

Minutes Approved

3/3/2025 February 3, 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 3, 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 Cerra. 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, Siwierka, Tollett, Davis, Schneider, Stewart

Council member Oswald expressed his appreciation for Council member Lipian's service to the country. He inquired about his council duties and how they would be fulfilled in his absence with the number of meetings that would be missed. He also wanted to know would Council member Lipian continue to receive his paycheck. Law Director Deery explained the issue of being excused or not is in the city charter and is up to the council members. Elected officials receive salary compensation, so yes, Council member Lipian's salary compensation will continue. Residents of the ward have the liberty of reaching out to city officials or any Council at Large members. Council member Lipian's seat will remain empty until his return.

Council member Tollett expressed that Council member Lipian is going to serve in the military, the highest honor that there is, and that he would continue to vote yay on all of his absences. Council member Tollett expressed that as a member of Council at Large he would help with the residents of ward one.

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, ASSD Calvert, Engineer Schneider

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mitchell moved, Schneider seconded to approve council meeting minutes of January 21, 2025,

5. REMARKS AND REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS:

Mayor Brubaker:

Mayor Brubaker shared that over the last week, two long time city employees retired. January 29th Gina Rothgery retired after thirty years most recently from the engineering department. Well wishes were extended to Ms. Rothgery, she was described as an outstanding employee within multiple departments and positions held within the City of Elyria. On February 2nd after thirty years of service in the police department, Lt. Lee Frank retired. Mayor Brubaker shared the

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5. REMARKS AND REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS: Continued

remaining police force stands at eighty-three sworn officers, which includes three in academy and two currently in training. A lateral opportunity will be coming up soon as well as a test later in the year. Mayor Brubaker introduced, Mr. Seth Frabotta, a seventeen year- old senior student at Elyria High School who will be graduating early and has plans to attend Miami University as a Political Science Major. In lieu of completing a final exam, Mr. Frabotta will spend seventy-five hours in city hall over the next few months seeing how government works.

Council member Siwierka inquired if the police chief test was set. Safety Siwierka Director Pyanowski shared that the test is in the process of being scheduled. A few questions will be addressed at the next civil service meeting and the date will be released.

Council member Armstrong inquired if Officer Thacker would be replaced by retiring Lt. Frank at the FBI facility. Mayor Brubaker confirmed, yes Sergeant Thacker would be the replacement.

Safety Service Director: No report

Finance Director:

Finance Director Pileski shared that January had three paydays as opposed to two. He explained there are two months normally every year where there are three payroll periods. Mr. Pileski shared that January 2025 started off with a three- payroll period month, Elyria Fire Department raises were implemented, as well as twenty-nine police officers and seventeen firefighters that were in the ARPA fund are now in the general fund completely. The cash balance in the general fund dropped \$1,240,483 in January. Expenditures exceeded revenues by \$1,240,483. Mr. Pileski stated that the year did not get off to a good start.

Council member Siwierka inquired of an update on property tax revenue. Mr. Pileski stated the estimate is about \$1.3 extra, the amount is split between the general fund, general bond retirement fund, police pension fund and fire pension funds.

Council member Mitchell inquired if any tax revenue from marijuana sales had been received. Mr. Pileski explained that no revenue is anticipated until June or July and the amount is yet to be determined.

Law Director Deery: No report

Law Director Deery requested that council would adjourn for Executive Session at the end of the agenda for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining agreements, as well as an update on pending litigation.

EPD:

Captain Grooms provided an update regarding promotions that would take place Tuesday February 4th at 3:00p.m. in council chambers. Sergeant Michael Mahoney to Lieutenant and Patrolman Anthony Weber to Sergeant.

Council member Siwierka asked if the FBI would remain in the city of Elyria building space. Captain Grooms confirmed yes, they have expanded a bit.

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5. REMARKS AND REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS: Continued

EFD: No report

Council member Oswald inquired if training was taking place at a residence near the police station. Chief Pronesti confirmed the fire department was training and will be conducting additional training over the next three days.

ASSD Calvert: No report

Council member Siwierka inquired about new developers in the area of Dewhurst coming to address council. She asked ASSD Calvert if she could confirm.

ASSD Calvert confirmed the developer as Love Retail and explained they are working through logistical issues.

Eng. Schneider:

Engineer Schneider provided a reminder to council member to begin the street selection process so that grading can begin.

Council member Mitchell inquired if ride alongs with Mr. Forthofer would be an option.

Engineer Schneider responded yes, to anyone who would like a ride along.

Council member Schneider inquired about an update to grants for the sidewalks at Hilltop Park area. Engineer Schneider responded no word at currently, however the grant period is not closed.

Council member Siwierka expressed that many of the repairs for her streets were concrete. She inquired if they would be completed this year. Engineer stated yes, they would be completed.

Council member Siwierka inquired about an update from the railroad on East Bridge Street.

Engineer Schneider stated he has not heard from the railroads, he has heard from a consultant regarding the borings.

Nick Katsaros

Nick Katsaros with First Energy provided an annual update to council members by introducing himself and providing his contact information to everyone. He shared the process of reporting street lights:

Firstenergycorps.com> Report an Outage > Select the issue you are experiencing/ Street light or multiple. If multiple street lights are out, please select multiple on the form. When prompted for your account number, SELECT NEXT > provide your contact information and the location of the street light > select submit. A work request order number will be provided as confirmation that the streetlight has been submitted. Inquiries can be addressed to Mr. Katsaros directly.

Mr. Katsaros can be emailed at : nkatsaros@firstenergycorp.com

He can be reached by phone at: 440-326—3211

Council member Schneider inquired about the normal turn- around time for street repairs. Mr. Katsaros asked that he be called directly to provide information.

Council member Davis stated that multiple lights had been reported from Bell Ave. to the turnpike on both sides of the street, as well as multiple lights on West River from Ford Road to David Dr. All lights have been reported, she inquired on the process for main street light outages. Mr. Katsaros stated that he was aware of 57 through SSD Pyanowski and is escalating the

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5. REMARKS AND REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS: Continued

outages. He reiterated if the reporting is not being responded to, to escalate either through Safety Service or to call him directly.

Council member Tollett shared that he experienced an issue with an outage on Lexington , he worked with ASSD Loesch and the outage was remedied rather quickly. He recommends working through safety services. SSD Pyanowski stated that he and Mr. Katsaros work together well.

6. PRESIDENT'S REFERRAL'S:

** Matter is completed or partially completed*

1. The matter of a Downtown Historic Redevelopment Program Applicant.

REFERRED BY: Community Dev Manager Almobayyed

REFERRED TO: JOINT - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT and FINANCE COMMITTEE

2. The matter of a Funding Contribution to The Elyria Community Partnership in the amount of \$75,000 for the year 2025.

REFERRED BY: Elyria Community Partnership Director Monet Roberts

REFERRED TO: JOINT - COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT and FINANCE COMMITTEE

3. The matter of applying for a National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) Grant.

REFERRED BY: Parks & Rec Dir Reardon

REFERRED TO: FINANCE COMMITTEE

4. The matter of delinquent and final Public Utility Accounts.

REFERRED BY: Public Works Supervisor Conner

REFERRED TO: FINANCE COMMITTEE

5. *The matter of an agreement between the City of Elyria and AFSCME.

REFERRED BY: Safety Service Dir Pyanowski

REFERRED TO: FINANCE COMMITTEE

6. *The matter of an agreement between the City of Elyria and the Elyria Police Patrolman Association (EPPA).

REFERRED BY: Safety Service Dir Pyanowski

REFERRED TO: FINANCE COMMITTEE

7. The matter of Revisions to Chapter 932 of the Elyria Codified Ordinances, Sewer Use Ordinance, Septic Tank Wastes.

REFERRED BY: WWPC Assistant Supt Derricotte

REFERRED TO: UTILITIES, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

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6. PRESIDENT’S REFERRAL’S: Continued

8. The matter of adopting Vision Zero and the Lorain County Comprehensive Safety Action Plan.

REFERRED BY: City Engineer Schneider

REFERRED TO: UTILITIES, SAFETY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Item 9 received and placed on file in the clerk’s office:

9. Approved Claim for damage: Daniel Zack

7. PETITIONS- LOBBY: None

8. PETITIONS–COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

9. REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES: None

10. RESOLUTIONS FIRST READING:

Sponsored by
Rules

- J. Cerra
- P. Tollett
- V. Stewart III
- T. Callahan

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-7

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPOINT FIVE (5) MEMBERS TO THE ELYRIA BICYCLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHAPTER 182 OF THE ELYRIA CODIFIED ORDINANCES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Cerra moved, Callahan seconded to pass this resolution 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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-8

A RESOLUTION FINDING THAT THE CITY HAS UNFIT FOR MUNICIPAL USE CERTAIN CITY PROPERTY.

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

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

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10. RESOLUTIONS FIRST READING: Continued

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-9
A RESOLUTION FINDING THAT THE CITY HAS UNFIT FOR
MUNICIPAL USE CERTAIN CITY PROPERTY.

Tollett moved, Schneider seconded to pass this resolution on its first reading under suspension of the rule.

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:

Companion to Above Resolution

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-20
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE
DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF ELYRIA TO DISPOSE OF CITY
PROPERTY THAT IS UNFIT FOR MUNICIPAL USE.

Tollett moved, Schneider 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

Companion to Above Resolution

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13. ORDINANCES--FIRST READINGS: Continued

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-21
AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF ELYRIA TO DISPOSE OF CITY PROPERTY THAT IS UNFIT FOR MUNICIPAL USE.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-22
AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING THE MAYOR'S APPLICATION FOR, AND IF OFFERED, THE ACCEPTANCE OF, THE NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (NOPEC) 2025 ENERGIZED COMMUNITY GRANT(S) FUNDS, 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. 2025-23
AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2024-193, KNOWN AS THE "2025 TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE".

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

SUSPENSION	PASSAGE	EMERGENCY
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13. ORDINANCES--FIRST READINGS: Continued

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
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. 2025-24

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF VACANT LAND (REAL PROPERTY) FROM THE CITY OF ELYRIA TO THE LORAIN METROPOLITAN HOUSING AUTHORITY (LMHA), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-25

AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN AN AGREEMENT BY AND BETWEEN THE CITY OF ELYRIA AND THE ELYRIA POLICE PATROLMAN'S ASSOCIATION (E.P.P.A), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Law Director Deery requested that council adjourn to executive session for the purpose of collective bargaining agreement discussion as well as pending litigation with potential action to follow.

Cerra moved, Schneider seconded to adjourn for executive session.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

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

ABSENT: Lipian

Executive session 8:31 p.m.

Regular Meeting resumed 9:01 p.m.

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13. ORDINANCES--FIRST READINGS: Continued

Tollett moved, Mitchell seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of rules, and declaring an emergency without the benefit of a committee report.

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-26

AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING, AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN, AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF ELYRIA AND LOCAL #277, OHIO COUNCIL 8, OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY, AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES (A.F.S.C.M.E), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Tollett moved, Schneider seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of rules, and declaring an emergency without the benefit of a committee report.

SUSPENSION	PASSAGE	EMERGENCY
AYE: 9	AYE: 9	AYE: 9
NAY: 1 Siwierka	NAY: 0 Siwierka Abstain	NAY: 1 Siwierka
ABSENT: 1	ABSENT: 1	ABSENT: 1
MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-27

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 2021-73, KNOWN AS THE SALARY ORDINANCE, TO AMEND THE WAGES OF LOCAL #277, OHIO COUNCIL 8, OF THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY, AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES (A.F.S.C.M.E), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Tollett moved, Schneider seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of rules, and declaring an emergency without the benefit of a committee report.

SUSPENSION	PASSAGE	EMERGENCY
AYE: 9	AYE: 8	AYE: 9
NAY: 1 Siwierka	NAY: 2 Siwierka/ Stewart	NAY: 1 Siwierka
ABSENT: 1	ABSENT: 1	ABSENT: 1
MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED

14. ORDINANCES--SECOND READINGS: None

15. ORDINANCES--THIRD READING: None

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16. COMMITTEE CALLS:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Monday 2/10/2025 Beginning at 6:00 PM

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

JOINT CD/ FINANCE

Mon. 2/10/2025 Immediately following Community Development All Referred Items Council Chambers w/Law Director, SSD, Engineer, Bldg. Insp.

FINANCE

Mon. 2/10/2025 Immediately following Joint All Referred Items Council Chambers w/Mayor, Finance Director, Law Director, SSD, Engineer

UTILITIES Wed 2/5/2025 Beginning at 6:00 PM All Referred Items Council Chambers D. Mitchell Chr. w/Mayor, Finance Director, Law Director, SSD, Engineer

STRATEGIC PLANNING

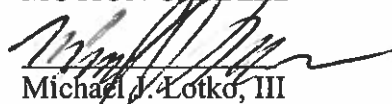
Tues. 2/18/2025 Immediately following Council Meeting All Referred Items Council Chambers W/ Mayor, Safety Service Director, Finance Director, Law Director, Engineer

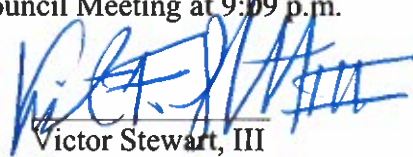
17. MISCELLANEOUS AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

18. ADJOURNMENT:

Mitchell moved, Cerra seconded to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting at 9:09 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=LEJTKZqQRgM>

/rlp

Report Power Outage

Call 911 immediately if you see a downed power line. Stay at least 30 feet away and instruct others to do the same. [Learn More About Downed Power Line Safety](#).



Report My Outage or Issue

Select the Issue you are experiencing

Select One

REPORT ISSUE

Ways to Report Your Outage Offline

+ Feedback

Still Need Help?



Outage Map



Outage Help



Service Requests



Outage Main Menu

