

CIRCLEVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 9/2/2025

Circleville City Council convened in Council Chambers Tuesday, September 2, 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, Third Ward Audrey Lukasak, Fourth Ward Tom Duvall, and Clerks, Melissa Burns and Sarah Kolesar. Invited guests present: Mayor Michelle Blanton, Law Director Kendra Kinney, and Auditor Mark Bidwell.

President Keller called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited, and invocation was given by all.

Hallinin motioned to approve City Council minutes from August 19, 2025. Lukasak seconded. Motion carried.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Hedges stated she had a Finance meeting on August 19, 2025, and has two pieces of legislation on the agenda. Duvall announced that he held a Service Committee meeting earlier this evening and will present legislation at the next meeting. He also confirmed that a visit to the Water Treatment Plant has been scheduled for early October.

Theis reported that she conducted a Strategic Planning meeting on August 20, 2025, during which Tree Commission applicants were interviewed. She plans to nominate those applicants under new business.

Keller shared that he convened a Committee of the Whole meeting earlier this evening to facilitate an open discussion and provide education on the topic of marijuana dispensaries.

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

Mayor Blanton announced that the final "Movie in the Park" event of the season will take place next Friday at Ted Lewis Park. She expressed gratitude to the Pickaway County Health Department and all volunteers for their dedication in making the "Light the Way" event a success. Additionally, Mayor Blanton shared that t-shirts for the annual Backyard Brawl football game between Circleville and Logan Elm are now available for purchase. She also noted that her office has relocated to 114 W. Franklin Street, Circleville, Ohio 43113.

QUESTIONS OR ANSWERS TO ADMINISTRATION: Lukasak commended Mayor Blanton for her successful efforts with the Loop initiative, specifically highlighting an article about the cleanup of a deteriorating property. Lukasak inquired whether the property in question would now face condemnation and demolition. Law Director Kinney responded that the city is currently exploring all available options.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Dave Horning, editor of the Circleville Herald, shared that he has authored an article highlighting another City's successful efforts in addressing and cleaning up a local property.

Katie Hedges, representing the Political Action Committee (PAC), announced a meaningful partnership between PAC, Circleville School District, and Ohio Health to host a 9/11 Memorial Climb. The event is scheduled to begin at 9:59 a.m. at the Circleville City School track. Participants will have the opportunity to climb 110 flights of stairs, symbolizing the World Trade Center towers, though individuals may choose to complete as many flights as they feel comfortable with. The cost to participate is \$25 for adults and \$10 for students, with all proceeds directly supporting the National Fallen Firefighters Association. Any matching funds raised will benefit PAC to support the upcoming levy in November.

COMMUNICATIONS:

The Clerk delivered an update on the Preservation and Digitization of Records project, reporting significant progress. As of August 18, 2025, HFGroup has successfully scanned approximately 22,344 images. All books have been thoroughly assessed, with new binders officially approved. Additionally, the Clerk announced the successful launch of the new Legislation webpage for Council, which is now fully operational. The Clerk's office has uploaded over 1,000 pieces of legislation, covering more than 13 years, to the website, enhancing accessibility and transparency.

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

a) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE USE OF OPIOID FUNDS TO THE CENTRAL OHIO LIVING FREE, DBA THE COVERING.

Discussion: Hedges stated this Resolution is a request for the opioid settlement funds. Katie Hedges presented a resolution requesting the allocation of opioid settlement funds. She outlined that the Covering submitted two funding requests: \$15,000 annually to cover utility costs for three properties and \$5,500 for flooring replacement. Following deliberations, the Finance Committee approved \$10,000 per year for utilities and a one-time grant of \$5,000 for the flooring project.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE:

Hallinin motioned to suspend the rules. Klitzka seconded. Roll call. (7 Yeas- 0 Nays). Rules are Suspended.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE:

Duvall motioned for adoption of the Resolution. Lukasak seconded. Roll call. (7 Yeas- 0 Nays). The Resolution is passed and assigned #09.66.2025.

b) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE IN THE GENERAL FUND 101 STREET CONSTRUCTION FUND 203 SAFETY FORCES .5% TAX FUND 212 MUNICIPAL COURT CCA GRANT 25/26 FUND 260 WATER & SEWER RETIREMENT COMPENSATION FUND 890 OF THE CITY OF CIRCLEVILLE

Discussion: Katie Hedges presented the seventh housekeeping Ordinance of 2025, detailing several key financial updates. She noted a correction of \$11,000 from a previous Ordinance to ensure accurate fund allocation. Additionally, the city received over \$50,000 in donations, primarily directed toward establishing a K-9 unit, with a smaller contribution supporting the Movie in the Park event. Hedges also highlighted a \$20,000 grant fund request from the Municipal Court.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE:

Klitzka motioned to suspend the rules. Theis seconded. Roll call. (7 Yeas- 0 Nays). Rules are Suspended.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE:

Hedges motioned for passage of the Ordinance. Lukasak seconded. Roll call. (7 Yeas- 0 Nays). The Ordinance is passed and assigned #09.67.2025.

NEW BUSINESS:

1) Tree Commission board applicants:

Theis reported that six individuals initially applied for the Tree Commission. Two opted to serve solely as volunteers, leaving four candidates. Of those, three attended the Strategic Planning meeting. The Strategic Planning Committee recommends these three applicants for approval to serve on the Tree Commission.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE: Lukasak motioned to appoint Matt Fosnaugh to a term expiring on August 31, 2026, to the Tree Commission Board. Seconded by Theis. All Yeas. Motion carried.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE: Moats motioned to appoint Joe Bradshaw to a term expiring on August 31, 2027, to the Tree Commission Board. Seconded by Hallinin. All Yeas. Motion carried.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE: Theis motioned to appoint Felicia Speakman to a term expiring on August 31, 2028, to the Tree Commission Board. Seconded by Moats. All Yeas. Motion carried.

2) Historic Review Board renewals:

Theis reported that the Historic Review Board had three members whose terms are expiring, all of whom have expressed interest in reappointment. Hallinin inquired whether the positions were advertised to the public. Theis clarified that, per Council rules, renewal positions are not required to be opened to the public. Theis further noted that all three current members have maintained an attendance rate of at least 80% over the past three years.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE: Lukasak motioned to reappoint Ella Jane Shaw to a term expiring on September 1, 2028, to the Historic Review Board. Seconded by Theis. All Yeas. Motion carried.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE: Moats motioned to reappoint Mike Combs to a term expiring on September 1, 2028, to the Historic Review Board. Seconded by Theis. All Yeas. Motion carried.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE: Theis motioned to reappoint William Adkins to a term expiring on September 1, 2028, to the Historic Review Board. Seconded by Theis. (6 Yeas- 1 Nays). Motion carried.

Moats motioned to adjourn the City Council meeting. Duvall seconded. Council adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Melissa Burns, Clerk.