

Mechanicsburg Regular Council Minutes

6:30 PM 10/20/25, 2025

Jason Adelsberger, Roger Brake, Chip Wibright, Lori Tibbals, Chuck Foss, Charles Hickey, Scott Wilson, Billy Cobbs, Chief Patrick, Becky Stewart, Joe Jimmenz, Steve Castle, Mike Hull, Dusty Hurst, Alix Good

Call to Order

Roll Call All members were present.

Public Participation.

Approval of Minutes Regular Council 10/6/25 A motion by Charles Hickey and second by Billy Cobbs. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Special Council Meeting Minutes ORD/RES. 10/6/25 A motion by Charles Hickey and second by Chuck Foss. The motion passed unanimously.

Fiscal Officer Report 10/20/25 with Check # 59109 to 59146

Cash Summary A motion by Chuck Foss and second by Chip Wibright. The motion passes unanimously.

Becky asked for approval to purchase water meters with one of them over the sum of 5k for the school, A motion by Chip Wibright and second by Chuck Foss. The motion passed unanimously.

Roger reminded the council about the upcoming resolution to roll back taxes from the commissioners if they would like to move forward with it.

Council member Charles Hickey would like to see the numbers of what is would look like with percentages

Mayor Jason Adelsberger believes the village would approximately gain 18k per year with the new valuations if the council chooses to not roll back the taxes. spoke about the overall looking to gain 18k

Council member Chuck Foss and Scott Wilson believes it's the right thing to do

Administrator Report

- **Fire Hydrant Flushing will begin 10-20-25**
- **Safe Routes to School With ODOT**
- **Cyber Security Policy** Roger Stated will need to set up a meeting to discuss this new policy that will need to be put into place. The meeting is set for **Jan 12th @ 6:30**
- **Zoning Officer Report**

Zoning officer Dusty Hurst spoke about the upcoming BZA Meeting that will be held @ 6:00 PM 10-29-25. He also reminded the council that temporary pool permits expire on Oct 1st.

Admin Roger Brake asked Dusty if he would be onsite when the abatement clean-up starts. Dusty responded that he would make himself available those days.

Safety

Steve Castle spoke about Medicare payments being delayed due to government shut down.

Chief Patrick distributed cost estimate packets to the council for the new cruiser. The quotes are valid through November if the council decides to move forward.

Mayor Jason Adelsberger addressed the council regarding the directives implemented over a month ago and requested feedback on how members feel the process is going.

Council Member Chip Wibright emphasized the importance of transparency and questioned Chief Patrick about the department's presence on the west side of the county on October 3rd.

Chief Patrick explained it was in response to an officer-in-distress call and that the department received a commendation from the sheriff for their assistance.

Administrator Roger Brake reminded the Chief that per the Mayor and City Manager's request, officers were not to run lights and sirens through Urbana.

Chief Patrick responded that the situation was an emergency.

Chip questioned why closer departments, such as Urbana PD, did not respond. The Chief replied that this question would need to be directed to Urbana PD.

Chip expressed his belief that the current chief is not effectively managing the department and suggested the council consider looking for a new chief. He also stated that residents are paying for 24-hour police coverage but only receiving about 16 hours.

Chief Patrick explained that the lack of coverage is due to staffing shortages and the absence of qualified applicants. He suggested raising wages to be competitive with surrounding agencies, noting that the Sheriff's Department starts officers at \$29 per hour.

Administrator Brake added that West Liberty part-time officers earn approximately \$21 per hour.

Council Member Charles Hickey agreed that wages may need to increase but noted that the department also struggles with a poor reputation. He recommended the Mayor obtain a cost estimate from the Sheriff's Department for comparison.

Chip reiterated his concerns about the Chief's leadership and stated the budget is unbalanced, with too much allocated to the Police Department and too little to the Street Department. He suggested reducing the Police Department's budget by \$100,000 annually, since they are on queue to return that amount.

Council Member Chuck Foss criticized the department for issuing only three to four citations recently and expressed concern that the department may be "playing games." He and others clarified that no council member ever instructed the police not to do their jobs.

Council Member Lori Tibbals added that she has heard officers claim they are afraid of the council and its directives, but clarified that no one on council told the department to stop working. She agreed that this behavior appears to be a form of resistance.

Mayor Adelsberger mentioned hearing rumors that officers were not leaving the office and had even brought in air mattresses.

Chief Patrick responded that officers were reassigned to work on the evidence room and other administrative tasks.

The council expressed concern that officers were spreading false rumors that the council and mayor were preventing them from performing their duties.

The Mayor reiterated that no such directive was ever issued and warned against employees spreading misinformation about village leadership.

Council Member Foss stated that spreading these rumors creates a negative image of the department and unfairly misrepresents the council's intentions.

Mayor Adelsberger emphasized that residents are encouraged to bring their concerns directly to council, as that is why members were elected.

Chip asked about a grant for additional police coverage.

Chief Patrick clarified that the funds were from temporary relief money that is no longer available.

Council Member Charles Hickey discussed the importance of officers interacting with the public respectfully.

Zoning Officer Dusty commented on the distinction between what people "believe" and what is true when it comes to police department rumors.

Chief Patrick stated that his goal is to balance enforcing the law with the council's directives.

Council Member Foss reiterated that no one instructed the department to stop policing, only to focus on de-escalation techniques. He again accused the department of "playing games."

The Chief asked Chuck what he would like him to do specifically.

Zoning Officer Dusty asked who would take over if the Chief were to leave and noted that some council members appear to have personal issues with McConnell.

Chip responded that the department continues to make poor decisions and should not assist other agencies when it lacks manpower for its own coverage.

Chief Patrick repeated that raising wages is necessary to improve staffing.

Council Member Foss discussed possible next steps for wage adjustments.

Council Member Hickey agreed to consider raising pay but still wants to obtain a quote from the Sheriff's Department for comparison.

Chief Patrick concluded by noting that officers who fail to meet standards or act improperly would face termination.

Building

Street & Utilities

Ordinance and Resolutions

ORD 25-09 A motion to waive the 3 reading rule was made by Billy Cobbs and second by Charles Hickey. A roll call was performed and the motion passed unanimously.

A motion by Scott Wilson and second by Charles Hickey. A roll call was performed and the motion passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Executive Session

Motion to Adjourn A motion by Charles Hickey and second by Chip Wibright. The motion passed unanimously at 8:02 PM

Officers: Mayor: Jason Adelsberger, Village Administrator :Roger Brake, Fiscal Officer: Becky Stewart , Zoning Inspector: Dusty Hurst, and Solicitor: Joe Jimenez

Council Members: Scott Wilson, Charles Hickey, Lori Tibbals, Chip Wibright, Chuck Foss and Billy Cobbs.

Lori Tibbals

Scott Wilson

Chip Wibright

Charles Hickey

Billy Cobbs

Charles Hickey

R.B.