

## Village of Laura Council

7:00 PM

January 12,

2026

**Attendees:** Council Members: Jackie Knight, Fiscal Officer-Gretchen Slagle, Solicitor-Andrew Johnston. Others Present-Robert Presley, Angi Deere, Chris Foster, Glen McSparran, Jess McSparran, Mark May.

Ms. Knight opened the meeting. Mr. Johnston explained the procedures and options Ms. Knight had to appoint members to Council. There are five open seats. Angi Deere, Chris Foster and Glen and Jess McSparran were interested in a seat on Council. Mrs. Deere was interested in the seat with a two-year remaining term. Ms. Knight approved appointing Mrs. Deere to the two-year term seat. Ms. Slagle swore in Mrs. Deere. Her term ends December 31, 2027.

Ms. Knight made a motion to appoint Chris Foster, Glen McSparran and Jess McSparran to four-year terms. Mrs. Deere seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Ms. Knight-Yes, Mrs. Deere-Yes. The motion passed. Ms. Slagle swore them in, their term expires December 31, 2029.

Mr. Johnston explained the procedures for appointing the President of Council and the appointment of Mayor. Mr. McSparran was interested in both positions. Ms. Knight made a motion to appoint Mr. McSparran as President of Council, Mr. Foster seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mrs. McSparran-Yes, Ms. Knight-Yes, Mr. McSparran-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed. Mr. McSparran was now Mayor by Operation. He will fill the remaining two years of this seat, which expires on December 31, 2029.

Mr. McSparran had the option of retaining or vacating his council seat for the remaining term. He chose to vacate the seat. This leaves two empty Council seats, these terms expire December 31, 2029.

Mrs. Deere was interested in the President of Council position. Mr. Foster made a motion to appoint Mrs. Deere as President of Council. Ms. Knight seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mrs. McSparran-Yes, Ms. Knight-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed.

**Previous Minutes:** Minutes of the December 8, 2025 meeting were previously reviewed and acknowledged. Ms. Knight made a motion to approve the minutes, Mrs. McSparran seconded the motion. Ms. Knight-Yes, Mrs. Deere-Abstain, Mrs. McSparran-Abstain, Mr. Foster-Abstain. The Motion passed.

Robert Presley is still interested in being on the Zoning Board. Mr. Foster made a motion to appoint Mr. Presley to the Zoning Board, Ms. Knight seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mrs. McSparran-Yes, Ms. Knight-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed. Mr. Foster made a motion to appoint Mr. McSparran to be the Zoning Commissioner, Mrs. McSparran seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mrs. McSparran-Yes, Ms. Knight-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed. This Board meets the third Tuesday of each month, as needed.

**Sheriff's Report:** 1. No Report.

**Citizens Comments:** 1. None.

**Solicitors Report:** 1. Mr. Johnston will send a letter to the Board of Elections, identifying the new Council and BOPA members and their terms.

**BOPA:** 1. The Board is working with Choice One Engineering to apply for a water tower grant and also grant money for a new aerator at the water plant.

2. The Board heard the results of the inspection of the water tower. The metal of the tower is in pretty good shape, there is some pitting on the inside of the tank that needs to be addressed, sooner rather than later. The Board is looking at options. One of the issues noticed during the inspection was an antenna attached to the handrail up on the tower. It wasn't secured very well, secured by a hose clamp. There was concern that in high winds, it could possibly blow down. We need to look at our contract with Skymesh and see if we can make sure the apparatus is attached correctly.

**Old Business.** 1. Solar, Electronic Speed Limit Signs. We need to get the mayor's credit card in Mr. McSparran name. When we do this, we'll update the credit limit.

**New Business.** 1. Committees. Tabled until next meeting.  
2. Rumpke Port-a-Jon. The port- a-jon was recently removed from the park. Ms. Slagle is speaking with Rumpke about the bill that is still being sent.  
3. Cat Problem/Second and Chestnut Area. Ms. Knight asked if there was anything that could be done about the number of stray cats that are around this part of town. We could check with the County to see if they have any suggestions.  
4. Village Facebook Page. Council discussed creating a Village Facebook page. We will need to ask Mr. Johnston about this.

**Bills.** Mrs. Deere made a motion to pay the following bills, Ms. Knight seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Mrs. Deere-Yes, Mrs. McSparran-Yes, Ms. Knight-Yes, Mr. Foster-Yes. The motion passed.

PERS	\$852.11	AES	\$2088.71
Gretchen Slagle	444.87		
Amy Elmore	90.00	Shipman Dixon	89.20
West Milton	400.00	Wolf Property Services	210.00
Staples	387.32	MegaCity Fire & Security	58.75
M & T Excavating	1830.00	M & T Excavating	1410.00
Postmaster	106.00	Rumpke	121.42
Treasure of State UAN	762.00	Twillio	2.76
BWC	373.00	School Tax	133.04
Ohio Dept of Taxation	73.37	IRS	437.46

Mrs. Deere made a motion to close the meeting, Ms. Knight seconded the motion. All yeas, the motion passed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Glen McSparran, Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gretchen Slagle, Clerk