

Village of Bolivar

Regular Council Meeting Minutes

September 3, 2026

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

The Bolivar Village Council met in a regular session at its new location of 256 Poplar Street SW on Thursday, September 3, 2026. The meeting opened with the pledge of allegiance and was called to order by Mayor Curtis Strauss at 7:00 pm. White opened with prayer. Conley, Lawver, Oberlin, Strauss, Yonally and White all answered yes to roll call

II. Approval of Minutes

- **Minutes Acceptance:** A motion was made by Lawver and seconded by Conley to accept the meeting minutes from the July 2nd regular meeting and July 20, 2026 special meeting. (no meeting held in August due to lack of quorum)
Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes and White yes

III. Acceptance of Bill Payments

- **July Bills:** Council discussed the payment of bills for the month of July totaling \$59,471.53. White moved, seconded by Strauss to approve the payments. **Roll Call:** Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes and White yes
- **July Receipts:** Receipts for the month of July 2026 totaled \$52,660.85 (including interest of \$1,778.76, with \$281.43 from Huntington and \$1,497.33 from Star Ohio).
- **August Bills:** Council discussed the payment of bills for the month of August totaling \$73,302.99. Yonally moved, seconded by Lawver to

approve the payments. **Roll Call:** Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes and White yes

- **August 2026 Receipts:** Total receipts were \$82,800.22 (including interest of \$1,792.02: Huntington Bank at \$281.29, Star Ohio at \$1,510.73). (No motion required).

IV. Corrections/Additions to the Agenda None.

V. Public Speaks (limited to 3 mins per guest unless otherwise approved in advance)

Loretta Diveley raised the following concerns;

- **Political Signs:** Noted that early voting begins October 3; political yard signs can be displayed starting 30 days prior to the election.
- **Erie Canal Bicycle Tour:** Confirmed the bicycle tour directional signage had already been addressed and passed previously.
- **Tree Trimming:** Raised concerns regarding town-owned tree limbs encroaching over her front garden/flowers. Administration noted tree trimming quotes are currently being acquired and prioritized based on hazard severity.

VI. Old Business - none

VII. Mayor's Report:

Shade Tree Committee Appointments:

Strauss moved, seconded by Oberlin to appoint Jeannie Gural and Beth Watson to the Shade Tree Committee. Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes and White yes.

VIII. Finance and Village Action Items

Water Street Event and Closure Request (October 23, 2026):

Council discussed an event request to close Water Street from 1:00 PM to 10:00 PM for a community/Main Street Association event involving food trucks, vendors, and beer sales.

Action: Motion to approve the event and closure on Water Street with the strict conditions that the organizers must secure all necessary permits (including food and liquor permits), provide adequate security personnel on-site for outdoor alcohol consumption, adhere strictly to specified setup/tear-down times (1:00 PM to 10:00 PM), place no signage in curb strips/right-of-ways, and submit formal advance event notice/plans for future occurrences. Motion by Lawver; seconded by Yonally. Roll Call Vote: Conley (Yes), Lawver (Yes), Oberlin (Yes), Strauss (Yes), Yonally (Yes), White (Yes). Motion carried.

Safety Lights for Mack Truck:

Action: Motion to approve the expenditure of \$895.00 for safety light equipment on the Mack truck by Conley; second by Lawver. Roll Call Vote: Conley (Yes), Lawver (Yes), Oberlin (Yes), Strauss (Yes), Yonally (Yes), White (Yes). Motion carried.

Sale of International Truck:

Conley moved, seconded by Lawver to approve the sale of the International truck.

Roll Call Vote: Conley (Yes), Lawver (Yes), Oberlin (Yes), Strauss (Yes), Yonally (Yes), White (Yes). Motion carried.

Halloween Candy Allocation:

Motion to authorize up to \$200.00 each for the Police Department and Lions Club for community Halloween candy distribution by Conley; seconded by White. Roll Call Vote: Conley (Yes), Lawver (Yes), Oberlin (Yes), Strauss (Yes), Yonally (Yes), White (Yes). Motion carried.

Trick-or-Treat Hours:

Motion to establish Trick-or-Treat for October 31 from 5:30 PM to 7:00 PM by Conley; seconded by Yonally. Roll Call Vote: Conley (Yes), Lawver (Yes), Oberlin (Yes), Strauss (Yes), Yonally (Yes), White (Yes). Motion carried.

HVAC Repairs:

Motion to approve HVAC repairs by Weathermaker in the amount of \$445.00 for cold air return adjustments in the police department by Strauss; second by White. Roll Call Vote: Conley (Yes), Lawver (Yes), Oberlin (Yes), Strauss (Yes), Yonally (Yes), White (Yes). Motion carried.

Flex Badges for Police Department:

Motion to authorize the purchase ten (10) Flex Badges for the police department at \$24.95 each by Conley; seconded by Yonally. Roll Call Vote: Conley (Yes), Lawver (Yes), Oberlin (Yes), Strauss (Yes), Yonally (Yes), White (Yes). Motion carried.

Authorized Check Signer Designation:

Oberlin moved, seconded by Lawver to designate Miranda Senty as an authorized check signer. The Ordinance passed in 2024 already specifies the VA has authority. The approval of Council is for clarity due to turn over with the position. Roll Call Vote: Conley (Yes), Lawver (Yes), Oberlin (Yes), Strauss (Yes), Yonally (Yes), White (Yes). Motion carried.

IX. Committee and Department Reports

Planning and Zoning: Next meeting set for September 14, 2026 (moved date due to Labor Day).

Safety Committee – Yonally

- 47 calls in July and 40 calls in August to include 19 traffic stops, 6 citations and 2 crashes.

Street and Alley Committee - White

- Met Thursday, August 20, 2026.
- Discussed temporary repairs to the DQ entrance pothole.
- Reviewed ongoing tree trimming estimates; Will present quotes at the next meeting.
- Discussed crack sealing and weed clearing along the Towpath.

Parks and Recreation / Shade Tree / Pollinator Gardens - Strauss

- Ann reported for Shade Tree that Beth Watson and Jeannie Gural gave an in depth presentation about our trees; those that are hardy and those that are native to our area. They would like to plant trees over a period of years. Ann also noted that Beth Watson served on Tree City USA years ago.
- There was also a presentation for a pollinator garden by Megan (Terra Depot). Ann noted some other cities that utilize the pollinator gardens and how they work. There was ongoing discussion as to the advantages of a pollinator garden and utilizing native plants. Megan would help guide the Village if interested to start a small garden. The library was sited as a potential location.
- Football/cheerleading youth programs provided confirmation of insurance.
- Tree City USA ordinance confirmed on record; Shade Tree planning meeting scheduled for January with Beth Watson.
- Discussion held regarding safe herbicide alternatives; Muskingum Watershed standard recommendation noted as Garlon 4 Ultra diluted at 30% with 70% ag/diesel for broadleaf grass. It doesn't kill trees but it will kill the weeds.

Administrator's Report - Senty

- Discussed formal acknowledgment for New Pointe Church volunteers for their work performed on July 26; building the village park pergola and staining the fence and picnic tables. Council agreed to provide recognition (plaque or newspaper thank-you).
- Hydrant flushing scheduled for October 14, 2026; notifications will be sent via ReachAlert and street signs.
- Officer Bobby Sterling's final day announced; farewell luncheon scheduled for noon the following day.

Fiscal Officer's Report – App

- **Emergency Contact number:** App suggested establishing an emergency contact number on village water bills routing calls to the Village Administrator; then she can delegate from there. Yonally moved, seconded by White to authorize placing the Village Administrator's emergency contact number on customer utility bills. Roll Call Vote: Conley (Yes), Lawver (Yes), Oberlin (Yes), Strauss (Yes), Yonally (Yes), White (Yes). Motion carried.
- **Monthly Blanket statement** - Report all of Council received management reports at the beginning of the meeting to include: a fund status report, payment listing, revenue status, investment report & cash flow. The finance committee also reviewed and signed off on the monthly bank statement and reconciliation report

Legal Counsel Report (School Property Title Update):

- Update provided regarding title searches for the school property.
- Contacted Ohio Real Title, Alpha Title Company, and independent surveyors.
- School district has expressed no interest in sharing legal or surveying expenses.
- Counsel continuing research to locate clear deed parcel descriptions.

X. Legislation

Resolution R-13-2026: White moved, seconded by Conley to approve a Resolution to amend appropriations, declaring an emergency. Roll Call Vote: Conley (Yes), Lawver (Yes), Oberlin (Yes), Strauss (Yes), Yonally (Yes), White (Yes). Motion carried.

Resolution R-14-2026: White moved, seconded by Lawver to approve a Resolution designating Huntington Financial Institution as a public depository, declaring an emergency. Roll Call Vote: Conley (Yes), Lawver (Yes), Oberlin (Yes), Strauss (Yes), Yonally (Yes), White (Yes). Motion carried.

Ordinance O-21-2026: Conley moved, seconded by White to approve an Ordinance appointing Kaleb Bethel as a part-time officer with the Village of Bolivar Police Department, declaring an emergency. Roll Call Vote: Conley (Yes), Lawver (Yes), Oberlin (Yes), Strauss (Yes), Yonally (Yes), White (Yes). Motion carried.

Ordinance O-22-2026: White moved, seconded by Lawver to approve an Ordinance authorizing the Fiscal Officer to enter into utility supplier service agreements on behalf of the Village of Bolivar, declaring an emergency. Roll Call Vote: Conley (Yes), Lawver (Yes), Oberlin (Yes), Strauss (Yes), Yonally (Yes), White (Yes). Motion carried.

Ordinance O-23-2026: Lawver moved, seconded by Yonally to approve an Ordinance fixing and establishing uniform allowances for officers serving within the Village of Bolivar Police Department (\$500.00 for full-time, \$250.00 for part-time), declaring an emergency. Roll Call Vote: Conley (Yes), Lawver (Yes), Oberlin (Yes), Strauss (Yes), Yonally (Yes), White (Yes). Motion carried.

Ordinance O-24-2026: Lawver moved, seconded by Oberlin to approve an Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Innovative Software Services, Inc. for online municipal tax filing software, declaring an emergency. Roll Call Vote: Conley (Yes), Lawver (Yes), Oberlin (Yes), Strauss (Yes), Yonally (Yes), White (Yes). Motion carried.

Ordinance O-25-2026: Conley moved, seconded by White to approve an Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Point & Pay LLC, declaring an emergency. Roll Call Vote: Conley (Yes), Lawver (Yes), Oberlin (Yes), Strauss (Yes), Yonally (Yes), White (Yes). Motion carried.

First Reading of an Ordinance to provide for wage increases for employees of the Village of Bolivar.

First Reading of an Ordinance approving, adopting, and enacting American Legal Publishing's Ohio Basic Code, 2026 Edition, as the Code of Ordinances for the Village of Bolivar.

XI. Executive Session

Motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22(G) (1) to consider and discuss an investigation of charges or complaints against a public employee. Conley moved, seconded by White to enter into an executive session. Roll Call Vote: Conley (Yes), Lawver (Yes), Oberlin (Yes), Strauss (Yes), Yonally (Yes), White (Yes).

The public was dismissed. Entered Executive Session at 8:00 PM.

Council returned from Executive Session at 8:39 PM.

XII. Adjournment

White moved, seconded by Yonally to adjourn until the next regularly scheduled session of Council on Thursday, October 1, 2026 at 7:00 pm. All safety, finance and regular Council meetings will be held at the Bolivar United Methodist Church at 256 Poplar Street SW; Bolivar 44612. Roll Call: Conley yes, Lawver yes, Oberlin yes, Strauss yes, Yonally yes and White yes

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 PM.