



**MINUTES REGULAR MEETING
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
January 27, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Shanette Strickland called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

INVOCATION - Pastor Renee Russell of City Church of Reynoldsburg

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Cotner, Baker, Johnson, Strickland, Towns, Salvati, Hill

ABSENT: Pyakurel

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes of January 13, 2025

The regular meeting minutes of January 13, 2025 were approved without incident.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Email Comment

**Tanya Dexter
7255 Sorrelwood Ct.**

Good evening new President Strickland, new council member Towns, and city council members. Happy New Year.

I am bringing to the council an issue that has yet to be addressed, chicken ownership. As a new spring season swiftly approaches, so does the time for starting a new chicken flock. As you know chicken ownership in residential areas of our city is prohibited.

Regardless of chicken ownership being prohibited there are many residents who own chickens, and have gone as far as to say it would be easier for me to own chickens and disregard the regulations of this great city. Statements of this nature highlight a problem of a different kind that I will not be addressing in this letter. However, I personally live by a different standard. My petition is that the regulations regarding chicken ownership in residential areas be changed from being prohibited, to being permitted in residential areas. I ask that this issue be promptly addressed as the optimal season fleetingly draws near. I await with great expectancy hearing about the new regulations regarding this matter.

President Strickland

President Strickland wanted to recognize Holocaust Remembrance Day. She stated that Council would pause to honor the millions of people who lost their lives during the Holocaust and reflected on the resilience of the survivors. It was a reminder to stand against hatred, prejudice, and assure that these tragedies were never repeated.

Mayor Begeny

Mayor Begeny thanked all those who came out to the MLK breakfast, which was a great event with a powerful message.

Mayor Begeny stated that the State of the City will be on February 19th in Council Chambers beginning at 7pm.

Mayor Begeny read a Proclamation for National Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

Office of the Mayor Proclamation

Whereas, human trafficking is a public health crisis and crime that exposit vulnerable individuals, undermining the health, dignity, and safety of individuals, families, and communities; and

Whereas, more than two decades after the enactment of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act, human trafficking persists across the globe, impacting an estimated 27.6 million people, including cases within every U.S. state and territory; and

Whereas, human trafficking does not discriminate and affects individuals of all backgrounds, but certain populations, including those experiencing abuse, violence, poverty, social isolation, discrimination, or unstable living conditions, are disproportionately at risk; and

Whereas, immigrants, undocumented individuals, and other marginalized groups often face heightened vulnerability to trafficking due to barriers in language, legal protections,

and access to resources, leaving them more susceptible to exploitation in industries such as agriculture, domestic work, construction, and factories; and

Whereas, traffickers exploit people in person and online, often hiding in plain sight, and may use coercion, fraud, or force in their recruitment and abuse; and

Whereas, the City of Reynoldsburg is committed to ensuring that those impacted by human trafficking receive services that are trauma-informed and responsive to their individual needs; and

Whereas, a successful response to human trafficking requires a coordinated, community-wide effort that includes collaboration across sectors, public-private partnerships, survivor engagement, and the promotion of resilience and equity to ensure that prevention, intervention, and support services are effective and meet the needs of all survivors; and

Whereas, every individual, family, community, and organization can help raise awareness, prevent trafficking, and support survivors by learning how to take action at acf.hhs.gov/endtrafficking; and

Whereas, every resident of Reynoldsburg has a role to play in combating human trafficking, by staying informed, supporting survivors, and promoting practices that enhance prevention and response efforts.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Joe Begeny, Mayor of the City of Reynoldsburg, Ohio, do hereby proclaim January 2025 as;

NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING PREVENTION MONTH

In the City of Reynoldsburg. I call upon all residents, businesses, and organizations to unite in raising awareness, supporting victims and survivors, and working together to eliminate the scourge of human trafficking in our community and beyond.

MOTIONS

A Motion to Recommend the Appointment of Julie Towns as the Council Representative to the Reynoldsburg Visitors Bureau

President Strickland indicated that this was an annual appointment made by Council President. This year's representative to the Reynoldsburg Visitors Bureau would be new Councilmember Julie Towns.

Councilmember Salvati made a motion to approve this appointment. Second by Councilmember Johnson. Motion carried.

REPORTS

West Licking Fire District



West Licking Fire District - December 2024 Report

Councilmember Baker stated that the statistics for December 2024 were included in the packet.

There is no Development, Parks & Recreation Committee meeting.

Public Safety, Law & Courts Committee

This is the Public Safety, Law & Courts Committee meeting for January 27, 2025.

Members in attendance are: Councilmember Cotner, Councilmember Towns, Councilmember Hill, Chair Johnson, and President Strickland.

An Ordinance to Approve Payment of Services Performed to the Auditors Certificate of Availability of Funds, and Declaring an Emergency

This item was requested as a single-read emergency.

Chief Baker explained that since the original quote and order of four cruisers for the PD was made in early 2024 with based on gas powered vehicles. As the City was able to obtain the fourth vehicle as a hybrid, he total cost of the fourth vehicle increased by \$4,345.00. He was not requesting additional funds, he were only requesting that funds that were already budgeted be made available for this purchase.

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to forward this Ordinance to Council for a first reading and emergency approval. Second by Councilmember Towns. Motion carried.

This Ordinance will be forwarded to Council for a first reading and emergency approval.

There is no Public Service & Transportation Committee meeting.

Finance & Administration Committee

This is the Finance & Administration Committee meeting for January 27. 2025.



Members in attendance are: Councilmember Salvati, Councilmember Johnson, Chair Baker, and President Strickland.

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association for the Period Beginning January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027, and Declaring an Emergency

This Item was requested as a single-read emergency.

Chief Baker explained that the City of Reynoldsburg entered into a contract with the OPBA (the union contract for lieutenants and sergeants) for the period beginning January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027.

Councilmember Baker made a motion to forward this Ordinance to Council for a first reading and emergency approval. Second by Councilmember Johnson. Motion carried.

This Ordinance will be forwarded to Council for a first reading and emergency approval.

CONSENT AGENDA FOR EMERGENCY ADOPTION

RESULT:	PASSED (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Baker
SECONDER:	Salvati
AYES:	Cotner, Baker, Johnson, Strickland, Towns, Salvati, Hill

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association for the Period Beginning January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2027, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance to Approve Payment of Services Performed to the Auditors Certificate of Availability of Funds, and Declaring an Emergency

OTHER COUNCIL MATTERS

Councilmember Baker congratulated everyone for a wonderful MLK breakfast and thanked the people who organized the event and spoke during the breakfast. He also congratulated the three scholarship recipients awarded at this event. Councilmember Baker also gave a shout out to the Reynoldsburg boy's basketball team and



congratulated The Ohio State University on their National Championship win. He also thanked RPD for the work they do in Reynoldsburg.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

February 6, 2025 Planning & Zoning Board
February 10, 2025 Council
February 17, 2025 Presidents' Day City Offices Closed
February 20, 2025 Planning & Zoning Board
February 24, 2025 Council

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, Council President Strickland adjourned the meeting.

Shanette Strickland, Council President

Mollie Prasher, Clerk of Council