

OHIOPYLE BOROUGH

February 26, 2026

A regular meeting of the Ohiopyle Borough Council was held on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at the Borough Building. Executive session was held from 4:45 p.m. to 5:20 p.m. for litigation purposes. The meeting was called to order at 5:23 p.m. with the following in attendance:

Present: President Jessica Kruse
Vice President Conrad Hamather
Council Members: Pamela Kruse and Linda McCarty (Zoom)
Mayor: Mark McCarty

Absent: Council Member: Sara Cunningham

MINUTES

Motion: P. Kruse, 2nd: Hamather to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2025, December 18, 2025, and January 5, 2026, meetings. Motion passed.

CHECKS, WARRANTS & TRANSFERS

Motion: P. Kruse, 2nd: Hamather to approve the payment of the following checks:
ST General 2237-2243 ST Water & Sewage 1817-1818 ST State Fund 1411
Any other necessary transfers. Motion passed.

WEIGHT LIMIT ORDINANCE

Motion: P. Kruse, 2nd: L. McCarty to authorize advertisement for the Weight Limit Ordinance. Motion passed.

HEAVY HAUL EXCESS MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

Motion: Hamather, 2nd: P. Kruse to approve the Heavy Haul Excess Maintenance Agreement. Motion passed.

FESTIVAL PERMITTING ORDINANCE

Motion: Hamather, 2nd: P. Kruse to authorize advertisement for Festival Permitting Ordinance. Motion passed.

TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Motion: P. Kruse, 2nd: Hamather to authorize the Secretary to transfer \$21,565.66 into the General Fund at Somerset Trust Company. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 1 of 2026: TAX COLLECTOR BANK ACCOUNTS

Motion: Hamather, 2nd: P. Kruse to authorize the Tax Collector, Lindsey Strack, to open a bank account under Ohiopyle with sub accounts for School Taxes and Property Taxes. Motion passed.

RESOLUTION 2 of 2026: TAX COLLECTION FEES

Motion: Hamather, 2nd: P. Kruse to authorize tax collector, Lindsey Strack, to collect fees.
Motion passed.

WINTER MAINTENANCE LIASON

Motion: P. Kruse, 2nd: Hamather to authorize Kevin Ravenscroft to be the liaison for winter maintenance to the contractor. Motion passed.

ZONING HEARING BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Motion: P. Kruse, 2nd: Hamather to appoint Kevin Ravenscroft, Dolores Love, and Sandra Green to the Zoning Hearing Board.

3 Year Term: Kevin Ravenscroft - 2028

2 Year Term: Dolores Love - 2027

1 Year Term: Sandra Greer - 2026

Motion passed.

VACANCY BOARD APPOINTMENT

Motion: Hamather, 2nd: P. Kruse to appoint Lisa Mulcahy for Vacancy.

1 Year Term: Lisa Mulcahy - 2027

Motion passed.

2026 GREENWAYS, TRAILS, AND RECREATION PROGRAM (GTRP) GRANT APPLICATION

Motion: P. Kruse, 2nd: Hamather to authorize Aspire Grant Writing Services to submit the 2026 Greenways, Trails, and Recreation Program Grant Application. Motion passed.

DISCUSSION

OLD BUSINESS

MERCANTILE TAX

Solicitor Turturice advised Council that he will contact Southwest Regional Tax Office to coordinate administration of the Borough's Mercantile Tax at a rate of .0015% and will include the Secretary in the call to ensure proper set-up and communication.

AMEND AGENDA

Motion: P. Kruse, 2nd: L. McCarty amending the agenda to authorize the Borough Solicitor Lane Turturice to pursue litigation on behalf of the Borough regarding the First Right of Refusal, as discussed in executive session. Motion passed.

AUTHORIZE SOLICITOR TO ENGAGE IN LITIGATION - FIRST RIGHT OF REFUSAL

Motion: P. Kruse, 2nd: Hamather to pursue litigation on behalf of the Borough regarding the Borough's First Right of Refusal. Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS

GRANTS FOR ROADS

J. Kruse advised reaching out to Aspire to see what they have available.

BIOSWALE AND PARK MAINTENANCE PLAN

Council discussed maintenance of the bioswale, playground area, and park grounds. An estimate of approximately \$200 per service was received for routine maintenance, including weed removal and trimming, which may occur monthly and is below the Borough purchasing threshold. Council also discussed the condition of trees on Borough property near the playground and Community Center and the potential need for evaluation. It was noted that volunteers from the Community Center offered to remove the pine tree across from the Community Center with the help of DCNR getting the stump out and cut back bushes along the sidewalks at no cost to the Borough.

STREET SWEEPING

Council discussed operation of the Borough Street Sweeper. Bruce King, Wes Scarlett, Eric Harder, Kevin Ravenscroft, Will Joseph, and Rob Joseph were identified as individuals who may be authorized to operate the equipment. It was also noted that Falls Market offered to donate gasoline for the street sweeping machine. The matter will be placed on the next meeting agenda for further consideration.

REPORTS

STEERING COMMITTEE

C. Hamather said the Steering Committee meeting was successful and several topics were discussed. Parking concerns related to short-term rental properties and guest parking were reviewed, including potential enforcement challenges under current Borough regulations. Council discussed the process of submitting complaints related to short-term rental properties and noted that complaints may be forwarded to the Borough for review and possible code enforcement action. Discussion also included planning for a Part 2 Community Open House, with a date to be determined pending coordination with the Community Center.

Eric Harder noted that bioswale maintenance is being addressed and that potholes and road conditions will be monitored, particularly as heavy truck traffic related to upcoming projects may impact Borough streets. The Borough is currently bonding roads in anticipation of tri-axle truck traffic and will assess road conditions following project activity. The committee discussed continued efforts to pursue additional grants and future park-related improvements. Potential addition to Steering Committee to 5 to more seats.

PUBLIC COMMENT

KEN GFROERER

Mr. Gfroerer discussed the possibility of organizing a free community concert series during the summer in coordination with the Community Center, potentially held once per month on Wednesdays and modeled after similar events held in neighboring communities. The events would be informal, encouraging attendees to bring lawn chairs and gather as a community, with the Community Center serving as a backup location in the event of inclement weather. Mr. Gfroerer also discussed ideas related to potential improvements to the Borough Park, including the possibility of creating a more intentional gathering space or small amphitheater-style area to better accommodate community events. He expressed interest in assisting with planning efforts should the Borough choose to pursue the concept.

TRACY HOLT

Mrs. Holt discussed a planned sewage line connection from the Community Center to Sherman Street that will require opening a portion of the street. She advised that the contractor anticipates beginning work mid to late March, prior to the start of the busy season. Ms. Holt noted that the contractor indicated the street closure should be limited in duration and may require renewal of the 811 calls, if the work extends beyond the initial permit period. Coordination with the Borough and the contractor will continue as the project moves forward.

LISA MULCAHY

Mrs. Mulcahy provided comments regarding the Borough's short-term rental licensing program, J. Kruse noted that all short-term rental properties are required to obtain a Borough license and that follow-up is ongoing with properties that have not yet complied. She also inquired about the potential installation of decorative stones in the playground area and expressed interest in assisting with organizing community efforts related to future projects or events. Ms. Mulcahy also thanked the Borough and Conrad for their response to the recent snowstorm, noting that snow removal and alley clearing were completed promptly and effectively.

NEXT MEETING DATE: March 12, 2026 @ 9:00 a.m.
March 26, 2026 @ 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: P. Kruse 2nd:Hamther to adjourn the meeting at 6:30 p.m. Motion passed.