

Regular

July 15, 2026

Ontario City Council met in regular session on July 15, 2026, at the Municipal Building with Council President Eddie Gallo presiding. The meeting opened at 7:07 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Ontario Police Lieutenant Jeromie Barnhart.

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, and Clerk of Council Cathy VanAuker.

The minutes of the regular Council meeting of June 17, 2026, were presented for approval. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

President Gallo introduced 2026 crowned Miss Ontario Kennedy Sapp, Junior Miss Ontario Mila Morrison, and Little Miss Ontario Grace Myers. Miss Ontario Kennedy Sapp recently visited Washington D.C. for a Family Career and Community Leaders of America (FCCLA) National Leadership Conference where she competed in a Students Taking Action for Recognition (STAR) event and won the National Title for presenting a proposed non-profit organization golf outing fundraiser.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mr. Finfgeld called a Utilities Committee meeting on August 5th at 5:00 p.m.

Mrs. Branham-Fonner stated the Personnel Committee of the Whole met this evening. Mayor Bradley and Director Morton proposed adding an enforcement position to the Zoning Office working 16 hours per week. No action was taken. The remainder of the meeting was held in executive session.

Ms. Feagin said the Parks Committee met today to change the date for the Fit Fest in Marshall Park. The new date is September 12th with a rain date of September 13th.

Mr. Sunderland thanked the Ontario Police Department for escorting approximately 200 motorcycles during the Mid-Ohio Bike Fest down W. Fourth St. from Home Rd. to past Stumbo Rd. and keeping them safe.

President Gallo recognized Ontario Police K9 Officer Fender and his passing with a moment of silence. He thanked everyone for their prayers and support.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bradley reported:

- It has been tough on the Police Department with K9 Officer Fender passing. Continued support will be given.
- He spoke with Director Hale at Richland County Regional Solid Waste Management Authority who advised there should be an agreement with Rumpke by the end of the week to extend pickup of our recycling on Elliott Way to three days a week on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Morton advised:

- Bid opening for the sewer rehabilitation project was June 25th. BLD Services LLC was awarded the 2026 contract, the same company that completed the 2025 project.
- The waterline improvement project is complete. Only a few driveways and some grading need addressed after the final inspection.
- The parking lot in front of the strip mall by the Walmart plaza should be paved by the end of July.
- The Service Departments put effort, hard work, and extra time into making the Liberty Fest successful. He thanked them for their sacrifices.

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LAW DIRECTOR’S REPORT

No report.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORT

President Gallo thanked the Police Department and Springfield Township Fire Department for their service during the Liberty Fest. He recognized Kenn Spencer, Rick Timmer, and Jamie Kinton-Sluss for an incredible festival and a special thank you to Brian and Michelle Gates, Rob Meisse, Bret Baxter, Gianna Gallo, Kim Wells, Keith Strickler, and Ontario Local Schools.

Mr. Roll proposed creating an Ontario Community Garden as a pilot program utilizing some of the unused property at Stowell Park. He will take his ideas to the Parks Committee for further discussion.

Mrs. Branham-Fonner expressed gratitude to President Gallo for the support and work he puts into the Miss Ontario Pageant. She extended gratitude to the entire Gallo family not only for Miss Ontario but for the help they give with Miss Ohio.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Seeing no one who wished to speak, the Public Commentary portion of the meeting was closed.

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NO. 26-09

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE TAX REVENUE BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF ONTARIO FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2027, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Roll moved to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 26-09 on three separate days, second by Mr. Bilyj. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mr. Finfgeld read Resolution No. 26-09, for the second time, by title only.

Mr. Finfgeld moved to adopt Resolution No. 26-09, second by Mr. Roll. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Resolution No. 26-09 was adopted.

RESOLUTION NO. 26-10

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR TO PARTICIPATE IN THE RICHLAND COUNTY ENGINEER’S ROAD SALT PROGRAM FOR THE AWARD OF ROAD SALT NEEDED DURING 2026 AND 2027 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Roll moved to suspend the reading of Resolution No. 26-10 on three separate days, second by Mrs. Branham-Fonner. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mr. Pauley read Resolution No. 26-10, for the second time, by title only.

Mr. Pauley moved to adopt Resolution No. 26-10, second by Mr. Sunderland. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Resolution No. 26-10 was adopted.

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RESOLUTION NO. 26-11

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING FUNDS FROM THE PURDUE PHARMA L.P. BANKRUPTCY SETTLEMENT.

Mr. Roll read Resolution No. 26-11, for the first time, by title only.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-17

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO A FARMLAND LEASE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF ONTARIO AS LESSOR AND GARRETT NIGH AS LESSEE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Roll moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 26-17 on three separate days, second by Mr. Bilyj. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mr. Bilyj read Ordinance No. 26-17, for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Bilyj moved to adopt Ordinance No. 26-17, second by Mr. Roll. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 26-17 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-18

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING REVISED RULES FOR THE USE OF THE CITY OF ONTARIO SENIOR CENTER, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mrs. Branham-Fonner moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 26-18 on three separate days, second by Mr. Bilyj. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mrs. Branham-Fonner read Ordinance No. 26-18, for the first time, by title only.

Mrs. Branham-Fonner moved to adopt Ordinance No. 26-18, second by Mr. Sunderland. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 26-18 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-19

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE TAX CREDIT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND CHARTER NEXT GENERATION, INC., ALLOWING THE MAYOR TO SIGN THE AMENDMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Ms. Feagin moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 26-19 on three separate days, second by Mrs. Branham-Fonner. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Ms. Feagin read Ordinance No. 26-19, for the first time, by title only.

Ms. Feagin moved to adopt Ordinance No. 26-19, second by Mr. Roll. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 26-19 was adopted.

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ORDINANCE NO. 26-20

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO A SEWER EXTENSION EASEMENT GIFT AGREEMENT WITH 20 LEXINGTON-SPRINGMILL INVESTMENTS, LTD. AND 55 LEXINGTON-SPRINGMILL INVESTMENTS, LTD. AS OWNERS AND THE CITY OF ONTARIO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Sunderland moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 26-20 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. 26-20, for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Sunderland moved to adopt Ordinance No. 26-20, second by Mr. Roll. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 26-20 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-21

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY TO ENTER INTO A REAL ESTATE GIFT AGREEMENT WITH 65 HOME ROAD INVESTMENTS, LTD. AS GRANTOR AND THE CITY OF ONTARIO AS GRANTEE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Finfgeld moved to suspend the reading of Ordinance No. 26-21 on three separate days, second by Mr. Bilyj. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and the motion passed. Mr. Finfgeld read Ordinance No. 26-21, for the first time, by title only.

Mr. Finfgeld moved to adopt Ordinance No. 26-21, second by Mr. Sunderland. Seven members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Ordinance No. 26-21 was adopted.

At 7:31 p.m., there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned upon a motion by Ms. Feagin, second by Mr. Roll.

/s/ Eddie Gallo, President of Council

/s/ Cathy VanAuker, Clerk of Council