

**Village of Jacksonville**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**January 28, 2026 6:30 PM**

The Village of Jacksonville met in regular session with Mayor Sam Smathers presiding. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM. Council members present were Kenneth “Jay” Chapman, Leonard “Butch” Chapman, Angela Strock, Eric Clift and Rachel Gratz. Also present were Solicitor Andy Grillo, Assistant Fire Chief Brett Downs and Fiscal Officer Heather Rockwell.

Council reviewed the Letter of Interest from resident Dave Moleski for the vacant Council seat. Moleski was the only resident that applied to fill the seat.

Councilperson Jay Chapman motioned to appoint Dave Moleski to fill the vacant Council seat. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Butch Chapman. All Council members voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Mayor Smathers provided a proposed 2026 Committee List to Council for review. Councilperson Butch Chapman motioned to accept the 2026 Committees as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Strock. All Council members voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Lee Raines of the Athens County Auditor’s Office was present to introduce himself to Council and provide certificates for the Village levies up for renewal. Rockwell explained that passage of the provided Resolutions this evening would allow the Village an additional opportunity to place a Fire Levy renewal and Current Expense Levy renewal on the ballot. Rockwell explained that the Current Expense Levy funds are used to pay for the Street Lights throughout the Village. The levy is not enough to cover the entire cost of Street Lights, but does cover most of the cost. Council proceeded with legislation so that Raines wouldn’t have to stay for the entire meeting.

Councilperson Butch Chapman motioned to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution 2026-1 declaring an emergency. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Gratz. All Council members voted “yes”. Motion carried. Resolution 2026-1: Resolution of Necessity. Councilperson Butch Chapman motioned to adopt Resolution 2026-1 as read. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Jay Chapman. All Council members voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Councilperson Butch Chapman motioned to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution 2026-2 declaring an emergency. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Strock. All Council members voted “yes”. Motion carried. Resolution 2026-2: Resolution of Necessity. Councilperson Butch Chapman motioned to adopt Resolution 2026-2 as read. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Gratz. All Council members voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Raines provided Auditor’s Certificates for the Fire Levy renewal and the Current Operating Expense Levy renewal. Councilperson Butch Chapman motioned to accept the Auditor’s Certificate for the Fire Levy renewal. The motion seconded by Councilperson Jay Chapman. All Council members voted “yes”. Motion carried. Councilperson Butch Chapman motioned to accept the Auditor’s Certificate for the Current Operating Expense Levy renewal. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Jay Chapman. All Council members voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Councilperson Butch Chapman motioned to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution 2026-3 declaring an emergency. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Jay Chapman. All Council members voted “yes”, except Councilperson Clift who abstained and requested a copy of the full Hazard Mitigation Plan for review. Motion carried. Resolution 2026-3: A Resolution Adopting the Athens County Multi-Jurisdictional Hazard Mitigation Plan and Authorizing Submission of Adoption Documentation and Declaring an Emergency. Councilperson Butch Chapman motioned to adopt Resolution 2026-3 as read. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Jay Chapman. All Council members voted “yes”, except Councilperson Clift who abstained to review the full Hazard Mitigation Plan. Motion carried.

Councilperson Butch Chapman motioned to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution 2026-4 declaring an emergency. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Jay Chapman. All Council members voted “yes”. Motion carried. Resolution 2026-4: Resolution to Proceed of the Taxing Authority. Councilperson Butch Chapman motioned to adopt Resolution 2026-4 as read. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Jay Chapman. All Council members voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Councilperson Butch Chapman motioned to suspend the rules and read by title only Resolution 2026-5 declaring an emergency. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Jay Chapman. All Council members voted “yes”. Motion carried. Resolution 2026-5: Resolution to Proceed of the Taxing Authority. Councilperson Butch Chapman motioned to adopt Resolution 2026-5 as read. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Jay Chapman. All Council members voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Councilperson Jay Chapman motioned the approval of the December 17, 2025 Special Council Minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Gratz. All Council members voted “yes”, except Councilpersons Strock and Clift who abstained due to being absent from the December 17, 2025 meeting. Motion carried.

Assistant Fire Chief Downs reported that the Fire Contract for the Village of Trimble is ready. Downs emailed the contract to Mayor Smathers and Fiscal Officer Rockwell. Downs reported that the department responded to 120 runs for 2025, but this is not the final figure. The Jacksonville Fire Department is applying for an Equipment Grant for one set of turn out gear, four gas detection meters and one calibration kit. Downs stated there was large turn out for the Christmas parade. The Girl Scouts handed out jackets and gloves, Gratz provided snacks on behalf of the Athens County Together grant, and the Old Settlers Reunion Committee handed out children’s books. Mayor Smathers thanked the Fire Department for the special stop they made for a resident during the Christmas Parade.

Downs reported that the membership voted to appoint Mike Walls to the Jacksonville Fire Department. Walls already possesses a valid Ohio fire certification. Council requested Downs provide the application information so they can review and affirm the appointment of Walls. Downs asked if the Department of Transportation physical for Walls would be acceptable to the Village. Council agreed it would be acceptable. Walls will need to obtain a driver’s abstract and complete a new hire packet after Council affirms his appointment.

Downs stated that Bill Ray is having issues with his door code. Rockwell asked Downs if anyone has confirmed that he is entering the correct code in the door. Downs stated he will double check on this. Downs reported that the Fire Department is applying for an Athens County Together grant for \$4,000. Downs reported that the parts for Unit 1773 are still not in. Purchase Order numbers were provided to Johnson’s for invoicing. Emergency Networking, which provides the fire software, has been sold to Tyler Technologies. Downs asked if the purchase order for the software will need to be reissued. Rockwell stated she will check on this, and the Village will need a W-9 from Tyler Technologies.

Mayor Smathers reported on behalf of Administrator Rockwell and Water Operator Riley that they have patched potholes, repaired alleys, manually operated the control valve until new batteries were received, plowed snow and salted roadways, placed grits on the alleyways, performed water shut offs and turns ons, and hauled gravel and salt for the Village’s supply. Rockwell stated the Village is not able to purchase additional bulk salt from the County for the remainder of the season due to low supply. Rockwell recommended salt be used sparingly for the remainder of winter. Council commented that Jacksonville’s streets were maintained well during the snow.

Solicitor Grillo reported that a juvenile arraignment hearing was held today and the prosecutor was advised that the Village is seeking restitution for damages.

Councilperson Clift motioned to appoint Butch Chapman as Council President for 2026. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Strock. All Council members voted “yes”, except Councilperson Gratz who abstained. Motion carried.

Assistant Fire Chief Downs presented the application documents for Mike Walls to Council. Council reviewed the documentation. Councilperson Jay Chapman motioned to affirm the appointment of Mike Walls to the Jacksonville Fire Department. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Butch Chapman. All Council members voted “yes”. Motion carried. Rockwell will email the new hire packet to Solicitor Grillo for Walls to complete at Grillo’s office.

Fiscal Officer Rockwell requested approval of the November financial statements. Councilperson Butch Chapman motioned to approve the November 2025 financial statements and bank reconciliation as presented at the December 17, 2025 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Jay Chapman. All Council members voted “yes”, except Councilperson Strock who abstained due to being absent. Motion carried.

Rockwell reminded Council that the December 2025 financial statements and bank reconciliation will not be available until Year End Annual Financial Statements are complete. Rockwell stated the final item she needed to complete year end was just received and anticipates year end to be completed in the next week. December 2025 and January 2026 reports will be presented at the February meeting. Rockwell reported an incident at the Village greenspace lot involving the picnic tables being flipped over and threats made toward Rockwell. Rockwell informed Council that the bank is no longer providing pennies for the cash register. Rockwell offered a solution to the issue and requested Council’s opinion. The issue only exists for water customers paying with cash at the office. Customers will be given the option to round payment up to the nearest nickel and have the excess credited to the next bill, or short pay to the nearest nickel and have the balance added to the next bill without penalty.

Rockwell reported that Breathing Air Systems requested payment status on an invoice. Rockwell provided information on the payment status and inquired about how the servicing is scheduled. Breathing Air Systems requested Fire Chief Henry contact the Village’s service coordinator, Collin Wilde to update all contact information for service. Rockwell provided Wilde’s contact information to Assistant Chief Downs.

Councilperson Strock requested repairs to North Seventh Street due to water washout when the weather allows.

Councilperson Gratz announced that the Fire Department and Athens County Together grant will be hosting a free lunch at the Fire Department on Saturday, February 14, 2026 from 11:00AM to 1:00PM. Lunch is free to any member of the public with chili, cornbread, dessert and a drink provided.

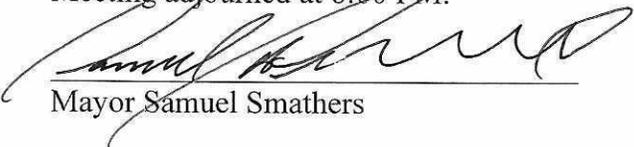
Councilperson Butch Chapman asked if the Village knows the maximum occupancy of the Hall. Rockwell stated she had previously tried to get the number determined, but ultimately couldn’t get an answer. Downs will inquire with a fire inspector to try to get the number.

Mayor Smathers asked Council for their opinion on people using side by sides and four-wheelers with plows for snow removal on sidewalks in the Village. Smathers stated that water meters and pits were damaged several years ago because of this. Council agreed that using ATVs to plow sidewalks should not be permitted. Smathers reported on an incident he heard with an irate water customer at the office over a leak credit.

Mayor Smathers entertained a motion to adjourn.

A motion was made by Councilperson Clift and seconded by Councilperson Jay Chapman to adjourn. All Council members voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

  
Mayor Samuel Smathers

  
Fiscal Officer Heather Rockwell