

*Village of Crooksville, Ohio*

**RESOLUTION NO. 11-2026**

**RESOLUTION APPOINTING STEVE R. BALDWIN TO THE POSITION OF  
MAGISTRATE, AND FIXING COMPENSATION FOR THE POSITION  
FOR A TERM OF TWELVE (12) MONTHS, AND  
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

**WHEREAS**, it is the Village's desire to appoint effective January 20, 2026, Steve R. Baldwin as the Magistrate for the Village of Crooksville; and

**WHEREAS**, on review of current rates of pay and years' service and experience, the Village determined it appropriate to enter into a contract establishing compensation for the position of Magistrate as set forth therein; and

**WHEREAS**, due to the need to have a Magistrate engaged on the Village's behalf on an ongoing, uninterrupted basis, this legislation needs to be approved on an emergency basis.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Village Council of the Village of Crooksville, Muskingum County, State of Ohio, that:

**SECTION 1.** The Village of Crooksville hereby appoints Attorney Steve R. Baldwin, Esq. as Magistrate for the Village of Crooksville as a Village contract employee for a term of twelve (12) months commencing on January 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026, and ending December 31, 2026, pursuant to the terms of the Contract attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference. The Mayor and Fiscal Officer are authorized and hereby directed to execute the Contract.

**SECTION 2.** For the reasons noted in the preamble, this resolution is hereby declared to an emergency measure necessary for the public peace, health, safety and general welfare of the community. Therefore, this resolution shall have immediate effect upon its passage.

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading:** Waived on 3/4 Vote

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading:** Waived on 3/4 Vote

**3<sup>rd</sup> Reading:** January 20, 2026

**Passed on a minimum of 2/3 Vote:** January 20, 2026

  
Christopher Mohler, Mayor  
1/20/2026  
Date

**ATTESTED:**

  
Courtney Edwards, Fiscal Officer  
1/20/26  
Date

**APPROVED:**

*Bill Hampton* *1/20/2026*  
Bill Hampton, Council President Date

*Scott Locke*  
Scott Locke, Councilman Date

*John Loomis* *1/20/2026*  
John Loomis, Councilman Date

*Kathy McKinney* *1/20/2026*  
Kathy McKinney, Councilwoman Date

*Billie Smith* *1/20/2026*  
Billie Smith, Councilman Date

*Fred Redfern* *1/20/2026*  
Fred Redfern, Councilman Date

**Posting Certification**

This ordinance was posted at the five prescribed locations within the Village of Crooksville, Ohio, on the *21<sup>st</sup>* day of *January*, 2026.

*Courtney Edwards*  
Courtney Edwards, Fiscal Officer

## AGREEMENT

This Agreement made and concluded at Crooksville, Ohio by and between the Village of Crooksville, Perry County, Ohio, hereinafter referred to as "Village" and Steven R. Baldwin, Esq. of 3808 James Court, Zanesville, Ohio 43701, hereinafter referred to as "Magistrate,"

## WITNESSETH

**WHEREAS**, the Village is a non-charter municipal corporation of the State of Ohio situated in the County of Perry, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Magistrate is a duly licensed attorney-at-law in the State of Ohio situated in the County of Muskingum, admitted to the practice of law in said state for a period of time in excess of three years, and engaged in the practice of law in said state, and;

**WHEREAS**, Ohio Revised Code Section 1905.05 authorizes the mayor of a municipal corporation to appoint a mayor's court magistrate, and;

**WHEREAS**, Ohio Revised Code Section 1905.05 provides that the municipal corporation the mayor's court magistrate serves shall pay the compensation for the services of the magistrate, and;

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor of the Village has appointed Steven R. Baldwin, Esq. as Mayor's Court magistrate for the Village of Crooksville's Mayor's Court, and;

**WHEREAS**, the legislative authority of the Village of Crooksville has, by Resolution No. 11-2026, established the rate of compensation to be paid to the Magistrate and has authorized the execution of this agreement.

**NOW THEREFORE**, in consideration of the foregoing, the parties hereto do agree as follows:

- 1. Employment and Term.** The Village hereby employs Steven R. Baldwin, and Steven R. Baldwin hereby accepts employment as Magistrate for the Village of Crooksville Mayor's Court for a term beginning January 20, 2026, and expiring December 31, 2026.
- 2. Duties of Magistrate.** It shall be the duty of the Magistrate to act as the Mayor's Court Magistrate for the Village in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 1905 of the Ohio Revised Code and as governed by the Mayor's Court Education and Procedure Rules promulgated by the Supreme Court of the State of Ohio. The Magistrate agrees to conduct a regular Mayor's Court session for the Village at least once a month. The

Magistrate understands and agrees that the duties of acting as Mayor's Court Magistrate may require the services of the Magistrate at times other than monthly Mayor's Court sessions.

3. **Employee Status.** The Magistrate shall not be considered as a part-time employee of the Village, but rather an independent contractor, and as such shall not be entitled to participate in any employment benefit plan nor shall he be entitled to participate in the Public Employees Retirement System, through the Village.
4. **Mayor's Court Education.** The Magistrate agrees to obtain and maintain the certifications as required by the Mayor's Court Education and Procedure Rules promulgated by the Supreme Court of the State of Ohio. The Village agrees to pay the registration fees and costs for such Mayor's Court Education, provided however, that if the Magistrate serves as Mayor's Court magistrate for another municipal corporation(s), the Village shall pay only its proportionate share of such fees and costs.
5. **Compensation.** The Village agrees to pay the Magistrate for his services rendered as Mayor's Court Magistrate as follows:
  - (A.) For the period from January 20, 2026, through December 31, 2026, an annual salary of Three Thousand Dollars (\$3,000.00) per year, payable in equal monthly installments of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) per month, less withholding taxes and deductions required by law.
  - (B.) In the event more than one session of Mayor's Court is held, then the Magistrate shall be paid the additional sum of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) for each additional session of court less withholding taxes and deductions required by law.
  - (C.) Nothing contained herein shall be construed to require the Village to pay the Magistrate during any period of time in which the Magistrate is unable to perform the duties of Mayor's Court Magistrate. The Village shall issue the necessary tax forms to the Magistrate on an annual basis.
6. **Insurance.** The Village agrees to provide and pay for liability insurance which will cover the Magistrate for errors and omissions in connection with his services as Mayor's Court Magistrate. In the event the Village's liability carrier does not offer such insurance, the Village agrees to reimburse the Magistrate for the cost of such coverage should the Magistrate secure such coverage from his own professional liability insurance carrier.

7. **Conflict Of Interest.** Should a conflict of interest arising from the Magistrate's private practice of law prevent the Magistrate from hearing a case, the Magistrate shall cause such case to be transferred to the Perry County Municipal Court. The decision of the Magistrate shall be final in determining whether a conflict of interest situation has arisen or is likely to arise.
8. **Termination.** This Agreement may be terminated by either party hereto on thirty (30) days prior written notice to the other party.
9. **Extension of Term.** In the event that the parties fail to execute a renewal of this Agreement following the expiration thereof but neither party has notified the other of an intent to terminate this Agreement, this Agreement shall continue on a month-to-month basis on the same terms as contained herein and the failure of the parties to execute a renewal agreement shall not be construed as affecting the jurisdiction and authority of the Magistrate to continue to act as the Mayor's Court Magistrate for the Village.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto have executed this Agreement this 20<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2026.

ATTEST:

BY: Courtney Edwards  
Courtney Edwards, Fiscal Officer

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Jan Allen Baughman  
Jan Allen Baughman, Village Solicitor

THE VILLAGE OF CROOKSVILLE:

BY: Christopher Mohler  
Christopher Mohler, Mayor

Lacey Tumblin  
Lacey Tumblin, Village Administrator

MAGISTRATE:

Steve R. Baldwin  
Steve R. Baldwin, Esq.

