

Village of Lowellville Regular Council Meeting 11/12/25 6:30 PM City Hall

Pledge of Allegiance

Mayor Called Meeting to order

Roll Call – Ryan McNicholas, Ron Rotunno, Bob Coppola, Don D’Onofrio, Keith McCaughtry

Motion to excuse Joe Donatelli by D’Onofrio 2nd McCaughtry

Roll Call – yes

Move to suspend the reading of the previous month’s minutes by Coppola 2nd McNicholas

Roll Call – yes

Move that the claims be referred to the claims committee for approval by Coppola 2nd D’Onofrio

Roll Call – yes

Move that once approved that claim be placed on the pay ordinance by D’Onofrio 2nd Coppola

Roll Call - yes

Mayor requested the FO to read the correspondence

Fiscal officer read correspondence

Comments – Coppola asking about electricity aggregate. FO informed them all that they received an email from the Mayor/Dave Ferro/Optics in regards to aggregate program that starts in February.

Mayor will follow up with Dave Ferro.

Mayor asking Coppola police payout resolution – will this be in the salary ordinance? No, per Coppola and Lanzo-this will be a separate emergency resolution.

Has this been approved – yes per Coppola. FO states that we do not have it yet and we do need. The previous discussion was these are to be paid out in 2026. Coppola states Chief agreed to 2026 payout.

Mayor requesting Joann to speak in regards to the MS modification and Zach information.

Consultant Report provided by Joann Esenwein since Zach could not attend meeting.

- Modification for Parsons Ave (This is part of the F&O from EPA). Have to do flow test before and after while doing work. This will come from our loan that we should get forgiveness on.
- Mayor & Solicitor found error with amount on modification. Joann will get corrected with MS.
- Joann needs approval to sign modification.
- Motion for administrator to sign modification for \$26,680.00 moved by McCaughtry 2nd Rotunno
- Roll Call – yes
- OEPA F&O – Need to pass legislation to allow us to put an RFQ out
- WWTP-We put in for planning loan – for planning & design. 0% interest if term is 5 yrs or less.
- OPWC – Watson – got approved for small governments loan – local share 16%= \$67,052.00

- D'Onofrio-not sure if we want to commit to this finance. Mayor – this is part of the EPA F&O with a total cost of \$419,000.00.
- Administrator – do you want me to tell them not to move forward with Watson? D'Onofrio-we have till Dec. We can discuss then.
- Siphon Replacement Project – RFQ was put out with a due date of 12/19/25. Issue: government shut-down holding this up.
- Riverfront Park – project moving along. Completion may not be until Spring due to pouring concrete at basketball court. Not sure why they can't do now and use blankets.
- Northside Fire Station – pending cost from state procurement

Village Administrator – Joann Esenwein

- Everyone should have received the email in regards to HB96 and the cybersecurity grant (on hold due to government shut-down)
- If we hire someone to do before the grant comes, we will not get our money back.
- We have till July 1st 2026 to complete.
- .Gov can wait (this is separate than the cybersecurity)

Motion to go out of regular order of business to hear from our Fire & Police Chiefs and public request.
Moved by Coppola 2nd D'Onofrio

Roll Call – yes

Fire Chief – Dave Harris

- New Agreement with Austintown Township for dispatch services
- 3-year contract
- Motion to enter into contract and have mayor and Joann sign moved by Coppola 2nd D'Onofrio
- Roll Call - yes
- Wrote grant to state - Marcs radios yearly service fees and reprogramming.
- EMS standby check given to FO for youth football
- Will be getting another from the school
- Profit of \$800.00 – Chief would like for funds to go into EMS fund (2905)
- Money needs received in GF since it's originally paid out of there (salaries) per solicitor
- Mayor – Council will need to take into consideration when doing the budget
- McNicholas – any update on the Opioid money? Chief – EMS & Paramedics we don't need that training, we already got that with our certifications. McNicholas – will need to look into, he thinks the term used was training, not specifically opioid.

Police Chief Alli

- 2 deaths the pass 6 days. The coroner is requesting setting up a protocol within the village. He will address tomorrow and send the mayor a copy.
- Joann – we need your budget and keep in mind when you submit to consider OT for salaries.
- Police would like a current copy of his appropriation report.
- D'Onofrio – what is current salary for PT officers? A: \$17.26

- What do you think we need to get more PT officers? A: We need a minimum of \$20-21 and keep in mind if we bring in new, we will need to increase the pay of all current officers.
- FO – our current FT officers currently are paid \$19.66 and \$20.46

Public Request –

Dr. Daniel Van Epps: Executive Director North East Ohio Regional Improvements Corp.

- Proposing some projects in the valley. After recent election and changes we will be taken some off the shelf.
- Watch railroads – Norfolk Southern is being purchased by Union Pacific. Will need approved by US Transportation Board. If approved, will have new railroad. Union Pacific also host commuter service in Chicago area. Maybe ask them if they will offer in Mahoning Valley ... Youngstown to Pittsburgh. We had that service in the past.
- CSX is not scheduled to be taken over but investors and others may be trying to break them up into little pieces.

Motion to return to regular order of business moved by D’Onofrio 2nd Rotunno

Roll Call – yes

Improvements Committee – McNicholas

- Tree decoration this weekend or next (weather permitting)
- Dec 7th Santa
- Wants to increase \$250.00 to PO for Christmas. FO – currently at DNE \$400, you need additional \$250? A: No, thought original was \$250.00

Finance Committee – McCaughtry

- Needs to schedule a meeting to start 2026 budget and requesting Mayor to have new council members attend. Possible 2026 chair would be McNicholas

Safety Committee – Donatelli

- Not in attendance to report but D’Onofrio spoke with Joey and they discussed about getting more PT officers.

Utility Committee – D’Onofrio

- Some contracts are due later not in December. Will need to look at what’s out there.
- Joann – the county came out and installed the fiber for Police & Fire

Ordinance Committee – Coppola

- Solicitor will be providing new legislation with changes
- Salary Ordinance changes, committee has been discussing and will have several little changes along with revamp of fire dept salary including raises.
- Fiscal officer has been added to the step program and repeal of secretary position.
- Parking ordinance with new language including parking on vacant lots

- Provision for Police dept – would like to change the language regarding comp time to be clearer. Comp Time is considered “work time” but sick and vacation are not.
- Trash receptacles legislation is being worked on

New business – Coppola was speaking with an officer the other day, no weight limit signs in town or bridge, why do we not have? A: will be one for the bridge soon, from the county, 5 axles. What about weight limits on our roads? A: we don't have scales.

Coppola – FO states we have not received any money from Struthers Courts this year. FO called Struthers and they state that they have nothing from Lowellville. FO has spoke with our 2 officers and they have given stuff to them, they will look into this.

Legislation –

Move on suspension of the rules for pay ordinance by Coppola 2nd D’Onofrio

Roll Call – yes

Move on passage of the pay ordinance by Coppola 2nd D’Onofrio

Roll Call – yes

Motion for Joann to enter into contract with Anthem 6.5% increase for 2026 moved by McCaughtry 2nd McNicholas

Roll Call – yes

FO requesting approval to create new appropriation and revenue accounts in UAN for Parson’s Ave project.

Moved by Coppola 2nd D’Onofrio

Roll Call - yes

Mayors Report – covered already

Motion to go into executive session to discuss pending litigation, development projects to consider reimbursement for tax liens Moved by Coppola 2nd D’Onofrio Invite Mayor, Solicitor, Council, Administrator, FO, Council elect Dave Durbin

Roll Call – yes

McCaughtry left meeting

Motion to return to regular meeting moved by Coppola 2nd D’Onofrio

Roll Call – yes

Joann – keep in mind our contract is coming up with MS. Joann will request for them to send some information for 2026

FO – We received a donation request from our fire dept for the “Visit with Santa”. We are out of funds on our contributions line for the year. I will need to move funds.

Motion to make \$100.00 donation moved by Coppola 2nd D'Onofrio

Roll Call – Yes

FO – Ryan, have you received the revised quote from Team Office from last month's meeting? A: No. Joann, we really don't need any of what was discussed from last meeting until we get our grant for cybersecurity and go from there.

Mayor – Tax Levies expiring 4.5 mils. Will need to get moving on this for the primary. Must be done 90 days before. Need ballot language and resolution.

Joann – status on State Champion sign? Location needs decided.

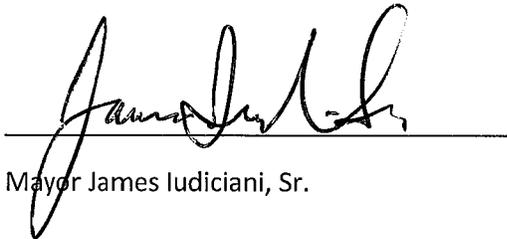
Old Business –

Rotunno – surface for basketball and pickleball courts? A: Concrete with Sports Seal

Conversation regarding talks with school about ballfields. No decisions yet. School board is discussing.

Motion to adjourn moved by Coppola 2nd Rotunno

Roll Call – yes



Mayor James Ludiciani, Sr.



Tina Strait – Fiscal Officer