

Carroll Village Council met in regular session on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. In the absence of Mayor Preston Barringer, Pro Tempore Adam Tippet called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Members of Council present were, Kenny George, Adam Tippet, Kevin Rinehart, Will Burns, and Linda Dattilo. Shelly Squibb was absent. Also, in attendance were Solicitor Jeff Feyko and Fiscal Officer Crystal Roberts.

Approval of Agenda

Linda Dattilo made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Kevin Rinehart, roll call was all in favor.

Visitors

Dave Leffler, Sherry Quail, Dawn Wyne, Angie Craig, and Tom Dreier, Jr.

Visitors Comments

Dave Leffler had questions about the increase in the water rates? Will Burns responded that it wasn't a 35% increase. The increase was 15% now and then the normal increase effective January 1, 2027. The increase beginning January 1, 2027 is set to be a 20% increase, if passed.

David Bichard stated that Fairfield Utilities offers seniors discounts on their utilities and wondered if the village residents were included in that discount. The fiscal officer stated the village was not included in that discount because we purchase water from them and bill the village residents. The only customers that are included in that discount are customers that are billed directly by Fairfield County Utilities. David stated he would check into it and see if the village residents could benefit from that discount.

Tom Dreier, Jr asked the village if he was going to get reimbursed for damages to his property incurred by construction during the Phase 3 Sanitary Sewer Project? This subject was referred to the finance committee.

Approval of Minutes

Will Burns made a motion to approve the regular council minutes from council meeting Tuesday, July 14, 2026, seconded by Kevin Rinehart, roll call was all in favor.

Approval of Bills, End of Month Reports, and Mayor's Monthly Statement

Each member received copies in their packet of computer-generated Management Reports for end of June (original to be signed by the Council and Mayor); Primary Checking Account Reconciliation (to be signed by Council and Mayor); paid bills and/or due bills.

Will Burns made a motion to approve, seconded by Adam Tippet, roll call was all in favor.

Committee Reports

Finance:

Wednesday, July 8, 2026

7:00 p.m.

Members: Will Burns-Chairperson, Adam Tippet, Shelly Squibb. All members were present.

Fiscal Officer Crystal Roberts and Mayor Preston Barringer were present.

Visitors: Dawn Wyne

On the agenda was to discuss small-engine fuel storage, sewer rates, old business, new business, and any other business brought before the committee.

Will Burns opened the meeting by explaining that the purpose of the meeting was to begin reviewing sewer rate adjustments needed to maintain the financial stability of the sewer utility while also discussing operational improvements and maintenance issues affecting the utility system.

The committee first discussed the use of ethanol-free gasoline for small-engine equipment including weed trimmers, mowers, the trash pump, and the village utility vehicle. Members discussed the problems caused by ethanol-blended gasoline, including moisture absorption, carburetor problems, corrosion, and equipment that sits idle for extended periods of time.

Discussion was held regarding the purchase of a portable fuel transfer tank capable of storing approximately fifty gallons of ethanol-free gasoline. Members stated that a hand-pump transfer tank could likely be purchased for approximately \$400 and would allow the Village to purchase ethanol-free fuel from local retailers offering the product.

The committee also discussed the possibility of obtaining a separate fuel credit card or account dedicated to ethanol-free fuel purchases. It was noted that Speedway could not accommodate the desired arrangement and that bulk fuel delivery was not practical because of minimum delivery requirements.

Members also discussed the possibility of gradually transitioning certain small-engine equipment to battery-powered alternatives. Concerns were expressed regarding battery costs, replacement life, and charger expenses. The committee agreed that recently repaired gasoline-powered equipment should continue to be utilized while long-term equipment replacement options remain under consideration.

The matter was tabled pending additional pricing information regarding fuel storage tanks, ethanol-free fuel availability, and fuel account options.

Discussion then moved to sewer utility finances and the need for future sewer rate adjustments. The committee reviewed increasing operating costs associated with .

the expanded sewer system and the importance of maintaining a self-supporting sewer fund.

It was noted that county treatment costs were expected to increase by approximately three percent. Additional recurring expenses were discussed, including new Spectrum internet services required for lift station monitoring, additional South Central Power electrical service, and future operating costs associated with additional lift stations as the sewer system expands.

The committee also discussed annual debt service obligations associated with the sewer improvement project. Members reviewed the approximate \$600,000 project loan and annual payments estimated at approximately \$25,000. Discussion emphasized that debt service should be paid through sewer revenues rather than relying upon existing fund balances or General Fund transfers.

Committee members discussed the importance of maintaining the sewer utility as a self-sustaining enterprise fund. It was noted that approximately \$28,000 in General Fund resources had previously been used for sewer-related expenses, and members agreed that future operating costs should be supported by user rates whenever possible.

The committee then reviewed the current sewer rate of \$19.11 per one thousand gallons and discussed possible percentage increases. Reference was made to previous discussions regarding an eight percent increase, although no recommendation had been made at that time.

Crystal Roberts presented preliminary billing information indicating approximately 932,473 gallons had been billed during the most recent billing period. Based upon approximately 266 to 270 sewer customers, average monthly usage was estimated at approximately 3,500 gallons per account.

The committee discussed developing multiple rate scenarios beginning with six percent increases and extending upward as necessary. Members agreed that additional financial analysis would allow the committee to determine a rate increase sufficient to meet operating expenses while avoiding multiple increases within a short period of time.

Adam Tippet agreed to prepare an Excel analysis showing projected monthly and annual revenue generated under multiple percentage increase options. The analysis will also compare projected revenue to increased operating costs and annual debt service.

Discussion then turned to lift station operations and maintenance. James reviewed a recent electrical problem at the Water Street lift station. It was explained that the issue was ultimately traced to the loss of one phase of three-phase electrical service caused by a blown fuse link rather than a pump failure.

The committee discussed providing James with a voltmeter and basic electrical troubleshooting training to allow quicker identification of three-phase power problems before requesting outside assistance.

Members also reviewed a recent maintenance inspection completed by the Village's lift station maintenance contractor. Pumps, seals, and related equipment were inspected and serviced. Discussion was held regarding concerns with deteriorating transducers, corrosion caused by hydrogen sulfide gases, and deterioration of lift station components.

Discussion continued regarding emergency pumping procedures following a recent lift station outage that required E.C. Babbert Pumping Service to transport wastewater by tanker truck. Members discussed the costs associated with emergency pumping and the importance of reducing future emergency response expenses.

The committee reviewed the possibility of utilizing the Village's existing trash pump as a temporary emergency bypass system by pumping wastewater from one lift station to the next during certain emergency situations. Members agreed that testing should be completed to determine whether the existing equipment could provide a practical emergency backup.

Discussion also focused on determining estimated backup times for each lift station before overflow conditions would occur. Members agreed that this information would become increasingly important as additional customers are connected to the sewer system.

It was reported that an email had been sent to Gary requesting estimated backup times for each lift station and projected capacities following completion of the sewer expansion project.

The committee agreed that Will Burns would evaluate the existing trash pump and determine what additional fittings or equipment would be necessary to implement an emergency bypass pumping system if needed.

Old Business

No old business was discussed.

New Business

Visitors Comments

No visitor comments were offered.

Motions

No formal motions were made.

Adjournment

Adam Tippet made a motion to adjourn, roll call was all in favor. The meeting adjourned at **7:55 p.m.**

Service: Did not meet.

Safety: Did not meet.

Rules: Did not meet.

Motions

Meeting adjourned at **7:38 p.m.**

Police Report

Police report given to council.

Zoning Inspector/Property Maintenance

David Bichard reported to council.

Zoning

Nothing to report.

Property Maintenance:

Letter was sent out to Wise Auto.

Solicitor's Report

There are two new ordinances for first read, two up for second read, and none for a third reading.

Fiscal Officer's Report

The fiscal officer stated she didn't submit a report, but there was nothing new in delinquent accounts.

There are multiple Bank Reconciliation reports to be signed due to a discrepancy found on the payment received from the Fairfield County Auditor's Office on the first half special assessments. I had to wait to get that cleared up before I could finalize any bank recs.

The bat situation is being assessed at the Carroll Civic Center. I have contacted Greenfield Township and gave them all the details. Bats are protected until the middle of August and can not do anything until then. The Department of Natural Resources stated they don't typically give exemptions, unless people are residing in the building. All reservations have been canceled until the bats are taken care of.

Mayor's Report

Adam Tippet gave the report for the mayor. He stated no official report was given to him by the mayor.

- AGVenture Camp was held last month.
- The soffit in the gazebo at Bessie Benson Park was replaced.
- Paving in the village started on South Beaver and will continue through the village in the construction areas. Wasn't sure when lines, parking spaces, etc. will be getting done. More information will be provided when information is received.

Will Burns stated that due to money he feels that the original parking spaces that were on South Beaver Street on the one side of the road don't need remarked. Adam stated that is a conversation that can be discussed at the construction meeting. The solicitor stated also could be discussed at a safety meeting.

Old Business

None

New Business

Will Burns stated that they are proceeding with the installation of the new lift station on Lock Street. The electrical panels and poles have been set for the lift station at Wendy Road and Carnes Road.

Kenny George would like to have **Ordinance 2026-12**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TRAFFIC CONTROL MAP IN ORDER TO PROHIBIT MOTOR VEHICLE PARKING FOR A PORTION OF CENTER STREET, passed as an emergency tonight so that it is effective before the festival. The solicitor said it can be passed as an emergency as long as the three-read rule is bypassed and there are enough members of council to pass it, which there are.

Motions

Ordinances

First Read

First Reading

2026-14

AN ORDINANCE TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF METAL DETECTORS ON VILLAGE OWNED PROPERTY AND THE DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY

- A motion was passed at the June 9, 2026 meeting to bypass the committee for the Solicitor to prepare the ordinance.
- Will Burns made a motion to bypass the three-read rule, seconded by Kevin Rinehart, roll call was all in favor.
- Will Burns made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2026-13, seconded by Kevin Rinehart, roll call was all in favor

*Discussion was made by Will Burns. Will Burns stated that how this ordinance came about was Lt Romine informed Will that there was a man metal detecting in the parks and then digging holes to get what he found. He was putting the dirt back, but it was leaving divots in the grass. The village had no rules on metal detecting. Will thought it was best to have no metal detecting in order to prevent any digging, or scraping of the grass, at all. He felt that leaving divots was a safety hazard for anyone walking in the parks.

2026-15

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE EMPLOYEE MANUAL OF PERSONNEL POLICIES AND REGULATIONS IN ORDER TO ADOPT A JOB DESCRIPTION FOR THE POSITION OF WORKING FOREMAN, AND THE DECLARATION OF AN EMERGENCY

- Will Burns made a motion to bypass the three-read rule, seconded by Kenny George, roll call was all in favor.
- Will Burns made a motion to adopt Ordinance 2026-14, seconded by Kenny George, roll call was all in favor.

Second Read

2026-11

AN ORDINANCE INCREASING RATES CHARGED FOR WATER SERVICES

2026-12

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TRAFFIC CONTROL MAP IN ORDER TO PROHIBIT MOTOR VEHICLE PARKING FOR A PORTION OF CENTER STREET

- Will burns made a motion to bypass the three-read rule in order to pass Ordinance 2026-12 this evening, seconded by Kenny George, roll call was all in favor.
- Will Burns made a motion to adopt 2026-12, seconded by Kenny George, roll call was all in favor.

Third Read.

Resolutions

Tabled

Executive Session

Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 11, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Adjournment

There being no other business before council, Will Burns made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Kevin Rinehart, roll call was all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Crystal L. Roberts Fiscal Officer

Preston M. Barringer, M