

Village of Shawnee Hills Council Meeting Minutes

July 28, 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

Also Present: Fiscal Officer Shirley Roskoski, Administrator Russell Baron and Solicitor Brian Zets

Minutes

It was moved by Zimmerman, seconded by Thatcher to approve the minutes of July 14, 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 Isern to amend the agenda by adding an executive session pursuant to O.R.C. 121.22 (G)(3) to conference with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action and invite in the Solicitor and Administrator. Place this after the treasurer's report.

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

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

Solicitor

Brian said he worked with Mark on zoning compliance issues in the village. We are working on getting some charges up to Delaware County.

I have been working with Shirley. We have been getting emails from Delaware County about the Tax Incentive Review Council that involves both TIF1 and TIF2. The TIRC meetings have always been held up in Delaware County. They are really in charge of it. We go up and we have two people attend them. I found an email back in 2013 where they actually asked us basically the same question that they asked us this week. They are telling us we are supposed to have these meetings and you are supposed to do all these things and we are saying no we are not. You handle all the TIRC meetings. Everyone comes to you, rather than the Auditor or Auditor's designee, and all the school people go to all these different meetings. I'm sure this will resolve itself shortly.

Village Administrator

Russ said we are moving forward with zoning violations at two of our usual locations in the village. We are going to move forward with court actions.

We have received a lot of complaints about stormwater. May had rainfall amounts not experienced since 1879. June was the 19th wettest month on record for Central Ohio, exceeding the 30-year average. Year to date, Central Ohio has recorded almost 30 inches of rain compared to the average of 25 inches. The reservoir has been running a foot above normal for the past two months. What happens is, we drain west to east, and our outfalls are at the edge of the river. When the river is high, and it has been really high lately, our outfalls fill up with water. It eventually drains out but some areas closer to the river are holding water longer and it is taking longer to drain out because the river is high. Chris said there is nothing we can do. We have been draining a lot better in areas that historically have held water. I think the improvements we have done are working and are successful. We have one of the wettest summers on record.

Kudos to the Blooms folks for their hard work. Everyone worked really hard on it. I do want to spotlight the work that Kyler and Zach did. They were a step ahead of the Blooms folks from America in Bloom. Every location that they went to in the village; every spot they went to they were a step ahead of them and they were spotless, and the Blooms folks noticed that. They came from two different States to look at our community. Looking forward to the Blooms report so we can look at areas that need attention. There are several things that we use as a roadmap as to what we do and what we suggest and where we want to go.

The grant has been submitted for the Main Street Plan. We should hear back by October. If all goes well we should be putting a shovel in the ground by fall 2026. We had great feedback from ODOT and the County on this.

Thanks to the Public Art Committee for the mosaics. They look really good.

Utility Work – We have seen flags and paintings on the ground. AT&T and AltaFiber both have projects in the village. AT&T are burying their lines and AltaFiber is installing fiber, which is high speed internet, phone and tv service. They are all independent of the village. The village did not invite them. The village did not ask for this and the village is not paying for this. These are utility companies working within the utility easement and we have very little ability to monitor and oversee them, other than the permits they have to obtain from the village. We do not know their timeline. Private companies are coming in and doing the work. They don't have to share their timeline with us.

Mayor Mathews said this is huge improvement for us. We will have the highest in technologies available to us.

Russ said Dublin will be 100% covered with fiber and we will be 100% covered with fiber. This is something that communities seek and they pay millions of dollars to achieve. They are coming in and laying the infrastructure for us at no cost.

Mark your Calendars – August 16 is Safety Day, November 8 is Veteran's Day Celebration and December 5 is the Tree Lighting.

Police Chief

Chief Baron said you met Brandon at the last meeting. He is doing a phenomenal job. I will say that applications for qualified applicants are really low across the board. We are looking for part time officers and we have one full time officer leaving for military deployment in September. Body cameras are installed and live. Still working on the cruiser cameras. I did complete the numerous grant documents to seek our reimbursement.

Back to School means more kids at the bus stops, more kids walking around the neighborhood in the mornings. It is going to start getting dark as we progress into fall. Just be mindful of the kids and the busses.

Communications

Mayor Mathews said he had lunch with the Blooms people. Craig spearheaded this from the start and brought the whole concept of America in Bloom to us. It is nice to hear feedback from somebody who is out of town, fresh eyes. Our village is impressing people from outside the village. I thank them for coming. We kind of had some concepts that we laid out to them and I look forward to hear what they think in their report back to us.

Pro Tem Report

Pro Tem Thatcher said he attended the MORPC Rural Village Conference this past week. It was more of a look at us in Union County, how great we're doing, more than a lot of creative ideas. There were a couple of really good speakers and some really good ideas about ride sharing and things like that. I don't know if we can do anything with that. It was interesting to see some of the concepts of what they were doing. They got a grant where they were paying for Uber rides for people to get to work or having a discount and how many different riders and things they have done. They were working with business partners to fund that discount.

Committee Reports

Council member Zimmerman said the Public Arts Steering Committee met on July 23. We are working with Mike Pickett from Hummingbird Tattoo on doing a mural on the backside of his garage facing his building. He brought in some renderings and he is in the process of completing the paperwork. It is going to look like his sign out front. The mosaics project had a great community turnout. Maggie Boggess did a phenomenal job putting this all together. I learned a lot about doing it. Something new.

Legislative Actions

It was moved by Isern, seconded by Gates to remove Resolution 05-2025 from the table. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

Third Reading – Resolution 05-2025 – A Resolution approving a contract to create a Joint Economic Development District (Berlin-Concord-Shawnee Hills Joint Economic Development District 1) and authorizing the Village Administrator and Fiscal Officer to execute the same. It was moved by Zimmerman, seconded by Isern to adopt Resolution 05-2025. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

Third Reading – Ordinance 20-2025 – An Ordinance to reappropriate funds for current expenses and other expenditures of the Village of Shawnee Hills, State of Ohio, during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2025.

It was moved by Thatcher, seconded by Isern to amend Ordinance 20-2025 by adding an additional \$15,000.00 under Lands and Buildings, Other expenses. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

It was moved by Gates, seconded by Zimmerman to adopt Ordinance 20-2025 as amended. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

Third Reading Ordinance 21-2025 – An Ordinance to approve and adopt an updated comprehensive plan.

It was moved by Zimmerman, seconded by Isern to adopt Ordinance 21-2025. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none.

Bills

It was moved by Gates, seconded by Zimmerman to pay the bills in the amount of \$33,606.11. 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 Matney, seconded by Zimmerman to approve the following treasurer’s report:

General Fund	621,660.15	Fire Fund	120,828.49
Street Fund	55,581.99	Weed Fund	648.38
State Hwy.	51,225.98	TIF	91,162.79
PD Body Armor	5,475.83	TIF 2	53,268.70
Cont. Prof. Training	14,644.46	Police Dist. Fund	59,656.19
Evans Farm JEDD	3,976.45	Veteran’s Memorial	298.97
Drug Law Enfct.	534.41	Sewer Operating	82,437.81
Indigent Drivers	385.84	Sewer Replacement	7,506.08
Law Enfct. Trust	3,852.20	Storm Sewer Fund	36,229.16
Am. Rescue Plan	0.00	Enterprise Improv.	23,419.00
Enfct, & Education	1,795.98	Debt Service Fund	147,536.07
Capital Projects	0.00		

For a total of \$1,382,154.93.

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

Executive Session

At 7:23 p.m., it was moved by Thatcher, seconded by LaRosa to move into executive session pursuant to O.R.C. 121.22 (G)(3) to conference with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action and

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

At 7:38 p.m., it was moved Thatcher, seconded by LaRosa to adjourn from executive session. 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 Zimmerman, seconded by Isern to adjourn. Following vote on the motion is recorded: yea, 6; Gates, Isern, LaRosa, Matney, Thatcher and Zimmerman. Nay, none. Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.