

Minutes Approved

3/3/2025 February 18, 2025
As Circulated Regular Council Meeting
Elyria City Council

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of Elyria City Council was called to order on Monday February 18, 2025 at 7:01 p.m. by President Stewart. President Stewart opened the meeting requesting a moment of reflective silence. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Council member Schneider. President Stewart requested all cell phones please be turned off or placed on silent mode.

2. ROLL CALL: COUNCIL MEMBERS

PRESENT: Callahan, Cerra, Armstrong, Oswald, Mitchell, Tollett, Siwierka, Davis, Schneider, Stewart

Excused Absent: Lipian

Moved by Cerra, seconded by Schneider to excuse Council member Lipian's absence.

MOTION CARRIED

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Brubaker, SSD Pyanowski, Fin. Dir. Pileski, Law Director Deery, Police Captain Grooms, Fire Chief Pronesti, Engineer Schneider, CD Manager Almobayyed, HR Dir. Yousefi

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None

5. REMARKS AND REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS:

Mayor Brubaker:

Mayor Brubaker shared that a warming shelter opened up on February 18th at 6:00 p.m. The shelter will run through 7:00 a.m. Thursday February 20th. ASSD Loesch provided Mayor Brubaker with an update that there had been no visitors to the shelter, however EPD and EFD have both been notified that they can direct residents to south recreation center.

Council member Tollett wished Mayor Brubaker a happy birthday.

Council member Siwierka inquired if there was knowledge of school closings for Wednesday February 19th. Mayor Brubaker shared that at the time of meeting, schools were scheduled for class.

Safety Service Director:

Safety Service Director Pyanowski shared that Sunday was a decent snow event, 3.5 inches of snow fell. City crews were out early Sunday morning as early as 4:00 a.m. with a total of twenty-five trucks on the roads. Side streets were plowed mid-day on Sunday and employees showed up to help out. It was a great team effort that worked out well.

Council member Schneider stated that he did not receive one complaint. City crews did a good job. Council member Schneider suggested updating the city ward map on the website since the re-boundaries of wards one and two, two and six. He also inquired about item #2 regarding Parkview Court acquired properties, if the other property would be demolished. SSD Pyanowski

5. REMARKS AND REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS: Continued

explained fire was conducting additional training on the remaining property. Once the training is completed, the property would be demolished.

Council member Siwierka stated she did not receive any complaints either, she believes crews did a really good job. However, she received a call regarding if the city still has a snow plow parking ban ordinance and if so should it have been enacted. SSD Pyanowski stated the snow plow ban is still an active ordinance and enacting it is a judgement call and a decision was made not to. Crews were working fine around vehicles.

Council member Oswald expressed his appreciation to the administration for plowing all of Broad Street and the multi-use path area as well. He inquired about who's responsibility it is to maintain Ridge Lawn Cemetery. He has residents that walk in that area often. Mayor Brubaker shared the city crews maintain Ridge Lawn and crews will be sent to the cemetery on Wednesday to take a look at the concern. Mayor Brubaker explained regarding the multi-use path, in December a plan was set in place with the engineering department to keep the path cleared.

President Stewart inquired about the cone on the sidewalk at the east entrance back door, where the sidewalk has lifted. He asked if repairs would take place in spring? SSD Pyanowski responded the area would be re-evaluated in spring to see if the sidewalk would settle with warmer temperatures.

Finance Director:

Finance Director Pileski provided an update that the Elyria Finance department has received information from the government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada that the City of Elyria has been awarded the certificate of achievement for excellence in financial reporting for the 37th time. He expressed his appreciation to his staff and shared that the award was given because of the 2023 annual comprehensive financial report that was submitted. In addition, Asst. Finance Director Farrell passed out to all council members information regarding the budget discussion that will begin Monday February 24th at the finance committee meeting. Finance Director Pileski shared that he would be available for any questions prior to the meeting. President Stewart expressed how incredibly thankful council is to Finance Director Pileski and his staff for their consistent work and the tremendous rewards received.

Law Director Deery: No report

EPD: No report

EFD: No report

Eng. Schneider: No report

Council member Siwierka inquired if scheduled ride along should be coordinated with Engineering. Engineer Schneider stated not at this time.

CD Manager: No report

February 18, 2025
Regular Council Meeting
Elyria City Council

5. REMARKS AND REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS: Continued

HR Director: No report

6. PRESIDENT'S REFERRAL'S:

** Matter is completed or partially completed*

1. The matter of the Enterprise Zone and Community Reinvestment Area recommendations from the Tax Incentive Review Council (TIRC).

REFERRED BY: CD DIR. SCOTT

REFERRED TO: JOINT - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/ FINANCE COMMITTEE

2. *The matter of pay-rate increases for Municipal Court Employees and non-bargaining Chapter 165 Employees

REFERRED BY: PHILLIP TOLLETT- COUNCIL MEMBER AT LARGE

REFERRED TO: FINANCE COMMITTEE

3. The matter of a demo lien referral: 995 Gulf Rd.

REFERRED BY: BO FARKAS

REFERRED TO: FINANCE COMMITTEE

4. The matter of disposing of municipal property unfit for use: IBM #0305 Building Dept.

REFERRED BY: PWS EYE

REFERRED TO: FINANCE COMMITTEE

5. The matter of disposing of municipal property unfit for use: IBM #1203, #1208, #1214

REFERRED BY: PWS EYE

REFERRED TO: FINANCE COMMITTEE

6. The matter of salary adjustments to non-bargaining personnel (except municipal court employees) be held in abeyance.

REFERRED BY: COUNCIL MEMBER SIWIERKA WARD 3

REFERRED TO: FINANCE COMMITTEE

7. The matter of the 2025 Permanent Appropriations Budget.

REFERRED BY: FINANCE DIR. PILESKI

REFERRED TO: FINANCE COMMITTEE

Item 8-11 received and placed on file in the clerk's office:

8. Approved claim for damages: Karen Strader

9. List of receipts collected by each division of the Clerk of Court's office for January 2025

10. Income Tax Collection Received in January 2025

11. January 2025 General Fund Cash Balance Report

February 18, 2025
Regular Council Meeting
Elyria City Council

7. PETITIONS- LOBBY:

Aaron Moorman- 311 Princeton Ave., Elyria- Residential parking on the street.
Mr. Moorman expressed concerns over the snow plow parking ban. President Stewart suggested safety service follow up with him.

8. PETITIONS-COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Council member Tollett- Municipal Court
Council member Tollett read a statement expressing his belief that a partial truth is an entire lie. He shared that his statement was regarding facts that the Chronicle Telegram left out of two recent articles. He shared that he voted in favor of pay changed for the F.O.P., EPA Dispatchers, the police chief, firefighters, street department, sanitation department, parks department, engineering, building, wastewater water pumping and numerous other employees. Council member Tollett stated the other fact omitted was that the story was instigated by an anonymous Facebook message. Another fact left out was that municipal court does not need council permission or votes to pass a pay change.
Council member Tollett will recuse himself from any votes that include his daughter.

9. REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES: None

10. RESOLUTIONS FIRST READING:

Sponsored by
Finance
P. Tollett
M. Siwierka
B. Davis
C. Schneider
J. Cerra

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-10

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A LIST SUBMITTED BY THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR THE COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT INACTIVE UTILITY ACCOUNTS AND DIRECTING THE CLERK OF COUNCIL TO CERTIFY SAID ACCOUNTS TO THE LORAIN COUNTY AUDITOR.

Tollett moved, Davis seconded to pass this resolution on its first reading under suspension of rules.

SUSPENSION	PASSAGE
AYE: 10	AYE: 10
NAY: 0	NAY: 0
ABSENT: 1	ABSENT: 1
MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED

Sponsored by
Utilities
D. Mitchell
B. Davis
V. Stewart III
K. Oswald
B. Armstrong

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-11

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING VISION ZERO AND THE LORAIN COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE SAFETY ACTION PLAN.

February 18, 2025
Regular Council Meeting
Elyria City Council

10. RESOLUTIONS FIRST READING: Continued

Mitchell moved, Davis seconded to pass this resolution on its first reading under suspension of rules.

SUSPENSION	PASSAGE
AYE: 10	AYE: 10
NAY: 0	NAY: 0
ABSENT: 1	ABSENT: 1
MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED

11. RESOLUTIONS--SECOND READING: None

12. RESOLUTIONS--THIRD READING: None

13. ORDINANCES--FIRST READINGS:

Sponsored by

Finance

P. Tollett
M. Siwierka
B. Davis
C. Schneider
J. Cerra

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-28

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR, AND ACCEPT, IF OFFERED, THE 2025 NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS GRANT FOR THE PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Tollett moved, Schneider seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of rules, and declaring an emergency.

SUSPENSION	PASSAGE	EMERGENCY
AYE: 10	AYE: 10	AYE: 10
NAY: 0	NAY: 0	NAY: 0
ABSENT: 1	ABSENT: 1	ABSENT: 1
MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED

Sponsored by

Finance

P. Tollett
M. Siwierka
B. Davis
C. Schneider
J. Cerra

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-

AN ORDINANCE TO REFLECT UPDATED WAGES FOR CERTAIN NON-BARGAINING EMPLOYEES OF THE ELYRIA MUNICIPAL COURT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Council member Tollett recused himself

Schneider moved, Davis seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of rules and declared an emergency.

Council member Siwierka requested a roll call vote

Council member Oswald expressed not having a full understanding of the increase request of the municipal court workers just because an increase was approved for the A.F.S.C.M.E union. He stated that his belief is that the request for 6%, 5% and 4% increases over the next three years is

13. ORDINANCES--FIRST READINGS: Continued

a lot of money and a slippery slope for the city. Council member Oswald stated that his review of raises with Finance Director Pileski does not reflect anyone leaving their jobs due to payrates. Council member Cerra asked that if the legislation would pass this evening, that it be amended to include retroactive pay.

Law Director Deery called for a point of order and declared that the motion would need to be amended.

Council member Armstrong stated they he conducted his own research. He stated he was raised “that if you want to know about money, you go talk to the money.” In his conversations with Finance Director Pileski, the city would be able to afford the 6% increase in the first year.

Council member Siwierka stated that she was in agreement with a lot of what her colleagues stated, however she maintained that the members should be looking at what is the applicable wage range for municipal court employees. The previous salary study did not include municipal employees. Council member Siwierka suggested that council members hold off on a decision until confirming if preliminary discussion with the administration and municipal court comes to fruition regarding a salary study. Council member Siwierka stated that she would hope that the judges and Mr. Rothgery would see the value in a study and the municipal court having their own salary scale based on statistical data and not being dependent on union negotiations. Pay rates should be comparable to other communities and municipal courts that are the same size and do the same function. Council member Siwierka stated she would not be in support of the legislation and would suggest that it be sent back to committee for further discussion.

Council member Davis stated that the council member previously agreed that they would honor a one - year increase. She expressed that she is “Union through and through” and dislikes when non-bargaining gets the same increases as bargaining. Council member Davis stated there is a reason the union gets the increase they receive.

Law Director Deery provided clarification that the legislation on the table is proposed.

Council member Schneider inquired to Law Director Deery if he could amend his motion.

Council member Mitchell inquired that if council members do nothing, they could receive a court order. Law Director Deery responded that no, municipal courts cannot unilaterally order their budgets from the legislative authority city council. The Ohio supreme court states that municipal courts need to work with councils to set their budgets. It is meant to be a collaborative effort.

Council member Mitchell stated council members had received a court order in the past and legislation followed the order. Law Director Deery stated that although that may have occurred in the past, that is not the proper way to go.

President Stewart stated that discussion and talking points have all been good, and council members would like to have a good working relationship with the courts. He echoed Council member Oswald in that there is a reason for bargaining and non-bargaining. President Stewart agreed the agenda item should be tabled.

Council member Siwierka agreed the discussion of the evening had been good.

Council member Oswald stated that his belief that there should have been collaboration with the municipal court.

Council member Siwierka called for the question and repeat of the motion.

Minutes Approved

February 18, 2025
Regular Council Meeting
Elyria City Council

13. ORDINANCES--FIRST READINGS: Continued

Council member Schneider stated he agreed with Council member Siwierka and that additional salary review would be beneficial.

Schneider amended the motion to table the matter, Davis seconded.

Law Director Deery requested clarification of the proper committee, finance or strategic planning.

Schneider amended the motion to send back to committee for further discussion, Davis seconded.

Council member Mitchell stated that she agreed with Council member Siwierka as well, however she was not certain that sending the matter back to finance made the most sense without any additional or new information for review. She inquired who would conduct the salary study and what is the anticipated time of completion.

Law Director Deery stated that her suggestion would be that the matter be referred to strategic planning. The salary study would be a discussion to be had with administration.

Council member Cerra asked for clarification of the original motion and legislation. President Stewart provided clarification that the initial legislation proposed was to offer municipal employees a 6% increase for the first year, perform a salary structure in collaboration with the court.

Law Director Deery provided clarification that the proposed legislation provided no mention of a salary study.

Council member Callahan stated that he wanted to provided clarification of the meeting status from a week prior. He stated that his understanding of the request from Judge Bennet and Clerk Rothgery was an in increase for municipal employees over three years at 6%, 5%, 4%. He stated the discussion was as rich as it was in the current meeting. Council member Callahan stated that the common agreement was to approve 6% for this year and conduct the salary study. He is in favor of voting on those terms tonight opposed to sending the matter back to committee.

SSD Pyanowski provided clarification that no commitment to participate in a salary study had been provided from the courts.

Law Director Deery clarified the vote, amended to table the matter, send to Strategic Planning Committee.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

NAYE: Callahan, Cerra

AYE: Armstrong, Oswald, Mitchell, Siwierka, Davis, Schneider, Stewart

Recused from vote Tollett

MOTION CARRIED

TABLED

February 18, 2025
Regular Council Meeting
Elyria City Council

13. ORDINANCES--FIRST READINGS: Continued

Sponsored by
Finance
P. Tollett
M. Siwierka
B. Davis
C. Schneider
J. Cerra

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-29
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2024-193,
KNOWN AS THE "2025 TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS
ORDINANCE".

Tollett moved, Davis seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of rules.

SUSPENSION	PASSAGE
AYE: 10	AYE: 10
NAY: 0	NAY: 0
ABSENT: 1	ABSENT: 1
MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED

Sponsored by
Community
Development
C. Schneider
A. Lipian
D. Mitchell
K. Oswald
T. Callahan

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-30
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF ELYRIA TO
MAKE A FUNDING CONTRIBUTION IN THE AMOUNT OF
\$75,000.00 TO SUPPORT THE ELYRIA COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIP, A COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION.

Finance
P. Tollett
M. Siwierka
B. Davis
C. Schneider
J. Cerra

Schneider moved, Tollett seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of rules.

SUSPENSION	PASSAGE
AYE: 10	AYE: 10
NAY: 0	NAY: 0
ABSENT: 1	ABSENT: 1
MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED

February 18, 2025
Regular Council Meeting
Elyria City Council

13. ORDINANCES--FIRST READINGS: Continued

Sponsored by
Community
Development

- C. Schneider
- A. Lipian
- D. Mitchell
- K. Oswald
- T. Callahan

Finance

- P. Tollett
- M. Siwierka
- B. Davis
- C. Schneider
- J. Cerra

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-31

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR THE DOWNTOWN HISTORIC REDEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM, CREATED BY ORDINANCE 2021-31, FOR IMPROVEMENTS AT 340 BROAD STREET, ELYRIA, OHIO.

Schneider moved, Tollett seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of rules.

SUSPENSION	PASSAGE
AYE: 10	AYE: 10
NAY: 0	NAY: 0
ABSENT: 1	ABSENT: 1
MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED

Sponsored by
Community
Development

- C. Schneider
- A. Lipian
- D. Mitchell
- K. Oswald
- T. Callahan

Finance

- P. Tollett
- M. Siwierka
- B. Davis
- C. Schneider
- J. Cerra

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-32

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE APPLICATION FOR THE DOWNTOWN HISTORIC REDEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM, CREATED BY ORDINANCE 2021-31, FOR IMPROVEMENTS AT 346 BROAD STREET, ELYRIA, OHIO.

Schneider moved, Tollett seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of rules.

SUSPENSION	PASSAGE
AYE: 10	AYE: 10
NAY: 0	NAY: 0
ABSENT: 1	ABSENT: 1
MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED

February 18, 2025
Regular Council Meeting
Elyria City Council

13. ORDINANCES--FIRST READINGS: Continued

<u>Sponsored by</u> <u>Utilities</u> D. Mitchell B. Davis V. Stewart III K. Oswald B. Armstrong	<u>ORDINANCE NO. 2025-33</u> AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ELYRIA CODIFIED ORDINANCE CHAPTER 937, SEWER CHARGES, SECTION 937.14 AND CREATING SECTIONS 937.141, 937.142 AND 937.143, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
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Mitchell moved, Davis seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of rules, and declaring an emergency.

SUSPENSION	PASSAGE	EMERGENCY
AYE: 10	AYE: 10	AYE: 10
NAY: 0	NAY: 0	NAY: 0
ABSENT: 1	ABSENT: 1	ABSENT: 1
MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED

14. ORDINANCES--SECOND READINGS: None

15. ORDINANCES--THIRD READING: None

16. COMMITTEE CALLS:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Monday 2/24/2025 Beginning at 6:00 PM

All Referred Items Council Chambers w/Law Director, SSD, Engineer, Bldg. Insp.

JOINT CD/ FINANCE

Mon. 2/24/2025 Immediately following Community Development All Referred Items Council Chambers w/Law Director, SSD, Engineer, Bldg. Insp.

FINANCE

Mon. 2/24/2025 Immediately following Joint All Referred Items Council Chambers w/Mayor, Finance Director, Law Director, SSD, Engineer

UTILITIES Wed 3/5/2025 Beginning at 6:00 PM All Referred Items Council Chambers

D. Mitchell Chr. w/Mayor, Finance Director, Law Director, SSD, Engineer

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Mon. 3/3/2025 Immediately following Council Meeting All Referred Items Council Chambers

W/ Mayor, Safety Service Director, Finance Director, Law Director, Engineer

17. MISCELLANEOUS AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

Minutes Approved

3/3/2025 February 18, 2025
As Circulated Regular Council Meeting
Elyria City Council

18. ADJOURNMENT:

Mitchell moved, Cerra seconded to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting at 7:52 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED


Michael J. Lotko, III
Clerk of Council


Victor Stewart, III
President of Council

YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6CBKt6tyi9Q>

/rlp

