

CIRCLEVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 6/3/2025

Circleville City Council convened in Council Chambers Tuesday, June 3, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. Council members present at Roll call: President Barry Keller, At Large Members Katie Logan-Hedges, Sheri Theis, and Tom Klitzka, Second Ward John Moats, Third Ward Audrey Lukasak, Fourth Ward Tom Duvall, and Clerks, Melissa Burns and Sarah Kolesar. Absent Members: First Ward Jeff Hallinin. Invited guests present: Mayor Michelle Blanton and Law Director Kendra Kinney.

President Keller called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and invocation was given by all.

Lukasak motioned to approve City Council minutes from May 20, 2025. Theis seconded. Motion carried.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Hedges stated she had a Finance meeting on May 27, 2025, and has two pieces of legislation on tonight's Agenda.

Theis announced she will have a Strategic Planning meeting on Tuesday, June 10, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.

Klitzka stated he has two pieces of legislation on tonight's Agenda and emphasized a successful launch of curbside recycling.

Duvall thanked the Mayor, Service Director Jim Stanley and the Administration for a tour of the new Service Center.

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

Mayor Blanton stated the June newsletter was sent out, movies at the Park will be starting soon at Ted Lewis Park, and she passed out a brief narrative to Council regarding the Tax Levy Ordinance.

QUESTIONS OR ANSWERS TO ADMINISTRATION: None.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Cassandra Richardson of 119 Wilson Avenue, Circleville, Oh 43113, spoke about her concerns in Israel.

COMMUNICATIONS: Council received two pieces of correspondence.

1) Mayor Blanton sent a letter thanking Richie Verito for agreeing to serve of the City Of Circleville Park Commission. His term will expire on January 31, 2027.

2) Dave Horning sent a letter to Council President proposing two measures to address Circleville's \$2 million budget shortfall: a 0.25% income tax levy for Fire/EMT services and a \$100 monthly excise tax on landlords renting single-family homes. Horning suggests implementation would include a Tenant Registration program requiring landlords to pay a \$35 fee per new tenant and could be enforced through fines and liens.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE

Hedges motioned to have the correspondence received from Dave Horning read in its entirety. Lukasak seconded. (4 Yeas, 2 Abstain) Motion carried and the letter was read in its entirety.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE

Klitzka motioned to place the communication on file for City Council. Duvall seconded. Motion carried.

ORDINANCES FOR SECOND READING:

- a) AN ORDINANCE TO ACCEPT THE PLAT OF RIVER RIDGE, SECTION TWO, FINAL PLAT.

Discussion: Klitzka confirmed that all required documentation has been received, and the developers are ready to move forward with this project.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE

Klitzka motioned to suspend the rules. Theis seconded. Roll call. (6 Yeas- 0 Nays). Rules are Suspended.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE

Klitzka motion for passage of the Ordinance. Lukasak seconded. (6 Yeas-0 Nays) Motion carried. The Ordinance is passed and assigned #06-47-2025.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

- b) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF CIRCLEVILLE ZONING CODE TO MAKE CERTAIN CHANGES AND ADDITIONS TO THE CODE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Discussion: Klitzka outlined key amendments to this Ordinance, including transitioning to digital records to eliminate paper, establishing a definition for Tiny Home Villages, incorporating language to enable the City to request school impact studies from new developers, and permitting shipping containers as a conditional use in the IE and CS Districts. Keller added that these changes were submitted to Council with unanimous approval from the Planning and Zoning Commission. The Law Director noted that all modifications are clearly highlighted in bold for transparency.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE

Theis motioned to suspend the rules. Lukasak seconded. Roll call. (5 Yeas- 1 Abstain). Rules are Suspended.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE

Klitzka motioned for passage of the Ordinance. Theis seconded. Roll call. (5 Yeas- 1 Abstain). The Ordinance is passed and assigned #06-48-2025.

- c) AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF CIRCLEVILLE SO AS TO INCREASE THE CITY INCOME TAX RATE FROM THE CURRENT RATE OF TWO PERCENT (2.00%) TO A RATE OF TWO AND A HALF PERCENT (2.50%) TO BECOME EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026 WITH

_____ OF THE INCREASE TO BE ALLOCATED FOR THE PURPOSE OF GENERAL CONSTRUCTION, RECONSTRUCTION, RESURFACING, AND REPAIR OF THE STREETS, ROADS AND BRIDGES NECESSARY IN THE CITY OF CIRCLEVILLE AND

_____ TO BE ALLOCATED FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING AND MAINTAINING FIRE APPARATUS, MECHANICAL RESUSCITATORS, UNDERWATER RESCUE AND RECOVERY EQUIPMENT, OR OTHER FIRE EQUIPMENT AND APPLIANCES, BUILDINGS AND SITES THEREFOR, OR SOURCES OF WATER SUPPLY AND MATERIALS THEREFOR, FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF LINES OF FIRE-ALARM COMMUNICATIONS, FOR THE PAYMENT OF FIREFIGHTING COMPANIES OR PERMANENT, PART-TIME, OR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTING, EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE, ADMINISTRATIVE, OR COMMUNICATIONS PERSONNEL TO OPERATE THE SAME, INCLUDING THE PAYMENT OF ANY EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS REQUIRED FOR SUCH PERSONNEL UNDER SECTION 145.48 OR 742.34 OF THE REVISED CODE, FOR THE PURCHASE OF AMBULANCE EQUIPMENT, FOR THE PROVISION OF AMBULANCE, PARAMEDIC, OR OTHER EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES OPERATED BY A FIRE DEPARTMENT OR FIREFIGHTING COMPANY, OR FOR THE PAYMENT OF OTHER RELATED COSTS TO DIRECT THE PICKAWAY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO SUBMIT THIS ORDINANCE TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Discussion: Hedges reported that the Finance Committee thoroughly discussed the proposed 0.5% Tax Levy Ordinance. Initially presented by the Mayor, the levy allocated 0.1% for street improvements and 0.4% for Fire/EMS services, but these specific percentages were removed after committee discussions before forwarding the Ordinance to Council. Hedges noted that Duvall's follow-up questions regarding ambulance runs were addressed. Blanton provided an overview, explaining that the 0.5% income tax increase aims to bolster public safety and infrastructure. Specifically, Blanton proposed allocating 0.4% to Fire/EMS to fund equipment, apparatus, personnel, stations, and training, and 0.1% to street improvements, including resurfacing, reconstruction, pothole repairs, curb and gutter maintenance, and matching funds for larger grant-funded projects. Blanton highlighted a 57% increase in emergency call volumes since 2019, noting that the expired 2019 Tax Levy had enabled the hiring of five police officers, two communication officers, and three firefighters. Additionally, a 2022 FEMA SAFER grant of \$1.56 million facilitated the addition of six firefighters, though this funding will expire in March 2026. Mayor Blanton stated there is 75-80 miles of roadway in the City, with repaving a quarter-mile costing approximately \$110,000 and rebuilding a road from base to surface costing about \$1.5 million. Keller invited each council member to share their perspective on the proposed Tax Levy. Duvall expressed support for the Levy but suggested adjusting the allocation to 0.3% for Fire/EMS and 0.2% for street improvements. Theis endorsed the Tax Levy, noting that including street improvements could broaden public support. Klitzka emphasized the growing demand for Fire/EMS services and advocated for retaining the Mayor's original allocation of 0.4% for Fire/EMS and 0.1% for streets. Moats underscored the critical importance of public safety and infrastructure, aligning with the Mayor's proposed allocation. Lukasak, having attended the Finance Committee meeting, appreciated the comprehensive information provided and also supported the Mayor's original allocation.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE

Hedges motioned to amend the Ordinance to allocate the Tax Levy funds as presented in the Original Ordinance as 0.1% for the streets and 0.4% to Fire/EMS. Lukasak seconded. Roll call. (5 Yeas- 1 Nay). Motioned carried and the Ordinance is Amended.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE

Hedges motioned to hold this Ordinance for a second reading. Klitzka seconded. Roll call. (5 Yeas- 1 Nay).

d) A RESOLUTION TO SUBMIT TO THE ELECTORS AT THE GENERAL ELECTION TO BE HELD ON THE FOURTH DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2025 AN ORDINANCE TO INCREASE THE CITY INCOME TAX RATE FROM THE CURRENT RATE OF TWO PERCENT (2.00%) TO A RATE OF TWO AND A HALF PERCENT (2.50%) TO BECOME EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026 BY ALLOCATING _____ OF THE INCREASE FOR THE PURPOSE OF GENERAL CONSTRUCTION, RECONSTRUCTION, RESURFACING, AND REPAIR OF THE STREETS, ROADS AND BRIDGES NECESSARY IN THE CITY OF CIRCLEVILLE AND ALLOCATING _____ FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING AND MAINTAINING FIRE APPARATUS, MECHANICAL RESUSCITATORS, UNDERWATER RESCUE AND RECOVERY EQUIPMENT, OR OTHER FIRE EQUIPMENT AND APPLIANCES, BUILDINGS AND SITES THEREFOR, OR SOURCES OF WATER SUPPLY AND MATERIALS THEREFOR, FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT AND MAINTENANCE OF LINES OF FIRE-ALARM COMMUNICATIONS, FOR THE PAYMENT OF FIREFIGHTING COMPANIES OR PERMANENT, PART-TIME, OR VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTING, EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE, ADMINISTRATIVE, OR COMMUNICATIONS PERSONNEL TO OPERATE THE SAME, INCLUDING THE PAYMENT OF ANY EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTIONS REQUIRED FOR SUCH PERSONNEL UNDER SECTION 145.48 OR 742.34 OF THE REVISED CODE, FOR THE PURCHASE OF AMBULANCE EQUIPMENT, FOR THE PROVISION OF AMBULANCE, PARAMEDIC, OR OTHER EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES OPERATED BY A FIRE DEPARTMENT OR FIREFIGHTING COMPANY, OR FOR THE PAYMENT OF OTHER RELATED COSTS TO DIRECT THE PICKAWAY COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO SUBMIT THIS TAX ORDINANCE TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Discussion: Hedges explains this is a companion Resolution that goes with the above Ordinance. If the above Ordinance is passed, then it directs Council to submit a Resolution to the Board of Elections for placement on the ballot.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE

Hedges motioned to amend the Resolution to allocate the Tax Levy funds as presented in the Original Ordinance as 0.1% for the streets and 0.4% to Fire/EMS. Klitzka seconded. Roll call. (5 Yeas- 1 Nay). Motioned carried and the Resolution is Amended.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE

Hedges motioned to hold this Ordinance for a second reading. Moats seconded. Roll call. (5 Yeas- 1 Nay).

NEW BUSINESS:

Keller announced that the third reading of the Legislation is scheduled for July 1, 2025, but noted three planned absences among Council members for that date. To ensure progress, Keller proposed holding a special Council meeting on June 10, 2025, at 6:45 p.m., dedicated exclusively to the second reading of the Legislation.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE

Hedges, Theis, and Moats motioned to hold a Special Council Meeting on June 10, 2025, at 6:45 p.m.

Moats motioned to excuse Hallinin from tonight's meeting. Lukasak seconded. Motion carried.

Moats motioned to adjourn the City Council meeting. Duvall seconded. Council adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Melissa Burns, Clerk.