Reynoldsburg
OHIO • 1839

MINUTES REGULAR MEETING
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
June 23, 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, Pyakurel, Hill
ABSENT:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as without incident.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes of June 9, 2025

The regular meeting minutes of June 9, 2025 were approved as submitted.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Mayor Begeny

Mayor Begeny stated that the Pride Celebration is this Saturday, June 28th, at Huber Park from 4-8pm. he stated that there will be shows, vendors, and food at the celebration.

Mayor Begeny stated that on July 3rd, there will be a fireworks show at 6pm and a parade on July 4th. He hopes to see everyone come out at participate at these events.

Discussion of Urban Chickens

President Strickland stated that due to the lively discussion they had about chickens earlier this year, Council has asked Attorney Shook to create a presentation on chicken ownership

in central Ohio and what that may look like.

Attorney Shook stated that a lot of the research that is being presented was compiled by the Attorney's Office interns that were previously presented to Council. He stated that he would summarize the research and present a table of this information, which has been added below. He would like to note that the majority of communities in Central Ohio prohibit chickens in residential districts. That includes Dublin, Upper Arlington, Grove City, New Albany, Westerville, Grandview Heights, Pickerington, and Bexley. Of the cities that do permit them, there are some limitations in half of those cities with respect to acreage minimums. For example, in Gahanna, it is limited to one acre and limited to a very specific position. In Worthington, although they don't have an acreage minimum, they do require that the chickens be kept 150 feet from the nearest residence, which in and of itself is a rather severe limitation.

Attorney Shook explained that Columbus and Worthington actually partner through Columbus Public Health. Worthington, unlike all the other Central Ohio suburban communities, contracts with Columbus Public Health for their health services. We contract with Franklin County Public Health, so that's why we are not able to develop that partnership with Columbus. And Columbus probably has the most detailed and perhaps strict site requirements for chickens developed in their public health code. The program in both of those cities is administered by one person who is a veterinarian, through Columbus Public Health, who handles all applications for approval in Columbus and Worthington, who only have a handful of permits, about five.

Roosters are generally prohibited, except in Hilliard, if the residence is more than one acre. Some of the common regulations that are in many of these ordinances, beyond just the number of chickens, are pretty strict coop and sheltering requirements, the size of the coop, where it could be located, which is almost always in the backyard, and requirements for cleanliness and things of that nature. The communities also typically have requirements to make sure that the fencing is at least six feet tall and opaque so that chickens cannot be seen from the public right away. Many cities also require a class and permit that would have to be obtained through Ohio State University.

	Columbus	**Worthington**	**Gahanna**	**Whitehall**	**Canal Winchester**	**Hilliard**	**Bexley**
Chickens Permitted	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Acreage Minimums	None	None but cannot be within 150 feet of another	1 acre	None	1 acre	1/2 acre	None

		residence					
Residential Zoning District Limits	None	None	Estate Residential only (very few lots qualify)	None	None	Agricultural and PUDs	None
Permit Required	Yes	Yes; through Columbus Public Health	None	None	Yes	Zoning Certificate	Yes
Limit on # of Chickens	8	8	N/A	6	6 per acre	6	5
Roosters	No	No	No	No	No	Yes, if more than one acre	No

*Chickens are prohibited in residential districts in Dublin, Upper Arlington, Grove City, New Albany, Westerville, Grandview Heights, Pickerington, and Groveport.

Councilmember Pyakurel asked for more details about the certification course that is offered by Ohio State University. Attorney Shook stated that it is a two-to-three-hour course which includes six modules covering the getting starting process: basic husbandry, nutrition, housing, maximizing health, and biosecurity. The course only costs $25.

Councilmember Cotner asked how many permits are actually active in some of these communities that have acreage limits and zoning requirements. Attorney Shook stated that they were not able to get the total number from Columbus. In Worthington, it was about five, Hilliard was about five, Gahanna did not currently have any known lots, and he was unsure about Whitehall and Bexley at that time. Councilmember Cotner then asked if these cities receive many complaints regarding the chickens. Attorney Shook stated that he does not know of many complaints in these areas. In Hilliard, the only issue they had was chicken ownership with no permit. Councilmember Cotner asked how they planned to handle these complaints. Attorney Shook stated that if they use Columbus Public Health, then they investigate the code violation themselves and revoke the permit if deemed necessary. In other communities where chicken ownership is part of their zoning code, it is enforced by their zoning code enforcement. Mayor Begeny stated that they have discussed using zoning enforcement in Reynoldsburg to deal with code violations if this were to move forward. Code enforcement would deal with issues on the property, but park rangers would most likely work with any chickens at large in the City. Attorney Shook stated that there are approximately only forty to sixty residential lots in Reynoldsburg that are larger than one acre, so that would limit the number of permit holders if they chose to go that route.

Councilmember Baker asked what the penalty was in other communities for chickens at

large. Attorney Shook stated that most likely it would be no different from any other animal at large and would be treated as a minor misdemeanor on the first offense.

Councilmember Salvati stated that residents have come into the meetings and stated that they currently have chickens on their residential property. He asked if they had any complaints about chickens. Attorney Shook stated that he is only aware of about four chicken citations in the last five years, with only one of them being an actual charge. That is not to say that there aren't more chickens than that in the City, but he is unaware of how common they may be.

Councilmember Hill asked if any cities have modified their regulations based on lessons learned after originally passing legislation to allow chickens. Attorney Shook stated that he is not aware of any changes in legislation within these communities. The only example he can think of is Hilliard lowering their minimum acreage standard from one acre to 0.5 acres and so far they have had no issue.

President Strickland stated that at this time they would like to discuss how they would like to proceed with this process. Councilmember Pyakurel requested that Attorney Shook put together a draft legislation and see where the discussion goes from there. Councilmember Baker agreed with this statement. Attorney Shook requested that someone be a point of contact for this discussion and possible legislation because there are so many details that would need to be addressed. Councilmember Salvati stated he would like for the legislation to be similar to what Hilliard currently has and possibly go through the zoning board for the permit process and regulations. He believes there should be 6 chickens and absolutely no roosters. President Strickland requested that Councilmember Salvati work with Attorney Shook on this draft legislation. Councilmember Salvati agreed to work with the Attorney's Office for this legislation.

Councilmember Baker stated that he would prefer it be limited to six chickens. Clerk Prasher stated that there may be a minimum number of chickens that must be purchased at once. Councilmember Salvati and Councilmember Pyakurel agreed that they had also seen where six was the minimum-allowed purchase. Councilmember Hill stated that in her research, she noted that 6 was the ideal number for a family of 4 to have enough eggs to make it worth it.

President Strickland thanked Attorney Shook for this presentation.

PROCLAMATIONS

A Proclamation Recognizing the Somali American Museum and Proclaiming June 26th through July 1st as Somali Cultural Week

President Strickland stated that she recently had the opportunity to visit the Somali American Museum and being able to learn about the culture was a wonderful and interesting experience. She wanted to recognize the museum and all the work that is being done within their community.

President Strickland read the Proclamation.

President Strickland invited Mr. Mohamud Jama to speak about the Somali American Museum.

Mr. Mohamud Jama stated that on behalf of the Somali American Museum and the Somali American community, they are deeply honored to receive this Proclamation. He stated that this recognition is not only for the museum, but for all who have contributed to the cultural diversity, growth, and vibrancy of the community. The museum is a space for history, culture, and stories to come together to enrich our shared understanding. He would like to take this opportunity to thank their partners, supporters, and volunteers. They look forward to continuing their work and invite everyone to visit the museum. Mr. Jama stated that they are deeply grateful for the City's support and look forward to continuing to work together.

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

A Proclamation Recognizing Pride Month, June 2025

Councilmember Towns read the Proclamation.

Councilmember Towns stated that she hopes to see everyone at the Pride Celebration at Huber Park this Saturday, June 28th.

Councilmember Baker stated that these proclamations show that we are a welcoming City, and we truly are the City of Respect. He thanked President Strickland and Councilmember Towns for bringing this to Council.

Councilmember Baker made a motion to approve this Proclamation. Second by Councilmember Hill. Motion carried.

A Proclamation Declaring July Parks and Recreation Month

Councilmember Salvati read the Proclamation.

President Strickland and Councilmember Baker thanked the Parks and Recreation department for all that they do.

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

REPORTS

Development, Parks & Recreation Committee

This is the Development, Parks & Recreation Committee meeting for June 23, 2025.

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

An Ordinance Appropriating Sponsorship Funds from the Unappropriated General Fund to an Account in the Parks and Recreation Department

Director Bauman stated that the City of Reynoldsburg Parks and Recreation Department received sponsorship funds designated to support recreation programming in the amount of $1,020.00 in the unappropriated general fund, and they are requesting it be appropriated into the recreational supplies account.

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

There is no Public Safety, Law & Courts Committee meeting.

Public Service & Transportation Committee

This is the Public Service & Transportation Committee meeting for June 23, 2025.

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

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

This item has been requested as a single read emergency.

Director Dorman stated that this legislation is regarding the Summit sewer project they are currently working on. He stated that by the time they received the contract back from the contractor, the work had already been done.

Councilmember Pyakurel made a motion to forward this Ordinance to Council for a single read emergency. Second by Councilmember Towns. Motion carried.

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with EMH&T for Engineering Design Services (2025 Street Improvement Program - Part II), Appropriating Funds, and Declaring an Emergency

Mayor Begeny stated that this item is part two of the street improvement program and the funding they are using for this is based on permissive tax funds in Licking County, which allows for some flexibility. This comes to Council as an emergency as they were just recently informed about what funding would be available for this project. They would like to ensure that the work is completed this year on 4 courts and 1 lane as they have been identified as areas of need.

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

An Ordinance to Repeal and Replace Ordinance No. 2025-25 Authorizing the Mayor to Purchase Vacuum Leaf Collection Equipment from Dinkmar

Director Dorman stated that it would be cheaper to purchase everything through Dinkmar, which is a local Ohio company, for this leaf collection program. Most communities in Central Ohio also use Dinkmar as they have great products and customer service.

President Strickland asked what the plan would be for this leaf collection program. Director Dorman stated that they would begin to do some public information after the Tomato Festival. They hope to do two passes throughout the entire City during the fall season. They plan to post updates online as they receive the information.

Councilmember Baker thanked Director Dorman for bringing this program to the City.

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

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with EMH&T for Pipe Inspection Services via Closed Circuit Televising (CCTV) Within the Hebert C. Huber Neighborhood

Director Dorman stated that this is part of a mandated program by the EPA and is for camera work in the sewer system. He explained that the older areas of the City need to be inspected more often to ensure that they catch issues before they become disastrous, especially in areas with businesses and restaurants.

President Strickland asked if they are addressing issues with these businesses and restaurants and if they are causing issues. Director Dorman stated that they be doing that and the Board of Health will also address similar issues. He stated that this is not a unique issue to Reynoldsburg as it occurs around many restaurants and fryers. They want businesses to succeed, so they try to provide information and resources as needed.

Councilmember Pyakurel 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 Accept Public Infrastructure Associated with The Residence at Eastwood (Wilcox Development) Private Development Project

Director Dorman stated that this legislation is to accept the public infrastructure and sewer lines from the Wilcox Development. They will now be responsible for the maintenance of these sewer lines.

Councilmember Pyakurel 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 EMH&T for Engineering Design Services Pertaining to a New Public Watermain for the City's Future Parks and Public Service Facility

Director Dorman stated that they are moving along with this project and most of the vertical steel has been erected. They had planned to hook into the existing water lines on the property but when they began construction they realized the water lines were outdated and contained asbestos, so they are requesting authorization to place new waterlines in the area.

Councilmember Pyakurel 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 Enter into an Agreement with the City of Columbus for the 2025-2027 Water Sampling Services

Director Dorman stated that this is a two-year contract they have with the City of Columbus for sample testing for water leaks or lead testing that may occur in the City of Reynoldsburg.

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

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with Veregy, LLC for Chiller Replacements and Waiving Competitive Bidding

Director Dorman stated that this is a budgeted item for the police department chillers that have reached the end of their useful life and would like to have a contract to get the new chillers operational by the end of the year.

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

There is no Finance & Administration Committee meeting.

RESOLUTIONS - CONSENT AGENDA

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

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Agreement with the City of Columbus for the 2025-2027 Water Sampling Services

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with Veregy, LLC for Chiller Replacements and Waiving Competitive Bidding

CONSENT AGENDA FOR EMERGENCY ADOPTION

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

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

An Ordinance Adopting the Tax Budget for the City of Reynoldsburg, Ohio for

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the Fiscal Year Beginning 2026, and Declaring an Emergency

CONSENT AGENDA FOR FIRST READING

An Ordinance Appropriating Sponsorship Funds from the Unappropriated General Fund to an Account in the Parks and Recreation Department

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with EMH&T for Engineering Design Services (2025 Street Improvement Program - Part II), Appropriating Funds, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance to Repeal and Replace Ordinance No. 2025-25 Authorizing the Mayor to Purchase Vacuum Leaf Collection Equipment from Dinkmar

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with EMH&T for Pipe Inspection Services via Closed Circuit Televising (CCTV) Within the Hebert C. Huber Neighborhood

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Accept Public Infrastructure Associated with The Residence at Eastwood (Wilcox Development) Private Development Project

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with EMH&T for Engineering Design Services Pertaining to a New Public Watermain for the City's Future Parks and Public Service Facility

CONSENT AGENDA FOR SECOND READING

An Ordinance to Approve the Final Plat Plan for the M/I Homes of Central Ohio Development at Summit Crossing, Sections 1 Phase A and Phase B

An Ordinance Appropriating Funds from the Unappropriated General Fund to Accounts in the Community Events Department from the 2024 Juneteenth Event

An Ordinance Appropriating Funds from the Unappropriated General Fund to Accounts in the Community Events Department from the 2024 Pride Event

An Ordinance Appropriating Funds from the Unappropriated General Fund to Accounts in the Community Events Department from the 2024 Diwali-Tihar Celebration Event

CONSENT AGENDA FOR THIRD READING

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

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with DLZ for Construction Inspection Services for the City of Reynoldsburg Parks and Public Service Facility Project and Appropriating Funds

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with EMH&T for Birchview Drive Engineering Design Services (Eastgreen Boulevard to Belltree Drive)

OTHER COUNCIL MATTERS

Councilmember Towns stated that there would be a community baby shower sponsored by the School Board President, Angela Abrahm. It will be this Saturday, June 28th, from 12-2pm in the Union Hall for parents and parents-to-be.

Councilmember Johnson thanked the City of Reynoldsburg for their amazing Juneteenth Event.

Councilmember Hill stated that the Reynoldsburg YMCA will be partnering with the Helping Hands food pantry on July 12th from 9am to noon, collecting donations.

Councilmember Baker thanked the military, RPD, and Councilmember Johnson and all those who made the Juneteenth Event happen.

President Strickland stated that we should keep the troops and those affected by the shooting in Minnesota in our hearts as we go through this unpredictable time.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

July 4, 2025 July 4th Celebration City Offices Closed
July 14, 2025 Council
July 17, 2025 Planning & Zoning Board
July 28, 2025 Council

ADJOURNMENT

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

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Shanette Strickland, Council President

_____
Mollie Prasher, Clerk of Council