

**VILLAGE OF JEFFERSON
COUNCIL MEETING**

March 16, 2026

Minutes and Videos from each Council Meeting are available at Jeffersonohio.gov

Meeting called to order by Mayor Steven Sekanina.

Pledge of Allegiance:

Moment of Silence:

Opening Prayer: Pastor Laing Bethel Bible Church

Roll call of Council Belden, Bradek, Damon, Febel, Roderick, Skinner

Corrections or Additions to the Agenda:

None

Minutes: Approval/Addition/Correction

Motion by Councilperson Belden to approve the Council Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2026.

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Motion by Councilperson Skinner to accept the Jefferson Emergency Rescue Meeting Minutes of February 11, 2026.

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Motion by Councilperson Febel to approve the Safety Committee Meeting Minutes of March 4, 2026.

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

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Motion by Councilperson Bradek to approve the Building and Lands Committee Meeting Minutes of March 9, 2026.

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Motion by Councilperson Roderick to approve the Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of March 2, 2026.

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

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

Christina Bakos-Meyer of the Jefferson Area Teachers Association presented to donation to the Village of Jefferson in the amount of four hundred dollars the splash pad that is going to be built in the future at the Imagination Village Park.

Fred Trautlein, a resident at 80 West Walnut St., a house that his mother-in-law has owned since 1967, spoke at the meeting.

He said he was concerned about the County's plans for the property. He also questioned when discussions about the property have taken place, as he found nothing in council meeting recordings and minutes about it.

"There is not one word regarding 55 W. Walnut St.," Trautlein said. "That seems a little less than forthright."

He said he asked County officials what their intention was, and he received the same answer from two commissioners.

"That it will be used for staging of construction equipment and parking," Trautlein said.

The staging is for the planned 55,000-square-foot, 209-bed expansion project at the existing County jail in Jefferson.

Trautlein questioned that use, saying it's a residential space.

He also said there had been no notification to adjacent homeowners about these plans.

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“And that is just a lack of transparency, period,” Trautlein said.

He asked council to table this ordinance and not go through a third reading to approve it – or vote down the third reading.

“Because you’re going to be attacking a residential street. You’re going to be allowing what I believe is a commercial use of the property,” Trautlein said. “I have a lot of concerns.”

He said the truck traffic will put a real burden on the street.

Trautlein said when he went to the January meeting of the commissioners about the Public Safety Project, they said equipment would be staged at the fairgrounds.

Judy Kampf, a resident at 64 West Walnut Street. Said they were caught off guard by the possibility of the lot being used as a staging area.

“We have houses that are right next to it. It’s a very narrow lot,” Kampf said.

Kampf said she’s not against the jail construction, but the West Walnut Street residents are the ones who will be most affected.

She asked council to be considerate of that.

“We are residents of the village, and we’re your constituents,” Kampf said. “You need to be considerate of what our feelings are and the impact this is going to be on us.”

Ashtabula County Commissioner Casey Kozlowski was present at the meeting and read some prepared remarks to address some of those concerns. Also at the meeting were County Administrator Janet Discher and Sheriff Bill Niemi.

“I want to begin by emphasizing one very important point. We are very early in this process as it relates to the Public Safety Center project. I cannot stress that enough. There is still a great deal of planning and work to be done,” Kozlowski said.

He said County officials met Jefferson Village leadership in early September of 2025 to discuss the broader project.

“Our goal from the beginning has been open transparency and open

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At the time of that first meeting, the County had just begun working with its architect, DLZ.

“Even at those early stages, it was clear that a project of this size would create some logistical challenges,” Kozlowski said.

Those challenges include parking for employees and visitors, as well as areas to temporarily stage equipment and construction materials.

“During that very first meeting, the idea was raised of the vacant parcel on Walnut Street as a possible location to help address some of those needs,” Kozlowski said. The commissioners expressed interest in working on a deal for that property in October. Due to some personnel changes in the Village at the time, the conversation paused for a bit, he said.

“The County’s interest in this parcel is for temporary staging purposes during construction of the Public Safety Center. We are also exploring other options, including the use of the fairgrounds,” Kozlowski said. “And we’ve also reached out to another local business about using portions of their property as well. However, proximity to the actual construction site is going to be extremely important.”

Kozlowski said that having staging areas nearby reduces the impact on the community and the residents.

“It limits the amount of truck traffic traveling longer distances through town,” Kozlowski said. “In many ways, using a nearby parcel would help us minimize disruption, rather than create more of it.”

He also shared some details on the history of the property to give context.

“The home that once stood on this parcel had caught fire and was ultimately abandoned and was forfeited to the state. Jefferson Village, they stepped up and invested funds to demolish the structure so it would not remain an eyesore in the community,” he said.

Through the County Land Bank, the property was then transferred to the Village. “Because of the parcel’s proximity to the Public Safety Center project, the County later expressed interest in acquiring it,” Kozlowski said. “In doing so, we are operating in good faith by purchasing the property essentially at the cost the

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Kozlowski said being open and transparent is a priority.

“We will continue to keep the public informed as this project progresses,”

Kozlowski said. “That said, we are still in the very early stages. We very recently just selected our construction manager, and much of the detailed planning is just beginning. Securing potential staging areas like this is simply one of the early steps needed to develop a full plan for us to share with area residents and the Village.”

With a project of this scale, there will be some inconveniences, Kozlowski said.

“Construction projects of this size always come with it. But we are committed to minimizing the impact on residents and being good neighbors throughout this process,” Kozlowski said.

He said it was also worth remembering that Jefferson leaders and many community members, as they worked through the project, expressed a strong desire for the Public Safety Center to remain in the village because of the economic-development benefits and income-tax revenue that it brings.

“Keeping the facility in the village also means we have limited land available to work with, and that creates some logistical challenges. And we’ll all need to work together to get through that,” Kozlowski said.

Addressing the concerns that the property could become a parking lot, Kozlowski said any permanent change like that would require a zoning change on Jefferson’s part.

“The County has not pursued anything like that at this time,” Kozlowski said. “In fact it’s very possible that once the Public Safety Center project is complete, the property could be sold.”

He also said discussions with the Village on the property have followed normal government-to-government communications. Under the Ohio Revised Code, discussions on potential property acquisition may occur in executive session so that public entities can discuss negotiations without negatively affecting the process.

Any legislative action must always take part in a public meeting, he said.

If the Village approves the third reading, Kozlowski said the commissioners would then discuss the matter publicly at one of their meetings and consider that purchase.

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“Any decision by the commissioners would occur in that public meeting,”
Kozlowski said.

He said the commissioners also are looking at holding another public meeting in late April or May regarding the Public Safety Center project.

Sekanina echoed some of Kozlowski’s comments.

“The Village has no use for this property. It’s a residential lot. We have no use for it, no planned use for it, no potential use for it. These are funds that are tied up for the Village that we’re unable to use,” Sekanina said.

He said the price for the parcel is \$26,506, which is the amount the Village and taxpayers need to be made whole.

“I would rather be able to put those funds to use in another area rather than have them tied up in a property that we have no use for,” Sekanina said.

He said the goal is to minimize disruption.

“Having a temporary staging area will help to minimize that,” Sekanina said. “We obviously want to make sure the community remains safe, we want to minimize the disruptions, and we believe this parcel is part of doing that.”

Councilperson Nick Belden told everyone before the vote.

He said he appreciated the residents who spoke.

“The ones who do live on that street, I do understand it’s going to be a shock to the system,” Belden said.

He said he looked into the matter, as those first discussions took place before he was on council.

“I see no benefit to postponing this transaction. I believe it’s what is best for the Village and the County,” Belden said.

Councilperson Lon Damon brought up a question of whether the property is going to be kept neat and presentable.

Damon also asked if they would fence the property.

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Also present:

Chuck Borsukoff, a resident at 17 West Walnut Street, brought up a concern the effect the construction vehicles may have on the street, and who would be responsible for repairs.

Mayor Sekanina told everyone that’s something we’ll have to discuss. If the streets are damaged by contractors that are hired by the County, then that’s something we’re going to have to work with the County to get fixed. Village taxpayers shouldn’t be held responsible,”

Also present:

Richard Kelly, John Kampf, Casey Kozlowski, Chuck Borsukoff, Pastor Laing, Christina Bakos-Meyer, Janet Discher, Fred Trautlein, Judy Kampf, Nicole Hill, Sheriff Bill Neimi, Stefanie Wessell, Judy Maloney, John Perrotti, Mary Howe, Yovonne Woodworth, Frank Snyder, Kelly Burns

DEPARTMENTS

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Administrator Manor

Village Administrator's report for the period ending March 13, 2026

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	VERDANTAS	Engineering grant \$90,000	\$1,250,000
WWTP Clarifier Improvement Phase 1	OPWC – R38	Contracted-Union Industrial.	VERDANTAS	\$207,500 Grant \$50,000 Loan	\$615,000
WWTP Clarifier Improvement Phase 2	OPWC-R39	Submitted to DOD/EPA Resubmitting to OPWC – R39	VERDANTAS		\$369,000
WWTP Clarifier Improvement Phase 3	OPWC-R40	Submitted to DOD/EPA Resubmitting to OPWC – R40	VERDANTAS		\$389,000

Street Department

- Staff is working on repairing curbs and potholes throughout the Village. All Christmas decorations are finally down and put away. The wheelchair bubbles are repaired by Wall Street.

Zoning / Planning

- Building and Lands Meeting March 30, 2026, at 6PM to discuss food trucks.

Recreation Department

- Nothing to report at this time.

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Wastewater Treatment Plant

- Congratulations to Josh Artman for successfully passing his Wastewater II Operator certification test.

Other Items

- Continued review of village operations and departmental needs as we move into the spring season.

Clerk /Treasurer Fisher

Payroll Report/Special Pay Report

Chief Mackensen Police Chief

No Report

Interim Fire Chief Edison

No Report

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Building and Lands

Committee Report: No Report

Ordinance/Resolution to Read:

Ordinance No. 26-O-3416

An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute the warranty deed to sell and transfer the real property located at 55 West Walnut street and otherwise identified as permanent parcel number 26-019-00-107-00 to the Ashtabula County Board of County Commissioners

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Motion by Councilperson Belden for the Third Reading of Ordinance No. 26-O- 3416

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Motion by Councilperson Belden to Adopt Ordinance No. 26-O- 3416

26-O- 3416

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

PUBLIC HEARING

Monday April 6, 2026

7:00 P.M.

Town Hall

Discussion: Changing Zoning from R-1 Single Family Residential to Industrial.

Ordinance No. 26-O-3417

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 R-1-Single-Family Residential to

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Industrial and designate same on the “District
Map”

Ordinance/Resolution to Read:

Ordinance No. 26-O-3418

An ordinance amending chapter 848 of the Code of Ordinances of the Village of Jefferson, Ohio Pertaining to Peddlers, Solicitors and Vendors

**Motion by Councilperson Belden for the First Reading of Ordinance No. 26
-O- 3418**

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Finance

Committee Report: No report

Forestry

Committee Report: No Report

Recreation

Committee Report: No Report

Motion By Councilperson Febel to accept the 2026 Fees for the Year 2026 at the Recreation Department.

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

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Councilperson Febel told Council that Safety Town will be at no cost to anyone signing up. The Recreation Center has gotten sponsorships.

Fees as of 2026

	<u>Time frame</u>			
Preschool	Sept - May	3 year olds	\$ 95.00	per month
Due at the beginning of month				
	Sept - May	4/5 year olds	\$ 130.00	per month
Due at the beginning of month				
Dance	Sept - May		\$ 45.00	per session
Due at the beginning of a new session which varies				
Karate	Sept - May		\$ 48.00	per month
Due at the beginning of month				
Safety Town			\$ 25.00	
Summer trips	Once a week		Varies	
Kindergarten kickstart			\$125	
Soccer	Seasonal		\$45	
\$32 fee/\$13 shirt fund/fee				
T-ball	Seasonal		\$45	
\$32 fee/\$13 shirt fund/fee				
Craft Show/Vendors			\$35	

**Gym
Membership**

Standard

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Month Monthly \$ 25.00 per month
 Due at the beginning of the month with proration rates

Pro- rate chart

WEEK 1 1ST - 7TH	\$25.00	\$50.00
WEEK 2 8TH- 14TH	\$18.75	\$43.75
WEEK 3 15TH- 21ST	\$12.50	\$37.50
WEEK 4 22ND- 31ST	\$6.25	\$31.25

Yearly Yearly \$200 per year
 Dues vary per member

Day pass Daily \$ 5.00 daily

Gym Membership Continued

Student/Military/Corporate

Month Monthly \$ 15.00 per month
 Due at the beginning of the month with proration rates

Pro-rate chart

WEEK 1 1ST - 7TH	\$15.00	\$30.00
WEEK 2 8TH- 14TH	\$11.25	\$26.25

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This Ordinance is being taken back to the First Reading because we have changed the effective date of the distribution of collection fees.

Ordinance No. 26-O- 3415

An Ordinance Amending Chapter 1030.15 of the Code of Ordinances of the Village of Jefferson, Ohio pertaining to the distribution of collection fees.

Motion by Councilperson Febel for the First Reading of Ordinance No. 26-O- 3415

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Motion by Councilperson Damon to accept the Administrators recommendation to move Joshua Artman up to Wastewater Treatment Operator II effective March 16, 2026. at the rate of pay per the Wage Ordinance. Joshua passed his Ohio EPA Class II Operator Certification

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

Mayor Sekanina

Mayor Sekanina thanked the Streets Department and Fire Department for all their hard work during the storm and the outages.

The Next Council Meeting will be held Monday April 6, 2026

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

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Motion by Councilperson Roderick to accept the resignation of Jason Ashba from
the Oakdale Cemetery Board effective April 7, 2026

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried

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

Various residents spoke again with Council that they were not happy with the sale
of the lot to the County and repressed concerns.

CORRESPONDENCE

None

MEETINGS

**DESIGN REVIEW BOARD
Thursday, April 2, 2026, 6:00 p.m.
Town Hall**

Topic: Fencing Design for the new Jail parking lot.

**BUILDING & LANDS COMMITTEE MEETING
Monday March 30, 2026
6 :00 p.m.
Town Hall**

Discussion: Food Trucks

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ADJOURN

Motion by Councilperson Belden to adjourn the Council Meeting.

2nd

Roll: All yea, motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

Submitted by,

Patricia A Fisher, Clerk of Council