

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

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Minutes of the Regular Meeting

Held: Tuesday, July 7, 2026

The regular meeting of the South Point Village Council was called to order at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance. Village Chaplain, Brad Adkins, led in prayer. Mayor Gaskin read a thank you card from the Classing family thanking the Village for the flowers.

Roll Call:

Members Present-

Mr. Payne
Mr. Austin
Mr. McCoy
Mr. Classing
Mrs. Daniel
Mrs. Chapman

Members Absent-

Village Solicitor, Mark McCown was present.

Mr. Classing made a motion to approve the minutes of the regular meeting held June 2, 2026. Mr. Payne seconded. Roll Call: All yes, Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. McCoy made a motion to approve the payment of invoices paid in June 2026. Mr. Classing seconded. Roll Call: All yes, Motion carried 6-0.

Public:

Chuck Conley, 212 2nd Street West, thanked Mayor Jeff Gaskin, Village Administrator, Russ McDonald, Chief of Police, Chris Majher, and Council Member Bob Payne for attending the funeral for his father. Also spoke regarding Seniors and their inability to move the trash cans out on the street for the garbage pickup. He stated that Aaron goes to their residence and gets the trash cans for them. Water and sewer infrastructure, streets need asphalt, more lighting and helping our seniors are some of the issues he feels council needs to work on. Also spoke on hiring of police officers and the fact that he feels they need to be paid more.

John Tipton, 305 Dean Street, concerns about the boat ramp project. He stating that replacing the boat ramp is not being done. Stated he agreed that the access for the handicap was needed and was being done. Complained about holes in the boat ramp. Mr. Gaskin explained that all of the wishes that the Village had for the boat ramp could not be completed due to the amount of money that was received.

Matt Knight, 1173 County Road 1 gave his monthly update on his progress dealing with internet issues. NSG Fiber will be another option in the future for internet. Still in the planning phase.

Old Business:

Council Member Mrs. Chapman read a statement. "I typed it out for everybody just to be transparent. Many months ago an additional audit was requested by Mr. Classing after it was discovered that there were off the book accounts used by the police department and opened at Wesbanco, not US Bank, which is the councils selected bank. The Auditors said the accounts should be closed. Council finally took action last month to close the accounts. Because the last two audits had noted lack of oversight in area I chose to look into these accounts more fully. Mr. Classing is the chair of finance. He had requested bank statements for the last 3 accounts many times and ORC required council receive monthly bank statements and reconciliations but he had been unable to get them. I too requested the last 3 years of bank statements for those accounts. I eventually received statements last month for 2024 to parts of 2026 for two of the accounts and for another account from 2023-2026 with the entire year of 2024 missing. Since we don't know when these accounts were opened, we don't know how many years of statements there should be. Before getting the statements, I had learned that 4 vehicles had

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been purchased without council appropriating the funds and without the fiscal officers required certification as required by the Ohio Revised Code. In addition, it appears a village vehicle has been sold without council approval also. The statements then raised several other financial questions such as a debit card being attached to the accounts which is not permitted except for very specific reasons. Not for food at Snack Shack or purchasing a car. Since receiving the off the book account bank statements, I also requested and received additional village bank statements where I became aware of four debit cards. I do not know if there are additional village or vendor credit cards besides these statements reflecting debit cards the village bank statements showed purchases that must be guided by the village policy which I have been unable to find a village credit card policy or a policy covering expenditures for such things as flowers, food, etc. both of which I believed are required by the ORC. I want to thank Mr. Classing for identifying all of the bank accounts and continuing to push for their closing and Lori for providing the bank statements and car titles once she got them and additional village bank statements. I know her job is very particularly stressful because I know mine is. But I appreciate her efforts in these fields anyway. As a council member my responsibility and our responsibility is to protect our taxpayers' funds by providing transparency, accountability and oversight. Because that responsibility I have taken and am taking the following actions. I have turned over the documentation that I have to the Ohio Auditors Office for further investigation. Because this is an ongoing investigation that is all I am going to say about these issues but I would ask that council agree to hold a work session to establish policy regarding the use of the village credit cards and the village funds for such use as food, flowers, etc. both of which are required by law by the Ohio Revised Code. And I took your advise Mayor Gaskin and I did something about it. That is all I have to say."

Mr. Classing added that Tracy Laboldo informed him of the accounts, he didn't discover them and the fiscal officer added that there is a credit card policy and she would provide to council. Mr. Classing also added that he has been unable to view the documents due to personal reasons.

Solicitor Mark McCown stated that the Auditors office would have their investigation but council could do their own investigation. It was turned over to the finance committee.

The garbage bid was discussed and it was requested that they pick up leaves and trimmings but not brush and limbs. Mayor Gaskin doesn't want the dumpsters placed for cleanup, but to continue picking up from the residences. 13-19 is not listed but needs to be added. Recycling program can be added at a later time. Discussed how staff and management like the idea of the company picking up leaves and grass trimmings so that staff does not have to spend time opening and dumping bags. Mr. Austin suggested that we add to the bid to price with and without leaves and grass trimmings. Changes were requested to be made and have a special meeting next week to address the garbage issue.

Storage and Disposal of Garbage and Rubbish in the Village was discussed. Mrs. Daniel is working with the solicitor and would like to present an ordinance at the next meeting. Would like to have a work session to discuss. Can do special meeting and work session at the same time. Solicitor McCown suggested that we wait until we have the garbage bid before we adopt a new ordinance. Also discussed doing a codified ordinance system. Council requested the fiscal officer to look into cost of adopting a codified ordinance.

New Business:

Mr. Payne made a motion to suspend the three-reading rule on **Ordinance 26-17** An Ordinance to amend Ordinance 25-19 to Make appropriations for Current expenses and other expenditures of the Village of South Point, State of Ohio, During the fiscal year ending December 31, 2026. Mr. Austin seconded the motion. Roll Call, All yes, Motion carried 6-0.

Mr. McCoy made a motion to Adopt **Ordinance 26-17**. Mr. Payne seconded the motion. Roll Call, All yes, Motion Carried 6-0.

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Mr. Classing made a motion to approve the transfer of funds for the month of July 2026. Mr. McCoy seconded. Roll call: All yes. Motion Carried 6-0.

<u>From:</u>	<u>To:</u>	<u>Amount:</u>
General Fund	2904 Police Dept. Fund	\$34,000.00
General Fund	3106 Police Vehicle Loan Fund	6,000.00
Sewer Fund	5721 Solida Sewer Bond (2017 LCNI)	4,375.00
Sewer Fund	5701 Sewer Improvements Bond (OPWC-2009)	1,021.00
Sewer Fund	5761 Sewer Reserve	4,500.00
Sewer Fund	5723 WWTP Clarifiers Rehab Loan (OWDA-2018)	2,252.00
Water Fund	5762 Water Reserve	1,667.00
Vehicle Permissive Tax	3101 Street Repaving Bond (2015 LCNI)	3,675.50
Fire Dept. Fund	3102 Fire Truck Bond (2020 PNC)	2,500.00
Sewer Fund	3103 Vacuum Truck Bond (2021 US Bank)	3943.00
Water Fund	5724 Phase 2 Waterline Replacement Loan	5,626.00
Water Fund	5722 Phase 1 Waterline Replacement Loan	1,061.00

Mr. Classing made a motion to Approve the Clerk/Treasurer financial report, revenue/expenditure account status report and bank reconciliation ending June 30, 2026. Mr. Austin seconded the motion. Roll Call: All yes, Motion passed 6-0.

Department Reports

Village Administrator:

Water Department pumped 11,663,000 gallons of water for the month of June for a total of 65,809,000 this year. No water main breaks. Still waiting on recommendations for the filters.

The sewer department treated 30 million gallons of sewage for the month of June.

Brush pickup July 27-31 on the day of your garbage pickup.

Fire Department:

Passed out information on a grant writer for council to review and discuss next month. Read statement regarding inspection at PAM Rehabilitation Hospital. Is purchasing tools for new fire truck. Brush skid unit donated. 26 Calls, 3 smoke alarms, 8 motor vehicle accidents, 5 EMS calls, 2 trees down, and 2 fires.

Police Department:

Citations have increased. Department is fully staffed. New hire, Rian, is leaving to go to the Sheriff's office. Drug raid held today.

Code Enforcement Officer:

Absent

Mrs. Daniel questioned regarding home on Alma Avenue. Gave information to Solicitor to check into.

Committee Reports:

No committee Reports.

Miscellaneous:

Mayor Gaskin discussed cemetery fence repair and will have to bid the repairs on the round about.

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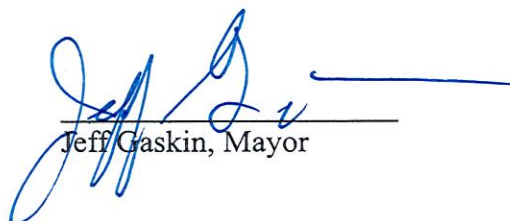
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Mr. Classing made a motion to go into executive session to discuss a complaint against a public official. Mr. McCoy seconded the motion. Roll Call: All yes, Motion passed 6-0. Council went into executive session at 7:50.

Mrs. Daniels made a motion to go back into regular session. Mr. Classing seconded the motion. Roll Call, all yes, motion passed, 6-0.

Meeting resumed at 8:37. No action was taken. Meeting Adjourned at 8:38


Lon Jordan, Clerk


Jeff Gaskin, Mayor