



**MINUTES REGULAR MEETING
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
March 10, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes of February 24, 2025

The regular meeting minutes of February 24, 2025 were approved as submitted.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

**Tanya Dexter
7255 Sorrelwood Court**

Ms. Dexter thanked President Strickland for her comments at the meeting last week and for taking the time to understand the issue of chicken ownership. She also thanked Councilmember Baker for reaching out to her to discuss this issue. She explained that she is interested in hearing what Council discussed regarding this matter and what the City Attorney discussed as well. She explained that she is slightly concerned, because some of the things President Strickland stated at the previous meeting were issues that Ms. Dexter had addressed before. She stated that one thing that was brought up last week that she had not discussed was the bird flu. She stated that bird flu is not a new issue and there have been many outbreaks in the past. She stated that there have been minimal issues with humans related to bird flu. She also explained that this issue is mostly controlled in residential areas by limiting flock size. She also stated that any

animal can transmit diseases, so this is not something unique to chickens. She also expressed her concern because Council stated that this matter would not be discussed further unless they received a greater amount of interest from the community. She stated that this is a disservice to those who are interested in owning chickens and that discussing issues residents bring to Council is their purpose.

Councilmember Johnson

Councilmember Johnson thanked the residents that came out and supported Harriet Tubman Day at City Hall. She gave special thanks to President Strickland for coming out and reading the Proclamation that was introduced to Council and Representative Meredith Lawson-Rowe for attending as well with a Proclamation.

Councilmember Pyakurel

Councilmember Pyakurel stated that he is in support of having an open discussion about residential chicken ownership in a work session at Council. He agreed that this should be discussed to see what can and can't be done.

Councilmember Baker agreed that there should be a work session to discuss chicken ownership.

Councilmember Baker

Councilmember Baker congratulated the Reynoldsburg Boys' Basketball team for making it to the state semifinals.

Councilmember Baker also asked how the City could find a way to support Reynoldsburg City Schools. He stated that he has been an advocate for getting rid of pay to play ever since he joined Council. He asked the City Auditor if there was anything the City could do to better support our schools, like sponsorships or City funding.

Auditor Cicak stated that he agreed that sports programs, music programs, and any other school programs are important, and he would be glad to look into this. He stated that for the City to fund anything. It had to be proven that it was for the public good and could benefit everyone. Councilmember Baker felt this was worth looking into, and he believed that it was for the public good. He stated that there was no dollar amount that was too much to help our children. He believed there was some way that the City could assist the schools with the issues the district was facing. He explained that he observed other school districts in other communities passing levies and investing in their schools, and believed we should do the same. He hoped to see the levy returned to the ballot, even though it failed this past election.

Councilmember Cotner asked if Attorney Shook had any thoughts about what Councilmember Baker and Auditor Cicak had just discussed. Attorney Shook stated that the first step was to deal with the public purpose analysis. In most cases, the public purpose was pretty straightforward, like public roads. He stated that this situation may be tested waters somewhere, and they would look into if anything had been done like this before; however, this could be an untested issue. If this had been untested in the past, their best option was to contact the state auditor's office to discuss the issue, as the last thing the City wanted to do was to spend funds and find out later it was an improper expenditure and getting a finding of recovery as that can be very difficult. Councilmember Cotner stated that there were great thoughts and great ideas and agreed we should look further into this.

President Strickland

President Strickland thanked Ms. Dexter for coming to Council and voicing her opinion. She reiterated that Councilmember Pyakurel requested a work session on this issue, and she would work with the Mayor and City Attorney to prepare for a discussion.

Mayor Begeny

Mayor Begeny stated that on Thursday, March 13th, from 6 to 7pm, Reynoldsburg Community Church and Reynoldsburg Chamber of Commerce were hosting the Build Your Own Business and Job Fair event. They would have many different vendors there to discuss various aspects of owning your own business.

Mayor Begeny stated that everyone should have gotten an email regarding the application for the Minority, Female, and Veteran Grant being live on the website. The only difference in the application this session was the timeline and the day to accept applications - March 31st.

Mayor Begeny stated that they were also trying to host a meeting with resident Kurt Keljo and various other entities to discuss the Huber Park Blacklick Stream Project and address its impact in both the short and long-term effects. He stated that Ms. Dexter's discussion regarding the avian flu coincided with his discussion with the Central Ohio Mayors and Managers meeting on Friday, where the Franklin County Board of Public Health and Columbus Director of Health were voicing their concerns about this issue and provided their thoughts about the process going forward. The main concern was washing your hands after handling any birds.

PROCLAMATIONS



A Proclamation Recognizing Harriet Tubman Day

Councilmember Johnson read the Proclamation.

Councilmember Pyakurel made a motion to approve this Proclamation. Second by Councilmember Towns. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS

Job Fair Flyer

REPORTS

West Licking Fire District

2024 WLFD Annual Report

Councilmember Baker stated that the 2024 West Licking Fire District Annual Report and the January fire stats report were both been included in the packet. The annual report was very detailed, and it showed an increase in services in our area due to the population growth.

January Fire Stats Report

Development, Parks & Recreation Committee

This is the Development, Parks & Recreation Committee meeting for March 10, 2025.

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

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with EMH&T for Design Engineering, Construction Administration Services, and Bid Services for the Redevelopment of the Conversion of the JFK Tennis Courts, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and Declaring an Emergency

Director Bauman explained that this contract would allow them to go ahead with the conversion of the tennis courts into new pickleball courts. This grant was for \$150,000 from ODNR and the plan would need to be sent to ODNR for approval before beginning. They would like to start this project in August and be completed by October.

Councilmember Salvati made a motion to forward this Ordinance to Council for a first reading. Second by Councilmember Hill. Motion carried.

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with Shared Mobility for Transportation Services, Appropriate Funds, Waive Competitive Bidding, and Declaring an Emergency

Director Bauman stated that at the last meeting, Council accepted the grant of \$144,000. This Ordinance allowed them to enter into a contract with Shared Mobility. Shared Mobility was currently providing services in Dublin and Hilliard.

She was requesting competitive bidding be waived as Shared Mobility was a sole service provider for proprietary technology. They need to have 20% of the total cost in the budget for this project, but \$10,000 was donated by Meijer to the Senior Center, so around \$18,000 would be needed from the City. Shared Mobility will create all the route mapping, so all the requests would go through them.

Councilmember Salvati made a motion to forward this Ordinance to Council for a first reading. Second by Councilmember Towns. Motion carried.

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Purchase a Cushman Truckster XD and Related Equipment for the Parks and Recreation Department and Waive Competitive Bidding

Director Bauman stated that this purchase from Baker Solution was budgeted in the 2025 budget. They were able to waive competitive bidding for this item as Baker Solution was a part of a collective purchasing agreement. This vehicle would assist the Parks and Recreation Department with streetscape maintenance and could fit on the sidewalk.

Councilmember Salvati made a motion to forward this Resolution to Council for approval. Second by Councilmember Hill. Motion carried.

Public Safety, Law & Courts Committee

This is the Public Safety, Law & Courts Committee meeting for March 10, 2025.

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

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Agreement with the Franklin County Sheriff's Office for Fingerprinting, Photographs, and DNA Services

Chief Baker stated that they used these services from Franklin County typically when an individual was uncooperative. These services were not utilized very frequently, but there were times services were rendered once they were transported to the county jail. This agreement was for 4 years. It was \$55 to fingerprint and photograph a prisoner and \$55 if they needed to collect DNA.

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to forward this Resolution to Council for approval. Second by Councilmember Towns. Motion carried.

A Resolution to Request to Upgrade and Purchase Three Police Department Dispatch Stations Through REM Communications, Inc. and Waive Competitive Bidding

Chief Baker stated that this Resolution would allow the PD to upgrade their software and hardware in the dispatch center and add a third dispatch system instead of just having two. They typically try to keep two dispatchers working at all times and having a third station would allow them to keep working if one station goes down or if something critical happens in the City. They plan to make these changes as quickly as possible.

Councilmember Johnson made a motion to forward this Resolution to Council for approval. Second by Councilmember Towns. Motion carried.

There is no Public Service & Transportation Committee meeting.

There is no Finance & Administration Committee meeting.

RESOLUTIONS - CONSENT AGENDA

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

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Competitive Bidding

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A Resolution to Request to Upgrade and Purchase Three Police Department Dispatch Stations Through REM Communications, Inc. and Waive Competitive Bidding

CONSENT AGENDA FOR EMERGENCY ADOPTION

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

An Ordinance Appropriating Funds from the Receipt of a Zurich American Insurance Company Payment, and Declaring an Emergency

CONSENT AGENDA FOR FIRST READING

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with EMH&T for Design Engineering, Construction Administration Services, and Bid Services for the Redevelopment of the Conversion of the JFK Tennis Courts, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with Shared Mobility for Transportation Services, Appropriate Funds, Waive Competitive Bidding, and Declaring an Emergency



CONSENT AGENDA FOR SECOND READING

**An Ordinance to Amend Reynoldsburg Codified Ordinance Section 333.03
Maximum Speed Limits; Assured Clear Distance Ahead**

CONSENT AGENDA FOR THIRD READING

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

**An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with EMH&T for
Implementation of 2025 Sanitary Sewer Program**

OTHER COUNCIL MATTERS

Councilmember Baker congratulated the boys' basketball team again for their win and the mock trial team for how far they made it in the state competition. He thanked RPD for their work.

Councilmember Pyakurel congratulated Quinn Dean for placing fourth in the OHSAA Bowling Tournament Central Ohio Division One out of fifteen hundred participants.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

March 20, 2025 Planning & Zoning Board
March 24, 2025 Council
April 3, 2025 Planning & Zoning Board
April 14, 2025 Council
April 17, 2025 Planning & Zoning Board
April 28, 2025 Council

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(3) "to conference with an attorney concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action."

Councilmember Towns made a motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to ORC Section 121.22 (G)(3) "to conference with an attorney concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action". Second by Councilmember Pyakurel.

Roll call: Cotner - yes; Baker - yes; Johnson - yes; Strickland - yes; Towns - yes; Salvati - yes; Pyakurel - yes; Hill - yes.

Motion carried.

Council invites Mayor Begeny, Attorney Shook, Attorney Batke, and Clerk Prasher to remain in the session.

Councilmember Salvati made a motion to leave the Executive Session. Second by Councilmember Pyakurel.

Roll call: Cotner - yes; Baker - yes; Johnson - yes; Strickland - yes; Towns - yes; Salvati - yes; Pyakurel - yes; Hill - yes.

Motion carried.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Shanette Strickland, Council President

Mollie Prasher, Clerk of Council