

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of Village of South Amherst
REGULAR MEETING
March 9, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

The council meeting was called to order by Mayor Scott Jones at 7:00 p.m.

LORD'S PRAYER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Councilmember Michele Jeffers	P	Fiscal Officer Michelle Henke	P
Councilmember Robb Koscho	P	Records Clerk Laurie Beran	P
Councilmember Mark Leshinski	P	Law Director Matthew Mishak	EA
Councilmember Jeanne Maschari	P	Utility Admin. David Valentine	P
Councilmember Anthony Savage	P	Assistant F.O. Wendy Kolmorgen	P
Councilmember David Troike	P		

(EA – excused absences)

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

March 9, 2026

Amendments: LCPH Grant, Hero Banners

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

Jeffers Koscho Leshinski Maschari Savage Troike Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 23, 2026

Councilmember Jeffers moved to approve the minutes as presented. Councilmember Maschari seconded the motion.

Jeffers Koscho Leshinski Maschari Savage Troike Motion carried.

VISITORS

Darell Wolfrum (Electrical Accents) – being a part of the South Amherst community since childhood and recently participated in the village's Christmas event as a trumpet player. Noting that the event could benefit from improved sound, he collaborated with a church friend, to obtain quality speakers, a stand, and power equipment. Mr. Wolfrum expressed appreciation for the village's efforts in hosting community events and hopes the donation will contribute positively.

David Leshinski 5797 Russia – requested to speak during the cemetery report.

Kevin Machovina 268 S Lake - requested that Council table the conforming boundary and annexation vote until issues in New Russia Township are resolved. The Fiscal Officer noted that approval proceeds from Council to the County Commissioners and then to the State, with a September deadline for all materials to be submitted.

Patty Baier (107 Kenwood) SA Historical Society – reported progress on the Hero Banner project, originally suggested last April. Costs are covered for 14 banners, with 26 additional commitments and possibly 10 more (approx. 40–50 total). Banners will be large (30" × 84"), double-sided, and produced through Jet Signs. The application deadline is March 31, and the goal is to have all banners ready by mid-April for installation before Memorial Day. The Society requested Village assistance with installing and later removing the banners. A lift will be required; an initial quote was approximately \$870 per month, with more quotes to be obtained. Banners will be stored by the Historical Society. Coordination is needed with the Flag Committee and beautification group to avoid conflicts with existing flag placements. Council discussed equipment needs, timing, manpower, and potential help from the fire department. The Society will finalize banner counts, timeline, and provide an SOP. The Village will gather additional lift quotes before the next meeting.

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FISCAL OFFICER

Payment Listing 2/20-3/5/2026

Presented to council.

Councilmembers inquired about the following invoices:

- Interstate Towing for a fire vehicle that had brake issues when they were called to Garfield Rd.
- 2/25/26 Neptune NECO is the annual maintenance contract for the water meters.
- American Publishing annual codification of ordinances.
- Shuttlers Apparel – new officers uniforms for the police department.
- Economy Drain used the company to clear debris from the storm drain pertaining to W Main water break.
- OBM (Ohio Business Machine) is the monthly copier fee.

Financial Reports

The following Financial Reports for March 2026 were presented to council: Revenue Summary, Fund Summary and Appropriation Summary.

Bank Reconciliation

The completed January Bank Reconciliation was presented to council.

January Mayor's Court Financials

<u>Gross Receipts</u>	<u>Ohio Reparations</u>	<u>City of Oberlin</u>	<u>Total net Receipts to SA</u>	<u>Computer Fund Clerk</u>	<u>Computer Fund Court</u>	<u>General Fund</u>
\$8,545.00	\$1,650.00	\$66.00	\$6,829.00	\$440.00	\$132.00	\$6,257.00

2025 Hinkle Notes

Yearend financial statement notes were filed with the State Auditor, along with a copy presented to council. Councilmember Maschari raised three questions related to the financial notes. Regarding property taxes, they asked about the impact of the increased Homestead Exemption. The Fiscal Officer stated an estimate had previously been shared (approximately \$8,523) but emphasized the figure is subject to legislative changes. The member also noted that reduced tax revenues may require future review of the village's 1% local income tax credit. The Fiscal Officer added that potential state changes to incometax reciprocity are being discussed, though none are expected soon. Finally, under workers' compensation, it was clarified that rates may increase next year due to a past claim.

Appropriation Ordinance #335

Increase to the General Fund for Police body cameras and tasers, Beautification Committee budget added, plus the new Special Revenue Fund for Fire donations is 2905.

RECORDS CLERK

February Construction Report

<u>B/Z</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>
B	114 Maple	HVAC replacement

NOPEC Energized Grant

Three proposals were presented to council for consideration: lighting of flag poles, insulation for the police garage, exterior lighting of village hall.

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Councilmember Maschari moved to approve the lighting projects for the village hall and flagpoles. Councilmember Jeffers seconded the motion.

Jeffers Koscho Leshinski Maschari Savage Troike Motion carried.

Conformity of Boundaries & Parcel Annexation

Councilmember Savage moved to postpone the vote of conformity of boundaries and parcel annexation until April 13th. Councilmember Troike seconded the motion.

Jeffers Koscho Leshinski Maschari Savage Troike Motion carried.

Local Government Officials Conference

The fiscal officers and records clerk will be attending the LGOC on March 19th & 20th in Columbus and request that agenda items are due on Wednesday the 18th by 9 a.m. Thank you.

UTILITY ADMINISTRATOR

Street/Service

Speed Limit Signs

Existing speed-limit signage along Route 113 is insufficient. Signs are spaced too far apart—only posted when traveling east—and should be placed approximately every 1,000 feet per traffic-sign standards. An additional 10 new 35-mph speed-limit signs are needed in both directions. ODOT confirmed that sign installation is the Village's responsibility.

Potholes

To be addressed by the end of March.

Dumpster Days

Will be scheduling for mid to late April.

Hero Banners

Further review of cost and manpower to the Village needs to be considered for the project.

Water/Storm

Water Main Break

A significant water main break occurred on West Main Street near 305. The pipe showed extensive damage, including a near-full split, cracks, and pinholes, indicating structural failure. The break was approximately 13 feet from a previous incident, suggesting deterioration in that section of the line. A large volume of water was lost. The break also affected the stormwater system, with water traveling about 560 feet from the actual break point due to existing issues in old clay storm lines, which contain root intrusion and multiple cracks. Funding options for major water-system repairs and pipe replacement will need to be pursued. When Councilmember Leshinski asked how much should be replaced, the answer was ALL OF IT!

Storm Line Repair

14' of broken storm line was replaced and the remainder of the area was jet rodded to clear up further obstructions

Consumption Report

February was higher due to the water break, but overall, we are 30% below last year.

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Park

Playground Equipment

LCPH Grant was awarded for \$9,857.00 to cover the cost of a swing set, wood fiber surfacing, border, landscape fabric, fabric pins, crating of equipment. The requested additional quotes for the playground equipment are still being collected.

Cemetery

Spring Clean-up

Annual spring cleanup will take place March 30th thru April 1st.

David Leshinski recommended the Village consider new cemetery-management software and noted that a company from Wisconsin has provided a proposal offering multiple software tiers. Importing existing records would cost approximately \$5,000, with ongoing maintenance fees. Mr. Leshinski will forward the information to Councilmember Maschari.

RESOLUTIONS

Resolution No. 776-26 (Emergency) SAFD Authorization to Seek Estimates from Billing Vendors

Councilmember Troike moved to approve Resolution No.776-26 as an emergency. Councilmember Koscho seconded the motion.

Jeffers Koscho Leshinski Maschari Savage Troike Motion carried.

Resolution No. 777-26 (Emergency) Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) Energized Community Grant

Councilmember Troike moved to approve Resolution No.777-26 as an emergency. Councilmember Leshinski seconded the motion.

Jeffers Koscho Leshinski Maschari Savage Troike Motion carried.

APPROPRIATIONS

Ordinance No. 335-26

Councilmember Koscho moved to approve Appropriation Ordinance No.335-26. Councilmember Jeffers seconded the motion.

Jeffers Koscho Leshinski Maschari Savage Troike Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT 8:01 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Fiscal Officer Michelle Henke

Mayor Scott Jones