

CIRCLEVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 6/17/2025

Circleville City Council convened in Council Chambers Tuesday, June 17, 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, First Ward Jeff Hallinin, Second Ward John Moats, Fourth Ward Tom Duvall, and Clerks, Melissa Burns and Sarah Kolesar. Absent Members: Third Ward Audrey Lukasak. 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.

Duvall motioned to approve City Council minutes from June 3, 2025. Theis seconded. Motion carried.

Hedges motioned to approve Special City Council minutes from June 10, 2025. Duvall seconded. Motion carried.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Hedges announced she will have a Finance meeting on June 24, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Theis announced she had a Strategic Planning meeting and has one piece of legislation on the Agenda.

Klitzka announced he will have a Judicial meeting on June 24, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the Judirow PUD.

Keller announced there was a Public Hearing prior to Council to discuss the proposed rezoning of a piece of property across from OCU to a PUD.

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

Kinney announced National Night Out is scheduled for August 5, 2025, from 5:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m. at Ted Lewis Park.

Blanton announced the City did receive recognition as American 250 City. The Organization will be sending a City specific logo and flag. Mayor Blanton stated last week she attended the Mayor's Association Conference and there are several pieces of legislation before the House and Senate that could affect the City.

QUESTIONS OR ANSWERS TO ADMINISTRATION: None.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

COMMUNICATIONS: None

ORDINANCES FOR THIRD READING:

a) 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 ONE TENTH OF ONE PERCENT (0.1%) 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 FOUR TENTHS OF ONE PERCENT (0.4%) 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 stated this Ordinance was first presented at the Finance Meeting on May 27, 2025. The Ordinance comes as a recommendation from the Mayor's office to address the financial shortfall caused by the expiration of the tax levy in December 2024. Hedges emphasized that the proposed tax levy is essential to maintain current service levels and support the city's growth. Hedges noted a significant 57% surge in emergency call volumes over the past five years, underscoring the need for sustained funding to meet rising demands. The original levy allocated 0.1% for street improvements and 0.4% for Fire/EMS services. However, following committee discussions, these specific percentages were removed before the Ordinance was forwarded to Council. Hedges noted that follow-up questions from Duvall had been answered, and Council voted to retain the original levy allocations. Hallinin inquired whether the Mayor had explored cost-cutting measures should the levy fail to pass. Mayor Blanton confirmed that all departments are preparing budgets reflecting the potential absence of levy funds. Hedges emphasized that significant cuts, particularly to street maintenance, would be likely if the levy does not pass.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE

Hedges motioned for passage of the Ordinance. Klitzka seconded. Roll call. (6 Yeas- 0 Nays). The Ordinance is passed and assigned #06-49-2025.

b) 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 ONE TENTH OF ONE PERCENT (0.10%) 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 FOUR TENTHS OF ONE PERCENT (0.40%) 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 clarified that this Resolution serves as a companion to the aforementioned Ordinance. Once the Ordinance is approved, the Resolution would direct Council to submit it to the Board of Elections for inclusion on the ballot. Hedges noted that the ballot language will be determined by the Secretary of State. Kinney further explained that the language for both the Ordinance and Resolution is derived from the Ohio Revised Code, and she anticipates the ballot language will be more concise.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE

Hallinin motioned for passage of the Ordinance. Moats seconded. Roll call. (6 Yeas- 0 Nays). The Resolution is adopted and assigned #06-50-2025.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

a) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO ENTER INTO A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT COMMUNITY PARK RECREATION/CONSERVATION PROJECT PASS-THROUGH GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES TO PROVIDE GRANT FUNDS TO CONSTRUCT RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AS PART OF THE BARTHELMAS PARK WALKING TRAIL AND SOFTBALL DIAMOND EXPANSION PROJECT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Discussion: Theis announced that this Ordinance authorizes the City to accept a \$750,000 grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. The funds will support the construction of the first softball diamond, expanded parking facilities, and new trails at Barthelmas Park. In response to Hallinin's inquiry about matching funds, Theis and the Mayor confirmed that the grant requires no financial contribution from the City.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE

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

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE

Theis motioned for passage of the Ordinance. Duvall seconded. Roll call. (6 Yeas- 0 Nays). The Ordinance is passed and assigned #06-51-2025.

NEW BUSINESS:

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

Hallinin motioned to adjourn the City Council meeting. Moats seconded. Council adjourned at 7:22 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Melissa Burns, Clerk.