

Minutes for the Regular Council Meeting held on April 11, 2026 at 10:00 am

1.0 Mayor Ehrbar calls council to order –

RC: J.Wolfe__Y__, G. Finger __Y__, C. Kipfer, __N/A__ S. Stevenson__Y__, J. Divoll__Y__,
M. Gaither__Y__

S. Stevenson motions to excuse C. Kipfer from Council meeting; second by M. Gaither:

All in Favor. Motion Passed.

2.0 All rise for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag:

4.0 Discussion and/or amendments to the March 14, 2026 Regular Council Minutes.

Motion to accept/amend the Minutes as presented,

RC: J.Wolfe__2__, G. Finger __Y__, C. Kipfer, __N/A__ S. Stevenson__1__, J. Divoll__Y__,

M. Gaither__Y__. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

5.0 Discussion of Pay Ordinance No. 1255: Motion to accept the Pay Ordinance as written,

RC: J.Wolfe__Y__, G. Finger __1__, C. Kipfer, __N/A__ S. Stevenson__2__, J. Divoll__Y__,

M. Gaither__Y__. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

7.0 Committee Reports

7.A. Police – James E. Bartus II: Activity Report – March 2026

Report(s) = 1	Total Citations Issued = 0
Department Phone Call(s) = 54	House / Business Check(s) = 0
Arrest(s) / Citations = 0	Vehicle Lock-out(s) = 2
Warning(s) = 3	Assist w/other agencies = 1
Accident(s) = 0	
Closed Court Cases YTD = 0	
Current Open Court Cases YTD = 1 (Erie County Court)	
Department Budget YTD = 19%	

I'd like to take a second to thank Dave Lambros for all his work this winter. We are working on the scooter and E-bike issues. There's a couple fine tweakings that we're going to do, but he worked really hard over the winter on that. So, I'd like to thank him.

I want to address a few things that have come up in discussion amongst the safety services. I bring these issues and hope that the ones in attendance today will spread the word to others of the changes that need to be made.

First, I would like to address the con how to contact us in case of emergencies. Many of us, many of the people on the island have our personal cell phones for various reasons during my time here.

And I will speak for EMS Director Maust and Chief Skeans, which I just asked the permission if that's OK with them. We have had numerous emergencies that have occurred where we've been contacted on our cell phones.

This is an issue when contacting us via personal cell phones. There's a chance that we may not be on the island or possibly not have the device on us at that time. This is crucial due to the fact that in that case of emergencies, time is of the essence and this causes delay in response time because we then need to relay the call to 911 or to the other members of our departments.

We understand that you may not want a scene which we get often when there's a call such as an ambulance or lights and sirens from a cruiser, but going directly through US typically won't change how we decide to respond.

Sometimes people don't believe it's an emergency and we have numerous instances to back this up.

We ask that for emergencies such as an issue where there's someone hurt, a house fire, or an issue in your home or business that you contact the correct number, 911 or the police non-emergency.

All residents should take a moment and program the non-emergency numbers on their phone.

And lastly, a little more serious. In today's world, unfortunately, social media has become a necessary evil for some.

One of our issues that we have that we are challenged with our people that come on emergency scenes and of course the first thing they do is take a cell phone out to record or take pictures.

Just to let everyone know what's going on. These are trying moments for me as a first responder.

Take a moment and think about this for a second. An average person person sees or encounters 3 to 5 traumatic moments in their life.

First responders encounter 400 to 600 / a career I personally can reflect as far as 25 years ago as my very first traumatic event, and I can see it clear as day as I stand here. These images and events haunt us daily, randomly seeing something that sparks that memory. Now let's add social media and posting of scenes of victims where that post is received by a loved one's family member.

Or a current case in point, a house fire where we haven't even been able to contact the owner. Or last year's very emotional scene where a young man lost his life in a motor vehicle accident where I hadn't even been able to contact the parents yet.

We as first responders and your safety services, just ask that you take a moment and think about what is being posted and if it's the right time.

Just to reiterate, if you didn't understand the first part about 911, don't call a personal cell phone if it's an emergency, even if you know the chief or any of the chiefs, call 911.

It saves a lot of time and response.

7.B. Safety Committee – G. Finger, S. Stevenson – G. Finger reports: Meeting held.

We went over a lot of issues the other day at our safety committee meeting covering signs, future striping, street lights and policies in the future. It was a very productive meeting.

7.C. EMS – Russ Maust reports: EMS runs -1 Clinic calls -3

This month's training was a medical skills review course. Next month's training will be trauma scenarios with a skills review.

The EMS budget is within limits for this period of the year.

The Drone Grant that I discussed at the last Council meeting was discussed at this month's Safety Committee Meeting. It was well received and we are continuing to move forward with this project. This is an excellent opportunity to get a piece of cutting-edge technology for our community. This technology will be available to all of the Village Departments. As discussed, a drone will be very beneficial to both the Safety Services and the Island Community at large. I would like to request that a motion be made to accept this grant.

J. Wolfe makes a motion to accept the DroneSense Grant; second by M. Gaither.
All in Favor. Motion Passed.

I would also like to encourage the Village Council to vote yes on any legislation presented for this project. The deadline for this grant is rapidly approaching. If there are any questions about this program, I will happily answer them.

At the Safety Committee we also discussed the rate of pay for part-time paramedics. Attached is information on this discussion. It is my proposal that the part time paramedics match the part time police schedule and pay rate. I would like to request that the Council approve this and request that legislation be written for this proposal.

Mayor R. Ehbar states that this will need to go to Finance Committee.

As always, I would like to express my gratitude to the volunteers of Kelleys Island EMS for their dedication to the community of Kelleys Island.

7.D. Fire Dept.- Chief Skeans reports: Runs for March 2026 – 0

Due to Government shutdown, parts of the upcoming fire class are unable to be completed. Unfortunately, we will have to delay the upcoming class. Possibly resuming this fall.

The Fire Department has put together a committee to discuss the wants and needs of an equipment truck, more commonly known as a rescue apparatus. This will be paid for by the association.

On April 4th, we had a structure fire. All responding agencies did an amazing job working together to handle this situation. I would like to thank Chief Bartus and his men for going above the call of duty in this situation. I would also like to thank Russ Maust and his crew for keeping us safe. Finally, I would like to thank all of the members of the Fire Department whose training over the last few years has shown great improvement in our ability to perform our job.

On this fire, we deployed the two pumps that were purchased last year this fire.

The Fire department is on track for the 2026 budget.

7.E. Water Department – T. Lange: A. Federle reports:

The water department's been very busy with the spring meter turn ONS.

Speaking of meters, we are beginning to convert our meters from in person reads to a radio read system that'll begin here over the next month.

We will be replacing a lot of hydrants throughout the island as well.

7.F. Finance – C. Kipfer, M. Gaither: No report

12. Items from the Mayor:

- Request Town Hall be waived for PBS filming
Mayor R. Ehrbar requests the waive of fees for the use of Town Hall for PBS documentary filming on September 10 & 11. Bowling Green is doing a documentary on Kelley's Island. I had about 60 minute interview last fall already and they'll be working on this. It won't be done for another year, but so I'm just looking for a motion to waive the fees for the public broadcasting system.

Motion Made by J. Divoll; second by M. Gaither. All in Favor. Motion Passed.

And the second thing I mentioned at the last meeting, I'd like to get a workshop together to talk mainly about the employee personnel manual. Try to get that sewn up done so we can apply it.

13. Items from Council:

S. Stevenson: I just wanted to bring up because I don't know if it's been posted anywhere, but for everybody, I don't know if you've been up Division Street, but we added stop signs at Chapel and Division. So just beware. We also had a safety committee meeting last week, we're going to try to add some flags, prior to the stop sign, to make it a little bit more noticeable.

14. Old Business:

15. Public Comment: Marcy Mielke:

I was very happy to see that the Council has taken up the E bikes and scooters. I really would like you to add, and I know it's too late, probably at a second reading, those motorized skateboards because that's what nailed me last year in Charleston and I'm lucky to be here right now.
In addition to that, I was wondering if there's a way we could do anything about the cars racing to the boat on Lakeshore Drive at 5 minutes until the boat gets in. They're speeding down there like crazy.
And I've got a few more grandchildren and I'm really worried about what's going on up front.
I know years ago we talked about a speed bump, but I don't think that's the answer, but OK, thank you.

16. New Business:

17. Correspondence:

18. Motion to adjourn,

RC: J.Wolfe 2, G. Finger 1, C. Kipfer, N/A S. Stevenson Y, J. Divoll Y,
M. Gaither Y

Meeting Adjourned At: 10:31


Lisa M Klonaris, Clerk-Treasurer


Mayor Ronald E. Ehrbar