

Regular

March 4, 2026

Ontario City Council met in regular session on March 4, 2026, at the Municipal Building with Council President Eddie Gallo presiding. The meeting opened at 7:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Mark Vanerio.

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 18, 2026 were presented for approval.

Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Pauley reminded of the meet and greet with Community Investment Corporation (CIC) on March 16, 2026 at 5:15 p.m. in the Community Room.

Mr. Bilyj said the Finance Committee met tonight and Mayor Bradley went through the updated line items for the permanent budget.

- Mr. Roll asked about the Gas and Oil for Police line item and if it will increase this if the cost continues to rise.
- Mr. Bilyj advised that we can always update with an appropriation later.

Ms. Feagin reported on the Parks Committee meeting held this evening and the Recreation Department activities:

Paint and Mingle was a huge success.

Soccer registration is complete and has a record number of registrants this year.

Marshall Park baseball season has opened.

Community Block Parties are tentatively set for May 22nd, July 24th, August 14th, and September 19th.

Funding for Fireworks from the Niss Foundation is estimated at \$27,000.00.

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

Mr. Sunderland, Chair of the Safety Committee, reminded as weather is getting warmer there are children and families outside, be cautious driving through neighborhoods.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bradley reported:

- Bid opening is tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. for the water line replacement at Maple and Lexington-Springmill project.
- Finalizing the Safe Route to School grant application tomorrow and should be submitted before 2:00 p.m. The grant will give the City the opportunity to receive up to 1 million dollars for the next 5 years, it will help with the expansion of sidewalks and crosswalks.
- Preparing the Senior Center for rentals, making updates to be ready for graduation season.
- The deadline for Hometown Hero Banner applications and pictures is March 15, 2026. Banners will be displayed the second week of May.
 - President Gallo clarified that if you had a banner previously you must go through the process again.

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SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Morton provided updates:

- Home Road/Walker Lake Road intersection improvements. Utilities were relocated and Mansfield crews cut back the embankment on the southeast side to allow for better visibility.
- The playground equipment needs inspected annually by a certified inspector. Both Parks Department personnel have signed up for the training to become licensed to inspect the equipment.
- Two police cruisers were purchased this week; we should have possession in the next couple of weeks.
- Working with Brightspeed to get Wi-Fi hotspots in the parks for free internet.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORT

Mr. Bilyj suggested updating the City's website and will be gathering information on barriers for people entering the workforce, adequate pay, transportation, or childcare.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Craig Hunt, 3680 Park Avenue West, said this year the policy was changed for golfcarts. You must have a title, a license plate, an initial inspection, all the safety equipment, and have insurance. The golfcart is now like a vehicle. You do not have to come back to the police to get an inspection because it is taken care of through Ohio Department of Motor Vehicles.

Nathan Sunderland, 1712 Victoria Court, said he is against the PUD. The retention pond is going to cause mosquito issues, it will be difficult for 9-1-1 to direct emergency calls between Mansfield Fire Department and Police Department, Ontario Police Department, and Springfield Township Fire Department; there will be delayed response times. The traffic study was not taken during the right time of the day, it should have been in the evening, on the weekends, and during a holiday. Walker Lake Road needs to be widened between the Menards light and Spring Village Lane. The price of rent is too high for the neighborhood. He wants growth for the City, however, he is looking out for what is best for the City and community. A no vote will be the best option for the city.

Mark Vanerio, 1883 Walker Lake Road, said if the vote passes tonight, he hopes the City does not revisit the sins of past projects and they stay on top of it more to ensure compliance with City codes and laws.

Pamela Hunt, 1747 Spring Village Lane, said she is concerned about flooding and has had trouble in the past. The intersection of Spring Village Lane and Walker Lake Road needs a four-way stop.

Robin Vanerio, 1883 Walker Lake Road, asked Council to vote no. She would rather see homes go in, something that can bring community and unity to the City and that benefits the City as far as taxes and residents versus cost and extra trash, wear and tear on the roads and the Police and Fire Departments.

Radd Schnieder, Redwood USA, had a question about the voting and wanted clarification. He explained that the ponds would have aerators and fountains to prevent algae buildup in reference to the mosquitoes. He thanked everyone for allowing him to apply and the participation levels were higher than usual and he appreciated that.

- President Gallo explained the percentages needed to pass or fail.

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Hank Webb, 1807 Walker Lake Road, has some concerns about the traffic, sidewalks for the commuters, and people walking back and forth through the yards is a safety concern. He questions the high rent and age of residency as far as a working tax, and what would they bring to the community. His biggest concern is the local workforce that could build the project, they will use Amish and out-of-town contractors when we have contractors locally.

Randy Dininger, 1768 Walker Lake Road, thanked everyone for staying on Mansfield about the intersection of Home Road and Walker Lake Road, they did a great job.

Corri Dininger, 1768 Walker Lake Road, thanked them for the intersection of Home Road and Walker Lake Road. She is concerned about those living in the Ontario portion of the development, they will be part of the voting bracket, and they get to vote on what homeowners have to pay for, property taxes, school taxes, and any other taxes that are voted on. The pond aerator will work, but will there be fencing around it for the children in the neighborhood?

Mel Allen, 1333 Spring Village Drive, stated people walk in the mud along Walker Lake Road, she would like a sidewalk put in. They walk along a dangerous road. She has seen people miss the turning lane and drive up on the sidewalk; there needs to be a sign.

Ms. Feagin made a motion to approve the payment of the Adena Corporation invoice regarding the pre-construction services for the Veterans Memorial in the amount of \$34,500.00 in the form of a then and now certificate which is to be attached to the purchase order that will go to the Board of Control, second by Mr. Bilyj. Seven members cast their votes six aye, one nay by Mr. Pauley, and the motion passed.

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION

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.

Mr. Finfgeld read Ordinance No. 26-06, for the third time, by title only.

Mr. Finfgeld moved to adopt Ordinance No. 26-06, second by Ms. Feagin.

Seven members cast their votes, zero Aye, seven Nay, and Ordinance No. 26-06 failed.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-07

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ONTARIO CODIFIED ORDINANCE CHAPTER 925- SEWERS, SECTION 925.05- BUILDING SEWERS AND CONNECTIONS BY AMENDING SUBPARAGRAPH (Q), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Pauley read Ordinance No. 26-07, for the first time, by title only.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-08

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING PERMANENT 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. Roll read Ordinance No. 26-08, for the first time, by title only.

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At 7:35 p.m., there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Mr. Roll, second by Ms. Feagin.

/s/ Eddie Gallo
President of Council

/s/ Cathy VanAuker, Clerk of Council