

As circulated
4/21/2025

April 7, 2025
Regular Council Meeting
Elyria City Council

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of Elyria City Council was called to order on Monday April 7, 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 Lipian. 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, Lipian, Siwierka, Schneider, Stewart

Excused Absent: Davis

Moved by Schneider, seconded by Mitchell to excuse Council member Davis' absence.

MOTION CARRIED

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Brubaker, SSD Pyanowski, Fin. Dir. Pileski, Law Director Deery, Police Chief Welsh, Fire Chief Pronesti, Engineer Schneider

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Cerra moved Mitchell seconded to approve meeting minutes of the March 17, 2025 Regular Council meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

5. REMARKS AND REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS:

Mayor:

Mayor Brubaker provided expressed his appreciation to council members. He shared the exciting news of receiving two large grants in the amount of \$325,000 from ODNR for the West Recreation all-inclusive playground park as well as \$130,000 from the Ohio Recycle Grant to help fund the compost facility. The grant was spearheaded by ASSD Strohsack and facilitated by McCauley and Company. The compost facility will aide in alleviate funds in the sanitation department. The even bigger picture is some of the funds can be reallocated to complete the pocket park project. The previous bids both came in at twenty percent over the engineer's cost. Mayor Brubaker congratulated ASSD Strohsack and Parks and Rec Director Reardon on thinking ahead with applying for the ODNR grant.

Safety Service Director:

Safety Service Director Pyanowski provided an update on the outcome of the site visit with the consultants for the ambulance feasibility study, which was conducted over the course of two days. The company's name is Fitch & Associates, SSD Pyanowski stated the visit went very well. He shared both assessors are retired firefighters and were impressive in this line of business. They were both very knowledgeable. The meeting was conducted with the department

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5. REMARKS AND REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS: Continued

leadership, LifeCare, and 911. Site visits were conducted at the fire stations. The team was able to meet with the medical director. The exchange of information was rich. Additional information gathering that was identified at the site visit will be submitted once it is completed. This site visits concluded step one.

Council member Siwierka stated that a few months back at a budget discussion meeting, a request to pause equipment purchases and backfill of employees. Ms. Siwierka requested if an update could be provided at the next finance committee meeting.

Finance Director:

Finance Director Pileski stated the books have closed on the first quarter of 2025. He shared that January began the year with a three - payday month. That month resulted in a 1.2 million drop in cash from the general fund. Finance Director Pileski was pleased to share that since that time, the funds have rebounded a little. The first three months, finances are down \$816,283. Income tax revenues are coming in well, up 8% through March, and things appear better than what the Director initially thought it would. Finance Director Pileski stated that the city is still on the wrong side of the wrong side of the equation, however not as bad as he thought.

Law Director Deery:

Law Director Deery introduced Attorney Steven Friedman in attendance with a request for an executive session to discuss pending litigation.

EPD:

President Stewart welcomed Chief Welsh

Please see attached Exhibit 'A'

President Stewart expressed his appreciation of Chief Welsh's commitment and dedication over the years and shared that he is looking forward to what he plans for the department.

Council member Armstrong extended congratulatory towards Chief Welsh, he stated he is excited that he is in charge of the NIU unit.

Council member Siwierka congratulated Chief Welsh on the CALEA and his promotion and expressed she is confident that he will serve with distinction.

Council member Lipian congratulated Chief Welsh and thanked him on his success with the NIU, and inquired about thoughts of a canine unit? Chief Welsh expressed operationally dogs are a great way to interact with the community.

Council member Schneider expressed his congratulations to the Chief as well and thanked him for the directory, he stated that the document is very helpful.

Council member Tollett stated that he was glad to hear the newest armored vehicle (bearcat) was used in the capacity of keeping officers safe as intended with no shots fired and no one getting hurt.

Council member Mitchell offered congratulations to Chief Welsh and asked if the noise factor could be considered with the FBI unit given the number of complaints that have been received.

Chief Welsh expressed the hours would be limited, sound barriers would be incorporated and the police/ FBI want to be good neighbors in that space.

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5. REMARKS AND REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS: Continued

Council member Oswald inquired about the storage location of the bearcat vehicle. Chief Welsh shared that currently the vehicle is being stored at the police department in one of the garages.

EFD: No report

Eng. Schneider:

Engineer Schneider explained construction season is approaching. One project recently started, TLCI, right outside of City Hall. A couple of sidewalks are being restored, one on East Avenue, one on Broad Street, in front of the Foundry Restaurant. The contractor for street resurfacing has started measurements and markings.

Council member Schneider inquired if there have been any updates regarding grant money for walks around Hilltop, Burns Rd. region? Engineer Schneider stated the only correspondence received has been information regarding a change of date for the award money.

Council member Siwierka inquired about an about on the railroad on East Bridge. Engineer Schneider stated no new updates; however, the consultant was in the area a couple of months ago completing borings and taking soil samples. Ms. Siwierka inquired about a follow up to an email submitted regarding the status of the outflow sewer by the gas station at Fourth street. Engineer Schneider explained he believed the issue to be a plugged manhole, however that he would follow up.

Council member Mitchell provided a reminder to her fellow council members to get their street lists to engineering if they have not done so already.

6. PRESIDENT'S REFERRAL'S:

** Matter is completed or partially completed*

1. The matter of an application for Placement of Farmland in an Agricultural District.

REFERRED BY: GREGORY R AND KAREN F SCHLECHTER

REFERRED TO: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

2. The matter of a petition for annexation of land to the City of Elyria from the townships of Carlisle and Eaton.

REFERRED BY: JON D. CLARK

REFERRED TO: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

3. *The matter of a re-zoning permit from R-TH residential two household to B-G Business General for 620 East River St.

REFERRED BY: UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS ELYRIA MEDICAL CENTER

REFERRED TO: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/ PLANNING COMMISSION

4. *The matter of a re-zoning permit from R-TH residential two household to B-G Business General for 630 East River St.

REFERRED BY: UNIVERSITY HOSPITALS ELYRIA MEDICAL CENTER

REFERRED TO: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/ PLANNING COMMISSION

Minutes Approved

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6. PRESIDENT'S REFERRAL'S: Continued

5.*The matter of a conditional use permit for 38780 Chestnut Ridge Rd., Elyria. **(ON HOLD)**

REFERRED BY: JEANETTE'S SANCTUARY FOUNDATION

REFERRED TO: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/ PLANNING COMMISSION

6. *The matter of conditional use permit for personal services for 910 Taylor Street Unit C, Elyria.

REFERRED BY: JDJ MOBILE ENTERTAINMENT

REFERRED TO: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/ PLANNING COMMISSION

7. *The matter of a re-zoning permit for 131 Williams Street, Elyria.

REFERRED BY: XPRESS ASPHALT SOLUTIONS

REFERRED TO: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/ PLANNING COMMISSION

8. The matter of Downtown Facade Improvement Plan Applicant.

REFERRED BY: CDM ALMOBAYYED

REFERRED TO: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/ FINANCE COMMITTEE

9. The matter of a request to purchase real estate: Parcel PPN: 06-24-010-102-011

REFERRED BY: SSD PYANOWSKI

REFERRED TO: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/ FINANCE COMMITTEE

10. The matter of authorization to certify Tree Removal Reimbursement to the Lorain County Auditor.

REFERRED BY: SSD PYANOWSKI

REFERRED TO: FINANCE COMMITTEE

11. The matter of disposing of municipal property unfit for use: IBM# 1331

REFERRED BY: PWS EYE

REFERRED TO: FINANCE COMMITTEE

12. The matter of entering into agreement for the North Park Roof Project.

REFERRED BY: P&R DIR REARDON

REFERRED TO: FINANCE/ UTILITIES COMMITTEE

13. The matter of applying for an ODNR grant.

REFERRED BY: P&R DIR REARDON

REFERRED TO: FINANCE/ UTILITIES COMMITTEE

14. The matter of authorizing the Mayor to advertise and award a contract for the 2025 Gulf Road Water Line Replacement.

REFERRED BY: ENG. SCHNEIDER

REFERRED TO: FINANCE/ UTILITIES COMMITTEE

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6. PRESIDENT'S REFERRAL'S: Continued

15. The matter of updating Chapter 939, Water Rules and Regulations Elyria Municipal Water Supply System (EMWSS).

REFERRED BY: WTL JACOB

REFERRED TO: UTILITIES COMMITTEE

16. The matter of approving an easement for West Park.

REFERRED BY: P&R DIR REARDON

REFERRED TO: UTILITIES COMMITTEE

Items 17 received and placed on file in the clerk's office:

17. Approved Claim for Damages: James Mindling

7. PETITIONS- LOBBY:

Paraskavi Tsinkos – 951 Gulf Rd.- Tree removal on neighbor's property

Kathleen Beyer – 3601 Elizabeth Drive, Vermillion- City Charter

David J. Moore – 173 Terra Lane, Amherst – Update on Port Authority

President Stewart stated that a letter was circulated to the Finance Director during the last council meeting regarding the city ordinance to pay municipal court employees. President Stewart stated that he met with Clerk Rothgery, Judge Bennett and Judge White. All parties have come to an agreement and are on a path moving forward regarding municipal court employee salaries. President Stewart expressed his appreciation for the Clerk and Judges meeting with him and to avoid a potential lawsuit.

President Stewart called for an executive session to discuss pending litigation.

Schneider moved, Cerra seconded to go into executive session.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Callahan, Cerra, Armstrong, Oswald, Mitchell, Tollett, Lipian, Siwierka, Schneider, Stewart

MOTION CARRIED

Executive Session began 7:55

Executive Session end 8:46

8. PETITIONS-COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

9. REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES: None

10. RESOLUTIONS FIRST READING:

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10. RESOLUTIONS FIRST READING: Continued

Sponsored by
Community
Development

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

Finance

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-19

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE REPORT OF THE ELYRIA
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE.

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

SUSPENSION

AYE: 10

NAY: 0

ABSENT: 1

MOTION CARRIED

PASSAGE

AYE: 10

NAY: 0

ABSENT: 1

MOTION CARRIED

Sponsored by
Finance

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-20

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 rules.

SUSPENSION

AYE: 10

NAY: 0

ABSENT: 1

MOTION CARRIED

PASSAGE

AYE: 10

NAY: 0

ABSENT: 1

MOTION CARRIED

11. RESOLUTIONS--SECOND READING: None

12. RESOLUTIONS--THIRD READING: None

13. ORDINANCES--FIRST READINGS:

Companion to 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. 2025-40

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

AYE: 10

NAY: 0

ABSENT: 1

MOTION CARRIED

PASSAGE

AYE: 10

NAY: 0

ABSENT: 1

MOTION CARRIED

Sponsored by

Finance

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-41

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
AGREEMENT WITH SQUIRE PATTON BOGGS (US) LLP, FOR
LEGAL SERVICES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

SUSPENSION

AYE: 10

NAY: 0

ABSENT: 1

MOTION CARRIED

PASSAGE

AYE: 10

NAY: 0

ABSENT: 1

MOTION CARRIED

EMERGENCY

AYE: 10

NAY: 0

ABSENT: 1

MOTION CARRIED

Sponsored by

Finance

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-42

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO
ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR
THE 2025 EMERGENCY SANITARY AND STORM SEWER
REPAIRS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

SUSPENSION

AYE: 10

NAY: 0

ABSENT: 1

PASSAGE

AYE: 10

NAY: 0

ABSENT: 1

EMERGENCY

AYE: 10

NAY: 0

ABSENT: 1

Minutes Approved

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13. ORDINANCES--FIRST READINGS: Continued

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION CARRIED

Sponsored by

Finance

P. Tollett

M. Siwierka

B. Davis

C. Schneider

J. Cerra

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-43

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR AND ENTER INTO A WATER POLLUTION CONTROL LOAN FUND AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO EPA, DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (DEFA), FOR THE GULF ROAD PUMP STATION PROJECT, 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

AYE: 10

NAY: 0

ABSENT: 1

MOTION CARRIED

PASSAGE

AYE: 10

NAY: 0

ABSENT: 1

MOTION CARRIED

EMERGENCY

AYE: 10

NAY: 0

ABSENT: 1

MOTION CARRIED

Sponsored by

Finance

P. Tollett

M. Siwierka

B. Davis

C. Schneider

J. Cerra

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-44

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE GULF ROAD PUMP STATION PROJECT, 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

AYE: 10

NAY: 0

ABSENT: 1

MOTION CARRIED

PASSAGE

AYE: 10

NAY: 0

ABSENT: 1

MOTION CARRIED

EMERGENCY

AYE: 10

NAY: 0

ABSENT: 1

MOTION CARRIED

Sponsored by

Finance

P. Tollett

M. Siwierka

B. Davis

C. Schneider

J. Cerra

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-45

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR AND ENTER INTO A WATER POLLUTION CONTROL LOAN FUND AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO EPA, DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE (DEFA), FOR THE LOWELL STREET SANITARY SEWER EXTENSION PROJECT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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13. ORDINANCES--FIRST READINGS: Continued

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

Council member Stewart recused himself

Council member Lipian abstained

SUSPENSION	PASSAGE	EMERGENCY
AYE: 8	AYE: 8	AYE: 8
NAY: 0	NAY: 0	NAY: 0
ABSENT: 1	ABSENT: 1	ABSENT: 1
MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED	FAILED

Sponsored by

Finance

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-46

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS, AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE 2025 STREET SWEEPING PROGRAM FOR THE CITY OF ELYRIA, 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

14. ORDINANCES--SECOND READINGS:

Sponsored by

Finance

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

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 1135 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ELYRIA, OHIO, TO 1000 LOWELL LLC FOR A BARBER SHOP/SALON, AT REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1000 LOWELL STREET, ELYRIA, OHIO.

Public Hearing Scheduled 4/21/2025 at 7:00 p.m.

15. ORDINANCES--THIRD READING: None

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16. COMMITTEE CALLS:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Monday 4/14/2025 Beginning at 6:00 PM

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

JOINT CD/ FINANCE

Mon. 4/14/2025 Immediately following Community Development All Referred Items Council Chambers w/Law Director, SSD, Engineer, Bldg. Insp.

FINANCE

Mon. 4/14/2025 Immediately following Joint All Referred Items Council Chambers w/Mayor, Finance Director, Law Director, SSD, Engineer

UTILITIES Wed 4/9/2025 Beginning at 6:00 PM All Referred Items Council Chambers

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

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Mon. 4/21/2025 Immediately following Council Meeting All Referred Items Council Chambers

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

17. MISCELLANEOUS AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Finance Director Pileski referred to the next council meeting the matter of maturing and rollover of general bond anticipation notes.

Council member Lipian stated that questions that he asked a few months ago were inquiries, today a resident from Vermillion brought up in his opinion some pretty alarming concerns. Mr. Lipian asked would an opportunity exist for the Law Director to address the challenges to the charter that were brought up?

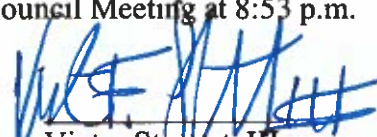
Law Director Deery stated that she had expressed her stance on this matter previously, however to reiterate what is stated in the charter: council may provide as it seems fit any assistant attorneys, whether it be prosecutors or law directors to the law director's office and any special prosecutors that includes any professional services in my budget. Law Director Deery explained the special prosecutor that was mentioned earlier in the evening was paid for out of those proceeds. Council approved the expense by approving the Law Director's budget. Law Director Deery will fulfill the records request of the number of felonies filed with the municipal court.

18. ADJOURNMENT:

Mitchell moved, Cerra seconded to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting at 8:53 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=SzqolXrd8gc>

Rlp /



ELYRIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

JAMES P. WELSH, POLICE CHIEF

KEVIN A. BRUBAKER, MAYOR

City Council Presentation April 7, 2025

Introduction

Good evening, my name is James Welsh and I was sworn in as the police chief Monday, March 31, 2025.

Background:

I graduated from Elyria Catholic in 1990, served active duty in the Air Force. I've been an Elyria Police Officer for the past 26+ years. I have worked with city council numerous times throughout my career based on different positions that I served in Patrol, Narcotics and Investigations, and most recently as a Captain assigned as the Patrol and Traffic Unit Commander.

I've stated many times over the past week that I'm thankful for the many opportunities that I've had during my career as an Elyria Police Officer, but none more than the opportunity to stand before council, as your Police Chief.

Vision and Accomplishments

I want the citizens of Elyria to know that my primary goal will be to lead the brave men and women of our police force in an effort to make our schools, roads and highways safer, target drug dealers and reduce violent crime. Just as important, I want to build trust within our community through transparency and through positive engagement.

Last week, I sent out a resource guide that detailed the restructuring of my command staff. Capt. Groomes will take over my former role as the patrol commander. We will continue to staff a traffic unit, to answer citizen's requests for additional traffic and parking enforcement throughout the city, as well as reduce motor vehicle crashes. I am happy to report that over a three-year period traffic citation have increased over 120% and crashes were reduced by 18% during that time. In 2024, we had 957 crashes, the lowest reported number that I'm aware of in year's past. The Patrol Division and Traffic Unit issued 5,596 traffic citations and 479 parking tickets combined

I also helped revitalize the Neighborhood Impact Unit (NIU) in October 2024. NIU focuses on gang and gun activity while fostering partnerships with the community. We used grant funding from NOVCC Project Safe Neighborhood Grants to fund NIU as an OT Detail. During the previous 6 months, NIU operated on a part time basis making 113 Arrests, seized 7 guns, and over 100 grams of Cocaine, Fentanyl



ELYRIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

JAMES P. WELSH, POLICE CHIEF

KEVIN A. BRUBAKER, MAYOR

and Methamphetamines. (Crack: 41g, Fentanyl 37g, Meth: 35.5g). EPD will continue to apply for grant funding to reduce violent crime, but if it's not available, I will seek creative ways in staffing so the NIU can continue their work that is much needed to reduce violent crime, especially with the warmer weather on its way.

Eric Palmer was also promoted to Captain last Monday, 3/31. Capt. Palmer will lead the Services Division which handles our operating budget, purchasing, hiring and recruitment. Currently, we have 82 sworn officers; however, we only have 76 sworn officers working without restrictions. Four (4) are in training, and two (2) are on restrictions due to injury status. Is it important that we continue to recruit and staff the department in preparation for annual retirements and/or unexpected resignations.

CALEA

On March 17/18, we had our onsite CALEA Assessment. CALEA is an accreditation authority that requires law enforcement organization to benchmark and report on standards signifying a commitment to professional excellence. Less than 10% of agencies nationwide are CALEA Accredited and EPD is one of them. We have not received the full report, but our assessor said we were fantastic which was great to hear from a 3rd party expert. If approved, we will receive the award in August in Little Rock, AR.

Training Facility Progress

The Joint Training Facility is a work in progress. Sewer and utilities are in progress. Next phase will be the construction of the training buildings. It is my understanding we have to reduce the footprints do to the increase in building costs, but that did not cause any loss in function.

Office of Professional Standards:

Lt. Aaron Varga was promoted early today along with Sgt. Josh Vacha. Lt. Varga was my administrative Sergeant in the Patrol Division the past two (2) years. He handled many special events and parades for the city. In my opinion safety and trust go hand in hand. To build trust with the community we must treat citizens with dignity and respect. Lt. Varga epitomizes our core values and he will work alongside Capt. Palmer and will head the new Office of Professionals Standards. OPS will investigate and make recommendations to me on any allegations of courtesy violations and police misconduct. Community trust and support are extremely important to me and the direction I take the EPD.



ELYRIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

JAMES P. WELSH, POLICE CHIEF

KEVIN A. BRUBAKER, MAYOR

Violent Crime

Capt. Bill Lantz will lead the Investigative Division and Narcotics Bureau, supervised by Sgt. Eric Grove. Homicides were down 50% in 2024. We continue to be creative with the use of technology, from drones, Flock Cameras and digital forensics in an attempt to reduce violent crime.

Last Friday, April 4, 2025, we had a standoff with an armed man with arrest warrants. He barricaded himself in a home in the 800 block of S. Logan St. The situation ended peacefully, which not many do. I'd like to acknowledge the bravery and teamwork of my staff for their efforts in ending this standoff peacefully. I'd also like thank you for approving the purchase of our Lenco Bearcat Armored SWAT Vehicle. This is an intimidating piece of equipment and it allows additional protection for officers, but it also serves a lowest level of force. Often, the Bearcat's mere presence is enough to gain compliance and it worked perfectly last Friday.

Strategic Plan

My short-term strategic plan is to staff the police dept. to 90 officers. This will allow us to continue to rollout specialty units such as Traffic, NIU and Narcotics. We have already talked about the OPS which will dedicate resources to improve trust within the community. I also want to step up our community engagement efforts and continue to build rapport with out print and news media.

I am also looking to update and renovate the police department which is over 26 years old. Training and mentoring officers is very important to me. We have new, state of the art Virtual Reality Software through Axon, who makes our BWC/Dash Cameras. I have a plan to renovate a new training area within our Patrol Division that will make our officers better trained, which will make the police dept. more effective, efficient, and reduce liability. I am also looking at cost effective ways to redesign our marked fleet by adding new decals which will make our vehicles more visible and identifiable.

I want to unify the police department in a way that hasn't always existed over the course of my career. I want to focus on officer wellness and continue to look for ways to keep my staff operationally capable not only physically, but mentally and emotionally. The improved physical and mental health of officers can lead to enhanced job performance, lower healthcare and workers' compensation costs, and better public safety outcomes. Additionally, the wellness program contributes to higher morale and retention rates, which further reduces the cost of hiring and training new officers.

At some point in the future, I'd like to look into a K9 program. K9's are great for community engagement and we routinely call for mutual aid to track, and search for suspects from neighboring agencies. We are a large enough department that we should have those resources in-house. We will do the research to find out if the cost of a K9 Program would benefit the department and the city in the future.



ELYRIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

JAMES P. WELSH, POLICE CHIEF

KEVIN A. BRUBAKER, MAYOR

Lastly, I want to say thank you for your support of the EPD, and I look forward to working with you, Mayor Brubaker, and his staff to make this city a safer place to live, work and visit. I will answer any questions you may have at this time.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James P. Welsh".

James P. Welsh
Chief of Police
Elyria Police Department
440-326-1339
welsh@cityofelyria.org



ELYRIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

JAMES P. WELSH, POLICE CHIEF

KEVIN A. BRUBAKER, MAYOR

Chief James P. Welsh

(440) 326- 1339

Mary Gibbs: Administrative Assistant

EXT:1200

Patrol Division	Services Division	Detective Bureau
Captain Michael Groomes <i>Patrol Commander</i> EXT: 1305 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Patrol Operations• Traffic Unit• Parking Complaints• Uniform Patrol Requests• Dispatch• Department Field Training• School Resource Officer SRO Lt. Todd Straub <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Special Response Team• LMHA	Captain Eric Palmer <i>Services Commander</i> EXT: 1222 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Budget• Purchasing• City/Dept. Contracts• Grant Manager• State Audits Jail/Juvenile• Building Maintenance• Policies & Procedures• Training Administration• Recruiting	Captain Bill Lantz <i>Investigations Commander</i> EXT: 1214 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Crime Scene Unit• UAV Unit• Digital Forensics• Narcotics• Crisis Negotiations• Public Information Officer
Sgt. Dustin Thacker EXT: 1308 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Orientation• FTO/CTO• FBI Range• Job Training facility coordinator• CPT• In-Service• Training• Remedial Training/PIP	Lt. Aaron Varga EXT: 1335 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Special Events• Professional Standards & Internal Affairs• Public Records Requests• Training Administration• Recruiting• Community Engagement• Department Wellness	Lt. Thomas Wade Unit Commander EXT: 1362 Sgt. Jim Wise Detective Supervisor EXT: 1361 Sgt. Eric Grove Narcotics Supervisor EXT: 1235 Investigate felony and in-depth criminal and narcotic investigations
Sgt. Benjamin Harris EXT: 1308 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Patrol Admin• Patrol Lineups• Shift & Vacation picks• Patrol Grand Jury• Dispatch Supervisor• Crash Review• Public Records Requests	Sgt. Adam Garvin EXT: 1334 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• CALEA Accreditation• Application Specialist• Crime Statistics• Backgrounds	Missy Grace EXT: 1360 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Payroll• Investigative Secretary• Press Board Management• Business Cards
Platoon Commanders EXT: 1320	Community Engagement	Records Division
Platoon A: Lt. Brandon Pool <i>Sun-Tues EO Wed 0600-1745</i> Platoon B: Lt. Vincent Ligas <i>Thurs-Sat EO Wed 0600-1745</i> Platoon C: Lt. Todd Straub <i>Sun-Tues EO Wed 1745-0600</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• LMHA• SRT Commander Platoon D: Lt. Michael Mahony <i>Thurs-Sat EO Wed 1745-0600</i>	Dana Linden EXT: 1336 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Community Engagement• Recruiting• Social Media Coordinator Rick Walker EXT: 1226 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Impound Management/Tow Processing• GOV Deals	Jamie Figula EXT: 1248 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Records Management• Warrant Management• TPO• LEADS• Report Copies• Special Parking Permits

