

Regular

March 18, 2026

Ontario City Council met in regular session on March 18, 2026, at the Municipal Building with Council President Eddie Gallo presiding. The meeting opened at 7:12 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Sergeant Ramal K. Holston, active-duty Marine Corps, six years.

Present during roll call were Council members Brennen Finfgeld, Rick Pauley, Anderson Roll, Jason Bilyj, Sherry Branham-Fonner, 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. Excused: Rose Feagin and Nathan Sunderland

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Bilyj said the Finance Committee met tonight and Mayor Bradley explained additional changes for certain line items on the permanent budget.

Mrs. Branham-Fonner stated the Personnel Committee met this evening regarding residency requirement for the position of Service-Safety Director. The Personnel Committee recommends to Council for the Law Director to draft legislation to remove the residency requirement for the Service-Safety Director.

Mr. Bilyj moved for the Law Director to prepare legislation removing the residency requirement for the Service-Safety Director, second by Mr. Roll. Five members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bradley reported:

- Bid opening for the water line replacement at Maple and Lexington-Springmill project is complete.
- The deadline for the OPWC funding is June 2026, the contract needs signed to begin the work.
- The Safe Route to Schools grant application was submitted, we should know by June if we are awarded the grant.
- Still working on getting the Senior Center ready to be used for rental events.
- The deadline for Hometown Hero Banner applications was March 15, 2026. A total of 42 banners were ordered.
- There was a zoning code update meeting today. Much of this meeting was spent in the community analyzing recommendations from the Comprehensive Plan. Reveille will take the analysis and prepare recommendations for updating our zoning code ordinances.

SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Morton updated:

- Spring Clean Up is scheduled for April 22nd, the rain date is April 23rd, at the Route 30 corridor and Walker Lake Road area. The high school students participate in the cleanup.
- Publicly thanked the service and emergency personnel during last week's wind event. Traffic signals came down on Lex-Springmill at St. Rt. 309 and W. Fourth.
- Water Well #1 is scheduled to have the motor removed for maintenance and possibly a rebuild. In discussion about getting an additional motor for the wells during repairs.
- Brush pickup is scheduled for March 23rd through April 10th. The crews have started this week due to the winds last week.

Regular

March 18, 2026

- SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) systems have been installed in the EQ tanks at the Tappen lift station and the Shangri-La lift station. This gives the sewer department the ability to monitor the systems remotely. The other lift station will be getting this as well.

Mayor Bradley recognized the Police Department and Dispatch efforts during the winds last week. Thanked all the city employees who helped with this tough situation.

President Gallo addressed some contractors are parking on the wrong side of the street and in no parking zones. He will pass the information on to Director Morton.

LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT

No report.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORT

President Gallo reminded everyone of the Easter Egg Hunt on April 4th at the Ontario Center.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Alec Schmitz, 265 Sugar Maple Lane, stated he owns two lots on Park Avenue West across from the On-Way gas station. He is looking to join both lots and vacate an alley that runs between them. He would like to put a building across the two lots. He plans to build a garage with three units, commercial office suites with garage doors in each unit.

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION

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. Finfgeld read Ordinance No. 26-07, for the second 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. Pauley read Ordinance No. 26-08, for the second time, by title only.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-04

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE- SAFETY DIRECTOR TO ADVERTISE FOR COMPETITIVE BIDS AND AWARD A CONTRACT FOR THE 2026 CITY OF ONTARIO PAVING PROGRAM, REPEALING RESOLUTION NO. 26-03, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Roll read Resolution No. 26-04, for the first time, by title only.

Regular

March 18, 2026

ORDINANCE NO. 26-09

AN ORDINANCE VACATING AN APPROXIMATELY 16 FOOT WIDE BY 120 FOOT DEEP PUBLIC RIGHT-OF-WAY BETWEEN PARCELS 0386018105000, 038601810800, AND 0386025604000 TO ALEC SCHMITZ AKA ALEC J. SCHMITZ, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Bilyj read Ordinance No. 26-09, for the first time, by title only.

ORDINANCE NO. 26 – 10

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING MAYOR, OR HIS DESIGNEE (SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR), TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH UNDERGROUND UTILITIES, INC. FOR THE 2026 WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mrs. Branham-Fonner read Ordinance No. 26-10, for the first 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 VanAuker, Clerk of Council