

## Regular

February 18, 2026

Ontario City Council met in regular session on February 18, 2026, at the Municipal Building with Council President Eddie Gallo presiding. The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present during roll call were Council members Brennen Finfgeld, Rick Pauley, Anderson Roll, Jason Bilyj, Sherry Branham-Fonner, Rose Feagin, Nathan Sunderland, President Eddie Gallo, Mayor Josh Bradley, Law Director Andrew Medwid, Service-Safety Director Michael Morton, Clerk of Council Cathy VanAuker, and Assistant Clerk of Council Abbey Beaver.

The minutes of the regular Council meeting of February 4, 2026 were presented for approval. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Mr. Finfgeld reported the Utilities Committee met this evening to review a recommendation from K.E. McCartney to amend Ordinance 80-24 as it pertains to sewer connections. The Committee recommended the Law Director amend the legislation for the next Council meeting.

Mr. Bilyj said the Finance Committee met briefly tonight. There will be a Finance Committee meeting on March 4, 2026, at 4:45 p.m., for preparation of the permanent budget that is due by March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Mr. Feagin said the Parks and Finance Committees of the Whole met this evening. Recreation Department activities were discussed:

Paint and Mingle is sold out. Over 40 senior citizens signed up.

Easter Egg Hunt will be held indoors at the Ontario Center on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

Community Block Parties are being organized. Mr. Spencer has received responses on ideas and locations.

Senior Prom is set for May 9<sup>th</sup>, with more details to follow.

Stowell Park will notice upgrades to the infield, filling low spots in the outfield, resetting bases, and new liners on the fence. Improvements will be paid through donations and OYS. Work will begin when the weather breaks.

Summer Rec will take place June 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> and June 8<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>. Registration begins March 10<sup>th</sup> at [www.oyssports.com](http://www.oyssports.com).

Ms. Feagin scheduled a Parks Committee meeting on March 4, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

**MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Bradley reported:

- The Hometown Hero Banner applications are on the website at [www.ontarioohio.org](http://www.ontarioohio.org). The deadline for applications and pictures is March 15, 2026. Banners will be displayed the second week of May.
- This is Ohio Loves Transit Week and yesterday local officials rode on the Richland County Transit bus to preview a new early morning/late evening workforce route that will pilot in May. This route will support workers with non-traditional shifts and address work force transportation gaps they are seeing in Mansfield.
- A reminder for Council to turn in their confirmations for the Police Banquet on February 26<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.
- Council should receive their Comprehensive Plan Books by the next meeting.
- A regular CIC meeting is scheduled on March 16<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 5:00 p.m. A Meet and Greet will follow for Council and CIC members.

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## **SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Morton provided updates:

- The bid opening for the waterline project is March 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the Community Room. All are encouraged to attend.
- Mr. Bianchi was contacted about the Home Road and Walker Lake Road intersection. He has a work order to cut back some of the hill. They are waiting on a communications company to relocate some of their utilities.
- A private waterline break behind Springfield Square was taken care of. We lost about 300,000 gallons of water.
- Plans were submitted for review by Rural King and Ohio Health. Comments should be ready to send them in a couple of weeks. These projects are moving forward.
- Brush pickup is scheduled for March 23<sup>rd</sup> to April 10<sup>th</sup>. A notice will be on the water bills and the dates will be posted on the website and Facebook.
- A Service Department employee turned in his two-week notice. Once the position is available it will be posted internally for five days and those indicating interest will be interviewed.
- The Home Road/St.Rt. 309 bridge will be closed for 120 days to redeck and raise the bridge for taller vehicles to pass underneath. The detour will follow W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street to Lex-Springmill to Walker Lake Road. This project is projected for 2028.

Mr. Sunderland met with the Streets Department Head and clarified the hole on Home Road he mentioned during the last meeting was ice build-up and water run-off from a nearby business.

When Mr. Bilyj asked if there was a response from Mansfield about adding stop signs at Home Road/Walker Lake Road, Director Morton said they were not interested at this time.

## **LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

No report.

## **MISCELLANEOUS REPORT**

President Gallo said Rural King has plans to go into the old Macy's building on the Ontario Center property. Ohio Health is expanding on W. 4<sup>th</sup> Street at their existing facility.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

Bradley Swain, 5514 Lime Road, came forward to promote Ontario Local Schools production of Annie Get Your Gun. Shows are March 20<sup>th</sup> – March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

Mark Vanerio, 1883 Walker Lake Road, said he doesn't have much faith in the traffic study that was done on Walker Lake Road. If the project moves forward and traffic becomes a problem, will the city take care of the traffic problem?

- President Gallo said the city would continue to monitor traffic if it becomes a problem. The Director suggested including a conditional approval that could be revisited if there is a traffic problem.

Mike Stallings, 1915 Walker Lake Road, questioned how there could be a traffic study without housing across the street. The road needs widened to three lanes with a turn lane.

Robin Vanerio, 1883 Walker Lake Road, asked Council not to rezone and vote no.

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Craig Hunt, 3680 Park Avenue West, asked what their decision was on the farmland leased near the park. Mayor Bradley responded that section would be removed from the lease and not farmed.

Ralph Opitz, 1329 Spring Village Drive, said the project involves two communities and the Mansfield property will be landlocked. His concern was how the two jurisdictions will handle separate school districts, street services, and emergency services. Traffic lights will probably need budgeted.

## **CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION**

### **RESOLUTION NO. 26-02**

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE 2026 ONTARIO SCHOOL TRAVEL PLAN, A STRATEGY TO IMPROVE WALKING AND BIKING FOR RESIDENTS WITH INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROGRAMMING, WHILE INCREASING SAFETY, HEALTH, AND EQUITABLE MOBILITY FOR ALL.

Mr. Sunderland read Resolution No. 26-02, for the third time, by title only.

Mr. Sunderland moved to adopt Resolution No. 26-02, second by Ms. Feagin.

Seven members cast their votes aye, zero nay, and Resolution No. 26-02 was adopted.

### **RESOLUTION NO. 26-03**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE- SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR COMPETITIVE BIDS AND AWARD A CONTRACT FOR THE 2026 CITY OF ONTARIO PAVING PROGRAM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Feagin moved to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 26-03 on three separate days, second by Mr. Bilyj. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed.

Ms. Feagin read Resolution No. 26-03, for the first time, by title only.

Ms. Feagin moved to adopt Resolution No. 26-03, second by Mr. Bilyj.

Director Morton asked to include additional streets if bids come in low enough: Grace Avenue that connects Ireland and Scotland, N. Scotland Blvd, and S. Scotland Blvd.

Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Resolution No. 26-03 was adopted.

### **ORDINANCE NO. 26-06**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF ONTARIO, OHIO TO CHANGE ZONING OF CERTAIN LAND FROM R2- MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT TO PUD - PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (WALKER LAKE ROAD), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mrs. Branham-Fonner read Ordinance No. 26-06, for the second time, by title only.

At 7:28 p.m., there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Mr. Roll, second by Mrs. Branham-Fonner.

/s/ Eddie Gallo  
President of Council

/s/ Cathy VanAuken, Clerk of Council