

CIRCLEVILLE CITY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 3/03/2026

Circleville City Council convened in Council Chambers Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. Council members present at Roll call: President Barry Keller, At Large Members Sheri Theis and Tom Klitzka, First Ward Jeff Hallinin, Second Ward John Moats, Third Ward Jake Davison, Fourth Ward Tom Duvall, Clerks Melissa Burns and Sarah Kolesar. Invited guests present: Mayor Michelle Blanton, Treasurer Austin Parker, and Auditor Mark Bidwell. Absent Member: Katie Logan-Hedges.

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

Theis motioned to approve the City Council minutes from February 17, 2026. Moats seconded. Motion carried.

REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Moats reported that the Safety Committee held a meeting immediately prior to the Council session. The agenda included a review of recent Police Department updates following the facility tour.

Keller announced that a Committee of the Whole meeting is scheduled for April 7, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.. The session will focus on updates to the monitor project as well as proposed revisions to the Council Rules.

REPORTS FROM CITY OFFICIALS:

Mayor Blanton recognized that March is Disabilities Awareness Month, with several community events planned throughout the month to promote inclusion and understanding. Mayor Blanton also noted that March has been proclaimed Ohio Agriculture Month, celebrating the vital role of agriculture in the state's economy and communities. Mayor Blanton reminded everyone of the upcoming State of the Schools event, scheduled for tomorrow evening at 6:30 p.m. Finally, the Mayor announced that she will present a proclamation honoring Keith and Nicole Scott in recognition of National Kidney Month (also observed in March), to raise awareness about kidney health and disease prevention.

QUESTIONS OR ANSWERS TO ADMINISTRATION: None

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: None

COMMUNICATIONS: None

ORDINANCES FOR FIRST READING: None

New Business:

- a) OhioHealth Berger Hospital updates with Casey Liddy and John Edgar.

Discussion: John Edgar, Chair of the Circleville-Pickaway Lease Oversight Board, reported that the hospital continues to perform exceptionally well under its partnership with OhioHealth. Berger Hospital is leading the OhioHealth balanced scorecard, reflecting strong operational and financial results. As a result, the Lease Oversight Committee has decided to reduce its meeting frequency to once per year moving forward. Casey Liddy, President of OhioHealth Berger Hospital, then presented key highlights across three main areas: financial performance, ongoing projects, and physician recruitment. On the financial front, tax revenue generated by the hospital remains consistently above the original lease commitment of \$610,000 annually. Liddy stated the Hospital is projected to complete the surgery project by this summer. Liddy also highlighted the successful upgrade to mammography equipment, made possible through strong community support and public involvement. In terms of recruitment, several new physicians have recently joined the medical staff.

Keller expressed gratitude for the long-standing partnership with OhioHealth, which began in 2019. He noted that the affiliation has been vital to the hospital's survival and success, particularly through the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic, and credited OhioHealth's support with helping Berger Hospital remain a strong community asset. Keller also commended the coordinated response last summer, when City administration, safety forces, hospital leadership, and numerous community partners worked together to quickly resolve a significant crisis event, allowing the facility to return to full operations within just a few days.

Hallinin motioned to excuse Katie Logan-Hedges from the Council meeting. Moats seconded. Motion carried.

Hallinin motioned to adjourn the City Council meeting. Moats seconded. Council adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Melissa Burns, Clerk.