

VILLAGE OF PLEASANT HILL
COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING, FOLLOWED BY WORKSHOP
THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 2026, FIELDHOUSE

Mayor Brenda called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

The meeting began with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Teri-present, Paul-present, Crystal-present, Tony-present, Penny-present, seat vacant

Others present: Andrew Wannamacher, Russell Landwehr, Denis Aslinger, Tony Hampton, Brian Miller, Andrew Davis, Lenny Wirz, Kimberley Landwehr, Nathan Knosterman, John Carroll, Stan Fessler, Dannon Schweser

Council Vacancy Presentations

Four candidates addressed the council to present their qualifications and interest in filling the vacant council seat.

The first candidate, introduced by Mayor as Brian Miller, stated a vision for the village to be as good for future generations as it was for him. He noted that recent events heightened his attention to the council and that he wishes to prevent future discord. He emphasized the importance of listening to criticism from village members, treating it as business, and bringing all concerns before the council for consideration.

The second candidate, Russell Landwehr, stated he has lived in Pleasant Hill since 1974. His vision is to be part of a council that can reach agreements to make the village a great place to live, helping to bridge divides within the community. He detailed his experience on the executive board for his union, Local 4322, during his 25 years at AT&T. He described successfully leading an advisory board that brought together union stewards and multiple levels of management to discuss contracting issues civilly during a contentious contract negotiation. He believes this experience in mediation and finding common ground is applicable to the current situation. He stated he handles criticism by looking for the underlying reasons for it and not taking it personally.

Third candidate, Lenny Wirz noted he has lived in Pleasant Hill for 16 years and has been involved in village administration for most of that time. He cited his deep knowledge of the village's infrastructure, ordinances, and history with difficult projects. He expressed a desire to rejoin the council because he feels the Board of Public Affairs (BPA), on which he currently serves, is not as empowered as it once was, and his efforts would be better spent directly on the council.

Fourth candidate, Tony Hampton stated he has lived in the village since 2007 and has been involved with the fire department and EMS. He cited his long experience as a sports official as training for handling criticism objectively. He noted his past service on council, where he was often a listener but spoke up when necessary, and stated he was instrumental in starting the Pleasant Lights of the Night Festival. He expressed a desire to return to council, a position he left

to complete his degree. He agreed with Tony Midlam that the BPA has lost influence and stated that if appointed, he would be a voice for the BPA on council.

Appointment of New Council Member

The council discussed the procedure for voting to fill the vacancy. Teri Stivers proposed a two-round, private written ballot process. The first round would identify the top two candidates, and the second round would be a final vote between those two. This was proposed to build a stronger consensus. The suggestion was met with general agreement.

The first ballot was conducted, and the top two candidates were announced as "Lenny and Russell." A second written ballot was then held to select one of the two finalists. Following the count, Russell Landwehr was appointed to the vacant council seat.

Mayor Carroll administered the oath of office to Russell Landwehr, who was sworn in for a term ending November 2029. Mayor Carroll confirmed that Mr. Landwehr would be appointed to the ordinance and comprehensive planning committees as requested.

Mayor Carroll reported that the personnel committee had interviewed candidates for the Fiscal Officer position and recommended hiring Elizabeth Bush. A contract was presented for her employment at a rate of \$25.00 per hour.

Resolution 2026-04: Hiring of Fiscal Officer as Emergency

Motion to suspend three reading rules: Made by Penny Fessler, seconded by Teri Stivers, to suspend the rules and pass Resolution 2026-04 as an emergency measure. Penny-yea, Crystal-yea, Paul-no, Tony-yea, Teri-yea, Russell-yea. The motion passed.

Adoption of Resolution 2026-04 as an Emergency, A motion was made by Penny, Tony also seconded the motion. Roll call: Terri-yea, Tony-yea, Crystal-yea, Paul-no, Teri-yea, Penny-yea, Russell-yea. The motion passed.

Village Website Contract 2026-02

Mayor Carroll provided an update on the pending website contract with Brian Gailhouse. The contract is nearly complete but is awaiting final language regarding the village's ownership of all intellectual property created. Russell Landwehr raised additional points about ensuring the village owns the URL, server access, and all login credentials. Andrew Wannamacher confirmed that language was being included to ensure a smooth transition of services if the contract is terminated in the future. The finalized contract will be distributed to the council via email and will be brought forward for a vote at the next meeting.

Resolution 2026-05: Wastewater Digester Project

Denis Aslinger presented Resolution 202605, which formally initiates a project to upgrade the wastewater digester. The project will be managed by Access Engineering. The plan includes pursuing grants and securing a 30-year, interest-free loan to cover any remaining costs. The

provided schedule projects that construction will begin in July 2028. The total cost of the project is not yet known. The resolution was presented for a first reading.

Motion: Made by Teri Stivers, seconded by Tony Midlam. Roll call: Crystal-yea, Tony-yea, Penny-yea, Paul-yea, Teri-yea, Russell-yea. The motion passed.

Denis Aslinger stated that an engineer from Access Engineering would be invited to a future workshop to provide more details and answer questions.

Executive Session on Land Acquisition

Prior to the executive session, Stan Fessler, a member of the Board of Public Affairs (BPA), expressed concern that the council was discussing a land purchase without the BPA's involvement, particularly if the land was for water or sewer infrastructure. Mayor Carroll clarified that the council was considering the purchase as a long-term investment and that no specific use has been determined. Teri Stivers made a motion to include the BPA members in the executive session; however, Lenny Wirz respectfully declined the invitation, stating that the council has increasingly marginalized the BPA.

Motion to enter executive session for the purpose to discuss Land Acquisition made by Teri, seconded by Crystal. Roll call: Penny-yea, Paul-abstain, Teri-yea, Russell-yea, Tony-yea, Crystal-yea.

9:00 pm The council then entered an executive session to discuss the potential purchase of property. Stan Fessler and Andrew Wannamacher attended.

9:15 council adjourned executive session, and resumed meeting as normal scheduled workshop.

Public Records Request

Following the council appointment vote, a public records request was relayed by Paul King for the physical ballots used in the voting process, citing Ohio Revised Code 149.43. The council was advised that the individual should submit a formal public records request to the village office for official processing.

Workshop Discussion: Council Procedures and Compensation

Mayor Carroll initiated a discussion on council voting procedures, expressing a preference for members to vote "yes" or "no" rather than "abstain." It was noted that abstaining indicates a lack of information or a form of protest, and members should strive to be informed enough to take a position on behalf of the village residents.

The council also discussed a proposed 4% across-the-board pay increase for village employees. Denis Aslinger explained that the figure was based on cost-of-living adjustments and the need to remain competitive with surrounding communities. The item will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting for a formal vote, with the pay increase to be retroactive to the beginning of the year.

Workshop Discussion: Zoning Code Update Strategy

A discussion was held regarding the best method for updating the village's comprehensive zoning code. Teri Stivers proposed that the extensive list of changes be broken down into smaller, more manageable pieces to facilitate progress. The proposed strategy is to first pass an update focused solely on the most critical item: amending the code to have any newly annexed land default to the most restrictive R-2 zoning classification unless a developer proposes an alternative plan that is approved by the council.

Following the passage of the annexation rule, other proposed changes would be brought forward for discussion and voting one at a time. This process would involve incorporating language from existing separate ordinances into the main zoning code and subsequently repealing those ordinances to avoid conflicts. The council agreed to move forward with this piecemeal approach, and Denis Aslinger will prepare a revised proposal addressing only the R-2 annexation rule for the next meeting.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Paul and seconded by Penny to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously in favor.

The meeting concluded, 9:27pm

The next council meeting will be February 10th at Fieldhouse.



Brenda Carroll



Jamie Gregorovic