

**Village of Jacksonville**  
**Regular Council Meeting**  
**March 25, 2026 6:30 PM**

The Village of Jacksonville met in regular session with Mayor Sam Smathers presiding. The meeting was called to order at 6:44 PM. Council members present were Kenneth “Jay” Chapman, Leonard “Butch” Chapman, Angela Strock and Eric Clift. Also present were Solicitor Andy Grillo, Fire Chief DJ Henry and Fiscal Officer Heather Rockwell.

Councilperson Eric Clift motioned to excuse Councilpersons David “Dave” Moleski II and Rachel Gratz from the March 25, 2026 meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Butch Chapman. All Council members voted “yes”. Motion carried.

Taylor Sappington, Athens County Treasurer, presented Council with a Delinquent Letter and Lien report and Payment Plan guidelines. Mr. Sappington explained the escrow program offered by the Treasurer’s Office which allows monthly payments toward property taxes and can be set up for autopay. Mr. Sappington reported that he is eliminating the \$50.00 fee charged by the Treasurer’s Office to establish a payment plan. Sappington is also working with the Athens County Land Reutilization Corporation (Land Bank) to change the focus from demolishing homes to renovation and creation of housing in the area. Sappington discussed that Trimble Township has a higher rate of delinquent taxes than any other part of Athens County and he is working to remedy the issue. Trimble Township makes up forty-one percent (41%) of the delinquencies in the county, but only one-seventh (1/7<sup>th</sup>) of the population in the county.

Lee Raines of the Athens County Auditor’s Office appeared before Council to report that the levy renewals have been filed with the Board of Elections and are ready for the May election. Mr. Raines stated if anyone needs anything to reach out to him.

Sarah Smith appeared before Council to introduce herself as a candidate in the November general election for Athens County Commissioner. Ms. Smith stated she is a Republican candidate and is the Treasurer of the Republican Executive Committee. Ms. Smith stated she will be attending meetings throughout the year to see what issues and concerns there are in the various communities. Smith is hoping to usher a change in leadership, believes there should be more transparency and accountability in Athens County, and hopes to improve those qualities if elected.

Councilperson Butch Chapman motioned the approval of the February 25, 2026 Regular Council Minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Jay Chapman. All Council members voted “yes”, except Council members Angela Strock and Eric Clift who abstained due to being absent from the February 25, 2026 meeting. Motion failed.

Fire Chief Henry reported he is working on the purchase order for the \$38,000 Small County Volunteer Fire Department grant for miscellaneous equipment and gear. Henry requested an update on that status of setting up accounts with the Athens County Bureau of Motor Vehicles (BMV) to get driver’s abstracts and background checks for new employees. Solicitor Grillo stated it should be complete. Fiscal Officer Rockwell stated the Athens County BMV is waiting for the Village to provide a template letter that will be sent with new hires when requesting the background checks. The BMV has indicated that the Village must provide the template and the template must indicate the “ORC code number” in the letter. Rockwell stated she does not know what the “ORC code number” is and the BMV indicated that the Village’s Solicitor must provide the code for the template. Grillo stated he will look into the matter further. Rockwell will provide the name of the person she spoke to at the BMV to Grillo. Rockwell stated she emailed a sample provided by the City of Athens to Grillo to try to help get the code. Rockwell stated she can prepare the template letter if Grillo can provide the code number.

Councilperson Rachel Gratz arrived at the meeting at 7:05 PM.

Henry provided the runs since the February meeting. The department has responded to 11 runs consisting of 1 brush fire, 4 fire alarms, 1 motor vehicle accident, 2 downed trees, 2 mutual aid fire runs and 1 chimney fire.

Henry reported there are three applications pending for the fire department, but he is waiting for the BMV issue to be resolved to continue with the hiring process. Henry stated he was contacted by a resident of Hooper Ridge in Homer Township regarding using a structure on their property for firefighter training. Councilperson Clift stated he didn't realize that old homes could still be used for training. Henry stated as long as the permits are obtained from the Fire Marshal it is allowable. Henry stated the vehicle behind the Fire Department that was used for training will be picked up next week by McKee's. Mayor Smathers asked if the Jacksonville Fire Department responded to the fire run at McKee's. Henry stated they, Hocking and Perry County fire departments responded to the run.

Councilperson Butch Chapman asked when the Easter Bunny Breakfast will be held. The event will be held on Saturday, April 4, 2026 from 9:00AM to 11:00AM. The Old Settlers Reunion Committee will hold an Easter Egg Hunt at the Village Park immediately following the breakfast.

Mayor Smathers requested Council revisit the approval of the February 25, 2026 Council Minutes. Councilperson Butch Chapman motioned the approval of the February 25, 2026 Regular Council Minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Jay Chapman. All Council members voted "yes", except Council members Angela Strock and Eric Clift who abstained due to being absent from the February 25, 2026 meeting. Motion carried.

Solicitor Grillo reported he is attending the pretrials for the juvenile cases on April 1, 2026.

Fiscal Officer Rockwell requested approval of the December 2025 and January 2026 financial statements and bank reconciliations. Councilperson Butch Chapman motioned to approve the December 2025 and January 2026 bank reconciliations and financial statements as presented at the February 25, 2026 meeting. All Council members voted "yes", except Council members Eric Clift and Angela Strock who abstained due to being absent from the February 25, 2026 meeting. Motion carried.

Fiscal Officer Rockwell presented Council with the February 2026 bank reconciliation and financial statements. Rockwell reported she is still working on House Bill 96 compliance. An ordinance adopting a Cybersecurity Program was presented to Council for approval. Rockwell stated the consultant that is working on House Bill 96 compliance with the Village was hired by Mayor's Partnership for Progress. The consultant provided the sample ordinance and this is the first step of many more in the coming meetings.

Rockwell requested a leak credit for a customer due to failure of Village owned equipment in the meter pit. The credit is for the full cost of 37,223 gallons of water totaling \$614.18. The leak occurred during the December through March billing cycles due to adverse weather and employees being unable to access the pit. The equipment is replaced and functioning properly now. The credit will not count as a leak credit for the customer. Councilperson Clift motioned to approve a credit of \$614.18 for account 00920-001 for the full cost of 37,223 gallons of water. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Strock. All Council members voted "yes". Motion carried. Mayor Smathers reminded Rockwell to certify the credit to the Trimble Township Wastewater Treatment District for a sewer credit.

Rockwell presented an Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources and an ordinance for Supplemental Appropriations for the Small County Volunteer Fire Department grant award.

Rockwell stated she reported the sweep account investment amounts at the last meeting incorrectly. The main corporate account will maintain a balance of \$50,000 and any funds above that amount will be transferred to the sweep account and earn interest. Rockwell stated she received the employee medical insurance renewal for May 2026. Rockwell stated the Village typically sees a 7-8% increase in premiums annually. The 2026 renewal is a 24% increase which is not feasible for the Village or the employees, who pay a percentage of their medical insurance costs. Rockwell has been exploring other options, but so far there isn't much difference in the

numbers she has received. Councilperson Strock stated her employer changed the structure of the employee insurance. The option may be worth looking into. Strock will get details to Rockwell so she can explore this option as well.

Rockwell stated Council previously motioned to scrap old water meters with McKee's during the 2020 Water Improvements Project. At that time, all water meters were replaced with smart meters. The old meters needed to be broken down into their components in order to be scrapped and due to time constraints it hasn't been completed. A new company approached the Village to purchase the meters "as is" for more than scrap value. Rockwell requested a new motion permitting the meters to be scrapped with the new company. Solicitor Grillo checked Ohio Revised Code to see which section applies to the situation. Councilperson Butch Chapman motioned to dispose of obsolete water meters no longer useful for municipal purposes under Ohio Revised Code Section 721.15(C) with Lawrence Adams Valve. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Gratz. All Council members voted "yes". Motion carried.

Councilperson Gratz stated the Jacksonville Firefighters Association would like to perform a community trash pickup on May 17, 2026. This would involve picking up trash and litter along the roadways, not bagged trash. Council discussed a community cleanup day for Jacksonville. Fiscal Officer Rockwell will contact Jane Redfern of the Athens County Solid Waste District to see if she is interested in coordinating a cleanup with Jacksonville, Glouster and Trimble as they did in 2025.

Councilperson Butch Chapman motioned to approve and file the 2026 Amended Certificate of Estimated Resources with the Athens County Auditor as presented. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Clift. All Council members voted "yes". Motion carried.


Councilperson Butch Chapman motioned to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance 2026-8 declaring an emergency. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Gratz. All Council members voted "yes", except Councilperson Clift who abstained due to possible conflict of interest. Motion carried. Ordinance 2026-8: An Ordinance to Adopt a Cybersecurity Program and Declaring an Emergency. Councilperson Butch Chapman motioned to adopt Ordinance 2026-8 as read. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Jay Chapman. All Council members voted "yes", except Councilperson Clift who abstained due to possible conflict of interest. Motion carried.

Councilperson Butch Chapman motioned to suspend the rules and read by title only Ordinance 2026-9 declaring an emergency. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Jay Chapman. All Council members voted "yes". Motion carried. Ordinance 2026-9: 2026 Supplemental Permanent Appropriations and Declaring an Emergency. Councilperson Butch Chapman motioned to adopt Ordinance 2026-9 as read. The motion was seconded by Councilperson Jay Chapman. All Council members voted "yes". Motion carried.

Mayor Smathers entertained a motion to adjourn.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 PM.

  
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Mayor Samuel Smathers

  
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Fiscal Officer Heather Rockwell