

Regular

October 1, 2025

Ontario City Council met in regular session on October 1, 2025, at the Municipal Building with Council President Eddie Gallo presiding. The meeting opened at 7:02 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present during roll call were Council members Troy Sapp, Dave Rehfeldt, Jason Bilyj, 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 September 17, 2025 were presented for approval. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Sapp said there will be a Parks Committee meeting on October 15, 2025 at 5:45 p.m.

Mr. Rehfeldt scheduled a Finance Committee meeting for November 7, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. to discuss the 2026 temporary budget.

Mr. Bradley reported the Economic Development Committee met this evening to discuss the extension of the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Ontario and Richland County Development Group. The motion to approve the extension passed.

Mr. Sunderland said the Safety Committee discussed:

- (1) implementing a dangerous tree ordinance. He will research how many municipalities in Ohio have similar tree ordinances.
- (2) The Committee also discussed a request from the Police Department that would allow adding escape charges to someone who was arrested that asks for medical attention then leaves the facility. The Committee passed a motion requesting the Law Director prepare legislation.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Knapp provided updates:

- A Proclamation for Storm Water Week will be presented to the Richland Soil and Water Conservation District.
- The Health Department will hold a free Community Health Day on October 17th from 9:00-3:00.
- The Make A Difference Day Food Drive is October 24th. Doc Stumbo organized the event. Canned food items can be dropped off at City Hall.
- Starbucks on Briggs Drive will open October 10th.
- The Mayor and Deputy Auditor have been working on the 2025 appropriations.

SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Gongwer said leaf pick-up will be October 14th – November 14th. No sticks or limbs, leaves only, and do not rake leaves into the street to prevent them from getting into the stormwater drains. The November date will be extended if needed.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report.

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MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

- Mrs. Branham-Fonner said the Mental Health Recovery Services Board held their annual dinner in September. Officer Dylan Bailey was awarded the Crisis Intervention Team Award. This was a much deserved award.
- Residents on Fulwell Drive requested consideration for sidewalks in their neighborhood.
- President Gallo and Mr. Spencer went to Amherst in Carlisle Township to meet with the committee that was able to obtain a \$100,000 grant for their Military Memorial. They shared documents they submitted. Payments are made upfront then reimbursed by the grant. The goal is to have the project completed next year by the end of June for the 250th Anniversary celebration.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Bradley Swain, 5514 Lime Road, informed Council of the sinking storm drain when exiting the parking lot near Spirit of Halloween and Buffalo Wild Wings onto Lex-Springmill.

- The Director will check and inform the property owners.

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.

Ms. Feagin moved to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 25-10 on three separate days, second by Mr. Sunderland. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mr. Sunderland read Resolution No. 25-10, for the second time, by title only.

Mr. Sunderland moved to adopt Resolution No. 25-10, second by Mr. Sapp. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Resolution No. 25-10 was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-11

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

Mr. Bilyj moved to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 25-11 on three separate days, second by Mr. Sunderland. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Ms. Feagin read Resolution No. 25-11, for the second time, by title only.

Ms. Feagin moved to adopt Resolution No. 25-11, second by Mr. Sapp. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Resolution No. 25-11 was adopted.

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.

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Mr. Sunderland moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 25-20 on three separate days, second by Mr. Sapp. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mrs. Branham-Fonner read Ordinance No. 25-20, for the second time, by title only.

Mrs. Branham-Fonner moved to adopt Ordinance No. 25-20, second by Mr. Sunderland. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 25-20 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-21

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR, OR HIS DESIGNEE (SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR) TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT OR CONTRACTS FOR AN INFLOW AND INFILTRATION REDUCTION PROJECT LOCATED WITHIN THE REMAINING SPRING VILLAGE SEWER-SHED, AND CHAMBERS ROAD AREA, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Sunderland moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 25-21 on three separate days, second by Mr. Sapp. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mr. Bradley read Ordinance No. 25-21, for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Bradley moved to adopt Ordinance No. 25-21, second by Mr. Sapp. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 25-21 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 25 – 22

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR, OR HIS DESIGNEE (THE CHIEF OF POLICE), TO ACCEPT A DONATION OF DIRT FROM ADENA CORPORATION TO BE USED TO BUILD DIRT MOUNDS AND BERMS AT THE NEW POLICE SHOOTING RANGE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Bradley moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 25-22 on three separate days, second by Mr. Sunderland. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mr. Bilyj read Ordinance No. 25-22, for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Bilyj moved to adopt Ordinance No. 25-22, second by Mr. Bradley. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 25-22 was adopted.

President Gallo said a couple of companies asked to install cell antennas on top of the Lex-Springmill water tower.

- Director Gongwer said giving approval would allow non-city employees access to the water towers for installation and maintenance. Council was not in favor of allowing them on the water towers.
- Certain areas of the city need improved cell service.
- A suggestion was to check on using the ICP property.
- Council requested the companies give a presentation with additional information.

At 7:34 p.m., there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Mr. Sunderland, second by Ms. Feagin.

/s/ Edward J. Gallo, President of Council

/s/ Cathy VanAuker, Clerk of Council