

Regular

March 5, 2025

Ontario City Council met in regular session on March 5, 2025, in the Municipal Building with Council President Eddie Gallo presiding. The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Veteran Marc Venerio.

Present during roll call were Council members Troy Sapp, Kyle Webb, Josh Bradley, Sherry Branham-Fonner, Rose Feagin, Nathan Sunderland, Council President Eddie Gallo, Mayor Kris Knapp, Law Director Andrew Medwid, Service-Safety Director Adam Gongwer, and Clerk of Council Cathy VanAuker.

The minutes of the regular Council meeting of February 19, 2025 were presented for approval. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Sapp reported:

- The softball fields and upper soccer fields are currently open. The game fields at the lower section will open the end of March.
- OYS will host an adult Pickleball League at Stowell Park that will be open to all Richland County residents.
- Brightspeed has several different contractors working in the city during the next six weeks. After the remaining cable is installed gravel will be put underneath to level the covers so water doesn't collect around them.

Mr. Sapp scheduled a Finance Committee meeting on Friday, March 7, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.

Mr. Bradley said the Economic Development Committee met this evening. The quotes received for updating the zoning code were discussed and the Committee agreed to recommend Reveille in the amount of \$48,750.

Mr. Bradley moved to accept Reveille's proposal for the zoning code update, second by Mr. Webb. Six members voted aye, zero nay, and the motion passed.

Mr. Sunderland said the Safety Committee met this evening to discuss a potential on-site shooting range for the Police Department. The range they currently use is privately owned and the location could impede response time if a call comes in. The range would be built in stages and sound testing will be done.

Mr. Sunderland moved to have the trees and stumps removed from the Police Department's proposed shooting range area prior to April 1st to protect the return of the spotted owl, second by Mr. Sapp. Six members voted aye, zero nay, and the motion passed.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Knapp reported:

- Last week Mr. Bradley, Director Gongwer and the Mayor attended the Team NEO Economic Development Conference at Kent State Stark County. Representatives from Mansfield, Shelby, Chamber of Commerce, and the County Commissioners attended.
- Mr. Bradley and he will meet with the Chamber this Friday to discuss the next step of the CIC, organizing the committee and reviewing by-laws.
- Twenty-four applications were received for Veteran Banners, they can accept 43. Applications can still be turned in even though it is past the deadline.
 - The banners are different this year. Anyone from last year who would like a new banner should reapply.
- Budget items:
 - The new Water/Sewer employee is working mostly in the Income Tax Department. An adjustment is needed to the budget for the pay to come out of the General Fund instead of the Water/Sewer Dept.

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- A loan for vehicles is 6.5%. Yesterday, at the County's budget meeting they indicated they are not in favor of taking a loan if money is available.
- Engineering costs have increased.
- Municipalities can slow down the 811 fiber projects if an ordinance is in place specifying the number of feet that can be installed at one time.
- The Zoning Inspector was asked to attend tonight to answer questions on the housing project that will be heard before Planning Commission next week.

SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- The Spring Village Sanitary Sewer replacement line project is progressing. The pipe replacement is scheduled for completion by the end of the week, no later than Monday. Laterals will connect homes to the new pipe, then the old pipe will be taken off-line. They are on schedule to finish by March 31st.
- Spring clean-up of limbs from winter storms is March 24th – April 11th. Sticks and limbs only, no grass clippings or trash, should be at the curb by Sunday, March 23rd. There will be one pass through the city, no set schedule, but if weather permits there will be a second round.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- No report.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

The Ohio Division of Liquor Control submitted notice of a liquor permit transfer for Loft & Rails LLC. Hearing no objections, the notice will be returned that Council does not request a hearing.

The Ontario 4th of July Festival Committee is hosting an 80's theme Monte Carlo Night Fundraiser to support all events during the 4th of July Festival week. The Fundraiser will be held at The Hub in Crestline on April 26th. Tickets can be purchased from the 4th of July Festival Committee members. Tickets can be purchased individually or a table. Prizes will be awarded for costumes. Tickets are \$65 for individuals, \$100 a couple, \$500 for a table of eight with extra benefits that come with the tickets. Food is included.

President Gallo announced the Council meeting at the high school is scheduled Monday, May 12, 2025, 8:00 a.m., in the school auditorium. The regular May Council meetings will be adjusted at the next meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING

At 7:32 p.m., the public hearing was opened to repeal mini-warehouses from the Business District as a Conditional Use.

At 7:32 p.m., hearing no one who wished to speak, the public hearing was closed.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Nicholas Wray, a senior at Pioneer, home school Ontario, came before Council to present information for a Community Revitalization and Affordable Housing Act. Bradley Swain distributed copies of the proposal.

- President Gallo responded that many of his suggestions are encompassed within the recently approved Comprehensive Plan that many high school students participated in

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surveys, and the CIC (Community Investment Corporation) program that was approved at the last meeting. President Gallo encouraged them to take part in these programs to see which items overlap and what new ideas could be considered.

AJ Roll, 1632 Lindaire Lane East, came forward to introduce himself as a Write-in candidate for Council At-Large on the May 6th Primary. He is running because he is engaged in the community and cares deeply about the future of Ontario.

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION

ORDINANCE NO. 25-04

AN ORDINANCE REPEALING CHAPTER 1143, CONDITIONALLY PERMITTED USE STANDARDS 1143.03 DESIGN STANDARDS, SUBPARAGRAPH (G) MINI-WAREHOUSES, SUBPARAGRAPH (2), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Webb moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 25-04 on three separate days, second by Mr. Sunderland. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mr. Sapp read Ordinance No. 25-04 for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Sapp moved to adopt Ordinance No. 25-04, second by Mr. Sunderland. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 25-04 was adopted.

At 7:41 p.m., there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Mr. Webb, second by Mr. Sapp.

/s/ Eddie J. Gallo, President of Council

/s/ Cathy VanAuker, Clerk of Council