

Village of Middlefield Council Minutes

November 13, 2025

Council met in regular session Mayor Garlich called the meeting to order by **roll call** at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Garlich, Mr. Scott Klein, Mr. Carl Hornung, Ms. Kaitlyn Arganti, Mr. Sam Morrow, Mr. Bill Blue, and Mr. Chris Michalakes.

Also present: Ms. Leslie McCoy- Village Administrator, Chief Tucholski, Lt. Graley, Mr. Nick Giardina- Fiscal Officer, Mr. Luke McConville- Village Solicitor, Mr. Alex Duncan, Ms. Kim Breyley, Mr. John Boksansky- Zoning Inspector, Ms. Ann Wishart- Maple Leaf, Lt. Tony Yeropoli- Fire Department Representative, Mr. Kyle Kaplan, Mr. Roger Hanna, Mr. Jim O'Dell- Community Care, and Ms. Sabine Weizer.

1. Opening Ceremony: Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2. Agenda: No additions/deletions.

3. Approval of Minutes: October 9, 2025. *Mr. Hornung made a motion to approve October 9, 2025 minutes, motion seconded by Mr. Blue. Roll Call. All in favor: Yeas (6).*

4. Payment of Bills: *Mr. Hornung moved to authorize payments totaling \$573,142.08, motion seconded by Mr. Michalakes. Roll Call. All in favor: Yeas (6).*

5. FISCAL OFFICER'S REPORT: Income Tax and Financials – The report is included in the packet. Mr. Giardina stated income tax is slightly down compared to last month but it is still close in numbers. Mr. Giardina stated the main 3 categories of water, sewer, and income tax are up about .2% compared to the previous year. Total receipts are up about 9.5% and expenses are up but that is due to large projects that the Village expected to complete this year. Mr. Giardina stated withholdings are still strong and finances in the Village are positive.

6. AMBULANCE REPORT – Report is included in the packet. Mr. Jim O'Dell is present for Community Care stated there is a report included and everything is going well. Mr. Garlich stated he would like to discuss mutual aid with Chris Brooks when he returns for the next meeting.

7. FIRE DEPARTMENT REPORT – Report is included in the packet. Lt. Yeropoli is present for the Middlefield Fire Department and has included a report in the packet. Mayor Garlich stated he appreciates the Middlefield Fire Department for supporting new businesses and the Village of Middlefield. Lt. Yeropoli stated there has been a lot of training and everything is going well.

8. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Ms. McCoy stated she has completed a lot of training in the last month. Ms. McCoy stated His Daughter is having a Grand Opening this weekend since she has moved to her new location behind Vinny's.

9. ZONING REPORT: Report is included in packet. Mr. Boksansky stated he was able to issue 17/19 zoning permits for the month of October. Mr. Boksansky stated he has also

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included a report in the Council packet. Mayor Garlich requested year to date for zoning permits and Mr. Boksansky stated he will start including that in his zoning report.

10. STREETS, SIDEWALKS & UTILITIES REPORT – Report is included in the packet. Chief Tucholski stated the service department has been picking up a lot of leaves but the leaf truck now needs some repairs so those will be done in the next week so the leaf truck can stay in service. Chief Tucholski stated there has been a lot of cemetery maintenance. Chief Tucholski stated the road project and the pickleball court has been finished. The service department has prepared for snow removal.

11. POLICE REPORT – Report is included in the packet. Chief Tucholski stated there have been 585 calls for service for the month of October. Chief Tucholski stated everything with the police department is going very well and the department will be looking into buying a new police Tahoe in 2026.

12. PARKS & RECREATION REPORT – Report is included in the packet. Ms. McCoy stated winter sports registration ends on November 16. Practices are starting this week.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. RECOGNITION OF MIKE CIPOLLA, WASTE WATER OPERATOR OF THE YEAR – Ohio Rural Water Association: Mayor Garlich recognized Mr. Mike Cipolla- Village of Middlefield Water & Wastewater Plant Manager for receiving the Waste Water Operator of the Year award from the Ohio Rural Water Association. Mr. Cipolla stated he was nominated by Leslie McCoy- Village Administrator and the Ohio Rural Water Association selected Mr. Cipolla and invited him to their conference in Columbus where he was presented with a plaque and recognized for his achievement. Mayor Garlich stated their selection is state wide. Mayor Garlich stated Mr. Cipolla is very appreciated by the Village of Middlefield and is one of the most dedicated employees for the Village of Middlefield.

2. RECOGNITION OF THE 7- & 8-YEAR-OLD FLAG FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP TEAM: Mayor Garlich recognized the 7- & 8-year-old flag football team for winning their championship game for the Geauga County Flag Football League. Mayor Garlich presented each player with a certificate.

3. 2026 APPOINTMENTS -MAYOR APPOINTMENTS

Planning Commission

Mayor Garlich stated he will hold off on appointment for Planning Commission until the next meeting.

1.Scott Klein, Councilmember 4yr term 2. _____(6yr Term)

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East Geauga Fire District

1. _Mr. Kyle Kaplan_____ (2 yrs)

Finance & Ordinance Committee

1. ____Ms. Kaitlyn Arganti, Chair_2. _Mr. Sam Morrow_ 3. _Mr. Scott Klein_

Safety Committee

1. _Mr. Carl Hornung_, Chair___ 2. _Mr. Bill Blue_ 3. _Mr. Kyle Kaplan_

Streets, Sidewalks & Utilities Committee

1. _Mr. Sam Morrow_, Chair___ 2. _Mr. Bill Blue_ 3. __Ms. Kaitlyn Arganti_

Recreation Committee

1. __Mr. Bill Blue_, Chair__ 2. _Ms. Kaitlyn Arganti_ 3. _Mr. Sam Morrow_

Economic Development Committee (1 year)

1. Mayor 2. _Kaitlyn Arganti_ (Council Member) 3. _Scott Klein_ (Council Member)
4. _Chris Michalakes__ 5. __Dave Dietrich__ 6. _Emily Martin_ 7. _Kim Breyley

Development Loan Review Committee (1 Year)

1. Mayor Garlich 2. Village Solicitor 3. _Nick Giardina_ (Fiscal Officer/Financial Advisor)
4. __Scott Klein_ (Council Member) 5. _Bill Blue_ (Council Member)
6. _Dave Dietrich_ (EDC Member) 7. __Dave McDowell__ (Financial Advisor)

4. 2026 Appointment - MAYOR APPOINTMENTS (approved by Council)

Cemetery Sexton

Mayor Garlich stated he will hold off on appointment for Planning Commission until the next meeting.

1. _____ (1 yr)

5. General Discussion: Mayor Garlich stated UH has found an architect for the BFG building and they are currently working on plans and drawings for that. Mayor Garlich stated Cindy and Cody who are employees for the Village have a son who is having major health issues and went from being an outstanding athlete in June to being in severe pain with multiple health issues. Mayor Garlich stated specialists are still trying to determine what the root cause is and how to manage his condition. There is a Hoops for Benny benefit on Saturday, November 22 from 10am-3pm. There will be food, a 3V3 basketball tournament, 50/50 raffle, and a Chinese auction. Mayor Garlich encouraged everyone to attend if able.

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FIRST READING –

- 1. RESOLUTION 25-20 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE UPDATED GEAUGA COUNTY NATURAL HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN, FISCAL YEAR 2025, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Mayor Garlich introduced Resolution 25-20 by title only. Mayor Garlich stated there is a deadline so it needs it to pass tonight. **Mr. Hornung made a motion to place Resolution 25-20 on first reading as an emergency and waive the required readings, motion seconded by Mr. Morrow. Roll Call. All in favor: Yeas (6). Mr. Morrow made a motion to PASS Resolution 25-20, motion seconded by Mr. Hornung. Roll Call. All in favor: Yeas (6).**
- 2. RESOLUTION 25-21 A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GEAUGA COUNTY AUDITOR TO PROVIDE TAX ADVANCES FOR THE 2026 COLLECTION PERIODS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Mayor Garlich introduced Resolution 25-21 by title only. Mr. Giardina stated this is standard so the Village can receive the real estate tax advance deposits. **Mr. Hornung made a motion to place Resolution 25-21 on first reading as an emergency and waive the required readings, motion seconded by Ms. Arganti. Roll Call. All in favor: Yeas (6). Mr. Hornung made a motion to PASS Resolution 25-21, motion seconded by Mr. Michalakes. Roll Call. All in favor: Yeas (6).**
- 3. ORDINANCE 25-150 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK SECTION 3.8(A) ENTITLED “INSURANCE WAIVER OPTION,” AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Mayor Garlich introduced Ordinance 25-150 by title only. Mayor Garlich stated there is a situation that came up where usually a stipend of \$1,000 is given to an employee if that employee does not take the health insurance. Mayor Garlich stated there are two Village employees who are married and have requested that they receive the stipend since they only have one insurance policy through the Village. Mr. McConville stated this is the same incentive that other employees have and that it does make sense because if one of the spouses worked somewhere else, they would still get the stipend. **Mr. Blue made a motion to place Ordinance 25-150 on first reading as an emergency and waive the required readings, motion seconded by Mr. Hornung. Roll Call. All in favor: Yeas (6). Mr. Hornung made a motion to PASS Ordinance 25-150, motion seconded by Mr. Michalakes. Roll Call. All in favor: Yeas (6).**

SECOND READING

- 1. ORDINANCE 25-141 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND VILLAGE FISCAL OFFICER TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH DENNIS M. COYNE, ESQ. TO PROVIDE CHIEF PROSECUTOR SERVICES FOR 2026, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Mayor Garlich introduced Ordinance 25-141 by title only. **Ms. Arganti made a motion to place Ordinance 25-141 on**

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- second reading, motion seconded by Mr. Hornung. Roll Call. All in favor: Yeas (6).
2. **ORDINANCE 25-142 AN ORDINANCE HIRING ADVANCED ACCOUNTING CONSULTANTS TO ASSIST THE VILLAGE'S FISCAL OFFICER WITH CERTAIN ACCOUNTING AND BOOKKEEPING FUNCTIONS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Mayor Garlich introduced Ordinance 25-142 by title only. **Mr. Blue made a motion to place Ordinance 25-142 on second reading, motion seconded by Mr. Hornung. Roll Call. All in favor: Yeas (6).**
 3. **ORDINANCE 25-143 AN ORDINANCE EMPLOYING LUKE F. MCCONVILLE AS VILLAGE SOLICITOR AND LEGAL COUNSEL FOR THE VILLAGE OF MIDDLEFIELD FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2026 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2026, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Mayor Garlich introduced Ordinance 25-143 by title only. **Mr. Michalakes made a motion to place Ordinance 25-143 on second reading, motion seconded by Ms. Arganti. Roll Call. All in favor: Yeas (6).**
 4. **ORDINANCE 25-144 AN ORDINANCE APPOINTING THE FIRM OF STEPHEN HOVANCSEK & ASSOCIATES AS VILLAGE ENGINEER FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2026 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2026, AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE PROVISION OF SAID SERVICES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Mayor Garlich introduced Ordinance 25-144 by title only. **Mr. Morrow made a motion to place Ordinance 25-144 on second reading, motion seconded by Mr. Hornung. Roll Call. All in favor: Yeas (6).**
 5. **ORDINANCE 25-145 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE VILLAGE TO ENGAGE CHARLES MORGRET, OF VILLAGER DATA SERVICES, AS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY ADMINISTRATOR FOR THE VILLAGE OF MIDDLEFIELD FOR THE PERIOD JANUARY 1, 2026 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2026, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.** Mayor Garlich introduced Ordinance 25-145 by title only. **Mr. Morrow made a motion to place Ordinance 25-145 on second reading, motion seconded by Mr. Hornung. Roll Call. All in favor: Yeas (6).**

THIRD READING

1. **ORDINANCE 25-137 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING EXISTING SECTION 911.08 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO PROVIDE THE 2026 RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL WATER ACCOUNT RATES, COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2026.** Mayor Garlich introduced Ordinance 25-137 by title only. **Mr. Morrow made a motion to PASS Ordinance 25-137, motion seconded by Mr. Hornung. Roll Call. All in favor: Yeas (6).**

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2. **ORDINANCE 25-138 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING EXISTING SECTION 907.04 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO PROVIDE FOR RESIDENTIAL, COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL SEWER ACCOUNTS, COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2026.** Mayor Garlich introduced Ordinance 25-138 by title only. **Mr. Michalakes made a motion to PASS Ordinance 25-138, motion seconded by Mr. Hornung. Roll Call. All in favor: Yeas (6).**

3. **ORDINANCE 25-139 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING EXISTING SECTION 911.10 (a) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES TO PROVIDE FOR FIRE SPRINKLER SYSTEM ACCOUNTS, COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2026.** Mayor Garlich introduced Ordinance 25-139 by title only. **Mr. Klein made a motion to PASS Ordinance 25-139, motion seconded by Mr. Morrow. Roll Call. All in favor: Yeas (6).**

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Web Site Report** – Kim Breyley: Included in the packet. Ms. Breyley stated viewers are increasing with consistent posting on the Facebook page and website page.

COMMITTEE REPORTS and COMMUNICATIONS

Planning & Zoning (Mayor Garlich/Mr. Klein/Mr. Linberg/Mr. Dietrich/Ms. Shaffer) – October meeting minutes included in the packet. Mr. Klein gave a quick recap of the Planning and Zoning meeting from Tuesday.

Streets, Sidewalks, & Utilities (Mr. Klein/ Mr. Hornung / Ben Garlich) – October meeting minutes included in the packet.

Economic Development Committee (Ms. McCoy, Mr. Klein, Ms. Arganti, Mr. Michalakes, Mr. Dietrich, Ms. Breyley, Ms. Martin) – No meeting in October.

Parks & Recreation (Mr. Morrow/ Mr. Blue/ Mayor Garlich/ Ms. Naples/ Mr. Soltis) – October meeting minutes included in the packet.

Finance & Ordinance (Mr. Morrow/ Ms. Arganti/Mr. Michalakes) – October meeting minutes included in the packet.

Public Safety (Mr. Blue/ Mr. Hornung/Mr. Michalakes) – October meeting minutes included in the packet.

VILLAGE CALENDAR: (ALL MEETING DATES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE)

NOVEMBER – (subject to change)

November 10, 2025 (if needed) 5:15pm STREETS COMMITTEE

November 10, 2025 (if needed) 6:00pm PLANNING COMMISSION

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November 11, 2025 – *Veterans Day – Village Offices Closed*
November 13, 2025 5:30pm RECREATION COMMITTEE
November 13, 2025 6:00pm FINANCE COMMITTEE
November 13, 2025 6:30pm SAFETY COMMITTEE
November 13, 2025 7:00pm COUNCIL MEETING
November 27, 2025 – *Thanksgiving – Village Offices Closed*
November 28, 2025 – *Village Offices Closed*

DECEMBER – (subject to change)

December 11, 2025 5:30pm FINANCE COMMITTEE
December 11, 2025 6:00pm COUNCIL MEETING
December 25, 2025 – *Christmas – Village Offices Closed*

JANUARY– (subject to change)

January 1, 2026 – *New Year’s Day – Village Office’s Closed*
January 6, 2026 5:15pm STREETS COMMITTEE
January 6, 2026 6:00pm PLANNING COMMISSION
January 8, 2026 5:30pm RECREATION COMMITTEE
January 8, 2026 6:00pm FINANCE COMMITTEE
January 8, 2026 6:30pm SAFETY COMMITTEE
January 8, 2026 7:00pm COUNCIL MEETING
January 19, 2026– *Martin Luther King Jr. Day - Village Offices Closed*

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Hornung motioned to adjourn the Council meeting at 7:54 PM, motion seconded by Mr. Klein. Roll Call. All in favor: Yeas. (6)

PENDING

Tabled: Resolution 21-08

These Council Meeting Minutes are to be supplemented by any audio recording of the Meeting, to the extent any such audio recording exists and is kept by the Village.

Approved: _____
MAYOR

Attest: _____
FISCAL OFFICER