

VILLAGE OF PIKETON
February 18, 2025
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

CALL TO ORDER: Billy Spencer, Mayor, called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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| Present: | Jennifer Chandler | Victor Brushart |
| | Ralph Douthitt | Cristy Shanks |
| | Dennis Foreman | |

Absent: Ryan Clemmons

Others present: Jim Nelson, Police Chief and Cheryl King Fiscal Officer/Administrator

MINUTES

A motion was made by Victor Brushart to approve the minutes for the January 7, 2025 meeting. A second was made by Jennifer Chandler. Chandler-yes, Douthitt-yes, Foreman-yes, Brushart-yes, Shanks-yes, Motion carried.

A Motion was made by Jennifer Chandler to approve the minutes for the February 3, 2025 meeting. A second was made by Ralph Douthitt. Chandler-yes, Douthitt-yes, Foreman-abstained, Brushart-yes, Shank-yes, Motion Carried.

A Motion was made by Jennifer Chandler to approve the minutes for the February 6, 2025 special meeting. A second was made by Ralph Douthitt. There was an addition of Expedited type 1 made to the minutes. Chandler-yes, Douthitt-yes, Foreman-yes, Brushart-yes, Shank-yes, Motion Carried.

A motion was made by Dennis Foreman to approve the fines and forfeitures. A second was made by Victor Brushart. Chandler-yes, Douthitt-yes, Foreman-yes, Brushart-yes, Shank-yes, Motion Carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Mayor addressed the audience by stating that he wanted to clear the air on some things; saying that about three months ago it was brought up at a council meeting that the township trustees brought up annexation at a COG meeting and wanted to bring up the issue of annexing again. The Mayor asked council to speak up if he was saying anything that was not true. Spencer said the issue came up and said he was against it and it would be a storm and he would be the one in the middle of the storm and council voted to proceed with the annexation. The Mayor relayed that he sat on the papers for two months and did not do anything with the papers and was hoping it would go away. It came up again in a council meeting then the township trustees were called in; all six trustees signed the annexation papers; in fact when they were here signing the Mayor again told them that he did not want this. The chief fiscal officers also signed the papers. The Mayor explained that this came up in 2023 and no township can annex on their own and that is why the Village is involved. He stated it was much more important to the townships than it was the Village. Council called a special meeting and the Mayor spoke with Ralph Douthitt telling him that he wanted the townships to withdraw first because he wanted them to have some skin in

the game. No township trustee was forced to sign anything. The Mayor said he understands the thought of not wanting to pay more taxes. The Mayor went to the Commissioners office today to retrieve the papers and he was told they could not find them. The union's paint the picture that no one should pay any taxes that they shouldn't pay; however, the county commissioners put on a half percent sales tax to pay for a jail. A few years ago, the jail was cancelled but we are still paying the sales tax. Spencer stated that the DOE gave SODI 80 acres on the property so it was proven the Village of Piketon spent a lot of money against the landfill. No one ever said it's a bunch of other people's fight against the landfill. The County Commissioners wanted to put in a trailer and DOE said they were not running utilities to their own site to that 80 acres. Tony Montgomery came to the Mayor wanting him to write a letter against DOE and the Mayor refused. In closing the mayor said that with the approval of the minutes, the annexation has been withdrawn.

The Mayor asked if anyone present wanted to speak about the annexation and no one spoke up. Dennis Foreman said when we fought the nuclear dump to get the stuff shipped away; they went to a lot of meeting to fight a nuclear dump. Foreman said it would have prolonged the nuclear dump for 12 more years and would have had union staff. Foreman suggested reading Project 2025 page 81; they want to get rid of their federal union. Foreman stated they want rid of their job; not us. Foreman explained that our water bills are paying back the water/sewer loans. The Mayor quoted Derrick Myers as saying Billy Spencer is out gunned; out funded and outnumbered. Spencer said he doesn't know Billy Spencer and stated there are a lot of un truths going around.

Rick Greene with Wings and Strings spoke about the potential upcoming festival May 9th & 10th stating there would be an exciting line up and they are adding a facebook page to promote.

COMMITTEES

Finance- Douthitt asked if things were moving slow at the water and sewer department. The Mayor said there is a zoom call scheduled for Friday at 1 and hopefully we get another company lined up and maybe by April 1st we will be up and moving again.

Police & Fire- Victor Brushart stated the new cruisers look sharp. Foreman asked if there was a plan to get rid of the old ones. Nelson said they are all being used; and we have had one that is 3 years old and has been in the shop 5 times. Nelson said he is spreading out the mileage so they aren't driven 24 hours a day and hopefully will last longer.

Utilities- Ryan Clemmons-absent; Mayor stated there has been some work done with a new pump at the water plant; the towers are full and just trying to hang on until the new plants come online.

Streets & Sidewalks – Cristy Shanks reported Andy Pettit asked if the street could be blocked during the Dogwood Festival for the car show. The Mayor said that can be arranged.

Subdivision-Dennis Foreman-nothing new

Community Development-Jennifer Chandler reported that she has spoken with Rick Duncan about the River Road sewer line and sent to OPWC; Kim Reynolds had suggestions to help score higher. SODI put out RFP utility infrastructure survey from DOE

to non DOE; the Water Pollution Control Loan Fund and the county has an 8 million sewer line extension that we will be asked to take.

MAYORS REPORT-

Ordinance 2025-01 Ohio Basic Code 2024 Edition

A motion was made by Dennis Foreman to approve Ordinance 2025-01. A second was made by Jennifer Chandler. Chandler-yes, Douthitt-yes, Foreman-yes, Brushart-yes, Shank-yes, Motion Carried.

PAY BILLS

A motion was made by Victor Brushart to pay the bills and any that are due before the next meeting. A second was made by Dennis Foreman. All in favor, Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made by Victor Brushart and a second was made by Dennis Foreman to adjourn the meeting. All in favor, meeting adjourned.

Jennifer Chandler

Victor Brushart

Ralph Douthitt

Cristy Shanks

Dennis Foreman

absent
Ryan Clemmons

All formal actions of the Village of Piketon concerning and relating to the adoption of resolutions and/or motions passed at this meeting were adopted in a meeting open to the public, in compliance with the law, including Section 121.22 of the Ohio Revised Code.