

## Council and Administration

### Council Members

Phil Clyburn – Council Chair  
Brenda Losey – Vice Chair  
Mary Ellen McMurry  
Jessalyn Hunter  
Cory Taylor

### Administration

Todd Wilkin City Manager  
Gary Lewis – Finance Director  
Sherry Parker – Office Manager / Clerk of Council  
Jeremiah Oyer – Police Chief / Safety Service Director

The Village Council holds meetings on the third Monday of each month starting at 4:45 PM. at the council chambers located at 300 Jefferson Street.

## Project Updates

As you can see around the Village, the council, administration, and staff are working on improvements daily to ensure Greenfield stays the beautiful place you live and play. The Village has some larger capital improvement projects that will be starting in the next year or so to address some deficiencies in our infrastructure.

The Village has a significant Inflow and Infiltration (I&I) problem in our sanitary sewer system that needs to be addressed. We will be doing a \$4,620,000 sanitary sewer replacement project, replacing failing sewer lines and laterals in the areas determined to have the most I&I.

The Village is also working on a Phase I Water System Improvements project to address our failing water lines. This project is estimated to cost \$2,500,000 and will address the worst areas in town.

The Village is also actively working on improving our parks and trail system. The Village works hard to secure grants and low-interest loans to assist with financing our projects so that we stretch our Village tax dollars as far as we can!

## Rate Increase

The Village has not done a water and sewer rate increase since January 1, 2014, even though costs have risen substantially since then. In light of the current economy, rising costs, and the expected capital improvements needed to keep the Village water and sewer systems functioning, we decided to take an in-depth look at our water and sewer funds. The Village council hired DLZ Ohio, Inc. to study our water and sewer rates to determine the best path to stabilize our funds and complete the necessary projects.

Even though the Village has done an excellent job managing the water and sewer funds, it was determined that a rate increase must happen to keep our system sustainable. Starting with the February reading on March 1, 2023, there will be a \$5.00 base rate increase on both the water and sewer funds, and then in January 2024, there will be an additional \$5.00 increase on the base rates. The water usage rate will see a 20% increase in 2023 and a 5% usage increase on the sewer side. Then there will be a standard 3% rate increase each year after that to keep up with inflation and rising costs. This will equate to an increase of \$8.23 per month for a minimum usage of water and \$6.51 for sewer in 2023.

We understand that a rate increase is not popular at this time, but due to the economy the Village costs have increased significantly! The water and sewer funds have been systemically declining the last couple of years, again due to rising costs. The water and sewer funds are a non-profit enterprise and managed to ensure we can maintain our existing systems and be prepared for future capital improvements and EPA mandates. The Village applies for grants and low-interest loans to ensure we stretch every dollar we have to the fullest.

## Possible Help!

Knowing that times are tough for everyone and that it might be a hardship for some residents, we have provided information for the below agencies that may be able to assist with your water and sewer bills: Assistance may not be in the form of paying your utility bill for water and sewer but could be in the form of other utilities or assistance with food to offset the costs.

Highland County Community Action – 937-393-3458

Local Churches and Food banks