

COUNCIL MINUTES

June 16, 2025
Council Chambers
7:00 P.M.

President Harris called the meeting to order

ROLL CALL – Mr. Chute, Mr. Cost, Mr. Houser, Mr. Labutis, Mr. Marmie, Mr. Neely, Mr. Rath, Mr. Rine, Mr. Barker, Ms. Bline

INVOCATION – Ms. Bline

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CAUCUS

MINUTES of June 2, 2025, Motion to accept by Mr. Labutis, Second by Mr. Houser, passed by acclamation

APPOINTMENTS

President Harris – Appointing Kurt Harden, Todd Harrold, Jill Guanciale, Luke Burton, and Karen Pavone to the Charter Review Committee. – **Passed by acclamation**

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Finance - **Received and Filed without objection**

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

Ryan Bubb, City Auditor – Operating report for the period ending May 31, 2025 - **Received and Filed without objection**

Brenda Cooper, Tax Administrator – Income Tax Revenue Reports for period ending May 31, 2025 - **Received and Filed without objection**

COMMUNICATIONS

David Lipstreu – An email regarding the rezoning of 330 and 360 Thornwood Dr. - **Received and Filed without objection**

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Steven Smith, 237 Violet Ct. - I'd like to ask that we keep in our thoughts the people that were lost in the horrific shooting in Minnesota in the last couple of days. Melissa Hortman, the State Senator of Minnesota and her husband, Mark, and the wounding of State Senator John Hoffman and his wife, Yvette. As many people have said, this sort of political violence should not be tolerated in our society, nor any sort of political violence. I'd like to ask for a moment of silence to remember this, that not only these people who lost their lives and were wounded, but I would like to ask also for a moment of silence to reflect upon the dangers of the normalization of political violence that we've been experiencing in the last several years. This is a danger not only to individual people, but to our entire democracy. So, I'd like to please ask for a moment of silence. Thank you very much.

Tom Brunner, 419 S. 2nd St. - First off, I would like to thank Officer Benner for being out with the concert going on, stuff like that, and taking the readings. My opinion, the readings, if we're sitting on our front porch, that's fine to take a reading there, but you should also go to the back of my property and take a reading. Not just up front, because it doesn't only affect us on the front porch. If I decide to go out back towards my garage or something, it affects me back there. The other thing I'd like to see, we need somebody to patrol South 2nd Street on the south side of the bridge. We've got many bikes, go karts. There was one guy on a small motorcycle with two kids on it going down 2nd Street yesterday, and he lives up on Isabel Road. Then we had the two minibikes and the four-wheeler. It turned out in front of a car there on 2nd Street doing 35 mile an hour the other day. Somebody's going to get hurt and get killed. Don't want to see it. Also, I have complained about this before, Isabel Road, the parking on both sides. When the construction started, they left it that way to slow traffic down. Well, you better come up there and sit, because it hasn't slowed traffic down at all. And the one guy up there parks his trailer there and he holds his tractor around on and everything. It's been hit twice since then. Whoever hit it just backs out and goes on. So, I mean, let's look at this a little bit. I mean, it's a danger. Not only a danger to the people driving, but a danger for the little kids in that neighborhood. If they're crossing the street and there'd be one behind one of those cars, they're not going to see a car doing the speed down Isabel. Isabel's 25, and you see cars doing 35, 40, 45. If a little child gets hit with that, what are we going to do? We don't want to wait until it's too late. That's all I have. Thank you.

ORDINANCES ON SECOND READING

There are none this meeting.

ORDINANCES ON FIRST READING

There are none this meeting.

RESOLUTIONS ON SECOND READING

Mr. Marmie, Mr. Cost, Ms. Bline, Mr. Barker, Mr. Rath, Mr. Labutis

25-37 A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION. (\$256,000.00 - 16 North sewer project design loan – 25% Water funds)

Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Cost, Motion passed 10-0

RESOLUTIONS ON FIRST READING

Mr. Marmie, Mr. Cost, Ms. Bline, Mr. Barker, Mr. Rath, Mr. Labutis

25-38 Exp A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (\$2,134,302.10 - Land Imp – Granville Rd Bridge, Bike Path 21st – OSU, Land Imp – Parking Lot Chase Building, Fees)(\$1,675,000.00 - Purchase of 33 W Main St)(\$64,000.00 - 5111: Adjustment to Gross for Kevin, Vanessa, and Haley, 5123: Waived insurance for 2 POs, 5312: Drug tests, drug test supplies, SCRAM-GPS monitoring, assessments, 5300: Office supplies, 5220: APPA training, 5238: OCSS kiosk fee, Woodlands BIP, 5319: CPG licenses, AA/NA books, incentives, 5536: OCSS kiosk wall mount. ALL GRANT EXPENSES)

Motion to waive the 2-day reading rule by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Barker, Motion passed 10-0.

Motion to adopt by Mr. Marmie, Second by Mr. Barker, Motion passed 10-0

Mr. Marmie, Mr. Cost, Ms. Bline, Mr. Barker, Mr. Rath, Mr. Labutis

25-39 A RESOLUTION APPROPRIATING MONIES FOR THE CURRENT EXPENSES OF THE MUNICIPAL CORPORATION (\$6,674.00 - Ohio EPA Grant funds for hand dryers in Water Department)

Held until 7.7.25

COMMENTS FROM CITIZENS

Steven Smith, 237 Violet Ct. - I've noticed throughout Ward 3 and some other areas there's a large number of poison hemlock plants growing along the roads. This apparently, I haven't seen it this bad for some time. Apparently, the growing season has been very good for those plants. Particularly noticed some plants on Reddington Road right across from the playground area where I see people walking frequently and right by the dog park where I occasionally see people actually relieving their dogs on that side of the road. I'm not sure who the owner is of that particular property. I did call in a notice to the property maintenance department on that. Driving around, I see poison hemlock all over the place in in the city. It's become a real problem this year.

MISCELLANEOUS

Tricia Moore, Law Director – I will pass. Thank you.

Mayor Hall – A week from Saturday, June 28th, we'll be celebrating the 200th year of the Ohio and Erie Canal. Everybody kind of realizes that connected the Ohio River to Lake Erie and it went right through Newark here. So, if you think of all your communities, they were originally founded on water, generally, because that's how things were transported. Festivities on that Saturday begin at 10 a.m. It's at the Canal Market District and if anyone wants any more information, the Historical Society has worked pretty hard on that. They have a lot of activities for kids and recognize that bicentennial event. Thank you.

Mr. Chute – Thank you, Mr. President. I will pass.

Mr. Cost – Thank you. I will pass.

Mr. Houser – I will also pass.

Mr. Labutis – I will pass as well.

Mr. Marmie – I need to call a Finance Committee meeting. The only thing I'm going to comment on this evening, Mr. Brunner, I understand as far as wanting a patrol on South 2nd Street, our safety forces are pretty taxed and have priorities. I just hope that there was a call in if they are riding around go-karts and minibikes on the street or anything like that, especially if they're youths. Just call the police, call the dispatcher. It doesn't have to be a high priority but it does need to be indicated as an incident. The more incidents there are in an area, the more attention that sometimes gets drawn to that area. So just make a phone call. There's even a thing online that you can go in and just do a report as well. With that, I will pass.

Mr. Neely – Thank you. I will pass.

Mr. Rath – I'll call a Service Committee meeting for July 7th and I'll have the bridge open on Cherry Valley Road and South Chalfant closed. With that, I'll pass.

Mr. Rine – Thank you, Mr. President. I'd like to thank the administration and YMCA for coming together and getting the Hollander pool open. We know the city has been waiting for that. So, thank you. With that, I'll pass.

Mr. Barker – Thank you, Mr. President. I'll pass.

Ms. Bline – Thank you, Mr. President. I'd like to thank the VFW for allowing me to come speak recently. It's an honor to hear the stories and the valor of these men and women. People think that bravery is on the battlefield, and it is, but bravery is in faithfulness, in the tedium of every day, just making sure that guns are working correctly, that bullets are counted. There's nothing glorious in that, but there's faithfulness. That's how we win, is faithfulness. I'd like to thank NPD. Some citizens have requested some services that were fulfilled recently, and I really appreciate that. I noted them to Deputy Chief

Brnjic so that those officers could be commended. We really appreciate NPD. They've been doing a great job. I'd like to thank the citizens on 13th Street. We've really been working that area, getting it renovated for the kids, because we're finding if you raise the bar on something, as someone said, you can stand up, but if you stand on someone else's shoulders, things tend to improve quicker. So, I want to thank those adults over there for leading that charge. Lindsey Brighton for helping during the Raccoon Creek and Licking River cleanup. That was a great time. It really was. A lot of people came out. We pulled a lot from those two areas, a lot of garbage. It was great to see kids playing in the water and just enjoying themselves. Kind of what used to be a long time ago. I want to thank all the citizens who spoke to me about the noise ordinance. I had a long talk with our law director, and we are going to chat about it. I'm so glad she's willing to look at this, because we haven't had one application for a variance since this whole thing started. Not one. It makes me wonder quite a few things, and along that line, there's some things that we need to think about. If indeed a variance were submitted and our good safety director said yay or nay on it, where would it be published for people to see so they would have a chance to respond? That's important, that people would have heads up. And then, to be sure again that the public would be notified, where would that show up? I know our websites, they're packed, but we would have to figure that out. Where would it go? Where would it go for people to see? I'm very grateful, again, for our police. They showed up, and we did some decibel meter readings. You know, that's a non-essential call. They could have been doing other things, but they came. Sometimes they couldn't come, because they did have essential calls. Therefore, the circle of service wasn't fulfilled. Not that it was anybody's fault, but they just couldn't come. So, there's some things, for my sake and for the opinion of some of our EMS and citizens, that we could shore up on this variance, just to make it more successful for everyone involved. Again, I appreciate the law director working with me on this. And, again, I thank everyone who came out these past two weekends. Thank you, sir.

President Harris – Thank you. I'd like to wish everybody a happy Fourth of July. Our next meeting won't be until July the 7th.

ADJOURNMENT - Motion to adjourn by Mr. Cost, Second by Mr. Labutis, passed by acclamation

Jeff Harris, President of Council