

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of Village of South Amherst
REGULAR COUNCIL
May 12, 2025

CALL TO ORDER 7:00 p.m.

LORD'S PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Councilmember Michele Jeffers	EA	Fiscal Officer Michelle Henke	EA
Councilmember Robb Koscho	P	Records Clerk Laurie Beran	P
Councilmember Michael Sangiacomo	P	Law Director Matthew Mishak	P
Councilmember Becky Siesky	P	Utility Admin. David Valentine	P
Councilmember David Troike	P		
Council Pro Tempore Jeanne Maschari	P		

(EA – excused absences)

Councilmember Siesky move to accept the absence of Councilmember Jeffers due to illness.
Councilmember Troike seconded the motion.

Jeffers **absent** Koscho x Maschari x Sangiacomo x Siesky x Troike x Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

May 12, 2025

Amendment to the agenda: Audit

Committee.

Councilmember Siesky moved to approve the agenda as amended. Councilmember Koscho seconded the motion.

Jeffers **EA** Koscho x Maschari x Sangiacomo x Siesky x Troike x Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

April 28, 2025

Councilmember Koscho moved to approve the minutes as presented. Councilmember Siesky seconded the motion.

Jeffers **EA** Koscho x Maschari x Sangiacomo x Siesky x Troike x Motion carried.

VISITORS

Stefanie Cole 6868 S Lake St.

SAFD Assistant Chief Ron Zaleha

FISCAL OFFICER

Payment Listing

Payment listing from 4/25/25 through 5/8/25 was presented to council.

Financial Reports

The following May financial reports were presented to council: Revenue Summary, Fund Summary, Appropriation Summary.

April Mayor's Court

<u>Gross Receipts</u>	<u>Ohio</u> <u>Reparations</u>	<u>City of</u> <u>Oberlin</u>	<u>Total net</u> <u>Receipts to SA</u>	<u>Computer</u> <u>Fund Clerk</u>	<u>Computer</u> <u>Fund Court</u>	<u>General Fund</u>
\$11,730.00	\$2,210.50	\$82.50	\$9,437.00	\$630.00	\$187.00	\$8,620.00

April Bank Reconciliation

Completed and ready for signatures.

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RECORDS CLERK

WWII Veterans Parade

On June 8th there will be a motorcade through the village ending at Old Fashion Grace Baptist to celebrate the 100th birthday of Michael Gronsky who was born in South Amherst, raised on Gifford Rd and has resided for numerous years on Annis Rd. To date we have confirmation from: our Safety Departments and Service Department, two State Representatives, the County Commissioners Office, County Sherriif, Veterans Services, LifeCare, Eagle Riders, WWII re-enactors and three media outlets. Overflow parking will be at the former water plant.

Internet Provider

Due to service reliability issues over the past few years, including this past Friday, we are asking council to approve an agreement with Spectrum Business for internet services.

Councilmember Maschari moved to approve the Spectrum Agreement. Councilmember Siesky seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilmember Sangiacomo commented that he was in support due to personal dealings with the current provider.

Jeffers EA Koscho x Maschari x Sangiacomo x Siesky x Troike x Motion carried.

April Construction Report

B/Z	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION	B/Z	ADDRESS	DESCRIPTION
B	147 E Main	Re-roof	B	620 S Lake	Re-roof
B	150 E Main	Re-roof	B	725 S Lake	Addition
B	102 Buckeye	New Home	B	6251 Russia	Re-roof
B	224 Oakdale	Replace furnace	B	112 Maroy	Re-roof, siding
B/Z	211 Erie	Addition	B	112 Maroy	Porch roof
B/Z	111 Whitebirch	Solar Array	Z	511 W Main	Fence
B	313 E Main	Windows	Z	315 N Lake	Fence

UTILITY ADMINISTRATOR

Water

Consumption report

Presented to council. Decrease in water loss since the break on Russia Rd was fixed.

Shut-off Procedures

Five shut offs for the month, all have been returned to service.

Cemetery

Footers

Have been ordered, working with GO Green to have them placed the week of May 12th.

Memorial Day

Flags for the Fallen 14 have been received and they will be attached to 8' poles. The generator has also been purchased. The Service Department will be represented in the parade. Mayor Jones reminded council to notify the Community Economic Development Committee if they will be participating.

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Evergreens

The evergreens in the Memorial Garden that were trimmed last year have evidence of new growth and the deciduous trees have been trimmed and shaped.

Street

Paving

Cost of asphalt overlay for:

Kenwood-Charles-Vivian \$ 61,500.00

Buckeye E, Erie, Juanita \$ 50,905.00

Total \$112,405.00

Councilmember Maschari moved to approve the asphalt overlay for Kenwood, Charles, Vivian, Buckeye E, Erie, and Juanita. Councilmember Koscho seconded the motion.

Discussion: Village Administrator held a discussion with the fiscal officer prior to the meeting and funds can be reappropriated for the project instead of seeking a loan. Maroy-Thompson-Oakdale cannot be done this year.

Jeffers EA Koscho x Maschari x Sangiacomo x Siesky x Troike x Motion carried.

Memorial Day

The U.S. flags are scheduled to be placed on May 21st with the 22nd as the rain date.

Tree Removal

Tree removal within the Village is determined based on several factors, including public safety and tree deterioration. Once assessed, trees are prioritized, with the most critical cases addressed first. Photos of the trees under consideration were included in the council packet. Mayor Jones emphasized that the established removal process will be followed, and residents will not be given priority simply based on personal requests.

In the past two weeks, a resident on Charles Street contacted Councilmember Sangiacomo via email, requesting the removal of a tree in his front yard. He claimed the tree has been affecting his septic system for the past twelve years. However, the Village Administrator, who has inspected the tree multiple times over the last two years, has not found it to be a high-priority case. The concerns raised by the resident—such as potential damage to a fire hydrant and power lines—were not substantiated, and none related to the septic system. Councilmember Maschari noted that if the tree is indeed located within the Village right-of-way and the resident can provide evidence of septic system damage, then removal would be warranted.

The following clarification was given regarding the right of way as requested from the law director: The Village has the ability and the responsibility to maintain the right of way and public infrastructure. So, if you had a tree that was blocking the right of way, you'd have the authority to trim it, so it wouldn't cause public hazards. If you had a tree that was interfering with the public drain systems, you could maintain that tree. However, it is a shared responsibility, so the adjacent property owner has a duty to maintain that. If you, for example, were to determine that because of lack of maintenance by the adjacent property owner, that tree was becoming overgrown and buckling the sidewalk and so forth, they may be ultimately responsible for it, but

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you, the village has responsibility to maintain the public right of way to prevent damage to public infrastructure, however, ultimately, it could fall on the adjacent landowner that we would pursue them for money damages, that they didn't properly maintain it. So, if we don't properly maintain the right of way and some accident happens that poses liability to the village, that's why the village has authority to do that. But the ultimate responsibility may still remain on the adjacent landowner. It doesn't relieve the responsibility of the village.

Mayor Jones asked the law director, "what happens if limbs or the tree falls on a neighbor's house?" Between adjacent private property landowners, the issue is between them. If it can be proven that the owner of the tree was negligent on maintenance of the tree, there is the potential for a lawsuit. Now, if the branch were in the right of way, maybe we would cut it down, but really it's not the village's responsibility to protect adjacent property owners land. The village responsibility in the right of way is infrastructure.

Stormwater

203 N Lake

The resident is requesting reimbursement for the time and labor spent repairing a damaged line connecting his septic system to the storm system. He claims the damage occurred during the 2023 storm project, specifically when the sidewalk was replaced. Neither the Village nor the contractor received any prior notification of an issue at this location. Mayor Jones has requested that all relevant facts be thoroughly reviewed to ensure due diligence.

DEPARTMENTS

Fire

Lighting Project (NOPEC \$4604.12 available)

The cost estimate for the lighting update at the fire station is \$5,297.00 which the NOPEC Energized Grant would cover \$4,604.12 and the remaining \$692.88 would need to come from the SAFD budget. A copy of the detailed estimate will be sent to council.

Councilmember Maschari moved to approve the SAFD Lighting Project for \$4,604.12 (NOPEC Grant). Councilmember Troike seconded the motion.

Jeffers EA Koscho x Maschari x Sangiacomo x Siesky x Troike x Motion carried.

Lentil Project

Received two quotes for the project. First quote was basically a cosmetic fix that would only last five to ten years for \$10,975.00. The second quote for \$34,500.00 addressed all of the issues with the project and would last for thirty to forty years to address two lentil plates. This quote did not include the company's recommendation regarding roofing material that has to be removed that covers the capstones. The capstones are made of sandstone which needs to breathe instead of being covered and collecting moisture which is running down behind the sandstone to the fascia stones.

Councilmember Maschari moved to table the project until after the Safety Committee meeting. Councilmember Troike seconded the motion.

Jeffers EA Koscho x Maschari x Sangiacomo x Siesky x Troike x Motion carried.

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COMMITTEES

Audit

Due to illness of one member of the committee, the meeting is rescheduled until the 20th at 7 p.m.

ORDINANCE

Ordinance No. 1833-25 (Final Reading) An ordinance repealing existing South Amherst Codified Ordinance Chapter 521.015 and enacting new South Amherst Codified Ordinance Chapter 521.15 Dumping Prohibited

Councilmember Koscho moved to approve Ordinance No. 1833-25. Councilmember Siesky seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Jeffers EA Koscho x Maschari x Sangiacomo x Siesky x Troike x Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 1834-25 Councilmember Koscho moved to postpone definitely Ordinance 1834-25 to May 14th at 6 p.m. Councilmember Sangiacomo seconded the motion .

Jeffers EA Koscho x Maschari x Sangiacomo x Siesky x Troike Sustain Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 1835-25 (Second Reading) An ordinance amending Section 1129.02 of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of South Amherst, with the addition of Definition -Maternity Home

Ordinance No. 1836-25 (Second Reading) An ordinance amending Section 1165.09 Conditions for Specific Uses – of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of South Amherst, with the addition of Conditions of Specific Uses - Maternity Home

Ordinance No. 1837-25 (Second Reading) An ordinance amending Section 1133.05 of the Codified Ordinances of the Village of South Amherst, with the addition of Conditional Uses – Maternity Home in the Agricultural – Residential District

MISCELLANEOUS

Keep Lorain County Beautiful Day

Reminder the event is this coming Saturday the 17th and there will be a dumpster located to the west of the fire station.

Ward Hill (Councilmember Maschari presented.)

In 2002 resident Jimmy Pearson an 8th grader had requested to council that the hill directly behind the village hall on S. Lake St.be named Ward Hill in memory of 12-year-old Miranda Ward who was killed by a motorist while riding her bike on August 26, 2002.

Councilmember Maschari moved to approve naming the hill directly south of town hall Ward Hill in memory of Miranda Ward. Councilmember Koscho seconded the motion.

Discussion: Councilmember Troike was

Jeffers EA Koscho x Maschari x Sangiacomo x Siesky x Troike x Motion carried.

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Honor Veterans (Councilmember Maschari presented.)

The Community Economic Development Committee was approached by the South Amherst Historical Society regarding a collaborative effort to honor military veterans with banners along Main St.

Councilmember Koscho moved to approve a collaborative effort with the South Amherst Historical Society for Veteran banners. Councilmember Sangiacomo seconded the motion. Jeffers EA Koscho x Maschari x Sangiacomo x Siesky x Troike x Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

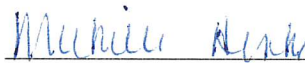
ORC 122.22 (G)(3) Litigation

Councilmember Siesky moved to enter executive session to discuss imminent litigation in accordance with ORC 122.22 (G)(3) at 7:49. Councilmember Sangiacomo seconded the motion. Jeffers EA Koscho x Maschari x Sangiacomo x Siesky x Troike x Motion carried.

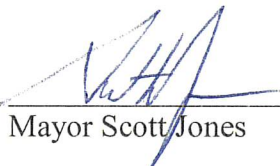
Returned to regular session at 8:34

ADJOURNMENT Time 8:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Fiscal Officer Michelle Henke


Mayor Scott Jones