

Regular

August 19, 2026

Ontario City Council met in regular session on August 19, 2026, at the Municipal Building with Council President Eddie Gallo presiding. The meeting opened at 7:10 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

The minutes of the regular Council meeting of August 5, 2026, were presented for approval. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

Chrisine Arnett and family came forward to receive a Proclamation for Thursday, August 20, 2026, to be Christine Arnett Day in honor of her 100th birthday.

Christine Arnett Day

WHEREAS, Mrs. Christine Arnett was born on August 20, 1926, in Erin, Tennessee, making her 100 years young on August 20, 2026; and the City of Ontario seeks to honor Mrs. Arnett for her long and valued life of service; and, as important, her role as wife, mother and grandmother; and,

WHEREAS, Mrs. Arnett moved to Marion, Ohio in 1944 at the age of 17; and

WHEREAS, Christine married the love of her life, Mel Arnett, in 1956 and celebrated many years of marriage. The Arnett Family moved to the Ontario area in 1971. During those years, they raised 5 children, followed by 15 grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren. Christine is immensely proud of her family, and they are equally proud of her; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Arnett was employed by North Electric in Galion, Ohio for 23 years and later worked at Hawkin's Bakery in Ontario. In her retirement, Mrs. Arnett finds pleasure reading and working among her flowers. On Fridays, she can be found enjoying bingo at the Ontario Senior Center. She has been a member of the Open Bible Church for 73 years; and

WHEREAS, Tomorrow, August 20, 2026, Mrs. Arnett and her family and friends will celebrate her 100th birthday; and

NOW THEREFORE, I, Josh Bradley, Mayor of Ontario, along with the City of Ontario, am very proud to proclaim Thursday, August 20, 2026, to be Christine Arnett Day in our community, and on behalf of the City of Ontario and its residents, say "Happy 100th Birthday," and "Thank You" for being part of our Ontario community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my Hand and caused the seal this Nineteenth Day of August, in the year of our Lord Two Thousand Twenty- Six.

Josh Bradley, Mayor

COMMITTEE REPORTS

No reports.

MAYOR'S REPORT

Mayor Bradley reported:

- Richland County Regional Solid Waste has officially extended the recycling pickup at Elliott Way to three days a week on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, starting this week.

Regular

August 19, 2026

- The smoke test project is 44% complete. After completion in early September the City will meet with K.E. McCartney to develop a plan of correction for the areas requiring repair.
- He thanked the Sewer Department for all their efforts during the smoke testing.
- He recognized Bill Flanigan and congratulated him on his retirement. Mr. Flanigan gave 31 years of dedicated service to the City and left his mark with talent, dedication, and skills in gardening and landscaping.

President Gallo agreed with the sentiments for Mr. Flanigan.

SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Morton advised:

- The bid opening for the Rock Road Force Main project is September 10, 2026, at 10 a.m. in the Community Room.
- He and Mayor Bradley had a meeting with Richland County Regional Planning to discuss funding options for the Lexington Springmill corridor study. The study will allow the City to apply for grant money to assist with purchasing new traffic signal controllers that help with congestion and traffic flow.
- The Safe Routes to School grant was unsuccessful this year. It is a very competitive statewide grant. We can strengthen our application for next year.
- Richland County salt bid opening is August 27, 2026. The State bid pricing is better than what was originally anticipated.

Planning Commission and Zoning updates:

- Austin Lewis requested a variance for an accessory building height of 19 feet. It was approved.
- Joel Fox requested a variance for lot width on Rudy Road. The request was tabled pending more information.
- Next month Reveille is scheduled to present a draft of the zoning code changes and get additional feedback.

Mr. Sunderland asked about a salt shortage this year. He suggested getting salt for this winter as soon as it is available and praised the Street Department for doing a good job last year.

- Director Morton explained the City has a good supply of salt on hand. He did not want the same issues as last year.

Mr. Sunderland stated a fiberoptic internet company said there was an issue with the City that prevented them from servicing the area.

- Director Morton said when he was the Zoning Inspector the company in question contacted him and sent a 44-page proposal of what they wanted to put in the City. There was no discussion after this, it is unknown what happened.
- Mayor Bradley is investigating this.

Mr. Roll inquired about who maintains property between fences.

- Law Director Medwid stated mowing and maintenance is done to the property line. It will have to be figured out by the property owner if there is not enough room between two fences.

President Gallo asked about the Zoning Inspector contacting a resident saying he is responsible for mowing a retention pond at the Teakwood Drive condominiums.

- Law Director Medwid said:
 - These condominium properties are divided into three different numbers. The Zoning Inspector has been trying to contact the owner of property number three.
 - The attorney who prepared the division of property emailed the Zoning Inspector stating property number three was placed into the HOA and gave him the name and phone number of who should be contacted for mowing.
- Mayor Bradley advised the resident was named as the President of the HOA. The call from the Zoning Inspector was directed toward the HOA and not him personally.

Regular

August 19, 2026

- Director Morton added the HOA is responsible for maintaining the retention basin and mowing all the condominiums associated with this HOA.

LAW DIRECTOR’S REPORT

No report.

MISCELLANEOUS REPORT

Recreation Director Kenn Spencer provided an update on community events.

- Haunted Trails was not successful in the past. He is considering replacing the event with a Fall Festival on October 24, 2026.
- Pickleball in Stowell Park has two more Thursday evenings.
- The first Farmers Market is this Saturday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.
- The final Block Party is in the Westwood neighborhood.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY

Craig Hunt, 3680 Park Avenue West, inquired about the progress at 3620 Park Avenue West and who is paying for the demolition. He asked about plans for the property.

Mayor Bradley responded:

- This past Monday the CIC (Community Improvement Corporation) voted on who will do the demolition. It will be R and D Excavating LLC from Crestline.
- The gas sign-off was obtained from Columbia Gas.
- Water disconnection was done today.
- The last step is for Ohio Edison to disconnect.
- CIC is currently paying for the demolition.
- There should not be many traffic flow issues during demolition.
- After demolition the property will be seeded and made to look pleasing.
- There will be a traffic study done at the intersection to improve the traffic flow, especially when school is in session.

Director Morton added:

- There will be a pre-construction meeting with R and D Excavating, the Water Department, the Sewer Department, and the Streets Department to discuss needs and requirements. Roadway and traffic will be discussed at this meeting.

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION NO. 26-11

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

Mr. Sunderland read Resolution No. 26-11, for the third time, by title only.

Mr. Sunderland moved to adopt Resolution No. 26-11, second by Mr. Roll.

Five members cast their votes Aye, zero Nay, and Resolution No. 26-11 was adopted.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-22

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR OR HIS DESIGNEE (CHIEF OF POLICE) TO DONATE UNNEEDED AND OBSOLETE UNCLAIMED PROPERTY FROM THE POLICE EVIDENCE ROOM, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mrs. Branham-Fonner read Ordinance No. 26-22, for the second time, by title only.

Regular

August 19, 2026

ORDINANCE NO. 26-23

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SERVICE-SAFETY DIRECTOR, OR HIS DESIGNEE (THE CHIEF OF POLICE), TO ACCEPT A DONATION FROM THE GORMAN FAMILY FOUNDATION TO THE CITY OF ONTARIO POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Roll read Ordinance No. 26-23, for the first time, by title only.

At 7:35 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