

## **Village of Shawnee Hills Council Meeting Minutes**

**December 22, 2025**

Mayor Mathews called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Council in Attendance: Mary Gates, Kathy Isern, Justin LaRosa, Renee Matney, Robert Thatcher and Todd Zimmerman

Absent: Brian Zets

Also Present: Fiscal Officer Shirley Roskoski and Administrator Russell Baron

### **Minutes**

It was moved by Gates, seconded by Zimmerman to approve the minutes of December 8, 2025. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

### **Agenda**

It was moved by Thatcher, seconded by Gates to amend the agenda by adding Ordinance 39-2025. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

It was moved by Isern, seconded by Zimmerman to approve the agenda as amended. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

### **Village Administrator**

Russ said Ordinance 41-2025 is to amend the sewer rates again. Earlier we passed a five-year rate plan based off of what Columbus usually charges us. Their projections for 2026 rates exceed what we had previously approved so that is why we are amending this today. This wipes that five-year plan away. We will go back to the drawing table.

The other ordinance on the agenda is updating our laws and the State laws.

Council member Matney asked isn't Columbus increasing our rates about five percent a year.

Russ said we were running a deficit but then Columbus raised it between 5-8 percent every single year. This exceeds what Columbus had initially projected for 2026.

### **Visitors**

State Representative Brian Lorenz said he tries to get to all the municipalities that he has the honor of representing. I try to get to each one at least once a year.

One of the biggest things we worked on this year was property tax relief. We passed a number of bills that will incrementally help with lessening residents property tax. I have a couple of other ones myself. One is just a flat \$300.00 tax credit on your property tax if you own your home.

Another bill will be coming forward when we return from session in February. House Bill 22 gives Gold Star Veterans a tax-exempt status as most of our First Responders have. A Gold Star is the husband or wife or spouse of someone killed in the line of duty in the military. Veterans are really important to me and I think anything that we can do for everyone that owns a home whether you are elderly, a veteran or first time home buyer, it is our responsibility to try and minimize as many factors as we can. We put in legislation to stop the spikes and the incremental way we look at property tax assessments. A lot of good things have been done but there is a lot more to do. A couple other highlights that I am particularly proud of. House Bill 144 which was enacted and titled Peace Law. This creates a voluntary 911 data base for a special needs person, whether they have a cognitive issue, a mobility issue, whatever, that they can provide their information on what their issue is and if there is an emergency that first responder will get an extra screen to let them know what the situation is and what the person may be challenged with when they come in. We have that already here in Delaware County. This has been upgraded so it is now state wide. It is completely voluntary. House Bill 361 deals with zoning and building reviews and what this proposes to do is create a shot block for building permit reviews and to really bolster the Comprehensive Land Use Plan to give jurisdictions that land use authority through zoning and make those decisions. Ultimately, what we are trying to do is create more predictability because when we have those developers and municipal representatives understand where we are going, everyone knows the rules and we eliminate the possibility for many lawsuits which we know the taxpayers pay in the end.

### **Communications**

Mayor Mathews said to summarize the year. We had a lot of things come to fruition. The 13 acres in the back that Romanelli and Hughes is going to build. The things that Blooms and Russ accomplished with our Main Street Plan, the tree plan, their awards for beautification, and the Comprehensive Plan from Delaware County Regional Planning. We accomplished a lot of things over the course of 2025. It looks like for 2026 we are on the precipice of actually major development, possibly an entire redo of Glick Road. We will hear about any financing opportunities for Dublin Road to phase in that Main Street Plan. I am very hopeful that we are able to have a lot of achievements in 2026.

I want to thank Renee for her input the last 8 years.

Merry Christmas and Happy New year.

### **Pro Tem Report**

Pro tem Thatcher said he wanted to reiterate thanks to Shirley and Russ for all they do and all the other municipal workers. The village looks so much different than what it did when I moved here 12 years ago. It is way different then it was 30 years ago when I worked in this area.

Happy Holidays. We have an open spot on Council so we will be taking resumes for this position.

### **Legislative Actions**

First Reading – Ordinance 41-2025 – An Ordinance amending Section 921.03(A) (Potable Water User Charge) and Section 921.03(B) (Well Water User Charge) of the Codified ordinances of the Village of Shawnee Hills and declaring an emergency.

It was moved by Isern, seconded by Thatcher to suspend with the second and third readings and declare Ordinance 41-2025 an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

It was moved by Matney, seconded by Zimmerman to adopt Ordinance 41-2025 as an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

First Reading – Ordinance 39-2025 – An Ordinance approving the edition and inclusion of certain ordinances as parts of the various component codes of the Codified Ordinances of Shawnee Hills, Ohio and declaring an emergency.

It was moved by Larosa, seconded by Zimmerman to suspend with the second and third readings and declare Ordinance 39-2025 an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

It was moved by Matney, seconded by Thatcher to adopt Ordinance 39-2025 as an emergency. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

### **Bills**

It was moved by Zimmerman, seconded by Gates to pay the bills in the amount of \$102,435.50. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

### **Treasurer’s Report**

It was moved by LaRosa, seconded by Thatcher to approve the following treasurer’s report:

General Fund	535,412.41	Fire Fund	129,201.82
Street Fund	56,835.55	Weed Fund	258.33
State Hwy.	54,545.09	TIF	100,667.58
PD Body Armor	3,561.69	TIF 2	70,053.17
Cont. Prof. Training	12,997.11	Police Dist. Fund	95,318.35
OneOhio	800.11	Veteran’s Memorial	298.97
Drug Law Enfct.	534.41	Sewer Operating	60,120.49
Indigent Drivers	385.84	Sewer Replacement	7,506.08
Law Enfct. Trust	3,852.20	Storm Sewer Fund	33,600.95
Am. Rescue Plan	0.00	Enterprise Improv.	26,569.00
Enfct. & Education	1,795.98	Debt Service Fund	110,836.23
Evans Farm JEDD	12,374.07		

For a total of \$1,317,525.43.

Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business, it was moved by Isern, seconded by Zimmerman to adjourn.

Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none. Meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.