

August 4th, 2026

Start Time: 6:00 P.M.

Council met for the Regular meeting in council chambers located at 45 Main St, Greenwich OH 44837.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: Beverly – Yes, Phillips – Yes, Wilson –Yes, Stephens- Yes, Hunter – Yes, Risner – Yes

Additional members present were Mayor James Twaddle, Fiscal Officer Jeff Brucker, Solicitor Steve Palmer, Village Administrator Jordan Bracken & Police Chief Pat Fox

Approval of prior meeting minutes

Jason Hunter made a motion to approve meeting minutes for council meeting from July 21st, 2026, Randy Wilson 2nd, 6 ayes.

Invited Guests / Comments from floor:

Mayor Twaddle stated that Miss Hauke had asked to speak:

Hi, Lisa Hauke, 22 W Main Street, I just want to start off, and I will try to stay a bit calmer, but there's some topics and things that I don't feel are getting addressed appropriately or timely. We keep saying that we have transparency here, and I know there's a lot of good too, like I'm not blind to see all the things that we are doing, but I don't believe that excuses some of the other things that might need to be addressed. I am for the police department, I know that was being questioned before, but the managing of it is where I am concerned, I said, I support our officers because they seem to be here, they're part of our town. They're helping, but to what extent with the kind of equipment or the lack of their equipment and it just seems that they don't have the funds to keep tires on the car, so I'm going to read this and then we'll have some questions at the end.

It says, I support our officers, and because I support them, I want to make sure they are equipped to succeed. My question to council is whether without the right technology and basic equipment, do our officers have what they need to effectively do their jobs, is our village police budget simply too limited right now to maintain them sufficiently. While equipped and fair police department, we need to look closely at how they are spending our limited resources. First, let's address our physical infrastructure and municipal boundaries. I have formerly requested a current certified plot detailing our village limits, which I have yet to receive. I did take a few photos of maps laid out on a table in the village hall, but I have no way of knowing if those are current or show the sections in question. Isn't that the administrator's legal duty to fulfill public record requests, not the taxpayer's job to scavenge for the documents. Furthermore, we need an active reassessment of the speed limit sign at the end of Townsend Street, the transition where the 55 MPH zone starts and the 35 MPH zone ends is not clear when going out of town, but it is clear coming into town. You know when you are leaving it doesn't state where the 55 MPH starts, because there is no sign there. I know Chief Fox focuses heavily on the Dollar General, making sure going out of town that way, and looking at the school safety and things, and I optimize our own resources and stuff overstepping into other jurisdictions, doing so exposes the village to severe legal liability.

Second, I have a total breakdown in administrative transparency and our last council meeting, the mayor claimed he did not recall ever discussing flock cameras or attending the police committee meeting. Let me refresh his memory, I personally reviewed the recordings of the March 17th police committee meeting. He was there, it lasted over an hour, and flock camera safety was practically the only discussion that night. Claiming it wasn't discussed is a direct breakdown of honesty. With this community during the hour long meeting, there was a heavy rush to buying this technology without a shred of independent evidence to support its efficiency, the chief also stated he was unaware of any backlash regarding these systems in the administration, are council and chief not watching the local news, just days ago, residents packed a Norwalk city council meeting to openly protest these cameras, over privacy and tracking concerns next door in Ashland County. These units are being actively targeted and destroyed. The cameras are entirely unnecessary when existing camera networks can already be used to access video for solving crimes. Furthermore, these systems act as tools for mass surveillance, building a permanent database that logs daily movements, grocery trips and routines of citizens. Our citizens should not be treated as criminal suspects, protect our 4th amendment rights and leave our citizens alone. Look at our overextended, police budget we are talking about buying flock cameras at roughly \$ 3,500.00 each, alongside new radios. Yet we haven't evaluated the tower frequencies to see if they can physically support our new radios, or if they will just go playing inside the village, let's stop buying expensive equipment only to let it sit unused. Is it true that we have an outstanding unpaid bill with our body camera company, and is that the real reason our officers are left unprotected right now? Our budget cannot even show enough funds to replace the basics, especially worn-out tires on our active cruisers, unless chief is a financial guru, he cannot buy whatever he pleases without explicit council authorization and oversight. Where is the money coming from? By public records request in an email and text correspondence between the mayor and chief, its well past Ohio's mandatory deadlines, the excuse that the mayor gets too many emails does not legally exempt the executive branch from compliance and he cannot claim these records don't exist. In the March 17th tape, chief Fox explicitly stated that he had flock company correspondence, right on his cell phone and offered to show, if these records exist, why is the administration unwilling to share them.

Finally, I want to direct comments from the council and the mayor tonight. Yes, we need necessary technology upgrades, but we do not need \$ 3,500.00 surveillance cameras when our officers lack functioning body cameras, verified radio frequencies and safe tires on their vehicles. I am speaking for clear public answers to 4 simple questions tonight on what exact date will the administration officially fulfill my public records request, a certified plot map, and chief's mobile correspondence, will the administration correct the outbound speed signage on Townsend Street to actively reflect our legal boundaries. Does the village have an outstanding unpaid bill with our current body camera vendor and is that what is holding up equipment development. Is our police budget currently too limited to support a fair and sufficient department, and how can we fund essential radios and cruiser tires without draining the general fund? Thank you and I look forward to your respects.

Mayor Twaddle responded with, "this is a business meeting, not a question-and-answer time, you're well aware of that. I do believe that last meeting that I didn't recall the March 17th, after that meeting I spoke with others and do agree that I was there. I was honest when I told you that I didn't remember.

Lisa couldn't believe that something as big as the flock cameras could be that easily forgotten. Mayor said, from March 17th, no, but I freely admit now that I was there. Solicitor Palmer stated this is not a debate, let's move on with the business meeting.

Mayor Twaddle reminded Miss Hauke that he has offered her an open-door meeting and that she can bring people with her if she'd like to discuss these matters further.

Sandy Risner stated that nice things can come from the so-called flock cameras, she heard that a lady with dementia from Medina County drove almost all the way to Cincinnati and couldn't be reached since her phone had died, and once the alert was put out, they found her with a flock camera.

Committee Meetings:

Park committee met earlier, we're finalizing details for the concert on August 15th, all present at the meeting signed up to work a shift and we are open to more volunteers, we have slots from 3 to 11 pm, but we usually shut down early, just two hour shifts, we also updated what we know about the recreation building, the drywall is hung, and there are lights going up in the gym, sounds like the septic and lift station portion will be installed in the middle of this week or so, things are moving forward.

Records Retention : Next meeting scheduled for November 17th, 2026, at 5:45 pm.

Administrator's report:

We finished valve replacements on Market & Seminary Streets. As Jason stated we will be getting the tank delivery and water tap for the recreation center and should have those installed by next week. The guys have been working on mowing the ditches, there has been a training curve for some of the new employees since it's not the usual equipment that is normally used day to day. We are geared to prepare for the Party at the Park, we mowed down to the banks at the reservoir and tried to dress things up a bit. AMP's coming this month with the circuit rider to fix the pole by the railroad that has a splint on it and some other minor repairs. For anyone that hasn't noticed, the recycling bin has been moved behind the businesses of the town and to the village property that we own there. We got a few people that talked in the last cemetery committee meeting about the seal coating for the driveway, our lowest bid was \$ 3,500.00 and we're going to move forward with later next week. We did other general maintenance work on the new tower, where they're putting up the antenna, we need to paint the ice dam and other things.

Fiscal Officer report:

I've run into a couple more accounts that are short, this time it's for Medicare payroll, so there is an intra-fund reallocation being done there.

Police Chief:

First thing to start with is that Kyle Sheehan left last month, went back to Grafton PD, so we lost a full-time officer there and Jason Bush another full-time officer will be leaving August 14th, going to Oak Harbor, and unfortunately, we are losing the Cops-and-bobbers event due to him being the point man for that event. He did a lot of community-oriented things like the car show, so he'll certainly be missed. We are down two full-time officers and currently don't have enough to man the night shift, which mean we will be turning over the night duties to the county sheriff, and they will need to run it until we get some more people. They'll take care of urgent matters; other items will need to wait until I come in in the morning.

There was a 911 call during the time when they were covering our Monday/Tuesday shift and apparently the officer berated the caller, telling them that it wasn't a 911 situation, I've told the nurse to take that up with the Sheriff's department. We are looking to hire a part-time officer later in this meeting and hopefully that will turn into a full-time position.

Council President Beverly asked if shifts could be moved around to cover the lacking areas. Chief Fox stated that he has already looked at it from all angles and until we get more help, it's going to be a vacant night shift. It has been hard to cover the weekend day and afternoon shifts and we don't want there to be any lack of coverage. It's just what we are working with right now. Council member

Risner asked what the Chief thinks the factor is for our loss of officers, Chief Fox said, it's money. Kyle went to Grafton for \$ 28.00 per hour, Jason is going to Oak Harbor for \$ 29.00 per hour. The vacation is one week here for new employees, and they are getting three weeks of vacation elsewhere. This will be addressed with the 2027 budget proposal. Lieutenant Zehner stated that Chief Fox has been coming in a little earlier on his days, and I've been staying a little later my nights to cover some of those gaps, but we can't do it all, unfortunately.

Mayor Twaddle emphasized this point, noting that the police department has always gone above and beyond the call of duty. Even when we had full coverage it has been hard to cover vacations and days off for others, it's a numbers game, I saw that New London & Willard are looking for officers as well. Thank you, Chief.

Solicitor:

Nothing tonight.

Mayor:

My report has been pretty much covered when talking about the police department. Those are some of the issues that are facing us, he recognizes that it is stressful for Chief Fox, because he cares so much about the village and his job. That's got a lot to do with it, and Lieutenant Zehner does too. It's not just one; it's the whole department that cares about the village. We may not be able to get to the top of the mountain, but we need to get closer to it than we are right now. So, let's put our nose to the grindstone and see if we can't figure this out, somehow, because Greenwich is worth it!

Legislation:

Resolution 2026-R-15 a declared emergency resolution providing the mayor authority to appoint an additional police officer and confirming the mayor's probationary appointment to the police department, Eric M. Long was passed and adopted.

Resolution 2026-R-16 a resolution finding that certain personal property is not needed for public use by the Greenwich Police Department; and that property has no value; and authorizing the Chief of Police to discard or salvage the property, obsolete police cruiser 2016 Ford Taurus was accepted for first reading.

Old Business:

Administrator Bracken had an applicant that he would like to hire on by motion at \$ 21.00 per hour, Nate Buchanon, so moved, all in favor, 6 ayes. Additionally, I would like a motion to approve Chris Reed salary per hour increased from \$ 19.00 to \$ 21.00, so moved, all in favor, 6 ayes.

New Business: None.

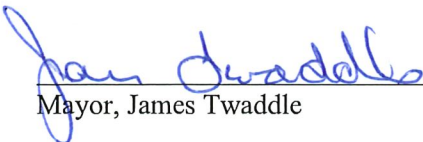
CONFIRMATION OF NEXT MEETING: *August 18th, 2026 @ 6:00pm, Greenwich Village Hall*

EXECUTIVE SESSION: ORC 121.22 (G) not used.

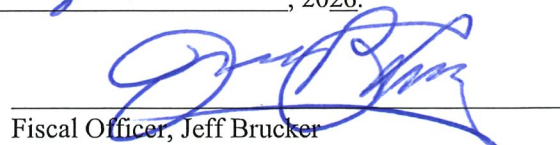
All in favor to adjourn, 6 ayes.

Adjournment at 6:29 p.m.

Meeting minutes adopted on the 18th day of August, 2026.



Mayor, James Twaddle



Fiscal Officer, Jeff Brucker