of work so the brothers have clear direction. Darren agreed in need of scope for appropriate quote.



- Ms. Armbruster suggested to allow 2 mowers and 1 trailer. Mayor Orsborne suggested tools in yard should move to garage. How does everything get there is resident is disabled? Advised that folks drop things off at his property for disposal. Darren advised the tractors have value but can move them so better situated. Golf cart can go. Old windows can go. Ms. Armbruster suggested boat to go and items off of ground would help a lot. Ms. Purtee suggested to keep 1 full trailer and have 1 empty trailer. Will still let him tinker. Mayor Orsborne questioned how much he is able to do considered his disability. Mr. Orsborne advised over 30 windows were brought over by a friend and left there.
- Darren proposed a 2-week timeframe for him to work on the things that are must go items. Will fill the boat and take it out.
- Ms. Purtee brought up that it's a safety issue for kids in the neighborhood.
- Mayor Orsborne asked if council and Merle agree to the 2-week timeframe. All agreed.

Ms. Purtee made the motion to give 2-week timeframe for clean-up at the Ellis Street property by the Andrews brothers, at no cost, seconded by Ms. Hall.

Roll Call – All ayes, with Mr. McBean abstaining due to family relation

**MOTION**

- Darren advised bids will be submitted at the appropriate time for the other property clean-up requests for the village.
- Darren advised he would like for the village to move forward with replacing the sidewalks mainly used by the school children for walking to school. He will work with the village administrator for scope of work. Mayor Orsborne advised will go through the normal bidding process when the time comes.
- Mr. Orsborne advised there is a second property in high need of clean-up but would like to focus on getting the Ellis St. property done before moving on to the next. Not every property can be a volunteer clean-up.

**Solicitor** – No updates at this time.

**Village Administrator** – Mayor Orsborne provided the following information:

- Working on cybersecurity options. Reviewing what neighboring villages are using as well.

**Safety Committee** – Assistant Chief Buchenroth provided the following information:

- Update of year-to-date runs, please see the attached sheet.
- Truck service is running slow. DeGraff Service Center has availability. Mayor Orsborne advised fine to move there from Wrens.
- Extrication equipment is installed. Free training is being set up for the volunteer fire department.
- Chicken dinner was a success. Sold out at over 400 dinners.
- Hydrant flow testing is moving forward.
- SCBA service will be around \$1045.00
- Landing Zone lights quote is \$580 for a set for each engine.

Mr. McBean made the motion to approve the spending for the SCBA servicing and the purchase of the landing zone lights for each engine, seconded by Ms. Armbruster.

Roll Call – All ayes.

**MOTION**

- Mayor Orsborne reminded of the need for chairs at a wedding she is officiating.
- Mayor Orsborne advised bore samples were approved and build process to move to financing step next. Architect is estimating cost. Hitting 1.650mil and trying to get down to 1.3 – 1.5. Need to be mindful of financials so there is enough money to run the new building afterwards.

**Finance** – Ms. Knight provided the following information:

- Buckeye State Bank changed their online platform. This caused issues for our ACH in payroll. Working through sign-on issues and templates as well. They have been responsive and helpful.
- Explained the reallocation needs for property insurance and BWC.



- Provided an update on bank reconciliations.

**Park Committee** – Ms. Duckro provided the following information:

- Need more keys to have the bathrooms unlocked for events and ballgames. Mayor Orsborne advised to work with the village administrator for this request.
- Ball Association will provide a materials list at the end of the season for the dugout roof project.
- Suggested to have signs up asking for help in keeping the park clean. Mayor Orsborne will have the village administrator look into this option.
- There is a need for another park committee member to have a full set of park keys for when Ms. Duckro will be away on vacation. She will work with the village administrator.

**Cemetery** – Ms. Armbruster provided the following information:

- Funds have not been received from council yet. The fiscal officer will look into this item.
- Everyone thought the cemetery looked very good at the Memorial Day service.

**Joint Sewer Board** – Mayor Orsborne provided the following information:

- Buckeye Power quote is moving forward.
- DeGraff assisting with coverage while Mr. Coy is on vacation.
- Electric bills down to approximately \$3K.
- Still waiting on Quincy to confirm they can spend their share of the \$26K project for the clarifier drier.
- PEP grant install is complete with approximately \$150.00 left over.
- Autumn land application is being scheduled.
- Flows running Quincy 36% and DeGraff 64%. Will be set in July for next year.

**Ordinances & Resolutions** –

**Ordinance 2026-10** AN ORDINANCE REALLOCATING FUNDS FROM APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE AND AMENDING THE APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR PURPOSES PAYING OPERATING EXPENSES FROM APPROPRIATED FUNDS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY IN THE VILLAGE OF DEGRAFF, OHIO.

Ms. Armbruster made the motion to suspend the 3 readings of Ordinance 2026-10, seconded by Ms. Purtee.

Roll Call – All Ayes.

**APPROVED**

Ms. Hall made the motion to approve Ordinance 2026-10, seconded by Ms. Duckro.

Roll Call – All Ayes.

**APPROVED**

Ms. Purtee made the motion to adopt Ordinance 2026-10, seconded by Ms. Armbruster.

Roll Call – All Ayes.

**APPROVED**

**Old Business:** No updates at this time.

**New Business:**

- Ms. Armbruster discussed the number of stray cats in the village and what can be done to curb that number. Mayor Orsborne advised the Logan County Dog Warden can not take them, but to contact Trap Neuter Release (TNR). Ms. Purtee asked what can really be done if they are outside as you do not know who the owner might be. Possibly set a live trap. Mayor Orsborne suggested to talk to your neighbors.
- Several have seen skunks in the area. Mayor Orsborne had reports of coyote issues as well. Ms. Knight advised to call the Logan County Extension to get information regarding nuisance wildlife removal.
- Ms. Purtee advised that mosquito fogging has begun.
- Ms. Duckro asked to have the village administrator to be made aware that the park bathrooms are in need of more hand soap. He should also make another set of park keys.



- Ms. Armbruster asked if it would be helpful to residents to have another "Dumpster Day". Mayor Orsborne advised that it is expensive and there isn't a good way to keep people from neighboring towns/villages from using the service. Darren Andrews advised it could be done in zones with timelines or possibly curbside pick-up. Ms. Armbruster stated that council members could take turns watching/checking id's at drop off. Ms. Purtee stated she had an elderly neighbor with an old couch and no means to get it moved. Mr. McBean said guidelines should be established. Mayor Orsborne said she would discuss it with the village administrator and council could discuss more at the next meeting.
- Darren Andrews discussed ways to encourage community involvement, such as fundraisers, family-oriented entertainment/bands at the park. Would need people to step up to run the group and manage the funds as this could not be done by the village staff. Ms. Armbruster brought up the former festival/groups in DeGraff. Mayor Orsborne advised that Covid was the main cause of those groups disbanding. Another example was the prior Fireman's Festival. Assistant Chief Buchenroth said that they have trouble getting enough volunteers to show up for runs, let alone help to organize and put on the Fireman's Festival. Would be a good idea to check with area businesses. When they disbanded, they donated \$80K to the L.C.E.A scholarship fund. Mr. Orsborne advised that people have a hard time keeping up with the time commitment. He has discussed this with other residents and it really needs to start the planning process a year in advance of when you would like for it to happen. The beer garden helped to build up funds in the past. Ms. Armbruster advised there are some younger families in the area now so there might be more people willing to help. Mayor Orsborne cited the street fair, car show and similar items have any success and should start small and build up over time. Ms. Duckro stated that residents want to come to community events if we have them. Mr. Orsborne gave an example of the Free Lunch Wednesdays that typically bring in 150-160 people and is a wonderful time for residents to gather and socialize. Ms. Purtee suggested getting a flyer together to see if there is any interest.
- Ms. Purtee stated we should have flowers downtown.
- Mayor Orsborne suggested the different committees should discuss and bring ideas and possible action items to a council meeting.

Ms. Duckro made the motion to pay the bills, seconded by Ms. Purtee.

Roll Call - All Ayes

**MOTION**

Ms. Duckro made the motion to adjourn at 8:08p.m., seconded by Mr. McBean.

Roll Call - All Ayes

**MOTION**

Next regularly scheduled Council meeting is July 7<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00p.m., at the Village Hall.



Mayor Stephanie Orsborne



Stephanie A. Knight, Fiscal Officer

  
(was absent for this meeting)

Gabe Kean, Council Pro Tempore

All formal actions of the VILLAGE OF DEGRAFF COUNCIL concerning and relating to the adoption of Ordinances, Resolutions and/or motions passed at this meeting were adopted in a meeting open to the public, in compliance with the law, including section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.