

Regular

June 4, 2025

Ontario City Council met in regular session on June 4, 2025, at the Municipal Building with Council President Eddie Gallo presiding. The meeting opened at 7:01 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present during roll call were Council members Troy Sapp, Dave Rehfeldt, 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, Recreation Director Kenn Spencer, and Clerk of Council Cathy VanAuker.

The minutes of the regular Council meeting of May 12, 2025 were presented for approval. At roll call, seven members voted aye, zero nay, and the minutes were approved.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Sapp reported the baseball field backstop was fixed so players won't risk getting their hands caught. More umpires are needed, anyone interested can contact him or Mr. Spencer.

When Mr. Rehfeldt asked the status on filling the Auditor's position, Mayor Knapp said they will meet with WOB at the end of the month. WOB currently prepares the city's payroll and works on some of the finances. The Republican Central Committee was not able to appoint anyone to the position. Employees are helping provide the information the Deputy Auditor needs for the current audit that is being conducted by Julian & Grube.

Mr. Rehfeldt commented on the probability of the state requiring municipalities to contribute more to retirement funds. This should be taken into consideration when preparing upcoming budgets because it could take effect within the next couple of years.

Mrs. Branham-Fonner scheduled a Personnel Committee of the Whole meeting for June 18, 2025 at 5:30 p.m., in executive session.

Mr. Sunderland said Council discussed and recommended the placement of the next three digital speed limit signs at PAW/Scotland Blvd., Rock Road south/Beverly Lane, and Rudy Road.

MAYOR'S REPORT

No report.

SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Gongwer reported:

- Two streets were added to the paving list because the bid came in under the engineer's \$500,000 estimate. Both are dead end streets with one in the Spring Village Lane area that was missed during the original bid that construction trucks were using, the other is Geary Road, off Park Avenue West, that hasn't been paved in a while. Kokosing still needs to accept the two additional streets.
- The water tower behind the Senior Center was drained for a routine 10-year maintenance schedule. It will be cleaned, checked for bacteria and repainted inside. The other water towers are keeping up but that end of town could experience times of low pressure.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report.

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RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Spencer provided an update:

- Summer Rec is this week with 120 children attending. Thanks to the school for hosting this activity.
- The tennis courts were resurfaced due to the combined efforts of the school and the city.
- Baseball is winding down, the number of participants was up this year, as with all programs.
- There was a record number of girls participating in softball this year.
- Concerts in the Park begin Tuesday, June 10th, then a Friday concert on June 27th.
- Yoga in the Park was introduced last night with 16 participants, and it is expected to grow. The next class is June 17th.
- The 4th of July Festival and the Miss Ontario Pageant and Scholarship Program are going well. They are about \$1,500 in the red on this event, which is the closest they've ever been to breaking even. This is approximately a \$100,000 day. Activities will be held Fri – Sun.
- The 419 held previous years will be divided into two sections this year with one side family friendly and the other section adult only.
- Golf carts now have an inspection sticker to be displayed on the unit.
- Pickleball is going well at Stowell Park.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

President Gallo read two notices for public hearings to be held before Ontario City Council on Wednesday, June 18, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.

- 1) 2026 Tax Budget for the City of Ontario.
- 2) A request submitted by Troy Nash for his property located at the southeast corner of W. 4th St/Rock Rd to amend the zoning code to allow mini-warehouses in a Business District. Planning Commission does not recommend this proposal.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Craig Hunt, 3680 Park Avenue West, came forward to ask if more posts were going to be installed at Marshall Park in the area of the Shelby-Ontario Road entrance down to the Dog Park because people are parking along the edge of the road and kids are crossing in front of traffic.

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NO. 25-05

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ONTARIO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO
BE NAMED MAYOR FOR THE DAY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Webb moved to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 25-05 on three separate days, second by Ms. Feagin. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed.

Mr. Sunderland read Resolution No. 25-05, for the second time, by title only.

Mr. Sunderland moved to adopt Resolution No. 25-05, second by Mr. Sapp. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Resolution No. 25-05 was adopted.

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ORDINANCE NO. 25-12

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR (OR HIS DESIGNEE) TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT THROUGH BUCKEYE ENERGY BROKERS FOR THE GAS AGGREGATION PROGRAM, AT A RATE NOT TO EXCEED \$0.8 PER CCF, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Webb moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 25-12 on three separate days, second by Ms. Feagin. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Ms. Feagin read Ordinance No. 25-12, for the first time, by title only.

Ms. Feagin moved to adopt Ordinance 25-12, second by Mr. Sapp. At roll call, seven members voted Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 25-12 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 23-13

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1519 FIREWORKS, SECTION 1519.04 POSSESSION, SALE, OR DISCHARGE PROHIBITED EXCEPTIONS, SUBSECTION (h) PURCHASE, USE, AND LOCAL REGULATION OF CONSUMER-GRADE FIREWORKS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Webb moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 25-13 on three separate days, second by Mr. Sapp. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Council requested to get additional information and clarification on this legislation and if it prohibits sparklers. Mrs. Branham-Fonner read Ordinance No. 25-13, for the first time, by title only.

At 7:40 p.m., there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Mrs. Branham-Fonner, second by Mr. Sunderland.

/s/ Edward J. Gallo, President of Council

/s/ Cathy VanAuker, Clerk of Council