

Regular

November 5, 2025

Ontario City Council met in regular session on November 5, 2025, at the Municipal Building with Council President Eddie Gallo presiding. The meeting opened at 7:13 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mr. Marc Vanerio.

Present during roll call were Council members Troy Sapp, Dave Rehfeldt, 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, Assistant Clerk of Council Abbey Beaver, and Clerk of Council Cathy VanAuker

The minutes of the regular Council meeting of October 15, 2025 were presented for approval. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Rehfeldt scheduled a Finance Committee meeting on December 3, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the 2026 temporary budget. He requested the new elected officials be invited.

Mrs. Branham-Fonner said the Personnel Committee met this evening in executive session.

MAYOR'S REPORT

No report.

SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Gongwer said the city would like to donate a very small parcel of land, that is of no value to the city, to the Community Investment Corporation (CIC). Legislation is on tonight's agenda.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Medwid reported:

- He is working on the cyber security policy on which parts can be public knowledge.
- The Police Department is assisting with the language to amend the Park Rules and Regulations ordinance to enforce parking on the grass violations.

RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Spencer reported:

- The Leadership Unlimited Program he attended was a good program if others were considering attending.
- A meeting was held with Destination Mansfield to see what they could do to bring more people to the parks.
- Reports were distributed on the year-to-date Statement of Activities and the economic impact the tournaments brought to the community.
- It is necessary to pay some of the coaches, umpires and other positions because it is difficult to get volunteers.
- A variety of festivities will take place on December 4th before the Christmas Tree Lighting at 6:30 p.m.
- The Craft Show is December 6th. All vendor booths are sold out.

Mr. Rehfeldt spoke on behalf of OYS and reviewed the budget OYS provided.

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MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

The Ohio Division of Liquor Control submitted a liquor permit transfer from Wokano to Ma Laxmi Inc. Hearing no objections, the forms will be completed and returned to the Division of Liquor Control.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Craig Hunt, 3680 Park Avenue West, asked if the line item for the Midwest Tournament Factor was in the handout from OYS. He also suggested getting another place for ice cream because the Warrior has limited hours.

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NO. 25-12

A RESOLUTION RENEWING THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF ONTARIO, OHIO AND THE RICHLAND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP TO FURTHER HELP WITH ESTABLISHING THE ONTARIO COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION.

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

Mr. Rehfeldt moved to adopt Resolution No. 25-12, second by Mr. Sunderland. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Resolution No. 25-12 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-23

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 525, LAW ENFORCEMENT AND PUBLIC OFFICE, BY ADDING SECTION 525.19 ESCAPE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mrs. Branham-Fonner moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 25-23 on three separate days, second by Mr. Sunderland. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mr. Bradley read Ordinance No. 25-23, for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Bradley moved to adopt Ordinance No. 25-23, second by Mr. Sapp. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 25-23 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-24

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 25-05 KNOWN AS THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR 2025 BY MAKING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL FUND, SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND, AND THE ENTERPRISE FUND.

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Ms. Feagin moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 25-24 on three separate days, second by Mr. Sapp. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed.

Mrs. Branham-Fonner read Ordinance No. 25-24, for the first time, by title only.
Mr. Branham-Fonner moved to adopt Ordinance No. 25-24, second by Ms. Feagin.
Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 25-24 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-25

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A COMMUNITY
REINVESTMENT AREA AGREEMENT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

Ms. Feagin moved to adopt Ordinance No. 25-25, second by Mr. Sapp.
Five members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, one Abstain by Mr. Rehfeldt, and Ordinance No. 25-25 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-26

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN A DEED ON BEHALF
OF THE CITY TO DONATE REAL ESTATE TO THE ONTARIO COMMUNITY
IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION THAT IS UNNEEDED AND HOLDS NO
ECONOMIC VALUE TO THE CITY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Sunderland read Ordinance No. 25-26, for the first time, by title only.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-27

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR
CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF
ONTARIO, OHIO FOR THE FISCAL YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2026
AND EXPIRING DECEMBER 31, 2026.

Mr. Sapp read Ordinance No. 25-27, for the first time, by title only.

At this time President Gallo expressed his gratitude toward Mayor Knapp for his hard work this past year and the years prior as Service-Safety Director. He praised his dedication to the city and the residents.

At 8:04 p.m., Mr. Bradley moved to enter into executive session per ORC 121.22 (G)(4) preparing for, conducting, or reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment, second by

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Mrs. Branham-Fonner. At roll call, six members voted aye, zero nay, and the motion passed. Mayor Knapp, Director Gongwer, and Law Director Medwid were invited into the executive session.

At 8:56 p.m., the meeting reconvened into regular session upon a motion by Mr. Bradley, second by Mr. Sapp.

At 8:57 p.m., there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by President Gallo.

/s/ Nathan Sunderland
President of Council Pro Tem

/s/ Cathy VanAuker, Clerk of Council