

Regular

September 17, 2025

Ontario City Council met in regular session on September 17, 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, Jason Bilyj, Josh Bradley, 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 September 3, 2025 were presented for approval. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

Mayor Knapp invited Andrea Karpiak-Feasel, Director of Adult Education Ashland, Crawford, and Richland Counties, forward to receive a Proclamation for National Adult Education & Family Literacy Week.

- Ms. Karpiak-Feasel explained what the Adult Education Program offers to the surrounding areas and the importance of the program.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Sapp announced a Parks Committee meeting on October 15, 2025 at 5:45 p.m.

President Gallo extended a welcome to Jason Bilyj, Council At-Large, who was sworn-in this evening and replaces Kyle Webb who moved out of the city limits.

Mr. Sunderland scheduled a Safety Committee meeting on October 1, 2025 at 5:30 p.m.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Knapp provided updates:

- The Marshall Park basketball courts were painted and new backboards will be installed soon. He is working through the Foundation Grant to offset the remainder of the cost. A ribbon cutting will be scheduled for this section of the park for the improvements to the basketball courts, tennis courts and baseball field.
- Mansfield had the utilities lowered at the corner of Walker Lake Road/Home Road. Grading at this intersection will be done in the fall. The area will continue to be monitored, and it is undecided if a traffic study will be conducted.
- House Bill 96. Sentec sent in their policy information and the Police Department is working with County IT. The Law Director was asked to prepare legislation prior to the January 1, 2026 deadline.
- Appropriation changes should be ready for the November 5th meeting.
- The 2026 temporary budget will be available for the November 19th meeting.
- Engineering costs are higher than budgeted due to the number of plan reviews needed for the added growth in the city.
- ICP presented plans at the Port Authority meeting for the additional building on that site. First Energy added power, the poles are at the corner of Stumbo/W. 4th. ICP was asked to do a study on how they can disperse the power to the property. ICP said they can provide enough property for the development of CNG if they wish to expand and develop with another building. A thank you to Senator Romanchuk for assisting the city in getting power to this property.
- Avita Oncology will open in November at the upper level of the Sears building. Plans were submitted to remodel the lower level of the building.
- Puerta Vallarta Mexican Restaurant will open in the former TGIF building in late October/early November.
- Starbucks on Briggs Drive plans to open the first of October.

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- Earth Stewardship is when they clean-up trash on Lex-Springmill/Walker Lake Road. The city has a strong relationship with the schools and works with the Ontario Schools Leadership Team. Out of many entries they received first place in City Government and received the Star Award. Culvers provided custard to all participants.
- Last night at the Richland County Mental Health Dinner, Officer Baily received the NAMI Richland County Brian Evans CIT Award. The CIT Award is a Crisis Intervention Team collaborative effort between law enforcement and the mental health community to help law enforcement and other first responders through incidents involving persons living with mental illness.
- Dispatcher Ian Metcalf was introduced for receiving the Gold Star Award, Dispatcher of the Year, presented to top dispatchers in the State of Ohio. He was one of twelve nominees.

SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Law Director Medwid said he is working with the Police Department on a policy to charge individuals when they are arrested, declare a health issue to go to the hospital, then walk out. This is becoming a serious problem. Information will be presented to the Safety Committee.

MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

- This Sunday is the Honkin Haulin Touch-a-Truck event at Marshall Park.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Andrew Eyink came forward to share information on unincorporated land and soil jurisdictions.

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NO. 25-10

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND AWARD CONTRACTS FOR VARIOUS MATERIALS AND SERVICES NEEDED DURING THE YEAR 2026, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Sapp read Resolution No. 25-10, for the first time, by title only.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-11

A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 25-02, TO COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Sunderland read Resolution No. 25-11, for the first time, by title only.

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ORDINANCE NO. 25-20

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR OR HIS
DESIGNEE (CHIEF OF POLICE) TO DONATE TWO (2) UNNEEDED AND SLATED
FOR AUCTION PATROL SUVs TO NORTH CENTRAL STATE COLLEGE POLICE
ACADEMY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Feagan read Ordinance No. 25-20, for the first time, by title only.

At 7:37 p.m., there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned upon a motion
by Mr. Bradley, second by Mr. Sunderland.

/s/ Edward J. Gallo, President of Council

/s/ Cathy VanAuker, Clerk of Council