

Regular

June 18, 2025

Ontario City Council met in regular session on June 18, 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, Council President Eddie Gallo, Mayor Kris Knapp, Law Director Andrew Medwid (7:46), Service-Safety Director Adam Gongwer, and Clerk of Council Cathy VanAuker.

The minutes of the regular Council meeting of June 4, 2025 were presented for approval. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Sapp said there are some new events for the upcoming 4th of July Festival. Pony rides are back and carnival trailer games. The parade route begins at the high school parking lot and continues down Dunlap Drive.

- Grass was planted at the soccer fields.
- Workout signs are still needed for the Eagle Scout fitness project.
- The Mayor applied for a grant from the Health Department. The city will receive three ADA compliant picnic tables, six composite benches and dog waste stations.

Mr. Bradley reported on the Community Investment Corporation (CIC) meeting. Initial Board member terms were discussed. Language was changed so the Police Department's representative is a Police Rep instead of a specific position. At the next meeting they will establish the President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary.

Mrs. Branham-Fonner scheduled a Personnel Committee of the Whole meeting in executive session on July 9, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

MAYOR'S REPORT

No report.

SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Gongwer explained the process the city uses for tall grass before a business or resident receives a letter. The Zoning Inspector initially attempts to contact the property owner, if nothing is done after a few days a certified letter is sent.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

President Gallo said City Offices will be closed tomorrow in recognition of Juneteenth.

Council voted during Caucus to change the July Council meetings to July 9 and July 23, 2025.

Mr. Rehfeldt moved for the City of Ontario to sign the Amicus Brief being prepared by the City of Columbus in support of the City of Cincinnati in front of the Ohio Supreme Court from the First Appellate District, Case No. C-23-0683, second by Mr. Sapp. Five members voted Aye, zero nay, one abstain by Mr. Sapp, and the motion passed.

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PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Craig Hunt, 3680 Park Avenue West, asked if some of the fees collected from ball tournaments were being set aside to contribute to the cost of replacing the turf fields.

- Mr. Rehfeldt said OYS pays for the concerts, 4th of July Festival and many other programs. The tournaments pay for these free events. OYS doesn't make enough money to pay for new turf fields. When the turf needs replaced they will either need to get a ten-year loan or replace the turf with grass.

Robin Vanerio, 1883 Walker Lake Road, came before Council to say they have property damage to their basement, garage floor, driveway, and the resetting of fence posts caused by the construction of the Menards mini-warehouses. She asked Council to listen to the people speaking tonight against mini-warehouses.

Cody Zigler, 100 Hilltop Road, came forward to ask questions to clarify his understanding of the Community Investment Corporation.

PUBLIC HEARING

At 7:29 p.m., the Public Hearing was opened for the 2026 Tax Revenue Budget. Seeing no signatures on the sign-in sheet or anyone who wished to speak, the public hearing was closed at 7:29 p.m.

At 7:29 p.m., the Public Hearing was opened for two variance requests submitted by Troy Nash to amend Zoning Chapters 1137.05(c) Conditionally Permitted Uses and 1143.03 (g) Design Standards to allow mini-warehouses in a Business District, for his property located at the southeast corner of W. 4th St/Rock Road. Planning Commission unanimously voted against these zoning code changes.

- Signed in to express their views against the variance requests:
Craig Hunt 3680 Park Avenue West; David Linneman 1464 Rock Road; Julie Tackett 1464 Rock Road; Elizabeth Tromler (Hollar) 3141 Hemlock Place; Chad Laubenthal 3141 Hemlock Place; James Ousley 3133 Hemlock Place; Tracy Sansalone 3118 Hemlock Place; Joe Sansalone 3118 Hemlock Place; Derek Green 3117 Hemlock Place; Jennifer Green 3117 Hemlock Place; Laura Click 3149 Hemlock Place; and Matt Dille 712 N. Rock Road.
- Troy Nash, 449 Berlyn Court, spoke in favor of his requests for changes to the zoning code.

At 7:56 p.m., seeing no one else who wished to speak, the Public Hearing was closed.

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION

ORDINANCE NO. 25-13

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.

Mrs. Branham-Fonner moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 25-13 on three separate days, second by Ms. Feagin. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mr. Sapp read Ordinance No. 25-13, for the second time, by title only.

Mr. Sapp moved to adopt Ordinance No. 25-13, second by Mr. Webb. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 25-13 was adopted.

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RESOLUTION NO. 25-06

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TAX REVENUE BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF ONTARIO FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2026, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Rehfeldt read Resolution No. 25-06, for the first time, by title only.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-14

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 1137- STANDARD ZONING DISTRICTS; 1137.05-B-BUSINESS DISTRICT; PARAGRAPH (C) CONDITIONALLY PERMITTED USES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Webb read Ordinance No. 25-14, for the first time, by title only.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-15

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

Mr. Bradley read Ordinance No. 25-15, for the first time, by title only.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-16

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 509, DISORDERLY CONDUCT AND PEACE DISTURBANCE, BY ADDING SECTION 509.13 LOITERING, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Law Director Medwid explained this legislation addresses loitering, which is different from pan handling, and was requested by the Police Department. Passing this ordinance provides the immediate ability to control loitering within the city. The ordinance can be reviewed and amended as needed.

Mr. Webb moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 25-16 on three separate days, second by Ms. Feagin. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed.

Mrs. Branham-Fonner read Ordinance No. 25-16, for the first time, by title only.

Mrs. Branham-Fonner moved to adopt Ordinance No. 25-16, second by Mr. Webb. Five members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, one Abstain by Ms. Feagin, and Ordinance No. 25-16 was adopted.

At 8:02 p.m., there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Mrs. Branham-Fonner, second by Ms. Feagin.

/s/ Edward J. Gallo, President of Council

/s/ Cathy VanAuker, Clerk of Council