

Regular

December 17, 2025

Ontario City Council met in regular session on December 17, 2025, at the Municipal Building with Council President Eddie Gallo presiding. The meeting opened at 7:08 p.m. with Master Sergeant Brett Baxter leading the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present during roll call were Council members Troy Sapp, Dave Rehfeldt, Jason Bilyj, Josh Bradley, Rose Feagin, Nathan Sunderland, Council President Eddie Gallo, Mayor Kris Knapp, Law Director Andrew Medwid, Clerk of Council Cathy VanAuker, and Assistant Clerk of Council Abbey Beaver. Unexcused: Sherry Branham-Fonner.

The minutes of the regular Council meeting of November 19, 2025 were presented for approval.

Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Rehfeldt said the Personnel Committee met this evening in executive session.

Mr. Rehfeldt shared details on the city's finances over the past five years. Revenues have gone up an average of 6.5%, while expenses have risen by 4.7%. The city's funds in 2019 were \$12 million and will be \$26 million at the end of this year. The city is fiscally sound. The budget in 2008 when GM left the budget was approximately \$8 million, this year a \$20 million budget was approved. Revenue increased from \$15 million in 2019 to over \$20 million next year. Continue to spend responsibility, and when preparing the budget it's revenue first, expenses second.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Knapp provided updates:

- The City Flag is at half-staff for ten days for the passing of Jim Hellinger who was a former Service-Safety Director, Council member, and Council President.
- Alex Milli was honored today as a volunteer in the Income Tax Department. Mr. Milli, a retired accountant, volunteered from April 24, 2019 – July 25, 2025, equivalent to 39 months. A Certificate of Appreciation was presented during his celebration. Mr. Milli stated he never left the city building without feeling good about what he did.
- The school plan that was needed for the Safe Route to School grant is completed. The grant will need written in January for sidewalks within a 2-mile radius of the school. Legislation will go before Council within the first two meetings of next year.
- The Walker Lake/Home Road intersection project is waiting for one of the utilities to be moved, then Mansfield can lower the mound.
- The basketball courts were redone at a cost of \$20,000. A memorial fund was established through Richland County Foundation for Ethan DeLaney who played basketball at the court with friends. A grant was received from the Ethan DeLaney Memorial Fund for \$5,000, which was matched by the DeLaney Family Fund, for basketball court renovations. A memorial tree was planted near the basketball court in Ethan's honor. A thank-you to the DeLaney family, especially Beth DeLaney, for making this happen for Ontario.

Mayor Knapp expressed his sentiments of appreciation, support, thank-you, and farewell to numerous people, Council members, employees, citizens, friends and family members who made a positive impact during his four years as Mayor and Service-Safety Director. Mayor Knapp said he is humble and grateful for serving the citizens of Ontario.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report.

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MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

President Gallo read a Notice of Public Hearing to be held before Ontario City Council during the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 21, 2026, at the Ontario Municipal Building, upon a proposal to rezone property, 18.8 acres, on Walker Lake Road near Spring Village Drive, from R-2 Medium Density Residential to a Planned Unit Development (PUD), Parcel Number: 038-60-500-61-000. Planning Commission has recommended in favor of this rezone.

The Ohio Division of Liquor Control submitted two liquor license transfer requests: (1) from CFC Mansfield LLC to El Puerto Vallarta LLC, Mexican Bar & Grill, and (2) from Logan's Roadhouse II LLC to Logan's Roadhouse Enterprises LLC.

Council members did not express any objections. The request form will be returned to the State with no hearing required.

Three motions were made to approve Collective Bargaining Agreements:

1. Mr. Bradley moved to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Ontario and the Fraternal Order of Police, Ohio Labor Council, Patrol Officers, Sergeants, and Lieutenants, effective January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028. Second by Mr. Sapp. Six members cast their votes aye, zero nay, and the motion passed.
2. Mr. Bradley moved to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Ontario and the Fraternal Order of Police, Ohio Labor Council, and Full-time Dispatchers, effective January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028. Second by Mr. Bilyj. Six members cast their votes aye, zero nay, and the motion passed.
3. Mr. Bradley moved to approve the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Ontario and AFSCME, Ohio Council 8, AFL-CIO, effective January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2028. Second by Mr. Sapp. Six members cast their votes aye, zero nay, and the motion passed.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Jill Knight, 28 Creston Road, came forward to reiterate the residents are not in favor of the rezone being considered for six lots on Lex-Springmill Road from R-1 to OS that is on tonight's agenda, Ordinance 25-28. Mr. Sheldon heard the responses but some Council members weren't present to hear the comments.

AJ Roll, 1632 Lindaire Road, will be on Council in January. He thanked Mayor Knapp for the support he received from the beginning of his campaign and the time he took to answer questions to ensure he was ready to serve. A thank you to President Gallo for his encouragement, advice, and confidence that played a huge role in preparing him for where he is today, and he looks forward to working with Mayor-elect Josh Bradley. Mr. Roll is grateful and ready to get to work.

Craig Hunt, 3680 Park Avenue West, said it was a pleasure to watch how Mayor Knapp worked in keeping Ontario moving forward. Director Gongwer was very thoughtful in his work. Mr. Sapp kept the parks moving with improvements, and Mr. Spencer does a good job. Mr. Hunt appreciated Mr. Rehfeldt asking the hard questions and his explanations for a better understanding. Everyone needs to move forward and work together.

Sue Swank, 1666 Olive Drive, approached Council to ask:

- (1) How to change code to allow backyard chickens.
 - President Council explained there is a three-acre minimum requirement. This topic has come up several times over the years and each time Council maintained the three-acre requirement in the zoning code.
 - Law Director Medwid said proposing a change would begin with Planning Commission.

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(2) Require yard fencing 2' off the property line. Her fence is 2' from the property line to allow room for a mower and to maintain the fence but her neighbor wants to put their fence on the property line.

- Law Director Medwid said this was discussed before at Planning Commission and Council but with differences of opinions the code is silent on the location of a fence.
- The Law Director will contact the Zoning Inspector to verify the current code.

Kenn Spencer, 850 Debby Lane, voiced praises to Mayor Knapp and Councilmen Sapp and Rehfeldt for all the good they accomplished for Ontario, the residents, and the park improvements. Mr. Spencer thanked Council for his position and he looks forward to 2026.

Brett Baxter came forward to extend a thank-you from Ontario Schools to Mayor Knapp, Mr. Sapp, and Mr. Rehfeldt for all they have done, and he looks forward to working with the new officials coming into office.

Gianna Gallo, 1800 Spring Village Lane, thanked Mr. Rehfeldt and Mr. Sapp for all they have done for the city, and to Mayor Knapp for doing everything he could to help the community and residents.

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION

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,

Mr. Rehfeldt read Ordinance No. 25-27, for the third time, by title only.

Mr. Rehfeldt moved to adopt Ordinance No. 25-276, second by Mr. Sunderland.

Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 25-27 was adopted.

Mr. Sunderland moved to suspend the rules requiring three readings on three separate occasions for the remaining pieces of legislation, second by Mr. Sapp. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed.

ORDINANCE NO. 25 – 28

AN ORDINANCE REZONING SIX (6) PARCELS ON SOUTH LEXINGTON-SPRINGMILL ROAD FROM R1- LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO OS- OFFICE SERVICE DISTRICT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Sapp read Ordinance No. 25-28 for the second, by title only. Mr. Sapp moved to table indefinitely Ordinance No., 25-28, second by Mr. Bilyj. Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 25-28 was tabled indefinitely.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-13

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR HIS DESIGNEE TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT AND/OR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM(S) AND TO EXECUTE CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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Mr. Sunderland read Resolution No. 25-13, for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Sunderland moved to adopt Resolution No. 25-13, second by Mr. Bilyj.

Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Resolution No. 25-13 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-29

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE CITY'S CYBER SECURITY POLICY,
ALLOWING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO AGREEMENTS SETTING UP THAT
POLICY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Feagin read Ordinance No. 25-29, for the first time, by title only.

Ms. Feagin moved to adopt Ordinance No. 25-29, second by Mr. Sapp.

Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 25-29 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-30

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 25-04 KNOWN AS THE PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE FOR 2025 BY MAKING ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS IN THE GENERAL FUND, SPECIAL REVENUE FUND, AND THE ENTERPRISE FUND.

Ms. Feagin read Ordinance No. 25-30, for the first time, by title only.

Ms. Feagin moved to adopt Ordinance No. 25-30, second by Mr. Sunderland.

Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 25-30 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-31

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF EMPLOYMENT FOR NON-COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNIT CITY EMPLOYEES, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026, REPEALING ORDINANCE 24-15, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Bradley read Ordinance No. 25-31, for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Bradley moved to adopt Ordinance No. 25-31, second by Mr. Bilyj.

Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 25-31 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-32

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING WAGES AND SALARIES FOR NON-COLLECTIVE BARGAINING UNIT EMPLOYEES OF THIS CITY, REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 25-17, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Bilyj read Ordinance No. 25-32, for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Bilyj moved to adopt Ordinance No. 25-31, second by Mr. Sunderland.

Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 25-32 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 25-33

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE EDITION AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF ONTARIO, OHIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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Mr. Rehfeldt read Ordinance No. 25-33, for the first time, by title only.
Mr. Rehfeldt moved to adopt Ordinance No. 25-33, second by Mr. Sapp.
Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 25-33 was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-14

**A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO DAVID REHFELDT FOR HIS
SERVICE OVER THE PAST SIX YEARS TO THE CITY OF ONTARIO, OHIO.**

Mr. Sapp read Resolution No. 25-14, for the first time, by title only.
Mr. Sapp moved to adopt Resolution No. 25-14, second by Ms. Feagin.
Five members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, one Abstain by Mr. Rehfeldt, and Resolution No. 25-14 was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-15

**A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO TROY SAPP FOR HIS SERVICE
OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS TO THE CITY OF ONTARIO, OHIO.**

Mr. Bilyj read Resolution No. 25-15, for the first time, by title only.
Mr. Bilyj moved to adopt Resolution No. 25-15, second by Mr. Sunderland.
Five members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, one Abstain by Mr. Sapp, and Resolution No. 25-15 was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-16

**A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO MAYOR KRIS KNAPP FOR HIS
SERVICE OVER THE PAST FOUR YEARS TO THE CITY OF ONTARIO, OHIO.**

Mr. Rehfeldt read Resolution No. 25-16, for the first time, by title only.
Mr. Rehfeldt moved to adopt Resolution No. 25-16, second by Mr. Bilyj.
Six members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Resolution No. 25-16 was adopted.

Mr. Rehfeldt and Mr. Sapp shared their appreciation to Council members and their commitment to continue supporting the city.

At 8:14 p.m., there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Mr. Sunderland, second by Mr. Bradley.

/s/ Edward J. Gallo, President of Council

/s/ Cathy VanAuker, Clerk of Council