

ENTITY NAME: VILLAGE OF MILLERSBURG

BOARD NAME: MILLERSBURG VILLAGE COUNCIL

TYPE OF MEETING: Regular

VOTING SESSION: Yes

DATE: 1/26/2026

START TIME: 7:00 PM

MEETING LOCATION: COUNCIL CHAMBERS – 6 N WASHINGTON ST

MILLERSBURG, OH 44654

CALLED TO ORDER BY: MAYOR, KELLY HOFFEE

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS – REGULAR SESSION

COUNCIL MEMBERS ROLL CALL

NAME:		NAME:	
Shoemaker	Present	Kellogg	Present
Vaughn	Present	Zollars	Present
Hofstetter	Present	Hershberger	Present

IN ATTENDANCE

NAME:	TITLE/POSITION	NAME:	
Kelly Hoffee	Mayor	Nathan Troyer	Village Administrator
Bobbie Curry	Fiscal Officer	Matt Shaner	Police Chief
Chad Cline	Asst Administrator	Melissa Patrick	Media/Reporter
Nicholas Montan, ECOHBA	Visitor	Adam & Kat Barnett	Visitor
Mike & Shirley Gerber	Visitor	Rob Hovis	Visitor
Roger Wheeler	Visitor	Rev. Thomas Jones	Visitor
Dakota Boley	Visitor	Dave & Barb Crider	Visitor
Steven McCrossin	Visitor	Mary Baker-Shoup	Visitor
Dan Mathie	Visitor	Tyler Miller	Visitor
Brodie DeHass	Visitor		

COMMUNITY CALENDAR/EVENTS

Community Calendar

- Feb 7 - Colton Dixon at Ohio Star Theater
- Feb 28 - Girls Night Out in Downtown Millersburg
- March 28 - Hop Around Millersburg- Scavenger Hunt for Kids, Open House at all our Downtown Businesses, Adult Easter Egg Hunt with store discounts.

- April 3 - 5-8 pm, First Friday Kickoff in Downtown Millersburg! Take the tour throughout town, stop at each participating business, and collect their favorite recipe cards! Throughout the tour you can find different DORA specials, food samples, live entertainment, and other fun activities!

VISITORS

Nicholas Montan, ECOBA

Montan visited this evening's meeting to talk about the East Central Ohio Building Authority, its roles, and some statistics. Since 2005, ECOHBA has been contracted to perform construction-related inspection services and plan reviews and approvals in the Village as well as Holmes and Tuscarawas Counties and many of the municipalities in those counties. Commercial buildings, larger residential buildings, and some other structures are subject to inspection. Mantan shared some administrative updates relating to staff and their search for new department building software. He also shared statics from 2025 and previous years:

ECOBA Building Official Report Year End 2025

Year	5Y Avg	2024	2025
Construction Value	\$162.2M	\$198.5M	\$238.0M
Building Area SF	3.3M	3.7M	3.82M
Revenues	\$754K	\$772K	\$815K
Plan Approvals	444	471	452
Inspections	3,362	3,742	3,330

Councilwoman Kellogg asked if any of ECOBA's revenue comes back to the Village or County. Montan said that it does not. He said that last year, they brought in about \$150,000 more than their expenses. He said that any municipality or County can go back to State jurisdiction, however, revenue would go to the state, not the municipality.

Kellogg then asked what triggers ECOBA to step in when a building is being renovated. Montan explained that Ohio building, under the Ohio device code, requires the owner to submit for approval and inspections any alterations or new construction. There have been some instances where alterations were begun then a complaint is received from a third party. ECOHBA then steps in to investigate it. At that point the owner, typically through their contractor, would have to get the proper application for approval as well as any required documents submitted for approval. Then inspections must be completed.

Kellogg commented that the application is not easy to complete. Montan said their application is identical to the State's application. He said the State's fees are very similar as well except the State sometimes charges more. He said ECOHBA's Clerk is very good at helping people with their applications.

Montan can be reached at (330) 364-3164 with any questions, concerns, or complaints.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

TYPE OF MEETING:	Regular
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SUSPEND READING OF MINUTES HELD ON:		1/12/2026	
MOTION BY TO SUSPEND THE READING:	Hershberger	MOTION SECONDED BY:	Hofstetter
VOTING ROLL CALL:			
Hershberger	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Zollars	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Hofstetter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Vaughn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Kellogg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Shoemaker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
VOTING RESULTS:		YES: 6 NO: 0	
CORRECTIONS (If any): Curry reports that she found some minor typos in the minutes and will correct those. (No change in the content of the minutes)			
MOTION TO APPROVE BY:	Vaughn	MOTION SECONDED BY:	Hershberger
VOTING ROLL CALL:			
Vaughn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Hofstetter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Hershberger	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Zollars	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Kellogg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Shoemaker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
VOTING RESULTS:		YES: 6 NO: 0	

APPROVAL OF BILLS

BILL RESOLUTION 2026-2	Bills \$112,237.98	Payroll \$75,828.86	Total \$188,066.84
MOTION TO APPROVE BY:	Kellogg	MOTION SECONDED BY:	Zollars
VOTING ROLL CALL:			
Kellogg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Hershberger	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Zollars	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Vaughn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Hofstetter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Shoemaker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
VOTING RESULTS:		YES: 6 NO: 0	

REPORTS OF OFFICERS

DEPARTMENT:	ADMINISTRATION
REPRESENTATIVE'S NAME:	VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR, NATHAN TROYER
<u>DRB & P&Z Commission</u>	
DRB will meet on 2/4 to review a COA from The Mouse House on S. Clay.	
<u>Sidewalk Project</u>	
Met with Spicer Group, County and ORDC to review preliminary plans. Minor tweaks will be made to the plans with the goal of having a meeting with HDM and merchants in late February/early March to allow them time for plan review and comments. On the funding side, we were informed that \$10,930 from GOA would hold all other funding up and delay the bid/start dates so I instructed them to proceed without this funding. Bidding should begin in	

early March. Troyer is looking for acceptable lighting poles/fixtures for 100 block of West Jackson St to be installed at the same time as the sidewalk project.

Airport Park

The pole order has been sent to production, no further update. Production time is expected to be about 16 weeks.

Housing Study

Set up 2 more interviews for the coming weeks and Envision is working on data collection, processing, etc.

Downtown Traffic Signals

Signal Service has been working on the installation in town. Pathmaster will be coming to do their portion of the installation and then we can discuss startup schedule. Cameras and cable have been installed.

Phone System

No update, waiting on fiber installation.

EPA Generator Grant

Submitted-waiting on announcement

Alley Vacation Update

No update. Hoffee suggested that information may be found in the historic Council Minutes books that date back to well before the 1950's.

Electrical Aggregation

Rep from Aspen Energy sent the attached legislation and they would like to come to the 2/9 meeting to discuss the current rate market, trends, timing for our next contract, etc.

Street Department and Snow Removal

Troyer reported that snow plowing and removal efforts continue for the Street Department after this weekend's significant winter storm. Street Department employees worked tirelessly over the weekend and continue to plow and remove large amounts of snow from streets. They will be removing enough snow to lift the parking ban. Troyer, Hoffee and other council members thanked the Street Department for a job well done under difficult weather conditions.

DEPARTMENT:	POLICE DEPARTMENT
REPRESENTATIVE'S NAME:	CHIEF, MATT SHANER
<p>Chief Shaner advised council that he has made the final determination to hire Nathaniel Meek as a full-time, certified patrol officer. Hofstetter made a motion approving the hiring of Nathaniel Meek at the standard starting wage for a certified officer (\$27.62 per hour). Shoemaker seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried.</p> <p>A start date has not yet been determined. Shoemaker asked to meet patrolman Meek.</p>	

DEPARTMENT:	FISCAL
REPRESENTATIVE'S NAME:	FISCAL OFFICER, BOBBIE CURRY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Confluence/Hotel Millersburg/The Tavern Food & Spirits has applied to renew/transfer the ownership of their current liquor license. The Village Council has the right to object to this and to request a hearing. Curry asked each council member if they objected to the permit. No objections from council. Curry will notify the Ohio Department of Commerce. • Curry asked council to consider removing the probationary status of Administrative Assistant, Jessica Kiner. Jessica joined the village administrative staff 9 months and 1 week ago. Curry reports that Kiner has met and exceeded all performance expectations and has proven to be a valuable asset to the village. Kiner fits in well and does a fantastic job assisting not only the Fiscal Officer/Tax Administrator but also the Utility Clerk. Zollars made a motion to remove Jessica Kiner's Probationary status. Vaughn seconded the motion. All voted aye. 	

DEPARTMENT:	MAYOR
REPRESENTATIVE'S NAME:	KELLY HOFFEE
<p><u>Council Calendar</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jan 26 – Council Meeting • Feb 4 - DRB & Planning and Zoning Meetings 6pm and 6:30pm • Feb 9 - Council Meeting 7pm • Feb 23 - Council Meeting 7pm 	

COMMITTEE REPORTS - None

LEGISLATION - None

OLD/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

TOPIC:	Marijuana Dispensary or Moratorium
PRESENTED BY:	Mayor Hoffee
<p>DISCUSSION: Several visitors were present to address Council on the topic the allowing a Marijuana Dispensary in the Village of Millersburg. (Public comments and Council discussion in the section Transcribed. Edited transcript for clarity; non-substantive verbal fillers removed)</p> <p><u>Steven McCrossin</u></p> <p>My name is Steven McCrossin, Millersburg. I appreciate the opportunity to speak with you tonight. I'd like to begin by telling you a little bit about who I am and why I'm here. Not as some not as someone just chasing a trend, but as a longtime business owner, employer, and investor in this community. For more than 30 years, I've owned and operated a 3D seismic company here in Millersburg. Over decades, I've built businesses from the ground up, employed local people, complied with extensive state and federal regulations, and paid taxes that support the communities here where we live and work. Environmental compliance, safety standards, regulatory oversight has been a big part of my professional life for as long as I've been here. I live here. I raised my family here. My employees live here and my company has contributed to the local economy for decades. I'm not a newcomer and I'm not looking to extract value from the village and move on. When I first began exploring the project, my very first step</p>	

was to meet with the mayor to listen and to understand concerns. I want to approach this the right way, openly, transparently, and with respect for the role of the council. Since then, I have continued to gather input and to focus on what would actually benefit the village. The reality is this is an adult use. Marijuana is legal under Ohio law. Residents of this village already travel to neighboring communities to purchase it. When they do, the tax revenue goes with them. Coshocton and Loudonville are collecting those dollars today. And Millersburg is not. What I'm proposing is not about promoting a product. It's about allowing a highly regulated, state-licensed business to operate locally so that this village can benefit from the revenue, oversight, and reinvestment instead of watching those benefits leave town. I'm committed to investing in Millersburg. This includes purchasing commercial property that may have sat vacant for years and redeveloping it into something clean, professional, and attractive, something the village can be proud of. This is not going to be a flashy operation. There will be no obnoxious signage, no disruptions, and no corner cutting. My goal is to build a facility that blends into the community and reflects with it. I'm equally committed to being a quality employer. The project will create new competitive jobs with accountability, training, and professionalism. After decades of running a regulated business, I understand that compliance is not optional. It's the foundation of long-term success. I also want to be clear about how this regulation works. Businesses like this operate under strict licensing, security, inventory tracking, and age verification requirements. These rules are enforced and violations have real consequences. In many ways, these businesses are more closely regulated than most retail operations you see every day. I respect that reasonable people can disagree on this issue. I'm not asking anyone to change their personal beliefs. What I'm asking is the council consider whether continuing a local ban actually serves the village interest or whether it simply pushes economic activity elsewhere while leaving Millersburg with no control and no benefit. I believe the village deserves investment, jobs, and revenue that can support public services without raising taxes. I believe vacant property could be improved and should not be ignored. And I believe local decisions should be based on facts, experience, and long-term community benefit. I would not be standing here tonight if I were not fully prepared to do this the right way. As a responsible business owner and a longtime employer and a member of this community, I'd like to thank you for your time.

Mary Baker-Shoup

My name is Mary Baker Shoup. I live at 3012 Bay Cove in Wooster. Good evening, Mayor Hoffee, and the members of this council. Again, my name is Mary Baker Shoup. I'm an attorney at Critchfield Law Firm and I represent Precision Cannabis CBD Products, which is owned by Steve McCrossin. We respectfully request Mayor Hoffee and council members to vote to repeal Village Ordinance 703.01. Tonight's vote is not about whether marijuana should be legal. That decision has already been made by the voters of this state. Marijuana is legal, regulated, and already being sold to Millersburg residents every day, just not in Millersburg. So, the real question before you is not about legalization. It is about whether the village will continue exporting hundreds of thousands of dollars in tax revenue to neighboring towns and whether it will responsibly bring that revenue home and decide locally how it is used. This is not a theoretical question. Ohio municipalities are already receiving these funds. Villages smaller than Millersburg are using them to support fire, police, infrastructure, and basic services without raising any taxes or imposing anything on the village residents. I expect you will hear some personal opinions and anecdotes tonight. You will not hear opinions from me. What I am here to do is to provide something different. Verified numbers, real Ohio data, and evidence from states that have

been operating under recreational use laws for years. At the end of the day, this vote is not about whether any individual approves of marijuana use. It is about whether this council will make a decision grounded in facts, fiscal responsibility, and the reality that marijuana is already legal and already here. Let's first address the non-binding ballot issue with voters weighed in on in November. This non-binding ballot issue should not control the decision. Only approximately 20% of the eligible voters participated, meaning 80% of the voters did not weigh in at all. This is not a mandate. This is not binding. And it occurred before the village had access to real revenue data. Council members are elected to exercise judgment particularly where circumstances have materially changed. Since that vote, recreational sales have matured statewide. Verified tax revenue numbers are now available and host communities are actively receiving funds. Reconsideration is not a defiance of voters. It is responsible government. Ohio imposes a 10% excise tax on all adult use marijuana sales. Under Senate Bill 56, 30% of that excise tax is returned directly to host municipalities through the host community cannabis fund. This is general fund money. It is not earmarked. Council decides how it is spent. Statewide during the first fiscal year of legal sales, \$115.5 million was collected in in sales tax for medical and recreational sales. \$62 million was of that was collected in the excise tax. Post community distributions began in January 2026. Real Ohio examples matter more than just projections. Seven Mile, which has a population of only 700, received \$400,000 from one dispensary. Loudonville received \$18,000 from one dispensary, and their dispensary has only since opened in June of 2025. So, this excise tax is from just 6 months. Loudonville is a village with approximately the same population as Millersburg. Elyria, which is of course substantially bigger, has received \$374,000 plus an ongoing monthly amount of \$23,000. Millersburg has more than four times the population of Seven Mile and Seven Mile received \$400,000 in one year alone. The revenue exists today. The only question is whether Millersburg receives it or watches it go elsewhere. Millersburg residents already purchase marijuana legally in Loudonville and Coshocton. That means that Millersburg residents create the demand, other municipalities receive the tax revenue, and Millersburg receives nothing. Maintaining this ban does not prevent marijuana use. It simply guarantees that Millersburg is subsidizing neighboring towns. The claim that dispensaries increase crime is not supported by any peer-reviewed research. Peer-reviewed studies examining Colorado and Washington found no increase in violent crime and no increase in property crime. Michigan legalized adults-use marijuana in 2018. After several years of data, there is no demonstrated increase in violent crimes in host communities. Furthermore, as Steve mentioned, dispensaries operate under heavy security requirements. Dispensaries are among the most regulated retail businesses in Ohio. Crime concerns are of course understandable, but they are not supported by evidence. Additionally, data does not support the legalization of marijuana or the presence of dispensaries to have any impact on minors' use of marijuana. In fact, federal data from the National Institute of Drug Abuse shows youth marijuana use has remained stable or even declined in legalization states. Teen marijuana use, drug use, and alcohol use is at historic lows nationally. Allowing a dispensary is not an endorsement of marijuana use. It is acknowledged that marijuana is legal under Ohio law. The village cannot prevent its use, but the village can decide whether to benefit from it locally. This vote is about control, oversight, and fiscal responsibility, not changing any community values. The village already understands there are many legal activities some residents may or may not choose to engage in personally, like supporting a local bar and getting a drink. This is no different. Council members, you were elected to exercise judgment, weigh evidence, and to act in the best long-term interest of the village. You have done that so far in all of your terms. Repealing bill is

ordinance 703.01 is supported by documented data of Ohio tax figure revenues and years of experience from states like our neighbor up north. What the evidence shows is straightforward. Regulated dispensaries do not increase crime. They do not increase youth use, but they do generate substantial recurring revenue for the communities that host them. What is also clear is this: Maintaining the current ban does not stop marijuana use in Millersburg. It only guarantees that Millersburg receives none of the final financial benefits while neighboring towns collect hundreds of thousands of dollars a year. Repealing the ordinance does not endorse marijuana use. It acknowledges reality, restores local control, and allows Millersburg to benefit from a legal market that already exists. A vote to repeal is not a vote for marijuana. It is a vote for fiscal responsibility, evidence-based decision making, and the people of Millersburg. Thank you.

Roger Wheeler

My name is Roger Wheeler and I've lived in the village for over 50 years. I agree that marijuana is legal. However, my gut feeling says that we should not increase the use here in Millersburg by opening a dispensary. I'm holding the latest edition of The Epoch Times. In this newspaper there is an article by Evan Mantyk and I'll just read a few things that he said. Research over the past decade now shows clearly how destructive cannabis is to the human body especially the brain and the heart. A now-famous large-scale study in 2018, eight years ago, by Amen Clinics, John's Hopkins University and other universities looked at more than 60,000 brain scans and found that cannabis abuse led to the brain deteriorating nearly five times more than it does from alcohol abuse. The accelerated aging put the brains of cannabis abusers closer to the brains of people with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder than to alcohol abusers. Less than a year ago, Canada added a new warning on their cannabis products, stating that quote, "Using cannabis before age 25 can harm brain development and increase your risk of mental disorders like psychosis and schizophrenia." Last March, the American College of Cardiology said that quote, "Two new studies add to mounting evidence that people who use cannabis are more likely to suffer heart attack." According to this article, 1 out of 10 people who have ever used marijuana end up addicted. Today, cannabis is at least four times more potent than it was in 1995. According to potency data tracked by the National Center for National Products Research. People talk about the money revenue - I don't think money revenue adds up to the brain disorders, the psychosis that could occur. And if we have a dispensary here in Millersburg, it'll make it more prevalent. That's for sure. I vote no.

Rob Hovis

I'm Rob Hovis. I'm a resident of Millersburg. Your honor, I'd like to congratulate Councilman Zollars and Councilman Hersberger as the newest members of our city leadership. I made an extended statement explaining my opposition to opening a store to sell marijuana in Millersburg at the October 13th council meeting. I won't repeat that information, but I would ask members of council to review it. I'd like to make three points. First, the residents of Millersburg, who cared enough about the issue to express their opinion at the November election, voted 2 to 1 against having a store selling marijuana in this village. I think that makes a statement. Number two, the arguments that I've heard made so far tonight in favor of having a store to sell marijuana are largely financial. Is this village so desperate for tax revenue that we have to open a store to sell a product that is likely to be harmful to our youth? If Loudonville and Coshocton want to sell that stuff, that's hardly a compelling argument for us to join

them. For the last 27 years, I've taught a weekly Bible study at the Mansfield State Prison. Over 400 inmates have taken the course. Of those who were convicted of drug offenses and talked openly in class about their experience, all of them said marijuana was the gateway drug. It was the first step on the ladder that led to ever-increasing, harsher drugs. Why do we want to open a store like that in this village? The third and final point that I'll make is that it's very frustrating to me as a citizen to see the mixed messages that we are constantly sending to our youth. On the one hand, we are recruiting celebrities to go into our schools and preach "just say no," telling our students just say no to drugs. And at the same time, this council is considering endorsing opening a store. The youth of this community who are watching these proceedings and who will read about your decision in the newspaper, if you vote to approve this store, they will most certainly interpret that as an endorsement of marijuana by the Millersburg Village Council. I urge you to think carefully.

Kat Barnett

My name is Kat Barnett. I live on 388 S Clay Street in Millersburg and I have been a nurse for over 25 years. I have spent more than 11 years in ER and I have seen more people being injured by alcohol. Have you ever watched a person dying from cancer? Have you ever taken care of a patient who's on chemotherapy? No medication is working. They're puking their guts out and the only thing that works for them is CBD, not THC. Do you know the difference between these two? Did anybody ever explain them to you? The two chemicals that are in the marijuana is CBD and THC. The one that gives you high is THC. And that is only produced when it's heated up. CBD is extracted when it's cold. And this medication that is in CBD has been proven to show children that have seizures and no medications are working for them. They are starting with CBD oil and within days they have decrease in seizure. Sorry, I am not a public speaker. They have a decrease in seizure activity. People that are dying from cancer, nothing works for them. They take CBD and they can die (peacefully). You probably didn't expect from a nurse. I have never used CBD myself, but would you rather have somebody to grow their own with chemicals that are purchased somewhere and then die because their liver is damaged because of the chemicals that they grow with or whichever go into a store where they can purchase it under high regulations just like Mr. McCrossin said. I'm not for drugs. I never was for drugs, but Alcohol is a drug. Nicotine is a drug. Yet you endorse those. But you have an issue - some of you, the dispensary didn't under regulation sell CBD oil to those that need. Thank you.

Adam Barnett

Evening folks. A lot of people call me by different names. I choose to go by Adam Barnett. That's the one my mother gave me. I live at 388 South Clay. You just heard from my wife. This past weekend, we got the packet that we normally get for this meeting up in here. One of these interesting letters used a term for me that, well, I'm not allowed to use because somebody took it upon themselves to try and silence me. I'm not going to do that anymore. Those days are gone. This individual that wrote this letter, I don't know how many of you people realize this 6 months ago, 7 months ago, she was in support of having a dispensary in Millersburg. Support. What changed that brought her to this come Jesus moment? I can guarantee you I know exactly what it is. And I'm going to tell you, we're going to go back to what happened last meeting, though. When Councilman Vaughn decided to raise his voice and show himself a little bit. I get that you're passionate about it. I understand that. But I'm here to tell you that the will of the people is a little bit different than what you might think. The will of the people

is not 100% against. Not by far. The ones that didn't vote. Well, I'll tell you what. Pull up that internet and see what I wrote this past weekend about the will of the people because there were a lot of people in support of it. You sir, you get one vote in this council of six.

Mayor Hoffee: Excuse me. Excuse me. You said that you had facts and data. I'm not going to have you attack my council members. Just tell us your opinion. We just want your opinion and your facts.

Adam Barnett: He attacked a fellow council member. That's a fact. It was on the record. He gets one vote. That is a fact. What he does with Hofstetter in the weekends or whatever he wants to come up with and agree to vote with, that's his choice. The fact is this gentleman here and that gentle lady there get to vote the way they feel, the way their constituents feel. They're not to be pressured by a fellow council person that's going to come in here and sling his name around and his authority and pressure them into voting the way he wants. That's a fact. These two members here that just joined, they really got thrown into the fire on this one. The letter that started all of this shouldn't have even been brought forward because the individual that wrote that letter isn't even a citizen in this village. Another fact, one of these other anonymous letters that's in this packet. You've been in here two years and you said you don't want to give any weight, any bearing, any measure to someone that says anything anonymous. You don't even allow in your own forum, your own walled garden where you dictate who can and cannot join. I'm one of those ones that can. You've kicked out several people thinking they were me and they're not. Shutting up their voice. A fact. One vote. He gets to vote the way he wants. She gets to vote the way she wants and the way their constituents feel, not the way you feel. These two gentlemen here, I hope and pray, not just with this vote, but with all the others, they don't bow to your pressure. They don't bow to his pressure. They don't bow to her pressure. They vote the way the constituents that voted for them feel because that's the way it's supposed to be. As far as marijuana goes. This letter says, "Well, we don't want to have a high downtown Millersburg." Well, that's great. It's not high right now. And they're getting the product elsewhere. But yet, what did we just do today? We approved another liquor license, reapproval, whatever you want to call it. We have a bar literally on every street. We have a liquor dealership down the street. That letter, that same letter brings up the fact that, well, we can't have this next to a teen center. Well, that's right. We can't have that next to a teen center because that teen center is surrounded by a brewery, a restaurant, and a place that sells liquor. And let me tell you something. I want to see how many hands in this room right now. Raise your hand. If you drink alcohol on any basis, once a year, New Year's, celebrations, anything, put your hands up. Don't be afraid. And don't be ashamed. Put it up. Put that thing up there. I don't want to see a liar and I don't want to make a liar. You don't drink it. That's great. Guess what? I do. But there's a lot of things in this world that are legal allowed that you can get in this town and I don't do them. Guess what? It's the same thing with this dispensing area. You don't want to go in there, don't go in there. You don't want to buy their product, don't buy their product. It's that simple. That simple. And you want to worry about the children when you've got a liquor store and bars on every corner in this place. I guarantee you those children can get their hands on a bottle out of a refrigerator faster than they're going to get it out of a dispensary. And I can guarantee you none of you people that are against it have tried to step foot in a dispensary. Again, let's raise some hands up here, folks. How many of y'all walked into a dispensary here? Really? Have you tried? Anybody else here? I have. Let me tell you something. Before you even get in the place, they card you, okay? They check it. This isn't like going to Bell Store and buying a 40. Okay? You're not going to go in there as a 14-year-old and say, "Hey, I want a joint, man." That's not going to happen. Those people stand a lot more to lose.

You want to sit there and talk about rungs on a ladder, it's all right to break this to you. You got fast food around here, too. They get addicted to the weed. One puff, sir. I'm 300 plus pounds. You think I came out of my mama like that? Nope. I picked up a fork and I used it. If we're going to stop that kind of nonsense just because of that, then we need to start banning some forks around here. We really need to get educated. A lot of them. And I mean educated. Not on this 20, 30-year-old unnamed study that's got a slant to it. Start doing what this lady said here and see how it helps medically, how it helps these folks in these hospitals because one day you might be in their spot. Again, I hope you two folks stay strong and vote the way your constituents want you to vote. Don't let these people pressure you. Thank you.

Mayor Hoffee: Okay, so we are going to move on with this vote and because of how many people are here and I think all of our residents want to know why each council member is voting. I think that for full transparency, tell us your vote on (allowing) the dispensary and why you're voting the way that you're voting. Bob, we'll start with you.

Shoemaker: (Yes) I will be voting for it. Reason being, we are going to lose close to \$50,000 a year when the school moves out of town, the elementary. Second is to help assist the DeHasses with any profits to help build the YMCA that they've started. And that's the two main reasons. And housing. If we can do anything to bring housing, that's it.

Hoffee: Tom,

Vaughn: (No) We as a council decided to put this on the ballot to get our residents' opinion. They voted in November two to one against and I don't know how -if we're representative government- how I cannot support their position. I vote no.

Hershberger: Can you skip to them too because we already know what those two are going to be.

Kellogg: (Yes) I have no I have no problem. Um, first of all, very simply, it's legal. Number two, 80% of the people didn't vote no. So, we can talk about people that didn't show up, but I know this town. I know this county. And when they're against something, they're against something. And let me say another couple of things. We can throw up. Mr. Hovis, I appreciate that you go into a prison and you do Bible studies. My husband is a criminal defense attorney. He's been one for 29 years. I work for him. He's represented thousands and thousands and thousands of people. Not kidding. I have never seen an egregious crime happen from somebody on marijuana. I've seen it on alcohol. I've seen it on prescription drugs. And if we want to talk about our children, if you really want to do some studies, we are putting four- and five-year-olds on Adderall and Ritalin. Do you know what Adderall and Ritalin is? It's legalized meth. My husband has asked clients that are 18 and 19 years old who are addicted to meth in our community and ask them how they... how did you end up? We did our own poll in the law office real time. Well, when they were through school, they were getting Adderall and Ritalin. Once they graduated, a doctor wouldn't write that prescription for them anymore. So, they're getting it on the streets. Tell you another story about my lifetime experience in the law office. When people buy the marijuana on the streets, those dealers a lot of times also sell other kinds of drugs. So that means when they're selling marijuana, they may also be selling meth and fentanyl. And sometimes those people that gets mixed into their marijuana. So there's people that are smoking unregulated marijuana they have fentanyl and meth. And I'm going to talk about the will of the people. It's a funny thing. Kelly, how many years would you say I came to this council?

Hoffee: All the time I was on council.

Kellogg: Did everybody always vote the way I wanted?

Hoffee: No.

Kellogg: Did I throw a fit on social media or demand that people be removed from council or anything like that?

Hoffee: No, you're not on social media.

Kellogg: No, that... No, but did I throw a fit? No. Because I respected. So, the hundred and some people that voted for it are my constituents. We should not all vote the same. We shouldn't. And if I want to say this - I don't I don't know how these two are going to vote tonight, but I won't be mad at them. I won't be mad at them at all. But the bullying that I've seen against me, which I can I'm elected, so I can take it. I signed up for it. It's ugly. It's really ugly. My husband and my children want me to resign because they're so upset about it. But I will say this, I put myself out there then I get the attacks. So, I stick a sign in my yard. Everybody knows how I'm going to vote because that's how I am. If I represent people, I shouldn't be wishy-washy. I shouldn't be saying one thing to somebody's face and something else. So, when I make my vote tonight and it will be yes, I hope you understand where I'm coming from. I will respect every vote here, but I'm asking that my vote be respected. And for everybody that's on YouTube that's going to attack me, I just hope that they, you know, I will sleep fine tonight, but I'll be voting yes. And those are my reasons.

Hoffee: Brent,

Hofstetter: (No) I think obviously all six of us behind this table have our own individual opinions and I think last fall when we went to the elections and voted that was the time to exercise our opinions on how we voted then. Beyond that, I think that our personal opinions should not come into play on this because we were we put those three things on the ballot and stated that it was an advisory election - looking for the residents to advise us on how they would like us to vote and they very clearly did. They, by nearly 2 to 1 margin, voted against having marijuana facilities in town. And so regardless of my personal opinion, I'm going to vote against them (dispensaries). Had the vote gone the other way and it had been two thirds in favor I would vote in favor of them (dispensaries) because that is what the people want. We are here as representatives. We are being asked, we ask them to give us advice and then if we turn around and don't take it, what does that say about us as leaders? I don't know that I could look residents in the face if I turned around and did the exact opposite of what they said to do. In a perfect world, we would have had 100% voter turnout on this. We obviously didn't. There's never going to be an election where you get 100%. Whether the turnout is 1%, 10%, 20, or 80, it doesn't matter. This is the data that we have been given. This is what the people who cared enough to vote one way or the other - they have told us that they feel and again like I said I just don't know how I could consider myself a representative of the people if I went behind their back and did the exact opposite regardless of my own opinion this is what the people the - the people that we represent - how did they vote that's how we should be voting as well so I will be voting against allowing marijuana facilities.

Hoffee: Okay Ryan,

Hershberger: (No) Okay. Wow. I get put it in the fire right away. I just want to say to everybody who came tonight, I appreciate you being here. I do respect everybody's comments, opinions, everybody who's done research on it. I understand whichever way I would decide to go, somebody's going to be upset. I see both sides of it. I really do. I am not completely against it. I'm not completely for it. I literally am right smack dab in the middle. I guess for me the toughest thing is... well, I've already asked

the board of elections that there is something on the ballot in May. So, if it would not pass here, could it go back on the ballot in May um for another revote or something? So, there is something in Millersburg that would already be on the ballot that the cost wouldn't be quite as much. But for me, what it comes down to the last several days. I've taken the last two weeks to really think about it. In 2001, I had rheumatoid arthritis really bad and I was on a \$50,000 year medicine and the stuff that it does to you... So, if it'd be today, I could clearly see me wanting to take something like that. But what it truly comes down to me is my name is on that ballot, the same ballot where this questionnaire was. And I understand it was a very very very low turnout, but for me it's just hard to say to these people that I went to their houses to say I'm going to be, you know, that, hey, you took this questionnaire and you answered it, but I don't care. I'm going to do something different. It's just hard for me to go with that. Um, I wish, like I said, school levies, income taxes, the Millersburg Income tax, it was three times on the ballot before it passed. We heard last uh last meeting that Loudonville- they didn't do it and then six months later they did. So, if this wouldn't pass tonight, who says the doors completely shut? Um, but I guess for me it's going to come down to the fact that um I get a lot of I paint for a living and the people that I've talked to obviously grandparents and stuff they're concerned for their kids and I understand you can get it somewhere else. But I guess ultimately for me it's going to come down to the fact that just two months ago my name was on a ballot and I was voted in and yes it was uncontested unfortunately. I wish there would have been a contest, but it's hard for me to go against that, you know, it just I'm sorry for the people that because I really no matter what I say, it's going to disappoint somebody. But tonight, it has to be a no. But I really would be I'm all for putting it back on the ballot one more time. And um you know I mean if it was closer if it was closer because I remember going into it knowing that I might have to vote on it coming into 2026 and I said if just a little bit closer but 60/30 and yes it was a low turnout and I tell people all the time go vote. Go vote. So as of right now I have to say no.

Hoffee: Andy,

Zollars: (No) I'm going to be with Andrea on that. I'd like my vote to be respected. I am going to say no. Personal conviction. Okay. But as I'm like with Ryan, it can be brought back up. Like I said, doors not closed. I do see the health benefits of it, but as of right now, I say no.

Hoffee: Specifically, Ryan and Andy, do you feel like any other council member helped you make your decision or did you make it on your own?

Zollars: I made mine on my own. I'm all for myself.

Hershberger: Yeah. You know, I made a vow that when I got elected, there's nobody going to make me feel... you know what I'm saying? I want to be myself. There's going to be nights I'm going to be for some people and there's going to be nights I'm not. But in this case, no, I've taken the last two weeks and really thought it through and it just - I had a grandma again today say we elected you, don't go against what we said. I mean this from the bottom of my heart. Maybe some of those that said no would say no, don't do this. But put it back on the ballot. You know, keep trying because I do believe there's benefits for it. But tonight, I have to say no.

Hoffee: We have **4 NOs** and **2 Yeses**.

TOPIC:	Council Goals
PRESENTED BY:	Mayor Hoffee

DISCUSSION: Each Council Member and the Mayor shared their 2026 goals

Hofstetter: Reconfiguration of the sidewalk along Wooster Road where the garage was demolished. Hofstetter later said he'd like to see 2 additional pickleball courts.

Shoemaker: Plan a celebration of the 250th Anniversary of our Country - Big parade and fireworks over 4th of July weekend. Housing issues

Vaughn: Listen to and represent the residents of Millersburg. Represent the Village during the sale of the Millersburg Elementary property.

Kellogg: Due to being criticized for her previous goal, Kellogg said she will not talk about that anymore. Her goal for 2026 is to improve our parks' ballfields. While she knows it is a lofty goal, she would love to see turf installed.

Zollars: To help with speed compliance, solar powered speed limit signs; Update the street and utility department vehicles with reflective chevrons to set them apart and update the logos; Revisit the side-by-side ordinance for the village. Permitting can generate revenue; Encourage additional annexations into the village.

Hershberger: Get to know and communicate regularly with our village business owners and be involved with events in town.

Mayor Hoffee: Begin planning phase 2 of the downtown sidewalk project. Continue to seek grant funding opportunities for the Village.

TOPIC:	Smart Traffic Lights, Sidewalk Project, Airport Park Lighting Project, Electric Aggregation, Housing Study, Phone System, EPA Generator Grant
PRESENTED BY:	Administrator Troyer
DISCUSSION: See Administrator's Report	

TOPIC:	New Water/Sewer Billing System
PRESENTED BY:	Mayor Hoffee
DISCUSSION: Hoffee and Hofstetter have both set up their online accounts. Hofstetter asked about the fees involved when paying with a credit/debit card or eCheck. Curry said yes, there is a fee for cards and eChecks. She will check to see if there are fees involved with setting up auto-pay using a bank account. She does not think there is a fee for the EFT autopay option. Vaughn reminded people that their correct phone number must be on file with our utility department in order set up their online account. If there is any trouble setting up your online account, contact the utility clerk/administrative assistant (Mary or Jessica).	
ACTION ITEM/ASSIGNED TO: Curry will report at the next meeting regarding fees, etc.	

TOPIC:	Wooster Road Water Line Project
PRESENTED BY:	Mayor Hoffee
DISCUSSION: Funding of \$400,000.00 was approved by both the US Senate and House. President Trump signed the appropriations bill on Friday January 23 rd . We will share funds disbursement information as it becomes available.	
TOPIC:	Streetlights

PRESENTED BY:	Mayor Hoffee
DISCUSSION: Some burnt out streetlights have been repaired. More repairs are needed. Outages can be reported to AEP or to the Village.	

TOPIC:	Millersburg Mobile Home Park
PRESENTED BY:	Mayor Hoffee
DISCUSSION: The mobile home park management did not arrange to have the property plowed. Mayor Hoffee reports that she arranged for the property to be plowed today. Management may be interested in contracting Buckeye Lawns for Plowing.	

NEW BUSINESS

TOPIC:	Sample Moratorium Legislation
PRESENTED BY:	Mayor Hoffee
DISCUSSION: Sample moratorium legislation was dispersed with meeting packet. No council member objected to the wording of the legislation. It will be introduced at the next meeting.	

TOPIC:	Trash Bill
PRESENTED BY:	Hershberger
DISCUSSION: Hershberger noticed that his trash bill decreased but it was because billing was for two months this cycle rather than the typical three months. It will resume to quarterly billing.	

TOPIC:	Work and conduct ourselves as a team
PRESENTED BY:	Hershberger
DISCUSSION: Hershberger acknowledges that this evening’s discussion was difficult and that some people will be unhappy with the decision. He wants to see council function as a team and work together. While having different opinions is fine but he cautions public officials not to go on social media and make negative comments about each other. After the last meeting, Hershberger said that two council members were called out by name, and he does not feel that is appropriate.	

VISITOR(S):

TOPIC:	YMCA Day Care
PRESENTED BY:	Brodie DeHass
DISCUSSION: The YMCA is soon opening at New Pointe Church just west of Millersburg. It will serve ages 6 weeks to school age children. Hours are 6am-5:30pm Monday through Friday.	

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY:	Hofstetter	MOTION SECONDED BY:	Zollars
VOTING ROLL CALL:			
Hofstetter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Hershberger	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Zollars	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Vaughn	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Kellogg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Shoemaker	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

VOTING RESULTS:	YES: 6 NO: 0
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NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING

TYPE OF MEETING:	Regular
DATE:	<u>2/9/2026</u>
TIME:	7:00 PM
LOCATION: Council Chambers	6 N Washington St Millersburg, OH 44654

MINUTES PREPARED BY

SIGNATURE: Bobbie Curry	TITLE	DATE
	Fiscal Officer	2/6/2026

ATTESTED BY

SIGNATURE: Bobbie Curry	TITLE	DATE
	Fiscal Officer	2/9/2026

CERTIFICATION

SIGNATURE: Kelly Hoffee	TITLE	DATE
	Mayor	2/9/2026