

VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON COUNCIL MEETING

April 7, 2025

Meeting called to order by Mayor Chiacchiero.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Moment of Silence:

Opening Prayer: **Martha Lee Saint Paul's Lutheran Church**

Mayor Chiacchiero. Presented a Proclamation to Anita and Gary Licate
Honoring Licate's Jefferson Diner Celebrating 25 years

Anita Licate thanked the Village of Jefferson for everything they do for the
Businesses in the Village of Jefferson.

Roll call of Council Dreier, Febel, Martuccio, Roderick, Sekanina, Orvos-
Absent

Corrections or Additions to the Agenda:

Councilperson Martuccio asks to have corrected in the minutes under Ordinance
2025-O-3376. Martuccio said he abstained from the roll call.

Minutes: Approval/Addition/Correction

Motion by Councilperson Febel to approve the Council Meeting Minutes of
March 17, 2025.

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Motion by Councilperson Febel to approve the Finance Committee Meeting
Minutes of March 3, 2025.

VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON COUNCIL MEETING

April 7, 2025

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Motion by Councilperson Febel to approve the Hiring Committee Meeting Minutes for March 20, 2025.

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Visitor's Comments (five-minute limit per council rule #13)

Citizen Frank Snyder of 116 West Jefferson Street, under the visitors' comments and the end of the meeting. Snyder said he spoke to Council about Ordinances coming to Council with numbers and then one Ordinance that disappeared from the agenda. Snyder also thank Council for approving the Civic Groups.

Snyder also told the Council that rotary is going to help the Community Center with the Easter Egg Hunt that is on April 12, 2025. Snyder told Council that he was approached last week by a Village Veteran stating the Jefferson Chamber of Commerce was not going to do the parade. The Veteran said he talked with the Village and the Rotary about helping with the Memorial Day Parade. The Rotary feels really strong about the veterans and said they will also help with the Memorial Day Parade along with the Village having the parade. The rotary also said that they would like to do wreaths across America. The Rotary would like to put wreaths on veteran graves at Oakdale Cemetery. It is in just a preliminary stage at the moment. Synder also mentioned next year will be the 100 anniversary of the Rotary.

Mayor Chiacchiero told the Council that the Village appreciates all the Rotary does for the Village.

Also present:

VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON COUNCIL MEETING

April 7, 2025

Anita Licate, Gary Licate, Stephanie Wessell of the Gazette, Frank Snyder Jr, Pat Bradek, Judy Maloney, John Perrotti, Julie Eckart, Mike Eckart, Brian Diehl, David Locy of the Fire Department, Tom Lachey of the Fire Department, Megan Justice, Jake Rice, Steven Murphy, Bobbi Jo Murphy and Martha Lee Saint Paul's Lutheran Church.

DEPARTMENTS

Administrator Mackensen

Village Administrator's report for the period ending April 3rd, 2025.

Projects update:

Project		Status	Vendor	Grant/Loan		Total Cost
ACTIVE PROJECTS	Project #					
WWTP EQ Basin	OPWC – R37	Submitted to DOD/EPA Resubmitting to OPWC – R37	CT Consulting	Engineering grant \$90,000		\$1,250,000
WWTP Clarifier Improvement Phase 1	OPWC – R38	Contract pending	CT Consulting	\$207,500 Grant \$50,000 Loan		\$615,000
WWTP Clarifier Improvement Phase 2	OPWC-R39	Submitted to DOD/EPA Resubmitting to OPWC – R39	CT Consulting			\$369,000
WWTP Clarifier Improvement Phase 3	OPWC-R40	Submitted to DOD/EPA Resubmitting to OPWC – R40	CT Consulting			\$389,000

In the Village

The Village Spring Cleanup Day will take place on May 10th, coinciding with the County Tire Take-Back Day. Please remember that any furniture made of fabric or leather must be wrapped in plastic for pickup. Items should not be placed out before Wednesday, May 7th, and must be set out no later than Friday night.

VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON COUNCIL MEETING

April 7, 2025

Collection crews will make only one pass, and any missed items will not be picked up. Additionally, batteries, oil, and paint that have not fully dried will not be accepted. As the date approaches, we will post a complete list of prohibited items.

Street Dept.

The Street Department has addressed the sinkhole on Elm Street between Satin and Erie Avenue. Additionally, changes were made to the Jefferson School retention pond, which seems to be resolving the water issue on Elliott Avenue. We will continue to monitor the area during the spring to assess whether any further changes are needed.

Recreation Department:

Parks are being cleaned up for the 2025 season. The Giddings Park playground is complete, and the basketball and pickleball courts are open and available. Please call the Recreation Department to schedule court times and reserve nets for pickleball.

Just a reminder: T-ball will run from May 27th through June 27th at \$45 per child, and soccer will take place from July 8th through August 7th, also at \$45 per child. We are looking for volunteer coaches and team partners for both sports

Wastewater Treatment Plant:

Police:

Still accepting applications

Other notes:

Tonight, the council has before them the Hiring Committee's recommendation for the new administrator, Steven Murphy, who is here with us to answer any

VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON COUNCIL MEETING

April 7, 2025

questions you may have. With the council's approval, Steve will begin his role on Monday, April 21st.

I would also like to request that the Finance Committee schedule a meeting prior to the next council meeting to review and discuss the funding options for the wastewater clarifier project. The most recent bid for the project has come in over budget, and before we move forward, I believe it's important to have a thorough conversation about potential adjustments, alternative funding sources, or next steps.

I have signed the two-year agreement for Emergency Management Services with the Ashtabula County Board of Commissioners. The agreement is effective from January 1, 2025, through December 31, 2026, and is in the amount of \$129.41. This agreement ensures continued collaboration with the Ashtabula County Emergency Management Agency for emergency planning, coordination, and response services.

Administrator Mackensen asked to have a Finance Meeting to discuss the WWTP Clarifier project and the bids came in over budget about a hundred thousand dollars. We need to discuss the Funding for the project.

Clerk /Treasurer Fisher

Payroll Report/Special Pay Report

Chief Mackensen

Chief Mackensen said he did not have a Police Report at this time.

Chief Lachey

Chief Lachey gave the Fire Department Monthly Report.

VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON COUNCIL MEETING

April 7, 2025

Chief Lachey also told the Council that the Fire Department received the ISO report rating. Lachey told Council that this is the best rating the Village of Jefferson has ever received. The Village was at a 5.6 and now the Village is at a 4.45. This is great for the Village, because it will reduce the insurance rates for everyone in the Village. The new rate will go into effect on July 1, 2025

Chief Lachey also told the Council that on April 28, 2025, there will be a State drill along with the LEPC at Lake City Plating for all Safety Services Departments.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building and Lands

Committee Report: None

Ordinance/Resolution to Read:

Ordinance No. 25-O- 3376

An Ordinance Amending the “District Map” of the Village of Jefferson, Ashtabula County, Ohio as incorporated into the code of Ordinances of the Village of Jefferson, Ohio at section 1242.02 in order to rezone one parcel of property currently designated as I-industrial to R-3-multifamily-residential and designate

VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON COUNCIL MEETING

April 7, 2025

same on the “district map”

Motion by Councilperson Dreier for the Second Reading of Ordinance No. 25-O- 3376

2nd

Roll: Drier Yea, Febel Yea, Martuccio Abstained, Roderick Yea, Sekanina Yea, motion carried.

Councilperson Roderick asked if the Village knows who the property was sold to.

Administrator Mackensen told Council the sale is pending on the change in the zoning. Mackensen also stated he did not know who the buyer was, the real estate agent knew who the seller is. The Zoning is changed per the request of the buyer.

Forestry

Committee Report: None

Finance

Committee Report: No report

Ordinance/Resolution to Read:

Resolution No. 25-R-3371

A Resolution enacting and adopting amended and updated code of Ordinances of the Village of Jefferson, Ohio, published by American Legal Publishing Corporation, and copyrighted 2024.

Motion by Councilperson Sekanina for the Third Reading of Resolution No. 25-R- 3371

**VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON
COUNCIL MEETING**

April 7, 2025

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

**Motion by Councilperson Sekanina adopt Resolution
No. 25-R- 3371**

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Ordinance/Resolution to Read:

Resolution No. 25-R-3372

A Resolution opposing proposed legislation (Senate Bill 43) to eliminate a lodging tax within Ashtabula County

**Motion by Councilperson Sekanina for the third Reading of Resolution
No. 25-R- 3372**

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

**Motion by Councilperson Sekanina adopt Resolution
No. 25-R- 3372**

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Ordinance/Resolution to Read:

Ordinance No. 25-O-3373

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 254.05 of the Code of Ordinances of the Village of Jefferson, Ohio pertaining to overtime.

**Motion by Councilperson Sekanina for the Second Reading of Ordinance
No. 25-O- 3373**

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

**VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON
COUNCIL MEETING**

April 7, 2025

Ordinance/Resolution to Read:

Ordinance No. 25-O-3374

An Ordinance combining the duties of the Elected Village Clerk and the Elected Village Treasurer into one appointed office, to be known as Village Fiscal Officer

I would like to place the following **Motion to Amend** on the agenda for the upcoming **Council Meeting on April 7, 2025**. I request that this motion be included in the discussion section of **Ordinance 2025-O-3374**, and I also ask that the statement below be included in the official discussion for the record.

Motion to Amend Ordinance No. 2025-O-3374:

"This ordinance shall only take effect upon approval by the voters of the Village of Jefferson at the next municipal election. A certified copy of this ordinance shall be filed with the Ashtabula County Board of Elections at least 120 days before the November 2025 election to ensure it is placed on the ballot for public approval."

Motion: _____ **Second:** _____ **Discussion:** _____ **Roll Call Vote:** _____

Statement for the Record:

Dear Mayor, Council Members, and Jefferson Residents,

At our last meeting, **Councilman Steve Sekanina improperly objected** to my amendment being placed on the agenda, citing decorum and a supposed lack of 24-hour notice—both of which are **procedurally invalid objections** under *Robert's Rules of Order*. The motion to amend was introduced **at the appropriate time** under "Additions and Corrections to the Agenda," following standard council procedures.

However, I would like to highlight some key facts regarding this ordinance as currently written:

- 1) **The ordinance is being passed now but will not take effect for three years.** Even if the current Clerk-Treasurer were to retire tomorrow or next year, the position would, by law, still need to be filled by someone who meets the current **elected** Clerk-Treasurer requirements—including

VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON COUNCIL MEETING

April 7, 2025

residency and term limits. This is similar to how we replace a vacant **Council** or **Mayor's** seat. While I agree with my colleagues that ensuring a **qualified individual** holds this position is important, this decision **does not need to be rushed** at this time.

- 2) **The decision to make this an appointed position should be left to the voters.** The next municipal election is **less than eight months away**, making it the perfect opportunity to let the **people** decide whether this position should remain elected or transition to an appointed role. While some may argue that **Council should make this decision on behalf of the public**, I firmly believe that taking this choice away from voters—when we have ample time to place it on the ballot—is **neither wise nor appropriate**.

As of today, 444 people have viewed our last council meeting, showing a high level of public interest in this matter. Given that level of engagement, I urge my fellow Council Members to reflect carefully on whether we should be taking this decision **away from the electorate we serve**.

Unfortunately, due to pre-existing travel plans, I will not be able to attend the **April 21st meeting** for the third reading of this ordinance. However, I **trust that the Mayor and Council will make the right decision** in my absence.

Sincerely,

Pasquale Martuccio

Councilperson Martuccio asked the Council, how does allowing the people to vote on something like this harm the Village, this Council or the Voters?

Motion by Councilperson Martuccio to Amend Ordinance No. 2025-O-3374:

"This ordinance shall only take effect upon approval by the voters of the Village of Jefferson at the next municipal election. A certified copy of this ordinance shall be filed with the Ashtabula County Board of Elections at least 120 days before the November 2025 election to ensure it is placed on the ballot for public approval."

There was not a second, so the motion failed.

**VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON
COUNCIL MEETING**

April 7, 2025

**Motion by Councilperson Sekanina for the Second reading of Ordinance
No. 25-O- 3374**

2nd

Roll: Drier Yea, Febel Yea, Martuccio Nay, Roderick Yea, Sekanina Yea, motion carried.

Ordinance/Resolution to Read:

Ordinance No. 25-O-3375

An Ordinance waiving the residency requirements for the Village Fiscal Officer

**Motion by Councilperson Sekanina for the Second reading of Ordinance
No. 25-O- 3375**

2nd

Roll: Drier Yea, Febel Yea, Martuccio Nay, Roderick Yea, Sekanina Yea, motion carried.

Motion by Councilperson Sekanina to accept the Mayor's recommendation to hire Steven Murphy to the Administration Department as the Administrator for the Village of Jefferson per the Employment Agreement for the Administrator position effective April 21, 2025

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Ordinance/Resolution to Read:

Ordinance No. 25-O-3377

An Ordinance approving the appointment of Steven S. Murphy as Village Administrator and declaring an emergency

Motion by Councilperson Sekanina for the First Reading of Ordinance

**VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON
COUNCIL MEETING**

April 7, 2025

No. 25-O- 3377

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Motion by Councilperson Sekanina to suspend Council Rules on Ordinance

No. 25-O- 3377

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Motion by Councilperson Sekanina to adopt Ordinance

No. 25-O- 3377

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Ordinance/Resolution to Read:

Ordinance No. 25-O-3378

Ordinance waiving the requirement that the Village Administrator of the Village of Jefferson reside in the Village for the purpose of appointing and hiring Steven S. Murphy as the Village Administrator and declaring an emergency

Motion by Councilperson Sekanina for the First Reading of Ordinance

No. 25-O- 3378

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Motion by Councilperson Sekanina to suspend Council Rules on Ordinance

No. 25-O- 3378

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Motion by Councilperson Sekanina to adopt Ordinance

No. 25-O- 3378

VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON COUNCIL MEETING

April 7, 2025

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Recreation

Committee Report:

FYI: Breakfast with the Easter Bunny

FYI: Easter Egg Hunt

FYI: JCRC Summer Events

Safety

Committee Report: No Report

Utilities/Wastewater Treatment/ Service

Committee Report: No Report

Mayor

Mayor Chiacchiero told the Council the next Council Meeting will be April 21, 2025

Mayor Chiacchiero congratulated Steve Murphy and welcomed him to the Village Administrator position.

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

**VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON
COUNCIL MEETING**

April 7, 2025

None

Visitor's Comments (five-minute limit per council rule #13)

None

CORRESPONDENCE

None

MEETINGS

None

ADJOURN

Motion by Councilperson Sekanina to adjourn the Council Meeting.
2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Submitted by,

Patricia A Fisher, Clerk of Council