

## Regular

June 3, 2026

Ontario City Council met in regular session on June 3, 2026, at the Municipal Building with Council President Eddie Gallo presiding. The meeting opened at 7:01 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, Assistant Law Director John Studenmund, 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 May 20, 2026, were presented for approval. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Pauley stated:

- The Economic Development Committee is waiting for approval from the school to use the commons area for the Small Business Luncheon.
- Fliers will be created and mailed once the venue is set.
- There could be approximately 200 people.
- He will finalize the cost of the luncheon to submit a purchase order.
- All Council members are invited to attend.

Mrs. Branham-Fonner scheduled a Personnel Committee meeting of the Whole for July 15<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m.

Ms. Feagin said the Parks Committee met tonight to establish a clear process and an Advisory Committee for the Veteran Memorial project.

- The Veterans Advisory Committee will meet in July.
- Mrs. Smith spoke to the Committee about renaming the upper part of Marshall Park to Smith Park.
- Mr. Peterson presented information about Fit Fest 2026.
- Ms. Feagin and Mayor Bradley will tour the parks to see what improvements can be made.

President Gallo was contacted by a family who would like to pursue a wildflower area in Marshall Park. They requested a meeting with Mayor Bradley and Ms. Feagin.

### MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bradley reported:

- At the last meeting he advised the City was awarded \$160,000 through the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).
  - This is a 90/10 grant. The City will be responsible for 10% of the total project, which is \$16,000.
  - They are exploring ways to cover the \$16,000 so there is no cost to the City.
- The Safe Routes for All grant was submitted.
  - This grant is very similar to the Safe Routes to School grant.
  - It is a road safety study of the entire City.
  - If awarded, we would receive \$150,000 with an 80/20 split, the City would be responsible for \$30,000.
  - The City could receive assistance from Regional Planning for the \$30,000.
- He has not heard back about the Safe Routes to School grant.
- He met with Jean Taddie, Transit Development Manager for Richland County Regional Planning Commission. Richland County Transit services provided to the City were discussed. They are working on a date for her to give a presentation to Council.

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- Last week was the third Zoning Code Update Committee meeting. The focus of the meeting was discussing the Use category. Dates for Planning Commission and Council to review the proposed changes will be set in the next couple of months.
- A ribbon cutting ceremony for Apex Entertainment was held yesterday at the Ontario Center. They offer different types of sessions:
  - Virtual reality game room
  - Rage room
  - Axe and knife throwing
  - The owner has multiple businesses in the community such as Gameday Cuts.
- A Special Planning Commission meeting was called last week for an extension of a temporary sign variance for Arbor Creek Gardens and Floral which was passed. He thanked the Planning Commission for being flexible and coming in for a vote to help local business.
- Meetings started this week to discuss the 2027 temporary budget and long-term planning priorities.
  - He requested each department prepare a three-year projection of capital projects, operational needs, equipment purchases, and other major priorities that should be considered for planning and budgeting purposes.
  - His goal is to look further ahead to better coordinate projects, anticipate funding needs, and establish priorities citywide.
  - He will share the notes taken during the meetings with Council.

**SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Director Morton advised:

- The public comments period has been advertised on the City website for the roundabout at West Fourth Street and Rock Road.
- A deployable cellular tower has been requested for the Liberty Fest. This will allow First Responders to have priority access to cellular service in case of emergency and boosting all cellular service in the area. It is a free service provided by our cellular carrier.
- An update on the waterline project:
  - Lexington Springmill is complete and operational.
  - Maple Lane is still under construction, the northern half has been chlorinated, pressure tested and approved, and service taps are being installed.
  - The southern half will be tested next week.
  - The project should be done before the end of the month, which is ahead of schedule.
- There were several waterline breaks this week. Today's break was a 12-inch pipe on Park Avenue.
  - There was a drop in pressure for businesses on Lexington Springmill Road.
  - Boil advisories were not necessary.
  - Crews were out all day fixing it and everything is back up and running.
- Bid opening for the Sewer Rehab I & I project is June 25<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. in the Community Room.

Mr. Roll said there is a fence post at the pickleball court in Stowell Park that is broken. Director Morton will investigate this.

Ms. Feagin asked about the high grass around the old Cheddar's building.

Director Morton explained the City is still going through the process for the property owner to cut it before the City can. The property owner is assessed for City employee time.

Mayor Bradley advised with the zoning code updates being worked on there will be more of a progressive way to handle this.

**LAW DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

No report.

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### **MISCELLANEOUS REPORT**

President Gallo asked for a decision on the July Council meetings. Mr. Sunderland moved to have one meeting on July 15<sup>th</sup> and if a Special meeting is needed it can be called, second by Mrs. Branham-Fonner. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion to have one meeting on July 15<sup>th</sup> passed.

President Gallo reminded everyone to promote the upcoming festival. There is always room for volunteers and sponsors for all events.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTARY**

Craig Hunt, 3680 Park Avenue West, thanked the Police Department for sitting in the area of his residence and slowing drivers down.

### **CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION**

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 26-15**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR OR HIS DESIGNEE (CHIEF OF POLICE) TO DONATE ONE (1) UNNEEDED AND SLATED FOR AUCTION PATROL CAR TO NORTH CENTRAL STATE COLLEGE POLICE ACADEMY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Sunderland moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 26-15 on three separate days, second by Mr. Roll. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mr. Sunderland read Ordinance No. 26-15, for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Sunderland moved to adopt Ordinance No. 26-15, second by Ms. Feagin. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 26-15 was adopted.

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 26-16**

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR OR HIS DESIGNEE (CHIEF OF POLICE) TO CONTRIBUTE \$2,000 FROM THE POLICE TRAINING FUND TOWARDS THE PURCHASE OF WRESTLING MATS USED AT THE NORTH CENTRAL STATE COLLEGE POLICE ACADEMY FOR TRAINING PURPOSES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Roll moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 26-16 on three separate days, second by Mr. Finfgeld. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Ms. Feagin read Ordinance No. 26-16, for the first time, by title only.

Ms. Feagin moved to adopt Ordinance No. 26-16, second by Mr. Bilyj. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 26-16 was adopted.

At 7:25 p.m., there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Mrs. Branham-Fonner, second by Mr. Finfgeld.

/s/ Eddie Gallo, President of Council

/s/ Cathy VanAuker, Clerk of Council