



**MINUTES REGULAR MEETING
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
October 13, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION - Acharya Bhagawat Sharan ji of Radha Krishna Mandhir in Reynoldsburg

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 September 8, 2025

The regular meeting minutes of September 8, 2025, were approved as submitted.

Regular Meeting Minutes of September 22, 2025

The regular meeting minutes of September 22, 2025, were approved as submitted.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Community Comments

**Dino Soulas
6689 E. Main Street**

Mr. Soulas stated that he is the owner of Jolly Pirate Donuts on the corner of Rosehill and East Main Street. He explained that they have been in that location since 1972. He expressed concern about the major change to Main Street with the proposed bus rapid

transit (BRT) line by COTA. Some months ago, the Mayor had a meeting with some Reynoldsburg residents to hear their concerns about the BRT line and help them go before COTA to ask if they had completed any kind of financial impact study for existing businesses along Main Street or if they were planning to do one. Mr. Soulas stated that he eventually received an email back stating that they had not completed an impact study nor were they going to. He stated that many business owners were off guard as they assumed COTA would want to know if they would be doing harm to any existing businesses in the area. He explained that he is here tonight to request that the City perform an impact study so they can know what to expect. There was little information to compare this to as it is a relatively new concept.

Councilmember Baker stated that he met with Mr. Soulas' daughter a few weeks prior to discuss this issue. He stated that it was unfortunate that COTA was not working well with the City or the businesses. He explained that his understanding was that COTA already had the funding and the approval for the project, so the BRT line was going to happen. He believed COTA should be more open to working with residents and providing some answers for their concerns. Councilmember Baker agreed that some sort of study should be done to understand the possible impact in the area as long as the cost is not too high.

Mr. Soulas stated that he understood COTA tried to share information about this project prior to the election, but has done a terrible job at making it clear what the project would entail. He was not asking for some huge expensive study to be done, but even just a comparison to other cities that have done something similar.

Mayor Begeny stated that they will go ahead and try to get that process started and possibly get it on the next Council meeting agenda or the first meeting in November. They will try to provide a proposal with an estimate and the scope of the project.

President Strickland asked if the City has been in frequent communication with COTA about this project and what we should expect.

Mayor Begeny stated that there were two sides to the discussions with COTA at this time. They were still working through engineering to get a better idea of what left turn lanes would look like for longer vehicles like firetrucks, and the participating cities needed this work completed prior to moving on to other areas of the project. On the other hand, COTA was working with the public relations team to discuss things like an impact study. He stated that he would ask COTA for funds for the City to complete their own impact study, but he was not hopeful.

Mayoral Comments

Mayor Begeny stated that it was great to see so many people at the Diwali Tihar festival a few weeks prior. He stated that the weather was great, and they decided that the date



for the event next year was October 3, 2026.

Waggoner Road will be doing a lane shift tomorrow, October 14th, after the morning rush hour traffic ends.

Mayor Begeny stated that Hallo-weekend will start Friday, October 17th, with a variety of events all weekend. There will be a community Halloween party on Saturday, October 18th, in collaboration with the Reynoldsburg Community Association.

There will also be a Veterans Day event in collaboration with the VFW with details still being prepared.

PROCLAMATIONS

A Proclamation to Recognize October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month and Presentation

Councilmember Towns stated that as a former victim of domestic violence herself, this Proclamation had a lot of meaning for her. Lutheran Social Services: Choices was supposed to be there tonight, but they could not make it. They help victims of domestic violence with many different types of assistance, including crisis emergency services to help victims remove themselves from situations quickly.

Councilmember Towns read the Proclamation.

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

Councilmember Baker thanked Councilmember Towns for bringing this to Council.

A Proclamation Recognizing Hindu Heritage Month

Councilmember Pyakurel stated that this Proclamation was very important to him because he was forced out of Bhutan because the King prohibited the practice of Hinduism. He stated that this was the fifth year this Proclamation was offered, and he was grateful to have many community leaders here to support Hindu Heritage Month.

Councilmember Pyakurel read the Proclamation.

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



COMMUNICATIONS

September Treasury Board Minutes

REPORTS

Clerk of Court Report for September 2025

The Clerk of Court submitted monies collected from the courts held in the month of September 2025 in the amount of \$27,843.

Liquor Permit - Hidmona Eritrean Cafe LLC

Deputy Chief Binder stated that this investigation was completed for a new liquor permit application for a business called Hidmona Eritrean Café, located at 1731 Brice Rd. The permit applicant reports this business will be a restaurant with a full bar.

The application is for a D5 class permit, which allows the sale of beer, wine and mixed beverages for on-premises consumption and off-premises in original sealed containers until 2:30am. There is no significant police-related history at this business, but this business is also currently vacant.

He explained that this business is directly next door to Heavenly Hands Daycare, 1733 Brice Rd. There appears to be grounds to deny this permit based upon ORC section 4303.292(B)(1), in that the place for which the permit was sought was situated with respect to a school, that the liquor establishment will adversely affect or interfere with the normal, orderly conduct of the school. Deputy Chief Binder recommended that they request a hearing for this permit application.

West Licking Fire District - August, 2025

Councilmember Baker stated that statistics for the month of August 2025 were included in the packet.

Development, Parks & Recreation Committee

This is the Development, Parks & Recreation Committee meeting for October 13,

2025.

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

An Ordinance to amend Chapter Eleven — Planning and Zoning Code for the City of Reynoldsburg, Ohio

This item will be forwarded to the Planning and Zoning Board for further review.

Director Meyer stated that there was a list of items with proposed changes to the zoning code included in the agenda packet. This list includes possible changes to:

1. Innovation Development Standards & Parking
2. Setbacks regarding town homes and accessory structures for town home developments
3. Electric Vehicles
4. Fencing – Innovation
5. Supplementary use for pools & temporary uses (mayor direction) for street sales on main street
6. Lighting Standards
7. Landscaping Standards
8. Signage
9. Large Developments – that can be parceled off later
10. Commercial Design Standards
11. Temporary Storage Containers on Construction and Renovation Sites
12. Property Without Direct Street Frontage standards
13. Non-Conforming Section
14. Dwelling – Group Home/ Dwelling – Developmental Disabilities
15. Home Occupation
16. Zoning Certificates
17. Conditional Use Factors
18. Definitions

Director Meyer clarified that he was not asking Council to approve any changes at this time but to forward this list of items to the Planning and Zoning board for recommendations before bringing it back to Council to be voted upon. He stated that the format that was included in the packet did have some strange formatting that would be cleaned up before the final version.

Councilmember Cotner asked about some of the specific changes that were being discussed. Director Meyer stated that there would be discussion on making vape shops a conditional use, changing the standards of parking in the innovation

district, adding EV chargers to new large parking lots, and updating the Code to reflect variances they have approved in the past to try to better reflect what was allowed in the City, including things like setbacks and signage.

Councilmember Salvati made a motion to forward this Ordinance to Council for a first reading and to the Planning and Zoning Board for further review. Second by Councilmember Hill. Motion carried.

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Purchase a Ford F-450 and Related Equipment for the Parks and Recreation Department and Waive Competitive Bidding

Mayor Begeny stated that they were requesting to waive competitive bidding for this purchase as they are using a cooperative contract through the Franklin County Board of Commissioners. This item was included in the budget.

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

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Apply to the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) for the Columbus Urbanized Area Federal Transit Administration Enhanced Mobility for Older Adults and Individuals with Disabilities Grant (5310).

Mayor Begeny stated that this Resolution would allow the City to apply for a grant for the Senior Citizen Burg Bus to continue that program moving forward. MORPC required the City to go through the process of getting approval to apply for the grant that included a 20% match for the City. This bus allowed senior citizens to travel to doctors' appointments, grocery shopping, and more. This program has continued to see an increase in ridership since its beginning.

Councilmember Salvati stated that he has heard nothing but good things about this program.

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

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

Public Service & Transportation Committee

This is the Public Service & Transportation Committee meeting for October 13,

2025.

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

An Ordinance Appropriating Funds Between Various Accounts within the Street Department, and Declaring an Emergency

This item has been requested as a two-read emergency.

Director Dorman explained that they are not asking for new money but are requesting that money be shifted around in the streets department from one account to another account which does require approval from Council.

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

An Ordinance Appropriating Additional Funds for the Waggoner Road Phase I Improvement Project, and Declaring an Emergency

This item has been requested as a single-read emergency.

Director Dorman stated that they are requesting a single read emergency on this item so that Waggoner Road phase 1 can be completed before the end of November. He explained that one property owner on Waggoner Road owns property on both sides of the project, meaning land in both phase 1 and phase 2. They are requesting that funds be moved into phase 1, so the City can complete all work on this property owner's land at the same time rather than splitting the work up into 2 phases. It is not a request for more money, just to move money from phase 2 to cover the work needed to complete the work on this property owner's land.

President Strickland asked why this was not discussed at the beginning of this project. Director Dorman stated that this was requested by the property owner and the line between phase 1 and phase 2 was discussed many times. They are only requesting to extend phase 1 by a few hundred feet.

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

An Ordinance Appropriating Additional Funds for the Summit Area Sanitary Expansion Project, and Declaring an Emergency

This item has been requested as a single-read emergency.

Director Dorman stated that when they were constructing this sewer line, as they continued east down the road, the road began to collapse in that area. The subgrade in that area was worn down over time and began to collapse when the City began digging there. They had to close the lane in that area and reconstruct the road there, which added additional unexpected costs. They did not anticipate encountering this but are now almost finished with this project. This is a reimbursable project, so whatever extra costs may be added will be reimbursed by the grant and whatever costs are not reimbursed will be covered by the developer.

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

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Purchase a Elgin Street Sweeper for the Street Department and Waive Competitive Bidding

Director Dorman stated that this is an item that was budgeted in the 2025 budget. They believe the Elgin street sweeper will best serve the City and this is one of two they are hoping to buy. This new sweeper will be smaller and will better suit neighborhoods that have cars parked on the street. This is on a state contract, so prices have already been vetted, and he is sure the City is receiving the best price.

Councilmember Baker asked if we have a sidewalk sweeper as well. Director Dorman stated we do not have one but they are looking into that for next year. Mayor Begeny stated that parks and rec does have something similar to that they have used for trials but nothing specific for sidewalks.

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 an Agreement with Trimble (City Works) and Ritter GIS for the Street and Water Department

Director Dorman stated that this is something his department has been looking at for a few years, ever since EMH&T eliminated their GIS department. After that, the City brought a GIS administrator in house, and they have been a huge asset to the City. The work order system they were using is no longer supported and they are now looking to bring in City Works, which our new GIS administrator will implement and maintain moving forward.

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 an Agreement with EMH&T for General Consulting and Professional Design Services

Director Dorman stated that the next three Resolutions are to extend contracts we currently have with our engineering firms: EMH&T, DLZ, and OHM. EMH&T will still be acting in the capacity as the City's design engineer. DLZ will still be completing construction inspection work since they would not want the same firm who designed the work to be the one inspecting the work. OHM is the City's back up engineering service if needed.

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

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Agreement with DLZ for General Consulting and Professional Design Services

Director Dorman stated this Resolution will extend the City's contract with DLZ, the construction inspection provider.

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

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Agreement with OHM Advisors for General Consulting and Professional Design Services

Director Dorman stated this Resolution will extend our contract with OHM, the back-up engineering firm.

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

Finance & Administration Committee

This is the Finance & Administration Committee meeting for October 13, 2025.

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

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Agreement with Media Promotion Enterprise (MPE) for the 2026 Tomato Festival

Director Clemens explained that this Ordinance requested that the City enter into a contract with Media Promotion Enterprise (MPE) for the 2026 Tomato Festival. They handle booking performers, scheduling the stage, working with sound and production vendors, and working with all entertainment throughout the festival. In

2025, the budget was increased for the Tomato Festival's 60th Anniversary with the hopes of booking national entertainment for all three nights. As they started booking, they realized that under the contract amount they were only able to book national entertainment for Friday and Saturday. This has become an industry standard and rates are continuing to go up, so they are requesting the same amount in the 2026 budget. Director Clemens felt that this was beneficial for the City as we could continue to see record attendance each year and significantly higher sponsorship participation. In 2024, the Festival raised about \$32,900, but in 2025 they brought in \$52,000 in sponsorships.

Councilmember Pyakurel asked if the City had an increase in local sponsorships. Director Clemens stated that she had seen a lot of local businesses step up, some new ones including hospitals, gas stations, banks, and small businesses.

Councilmember Baker asked if there was a way Council could suggest performers for the Tomato Festival. Director Clemens stated that she did receive emails about requests, and she did hope to see more local acts perform and open for larger acts. The 2026 Tomato Festival will be August 13–15. They try to decide which genres they prefer for the festival and then see what acts fall into the budget. Mayor Begeny stated that the City sometimes gets our first choice in performers, but often the City goes through many acts to find the right fit with the budget and scheduling. He was happy to hear any suggestions for the event and would love to see more local bands.

Councilmember Baker stated that the Blues and Brews event was also great and wanted to thank staff for that event.

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

RESOLUTIONS - CONSENT AGENDA

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

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Purchase a Ford F-450 and Related Equipment for the Parks and Recreation Department and Waive Competitive Bidding



A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Apply to the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) for the Columbus Urbanized Area Federal Transit Administration Enhanced Mobility for Older Adults and Individuals with Disabilities Grant (5310).

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Purchase a Elgin Street Sweeper for the Street Department and Waive Competitive Bidding

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Agreement with Trimble (City Works) and Ritter GIS for the Street and Water Department

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Agreement with EMH&T for General Consulting and Professional Design Services

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Agreement with DLZ for General Consulting and Professional Design Services

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Agreement with OHM Advisors for General Consulting and Professional Design Services

CONSENT AGENDA FOR EMERGENCY ADOPTION

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

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract for City Liability Insurance for a Period from October 14, 2025 to October 13, 2026, Appropriate Funds Therefor, Waive Competitive Bidding, and Declaring an Emergency



An Ordinance Appropriating Additional Funds for the Waggoner Road Phase I Improvement Project, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance Appropriating Additional Funds for the Summit Area Sanitary Expansion Project, and Declaring an Emergency

CONSENT AGENDA FOR FIRST READING

An Ordinance to amend Chapter Eleven — Planning and Zoning Code for the City of Reynoldsburg, Ohio

An Ordinance Appropriating Funds Between Various Accounts within the Street Department, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Agreement with Media Promotion Enterprise (MPE) for the 2026 Tomato Festival

CONSENT AGENDA FOR THIRD READING

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

An Ordinance to Authorize the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with EMH&T for Support Services Relating to Waggoner Road Phase 1 and 2 and Appropriating Funds Therefor

OTHER COUNCIL MATTERS

Councilmember Baker stated that the homecoming parade was great and thanked



RPD, doctors, veterans, and teachers for all they do.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

ADJOURNMENT

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

Shanette Strickland, Council President

Mollie Prasher, Clerk of Council