

Batavia Village Council
Council Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 9, 2026

Call to Order

Pledge – **Mr. Staton**

Roll Call of Members Present

Mrs. Zagar Mr. Gardner Mr. Dorsey Mr. Smith Mr. Staton Mr. Owens

Village Officials Attending Meeting

Mayor Runck, Fiscal Officer Russell, Solicitor Moore, Chief Williams, Zoning Administrator
Stewart, Public Works Superintendent Smith

Others Attending Meeting

Chris Beckman

Rose Rolfes

Seth & Tiffany Layman

Jennifer Haley

JoAnn Martino

Karen Swartz

Roy Short

Wayne Smith

Ray Neiser

Brian Wandstrat

Fiscal Officer: Justin Russell

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve Minutes of February 9, 2026 Village of Batavia Council Meeting

By: **Mr. Gardner** Seconded by: **Mr. Smith** Vote on motion: **6-0**

Vote: Mrs. Zagar **Y** Mr. Gardner **Y** Mr. Dorsey **Y** Mr. Smith **Y** Mr. Staton **Y** Mr. Owens **Y**

Financial Reports

2025 is complete and the files are available for public viewing in the office Monday-Friday 830 AM-430 PM. 2026 January Bank Reconciliations are complete. February Bank Reconciliations are in progress.

Motion to approve January Bank Reconciliation

By: **Mr. Dorsey** Seconded by: **Mr. Smith**

Vote: Mrs. Zagar **Y** Mr. Gardner **Y** Mr. Dorsey **Y** Mr. Smith **Y** Mr. Staton **Y** Mr. Owens **Y**

Motion passed by a vote of: **6-0**

Ordinance 1558-25 Adopt 2026 Full-Year Appropriations Budget

3rd Reading

Motion to Approve: by **Mr. Staton**, seconded by: **Mr. Gardner**

Vote: Mrs. Zagar Y Mr. Gardner Y Mr. Dorsey Y Mr. Smith Y Mr. Staton Y Mr. Owens Y

Motion passed by a vote of: 6-0

Mayor

Medal Ceremony - CJFS Thomas Jetter, Zachary Heizer, Hunter Ferrell, Isaiah Hartness, & Andi Burns
For saving a woman who was upside down in her car.

Public Comments:

Note: Persons wishing to make comments will be limited to 3 minutes each.

There will be a limit of 30 total minutes for public comments.

Bill Albright – spoke

Brian Wandstrat – spoke

Police Department: Chief Williams

Resolution to take Chief Williams off of his probation.

Mr. Gardner Motion so moved All in favor

Record of Service

Chief Williams was hired as an at-will employee. As part of the terms and conditions of the Agreement entered into with the Chief at the time of his employ, the parties agreed to waive the application of Ohio law with respect to any statutory rights under the Ohio Revised Code regarding process and procedure related to termination and the Agreement does not otherwise provide for a probationary period.

To the extent the Revised Code, in section 737.17 provides for a six-month probationary period and further provides that a Mayor, at the end of such six-month probationary period shall transmit to the legislative authority of a village a record of such employee's service with his recommendations thereon, I am hereby notifying Council that it is my strong recommendation that Eric Williams, to the extent Section 737.17 may apply, be removed from probation.

Mayor C. Scott Runck

Motion to promote Officer Fletcher to corporal Mr. Dorsey Motion Mr. Smith 2nd 5-1

Vote: Mrs. Zagar Y Mr. Gardner N Mr. Dorsey Y Mr. Smith Y Mr. Staton Y Mr. Owens Y

Motion to Hire Christopher Beckman to police officer– Mr. Dorsey Motion Mr. Staton 2nd All in favor Vote: Mrs. Zagar Y Mr. Gardner abstained Mr. Dorsey Y Mr. Smith Y Mr. Staton Y Mr. Owens Y

Report on February Police Activity:

261 calls for service
47 traffic stops
17 citations issued
3 Arrests
38 written warnings
4 crash reports
4 offense reports
8 incident reports
23 Public Records

SRO February Calls for Service:

H.S. 53, M.S. 33, E.S. 23

Mayor read a letter from a former resident about the help from the officers.

Village Solicitor: Christopher Moore

Personnel Issues –Mr. Moore spoke about personnel and an upcoming zoning matter and asked for an executive session after the regular meeting per ORC 121.22(G)(3).

Mr. Moore will look into legislation he created for another government entity about sunshine law and Town Hall-esque meetings. He suggested keeping Town Hall meetings as a scheduled meeting therefore council can more freely engage.

Mr. Moore stated the previous village council was looking to donate 3 small parcels to Habitat for Humanity; council will need to turn them over to the CIC then the CIC to Habitat. Mr. Moore would prepare the deeds and proper authority. Mr. Stewart provided the location of the 3 parcels. These are vacant and will be sold homes for sale properties no section 8. Mr. Moore discussed the items in more detail and Mayor spoke regarding agreement with county.

Mr. Moore mentioned a cyber attack on another community. Active cyber-crime in Clermont County. Mr. Dorsey asked about an audit of the Village computer network. Mr. Stewart responded stating that the last item regarding the new Ohio cyber law (offsite backup) is being completed. Mr. Gardner asked Mr. Stewart to look into outside agency and the cost to conduct an audit.

Mr. Moore thanked Chief Short for information from the inspection of the CRT property.

CJFED/CJFS Chief Short provided details about calls and gave fiscal officer report to be distributed to council 3/10/2026. Mr. Staton asked about water training and if the responders to the water rescue were trained. Chief Short stated all staff was required and had completed the training. Chief Short offered congratulations to Chief Williams.

Village Administrator:

Zoning Commissioner: Chip Stewart

Zoning Permits:

Total – 36 total 2026

Streamside

To date: 12

Harvest Meadows

To date: 14

Zoning Violations:

There are currently 9 working violations in progress. 4 are in court process.

Zoning Cases:

Looking like Bunnel Hill Final Development Plan Public hearing for April or May Planning and Zoning Meeting.

River Pointe Apartments:

The dirt issue is resolved. The water main relocate will be complete this month and development should start at the end of this month or beginning of next month.

Caseys:

Caseys is planning to start on April 20th.

Sidewalk Grant:

Should have an idea this month on the status of the grant award to start the project.

Herold Rd:

No new update.

America 250:

We have started receiving sponsorship donations for the celebration. The Township is submitting the deposit for the fireworks. [School offered to let us use one of the properties for fireworks.](#)

IT:

The public works facility is now networked to the Armory. Working on getting the backup server at that location online. This project is in conjunction with the new laws required by the State of Ohio regarding computer networks.

Village/Rubel Sign:

Norton signs has submitted the applications for the permit for the sign.

Public Works:

The Public Works department is preparing for spring projects.

Jacob Johnson has completed probation and needs made full-time status. Motion to have Jacob Johnson

[Removed from probation approved by council.](#)

Economic Development:

Request Executive Session to discuss economic development per ORC 121.22(G)(8)

Mayor: Charles Scott Runck

New Business – Removing Chief Eric Williams from probation. [Removed from probation approved by council.](#)

Other Issues, Considerations and Concerns to the Village

Mr. Staton has a couple of items things I believe we need to take on as a council. Batavia Ordinances were last published of December 2013; 13 years behind. Mr. Staton has 3 motions he would like to make and to report back to us within 60 days the administrator and the clerk. 731.21 & 731.25 full text not the summary to the village website within 90 days of passage and that it remains there until it is published by the American Legal Publishing Corporation. Mr. Moore suggested to say "published by an approved publisher" instead of naming a specific publisher. Mr. Staton stated "yes".

Vote: Mrs. Zagar Y Mr. Gardner Y Mr. Dorsey Y Mr. Smith Y Mr. Staton Y Mr. Owens Y

2nd item move that full agenda and full text of any ordinances be available on the village website within 48 hours before the council meeting.

Vote: Mrs. Zagar Y Mr. Gardner Y Mr. Dorsey Y Mr. Smith Y Mr. Staton Y Mr. Owens Y

3rd item; motion to direct the village administration to complete RFP or pricing from a publisher within 60 days

Vote: Mrs. Zagar Y Mr. Gardner Y Mr. Dorsey Y Mr. Smith Y Mr. Staton Y Mr. Owens Y

Mayor discussed with residents about school board. Mr. Staton mentioned about a park at the school board meeting and America 250 fireworks. Mr. Gardner discussed Mr. Staton and others meeting quarterly with the school board. Mural is looking to be moved to the railroad bridge retaining wall. Mr. Stewart spoke to the railroad and sent them a mock up.

Mr. Staton question on 1560-26 the annexation petition that was tabled last month. Mr. Moore directed 120 days for council it would effectively pass. Mr. Staton says it will fail. Mr. Moore 120 days off the clock if no action is taken then it is deemed to pass. Mr. Dorsey asked "will we have another meeting for that date"?

Mr. Moore stated regarding the 1560-26 vote on the table can take it off the table for discussion and vote. Mr. Smith asked about the timing of a vote. Mr. Moore said April 14 one day difference; Mr. Gardner asked if we vote no we will get sued. Mr. Moore stated that was a possibility. Mayor discussed this further regarding zoning and Mr. Moore stated that our zoning will not trump the FAA. Mr. Staton discussed the provided services and discussed how he voted no as far as pushing this to a lawsuit is not good for the village funds. Mayor asked if we could pick this back up at the Town Hall 3/23/2026. Mayor reminded that this is a different council and whatever work we are doing you will be informed towards the council. Vote: Mrs. Zagar Y Mr. Gardner Y Mr. Dorsey Y Mr. Smith Y Mr. Staton Y Mr. Owens Y

Mayor new business 1563-26 promoting Chip Stewart as Village Administrator. Motion - Mr. Gardner 2nd Mr. Smith

Administrator Stewart thanked the Mayor and Council and stated he was looking forward to working with the Mayor and council in the new role.

Mr. Moore asked about America 250 – where do we go who do we call what do we do to make a donation. Administrator Chip Stewart there is a section on website. Mr. Dorsey, we will be happy to accept your donation.

Mr. Gardner stated next fire board meeting 5 PM 3/16/2026

Mayor asked Mr. Owens how his first cemetery board meeting went. Mr. Owens; couple of administrator tasks, board and bank information. Mr. Shinkle report for Batavia Union Cemetery

Committee Meetings / Reports

Tuesday, March 17 @7:00 PM	Zoning & Planning Committee
Monday, March 23 @7:00 PM	Town Hall
Wednesday, March 25 @5:00 PM	Annual CRA Meeting
Thursday, March 26, 7:00 PM	Finance/Budget Meeting
Monday, April 13 @7:00 PM	Regular Council Meeting

Executive session 1 Mr. Gardner Motion 2nd Mr. Smith 855 PM- Vote: Mrs. Zagar **Y** Mr. Gardner **Y**
Mr. Dorsey **Y** Mr. Smith **Y** Mr. Staton **Y** Mr. Owens **Y**

Regular session return Motion Mr. Gardner 2nd Mr. Staton Vote: Mrs. Zagar **Y** Mr. Gardner **Y**
Mr. Dorsey **Y** Mr. Smith **Y** Mr. Staton **Y** Mr. Owens **Y** **914 PM**

Executive session 2 economic development motion Mr. Smith 2nd Vote: Mrs. Zagar **Y** Mr. Gardner **Y**
Mr. Dorsey **Y** Mr. Smith **Y** Mr. Staton **Y** Mr. Owens **914-944 PM**

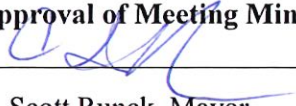
Regular session return Motion Mr. Staton/Mr. Dorsey/Mr. Smith 2nd Mr. Gardner Vote: Mrs. Zagar **Y**
Mr. Gardner **Y** Mr. Dorsey **Y** Mr. Smith **Y** Mr. Staton **Y** Mr. Owens

Questions and Comments from Council

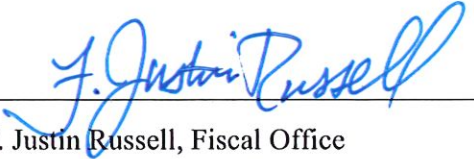
Adjournment

Motion to Adjourn: by **Mr. Gardner**, seconded by: **Mr. Staton**
Meeting adjourned at **944 PM**

Approval of Meeting Minutes March 9, 2026



C. Scott Runck, Mayor



F. Justin Russell, Fiscal Office