

CIRCLEVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 10/07/2025

Circleville City Council convened in Council Chambers Tuesday, October 7, 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, and Clerks Melissa Burns and Sarah Kolesar. Absent member: Fourth Ward Tom Duvall. Invited guests present: Mayor Michelle Blanton, Service Director Jim Stanley, and Auditor Mark Bidwell.

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

Hallinin motioned to approve City Council minutes from September 16, 2025. Lukasak seconded. Motion carried.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Hedges reported that a Finance Committee meeting was held earlier this evening, and related legislation will be presented at the upcoming Council meeting.

Theis shared that a Strategic Planning meeting took place on September 30th, discussing an ordinance included on tonight's agenda. Additionally, Theis announced a Service Committee meeting will follow this evening's Council meeting.

Klitzka noted that one zoning ordinance on tonight's agenda will be addressed. He also invited the public to a meeting at the Circleville Public Library on October 23rd at 6:30 p.m. to discuss the potential development of a marijuana dispensary in Circleville.

Hallinin reported that a Safety Committee meeting occurred earlier this evening, with one piece of legislation to be forwarded to the next Council meeting.

Moats shared that he attended a tree-planting ceremony at Ohio Christian University to welcome freshman students.

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

Mayor Blanton announced that preparations for the Circleville Pumpkin Show will include barricades and road closures starting Saturday. The Circleville Business Trick-or-Treat is scheduled for Tuesday, October 28th, from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., followed by citywide Trick-or-Treat on Thursday, October 30th, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Additionally, Mayor Blanton shared updates on upcoming meetings and encouraged residents to subscribe to the city newsletter for the latest information. In closing, Mayor Blanton issued a proclamation designating October 2025 as Domestic Violence Awareness Month in the City of Circleville.

QUESTIONS OR ANSWERS TO ADMINISTRATION: Lukasak inquired about updates on addressing the homeless population in Circleville. Mayor Blanton reported that she has engaged with various local organizations to explore available resources. She noted that homelessness is a growing issue, both locally and nationwide. To address this challenge, Mayor Blanton is working to collaborate with the Pickaway County Commissioners to develop a county-wide strategy, focusing on pooling resources to provide effective support.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: William Haddox, a resident of 531 East Union Street, Circleville, Ohio, addressed the council regarding the local homeless population. He shared that, based on his conversations, many individuals experiencing homelessness prefer to be left alone and are reluctant to accept assistance. He asked what steps the city could take to address those who decline help.

Maria Willbanks of 217 Patton Hill Road, Chillicothe, Ohio, and Stephanie Bently of 968 Circle Drive, Circleville, Ohio, jointly proposed the installation of family restrooms in all city parks. They emphasized the need for these facilities to include adult changing tables and full wheelchair accessibility. Ms. Bently also requested additional wheelchair-accessible parking spaces during the Circleville Pumpkin Show to better accommodate visitors with disabilities.

Jordan Alvarez of 542 Thompson Avenue, Ashville, Ohio, introduced himself as an advocate for the Pickaway County Disability Board. He highlighted two ongoing initiatives: the Ramp Initiative, which aims to increase ramp access at local businesses in Circleville and Pickaway County, and the Blue Envelope Program, designed to streamline traffic stops for individuals with disabilities. The program provides an envelope containing essential information to facilitate smoother interactions between officers and drivers. Mr. Alvarez expressed his enthusiasm for collaborating with community members and organizations to advance these efforts.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Council received a letter from the Ohio Department of Commerce. The Gentry House located at 109 North Court Street has applied for a liquor permit. The City must file a response by 10/23/2025, if they would like to request a hearing regarding the permit.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE:

Hedges motioned to add the correspondence on file for Council. Theis seconded. Motion Carried

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING:

a) AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING DISTRICT OF 314 SOUTH PICKAWAY STREET (PARCEL #A05-2-055-00-011-00) FROM DB (DOWNTOWN BUSINESS) DISTRICT TO HSU (HISTORIC SINGLE UNIT) DISTRICT AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Discussion: Klitzka stated the parcel to be rezoned is a general residence and shouldn't be zoned under the business district.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE:

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

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE:

Klitzka motioned for passage of the Ordinance. Theis seconded. Roll call. (6 Yeas- 0 Nays). The Ordinance is passed and assigned #10.70.2025.

b) A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO APPLY FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FUNDS THROUGH THE LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Discussion: Stanley stated the City has secured approximately \$750,000 in grant funding to initiate Phase 1 of the Barthelmas Park expansion. Additionally, the proposed resolution seeks an extra \$500,000, which would enable the city to include an additional softball diamond within this phase of the project

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE:

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

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE:

Theis motioned for adoption of the Resolution. Hallinin seconded. Roll call. (6 Yeas- 0 Nays). The Resolution is adopted and assigned #10.71.2025.

c) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND LAW DIRECTOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE PICKAWAY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS TO PROVIDE LEGAL REPRESENTATION TO DEFENDANTS WHO ARE INDIGENT IN CASES INVOLVING THE CIRCLEVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT OR THE CIRCLEVILLE MUNICIPAL COURT FROM JULY 1, 2025, THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026.

Discussion: Klitzka stated this is an annual contract that allows representation for defendants who are indigent.

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 motioned for passage of the Ordinance. Lukasak seconded. Roll call. (6 Yeas- 0 Nays). The Ordinance is passed and assigned #10.72.2025.

NEW BUSINESS:

Theis motioned to Excuse Tom Duvall from tonight's Council meeting. Lukasak seconded. Motion carried.

Keller clarified that, during the previous Council meeting, Councilmember Hallinin moved to reconsider the appointments of two Historic Review Board members. Upon review of Council rules, it was noted that only a member who voted with the prevailing side may initiate a motion for reconsideration. As a result, Hallinin is eligible to move for reconsideration of Mr. Combs' appointment but not that of Mr. Adkins.

MOTION-ROLL CALL -VOTE:

Hallinin motioned to reconsider Mike Combs to the Historic Review Board. Hedges seconded. Roll call. (6 Yeas- 0 Nays). Motion carried.

Hallinin motioned to adjourn the City Council meeting. Lukasak seconded. Council adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Melissa Burns, Clerk.