

Regular

April 30, 2025

Ontario City Council met in regular session on April 30, 2025, in the Municipal Building with Council President Eddie Gallo presiding. The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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, Assistant Law Director Andrew Burton, Service-Safety Director Adam Gongwer, and Clerk of Council Cathy VanAuker.

The minutes of the regular Council meeting of April 16, 2025 were presented for approval. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Bradley reported on the Economic Development Committee meeting held this evening.

- Names for the initial seven members for the CIC, Community Investment Corporation, were discussed, four from the community and three city officials. The recommendation was made to move forward with Beth Delaney, Brett Baxter, Amy Hiner, Joel Fox, the Mayor, Economic Development Chair, and Service-Safety Director.
- Jeff Martin of ICP and Senator Mark Romanchuk met regarding a grant for the development of the Ontario Commerce Park.

Mr. Sunderland said the Safety Committee met earlier to discuss:

1. The potential shooting range on city property for the Police Department. The Chief researched ORC 549.08 Discharging Firearms, which states firearms shall not be discharged within the corporate limits unless firearms are used in self-defense, in the discharge of official duty or when otherwise lawfully authorized. Therefore, the discharging of firearms does not apply to the Police Department when using the shooting range for training.
2. Placement of the digital speed limit signs. Three speed signs are available and will be placed on Mabee Road, Ferguson Road, and Shelby-Ontario Road close to the school. Three more speed limit signs will be ordered.
3. A Mary Lou Lane resident is concerned about a splitting tree close to her house. The Zoning Inspector will contact tree professionals for estimates and possibly a letter on the condition of the tree.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Knapp presented a Proclamation for Mental Health Month to Sherry Branham-Fonner, Executive Director of Richland County Mental Health and Recovery Services. Mrs. Branham-Fonner said the Richland County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board is very well supported in the community and listed upcoming events.

- May 4th - the Richland County Youth and Family Council and NAMI will have a resource fair at the Carousel.
- May 13th - Catalyst Life Services will offer a free kids carnival. A substance abuse graduation is approaching for those who went through the program and celebrating their sobriety.
- May 17th - 33 Forever will hold the annual birthday walk designed to prevent suicide.
- May 22nd - Peace On My Block, a community event hosted by CACY and Mansfield City Schools, invites K-8 youth to Arlin Field to celebrate with fireworks after dark.
- May 31st - NAMI will hold their first sponsored 5K walk and run.
- May 31st - Party in the Park is provided by Healing Hearts.

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Last year legislation was passed creating Mayor For The Day. On Monday, Ontario High School junior, Daisy Loper, met with city employees to learn about the operation of each department, tour the facilities, and participate in a press conference. She will be giving a report at the May 12th Council meeting at the school.

SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Gongwer said KE McCartney notified him issues were found under the center of Spring Village Lane while prepping for asphalt to finish the sewer line project. Using some remaining funds from the project, the road will be reinforced and the entire street paved.

Mr. Sunderland expressed concern with the utility trucks that are parking along Victoria Court near the park and the possibility of children running out between them.

- President Gallo said the out of state company is staying on Spring Village Lane and they were asked to park on Victoria Court while the street work is being done on Spring Village Lane.
- Director Gongwer will check with them.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- No report.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Seeing no one who wished to speak, the Public Commentary portion of the meeting was closed.

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION

ORDINANCE NO. 25-06

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING REVEILLE TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF PART ELEVEN (ZONING CODE) OF THE CITY'S CODIFIED ORDINANCES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Bradley read Ordinance No. 25-06 for the third time, by title only. Mr. Bradley moved to adopt Ordinance No. 25-06, second by Mr. Sunderland. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 25-06 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-11

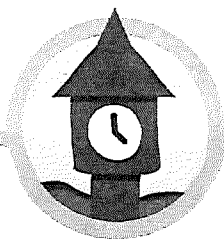
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND CHARTER NEXT GENERATION, INC., ALLOWING THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE AMENDMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Webb read Ordinance No. 25-11 for the second time, by title only.

At 7:21 p.m., there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Ms. Feagin, second by Mrs. Branham-Fonner.

/s/ Edward J. Gallo, President of Council

/s/ Cathy VanAuker, Clerk of Council



Office of the Mayor
City of Ontario

Proclamation



hereas:

MAY IS MENTAL HEALTH MONTH IN RICHLAND COUNTY 2025

This year, the Richland County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, in collaboration with Richland Recovery Network Community Partners, proudly celebrates Mental Health Month in Richland County by adopting the national theme, "Turn Awareness into Action." This theme underscores the importance of not only raising awareness about mental health issues but also taking concrete steps to enhance mental well-being.

WHEREAS: Being able to maintain good mental health is essential to each and every individual's overall health.

WHEREAS: The behavioral health system in Richland County has a broad continuum of care with a variety of services for both mental health and substance use disorders.

WHEREAS: To help people struggling with their mental health we need to bring awareness to our local Mental Health system of care. People need to be aware of the services available to them here in the Richland County Community through The Richland Recovery Network where collaboration meets care.

WHEREAS: Richland County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board and The Richland Recovery Network's partnering agencies are standing in support of those we serve. These partners include agencies like Community Action for Capable Youth (CACY), Catalyst Life Services, Family Life Counseling, National Alliance on Mental Illness of Richland County (NAMI) and Urban Minority Alcoholism Drug Abuse Outreach Program (UMADAOP).

WHEREAS: Richland Recovery Network invites community partners including Healing Hearts, Third Street Clinic, Richland County Community Alternative Center, Hope419, 33Forever, Ohio Health Mansfield Psychiatric Services, Richland County Youth and Family Council, Starfish Project, Encompass Counseling, Project One, Brightview, Akron Children's Hospital Behavioral Health Center, and others to join with us in support of Recovery because people can and do recover from a mental health diagnosis.

WHEREAS: We call on Richland County Mental Health and Recovery Services Board, Richland Recovery Network agencies, safety service staff, politicians, family members, community members and those being served by the system to do their part and guide the way to brighter days for those in recovery.

THEREFORE: The City of Ontario hereby proclaims May 2025 as Mental Health Month in Richland County.

As Mayor Kris Knapp of Ontario, I also call upon the citizens, government agencies, public and private institutions, businesses, and schools in Richland County to recommit to our community as a step toward increasing awareness, wellness and an understanding of mental illness and addiction.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF: I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal to be affixed on this 30th day of April, in the year of our Lord, two thousand and twenty-five.

Kris Knapp, Mayor