



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

CALL TO ORDER

President Shanette Strickland called the meeting to order.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Council Member Cotner, Council Member Pyakurel, Council Member Salvati, Council President Strickland, Council Member Baker, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Hill, Council Member Towns

ABSENT:

Council Member Baker arrived at 6:38pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President Strickland stated there were changes to the agenda. Under the Public Service and Transportation Committee, Item 1 was removed as well as the entire Consent Agenda for First Reading was removed. Seeing no further changes, the agenda stood approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes from October 13, 2025

The regular meeting minutes of October 13, 2025 was approved as submitted.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

RHS Robotics Team

The Reynoldsburg Robotics Team: Technical Difficulties 4085 introduced members Aditi Pyakurel, Anika Salm, Josie Nutter, and Aiden Flisher. Aiden Flisher stated that the team was established in 2012 and currently consists of approximately forty students, four coaches, and eight volunteer mentors. In January, they will start their fifteenth competition season. Throughout their history, they have won nine awards in competition, including a Regional Championship, and have appeared at the World Championship twice. Their mission was to provide life-changing STEM opportunities to

the youth in our area and have been able to reach thousands of people. Aditi Pyakurel stated that to spread opportunities to high school students in the area, they are hosting a National STEM Day conference celebrating women in STEM. The conference would be November 8th at Reynoldsburg High School Summit Campus. Students would hear from professionals in business and marketing, engineering, medicine, and young professionals. They were hoping to expose students to many different career pathways in STEM. Josie Nutter stated that they would like to invite Council to the National STEM Day conference beginning at 12pm and ending at 5pm. There would be keynote speakers at 12:15pm, a business and marketing panel at 1pm, an engineering panel at 2pm, and a medical panel at 4pm. Anika Salm stated that they were planning this conference to expose high school students from across Central Ohio to different pathways and professional experiences in STEM.

President Strickland thanked them for taking the time to expose students to different STEM career pathways and stated that she would be attending the event.

Lea Dotson

7197 Laurretta Court

Ms. Dotson stated that she wanted to bring an incident that happened at a Reynoldsburg football game involving herself and an officer to the attention of Council. She stated that she is not going to go into great detail because she has already filed a formal complaint with the police department, but she wanted to speak up for herself. She stated that at the football game, Officer Kaiser's tone, demeanor, and attitude towards the students and herself, was extremely disproportionate to the situation that was happening. She explained that she was not sure what those students were doing besides attending the game and buying snacks, but for some reason, seemed to be on Officer Kaiser's radar. Officer Kaiser told those three students to leave, but they brought the situation up with Ms. Dotson at the gate of the football stadium because they did not understand what they had done wrong. She explained that while the students were talking with her, Officer Kaiser approached them in an aggressive manner, yelling that the students needed to leave. She was asking that Council take her report seriously, because they have seen how officers repeating incidents like this one could become dangerous. She stated that Officer Kaiser began to yell at her when she explained that she was having a conversation with the students about the situation and that Officer Kaiser "did not care who she was." Ms. Dotson reiterated that she does not feel comfortable with how Officer Kaiser acted and feared what situations this could lead to.

Mayor Begeny stated that this issue is under investigation and that he and the Chief of Police have reviewed the body-CAM footage, and he invites City Council and school board members to review this video as well. He explained that the investigation process has begun, and they will be in contact with Ms. Dotson in the future.

Councilmember Pyakurel

Councilmember Pyakurel explained that last week he was at Rosehill Elementary School to serve as Principal for a day. He learned how the school worked and the amount of work done by the teachers. The current principal knew the first and last names of all the students. As the kids enter school, most of them hug the principal. He was thankful for being permitted to spend the day at that school and with the staff.

Mayor Begeny Comments

Mayor Begeny advised that he was made aware of the incident Ms. Dotson discussed. He stated that he and the Chief had watched the body camera video. He invited Councilmembers and School Board members to also watch the video.

The Mayor also thanked everyone for their participation in the community Halloween party. The Reynoldsburg Community Association hosted another great event, running out of hot dogs for the second year. Additionally, tomorrow is a fun day for staff members, as it is the annual chili cook off.

Presentation by Ohio Representative Meredith Lawson-Rowe

State Representative Lawson-Rowe thanked Council for allowing her time to briefly provide a legislative update. State Representative Lawson-Rowe explained she had the great pleasure and privilege of representing House District 5, which encompassed the Franklin County portion of Reynoldsburg, as well as the cities of Groveport, Obetz, the village of Lockbourne, Truro Township, Hamilton Township, and the Franklin County portions of Madison Township and Canal Winchester.

Since becoming a state representative in January, she has enjoyed advocating on the state level for her home city of Reynoldsburg and lending support to signature events here, such as Reynoldsburg Juneteenth, the Diwali-Tihar Festival, Tomato Festival, the MLK Breakfast and much more.

On the legislative side, Representative Lawson-Rowe wanted to make sure Council knew that Ohio was entering a mid-census congressional redistricting phase, caused by the expiration of the current maps, which expire next year. Governor DeWine had officially convened the Ohio Redistricting Commission due to the failure of her colleagues in the legislature to pass constitutional maps with majority approval from both caucuses of both chambers of the state legislature by our state constitution's prescribed deadline, which was September 30th. The commission will have until this Friday at midnight to pass fair, constitutional, bipartisan congressional maps. Her democratic colleagues proposed fair and constitutional maps, which could be found in both House Bill 442 and Senate Bill 259. These maps would favor Republicans in 8 of the 15 Ohio seats in Congress and Democrats in seven of those fifteen seats. This was proportional to the 55%:45% Republican to Democrat partisan leaning of Ohio voters over the last ten years. In simpler terms, Ohio voters trended Republican 55% of the time in the last ten years.

of elections, both statewide and nationally, and trended 45% Democrat in those same elections over that same period, and the proposed map from my caucus reflects such. The Ohio Redistricting Commission had, so far, only met once, and would most likely not hold another meeting prior to Friday's deadline. This plan was strategic. If my colleagues ran the clock on this second phase of redistricting, they could draw maps that would only need a simple majority vote in each chamber to be adopted. I would recommend calling the Ohio House and Senate leadership, as well as the Governor's office, to urge the passage of fair, bipartisan maps now, that represent the voices of all Ohioans, not just those of one party. Voters should choose their representatives, not the other way around.

Closer to home, the statewide property tax crisis was still, of course, top of mind for herself and her colleagues at the statehouse as they field through nearly twenty related legislative proposals. Some of the proposals introduced by my colleagues include:

House Bill 103, which would increase the homestead exemption and income limit for qualifying individuals.

House Bill 143, which would authorize a property tax exemption for certain long-term homeowners.

House Bill 156, which would authorize a property tax freeze for certain owner-occupied homes.

House Bill 365, called the "Property Tax Refund Act," would provide a tax credit/refund for certain qualifying individuals.

Instead of acting on any of the above items that would provide real, targeted property tax relief, her colleagues decided to pass two measures out of the House that she vehemently opposed on and off the House floor. The first, House Bill 186, created a property tax credit, not reimbursed by the state, that imposed an inflationary cap on the unvoted growth in school district and joint vocational school district (JVSD) revenue attributable to the 20-mill floor and the 2-mill floor, respectively. The bottom line, this bill, if enacted, would cut property taxes for almost all property at the 20-mill floor in 2026 compared to current law. These cuts would hurt both school districts and JVSDs. If a school district was not at the 20-mill floor, then homeowners would receive no help at all, and any such help came solely at the expense of public schools. Under this proposal, the state shouldered none of the burden of property tax relief.

The other issue was House Bill 335, which would cap the revenue growth from inside millage, the 1% minimum tax rate that currently grew with the rate of increases in property values, to the rate of inflation. For median Ohio taxpayers, relief from this bill would be just \$2 per month or \$24 annually. For the top 10% of Ohio taxpayers, savings would be double that of the median taxpayer, at \$4 per month or \$48 annually. The bottom line was this bill did not provide any

substantial, even meaningful, or targeted, property tax relief for residents, but it would decrease revenue for counties, school districts, townships, municipalities, libraries, parks, and joint fire districts. Moreover, to make up for the losses that would result, HB 335 authorized municipalities and school districts to decrease their inside millage collections by increasing income taxes. So, that \$24-\$48 yearly savings would be totally absorbed by municipalities and school districts, who would increase income taxes to subsidize the deficits that would accrue if this bill became law.

She urges everyone, again, to call your Ohio Senate representatives to urge them not to advance either HB 186 or HB 335 to the Governor's desk. These bills are not good for our schools. They are not good for our pockets. They are not good for Ohio. Representative Lawson-Rowe would like to return periodically to give more updates like this. She looked forward to returning to this great city both professionally and leisurely. She was happy to answer any questions from Council or the public. Representative Lawson-Rowe encouraged everyone to plan to vote on or before Nov. 4.

PROCLAMATIONS

A Proclamation Recognizing Breast Cancer Awareness Month

Councilmember Hill read the proclamation. Councilmember Towns moved to approve the proclamation. Second by Councilmember Johnson. Motion carried.

Stacy Anderson stated that she was a six-year survivor of breast cancer. Ms. Anderson stated that she was honored to be chosen to receive this Proclamation from the City she loved for so many years. She moved here from Canton in 1995, and she is proud to live in Reynoldsburg. She stated that was 1 in 8. 1 in 8 women will be diagnosed with breast cancer in America. She also wanted to clarify, that it is not only women being diagnosed with breast cancer, men can be diagnosed as well. She stated that in 2019 she found a lump in her breast and knew immediately she should be seen. She stated that four days after her 46th birthday, it was confirmed she had cancer. She explained that she feels lucky to have had insurance throughout this time, but even with insurance it took 30 days to get a diagnosis. She stated that there are many disparities for women and minorities in healthcare, so she feels blessed to have been covered by insurance. She stated that OSU The James saved her life, and she is so grateful to all her doctors and care team. She was diagnosed with triple negative breast cancer, meaning they did not know exactly what was causing it. This can be more deadly because they are not sure how to treat it. She feels blessed to still be here and is happy to have gone through chemo despite all the negative side effects.

She claimed that every person in this room has probably been touched by cancer in some way in their family. Ms. Anderson stated that her mother has also been diagnosed with breast cancer and recently finished chemo treatments. She stated that there are many things we can do to be aware of our risks for cancer, like DNA testing. She also stated she became part of a research study because of her background and the type of cancer she has to hopefully advance treatments in the future. She had two aunts pass away from cancer many years ago and appreciates how far cancer treatments have come since then. Ms. Anderson stated that October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month but also wants to mention that it is Domestic Violence Awareness Month as well. She had a friend who had been murdered by her boyfriend when she was 21 years old and would be remiss not to bring attention to this month.

Ms. Anderson was grateful to her friends and family that have been there for her throughout this time in her life. She was grateful for the strong support she received and is grateful to be here as a survivor. She thanked Reynoldsburg for this opportunity to speak and bring attention to this issue.

Councilmember Hill thanked Ms. Anderson for speaking and being here. She stated that she recently turned 40, so she had her first mammogram, and it was recommended to her to have further genetic testing done to know her exact risk factors. She recommends testing for anyone who is able to do it.

Councilmember Baker thanked Ms. Anderson for her story and stated that it reminded him of his own mother who also had breast cancer. She unfortunately was not a survivor and passed away at the age of 50. He stated it has been 20 years, and it is still hard for him to talk about. He remembers he was being recognized at the State House, and she had dropped him off so she could go to a chemo appointment. He explained he had no idea that she would never come home after that.

President Strickland stated these stories were hard to talk about, and it was okay to cry when remembering how it felt to go through those hard times. She reiterated how important it was to get regular check-ups and learn about early detection.

REPORTS

Liquor Permit for Ohio Springs Inc.

Chief Baker explained that this request was for the Sheetz located at 8555 East Main Street. Sheetz is requesting an additional D-1 Permit, which is for beer only



for on-premises consumption or in original sealed containers for carry out only until 1:00am. After contacting Liquor Control and the City's investigation, there have been no issues with the current permits. The Department does not recommend a hearing regarding this permit.

There is no Development, Parks & Recreation Committee meeting.

Public Safety, Law & Courts Committee

A Resolution Authorizing the City Auditor to Remove a Police Vehicle from the City's Fixed Asset List for the Reynoldsburg Police Department

Chief Baker advised Council that this legislation removes a police vehicle that had over 110,000 miles and was recommended for replacement by the City mechanic.

Chair Johnson moved to format this Resolution to Council for approval. Second by Councilmember Towns. Motion carried.

Chief Baker advised Council about the comments made by the resident regarding the incident at the high school football game. The officer involved was a twenty-seven-year veteran officer with an impeccable record. He expressed his support for the officer and how the incident was handled.

Public Service & Transportation Committee

A Resolution Declaring the Official Intent and Reasonable Expectation of the City of Reynoldsburg on Behalf of the State of Ohio (The Borrower) to Reimburse Its Capital Improvement Fund (410) with the Proceeds of Tax Exempt Debt of the State of Ohio

Director Dorman stated that this Resolution was needed to allow OPWC to reimburse the City for the Waggoner Road Project.

Councilmember Baker asked how we got to the point where we need to be reimbursed and how we got into debt for this project. Director Dorman stated that he would need Auditor Cicak to answer this question.

Auditor Cicak stated that it was brought to his attention when he was requesting the reimbursement that a Resolution was required. Councilmember Baker stated

that he was asking this because the language of the Resolution states that this reimbursement is from the grant, but debt is also mentioned. Auditor Cicak stated that he did not understand the question. Councilmember Baker asked how we got to this point. Auditor Cicak stated that the City is on payout #10 and had been paying the company and when they look at the funds, they can see that the funds have gone down and the City has not received money. In order to receive the money from the grant and the 0% interest loan, they would need to pass this Resolution. Councilmember Baker stated that seeing a reimbursement for debt raised an eyebrow for him, so he wanted a better understanding of what was happening.

President Strickland asked if this has ever happened before where they have to get the reimbursement back from OPWC. Auditor Cicak stated that in the past they have used OPWC to pay contractors directly and then the City would take over after that. The bills were submitted to the Auditor's Office, and they paid them as requested. President Strickland rephrased her question, asking if we are requesting that OPWC give money directly to the City for this project, and has this ever happened before? Auditor Cicak stated he is not sure how many OPWC grants we have received before besides the Main Street Project. The City usually uses them to pay companies up until a certain point of which they had guaranteed, which included a no-interest loan and a grant.

Councilmember Baker asked that if that is the case, why do we have to be reimbursed if the City was given a no-interest loan and the grant money was paid directly to the companies? Auditor Cicak stated that they paid the bills as the Service Director requested. He claims that it makes no difference if we pay the money at the beginning or the end. Councilmember Baker stated that he wanted to make sure that the City's books are clean since we have so many different projects going on at this time and wants to ensure that government services will continue as planned.

President Strickland asked for clarification on funds in the Capital Improvement Fund (CIP) and where that stands. Director Dorman stated that the Ordinance for Waggoner Road includes funding from a few different accounts, including the permissive tax account, the capital improvement fund, and the stormwater and water accounts. He explained that this was a \$3.5 million dollar OPWC agreement which was a grant and loan combination. He stated that we are in good standing with the contractor and every bill has been paid. To date, we have paid close to \$5m or 6 million dollars out of \$11m or 12 million total. So now, instead of OPWC dispersing the funds to the contractors, the funds will be dispersed to the City. President Strickland stated that that was her question: have the OPWC funds ever been dispersed to the City rather than being dispersed to the contractors as planned? Director Dorman stated that that has not happened since he has been

here. President Strickland stated that because we look at the CIP to see what types of projects we can do in the future, we need to ensure that we have funds in the CIP account, so all projects can be covered. Councilmember Baker, why are we receiving funds from OPWC in a way we never have before? Auditor Cicak stated that if you look at the OPWC website, they have different calculations on what the City pays and what the obligation is. He explained that this is a complicated accounting method, but this way makes it easier. The Resolution is asking that OPWC reimburse the City \$3.5 million back into our accounts.

Councilmember Pyakurel clarified that we are requesting this Resolution because it is easier this way. Auditor Cicak stated that it is not necessarily easier this way, but it is much easier to do the accounting and more transparent. They will be able to submit all payouts and show that they have paid \$7 million already and are requesting the amount of money that they have already guaranteed the City.

Councilmember Baker asked if this would be the normal process moving forward or if this is a one-time thing. Auditor Cicak stated that they will have more conversations about this as they begin looking at the Summit Road project. He stated that he understands the Mayor would like to have the City not incur the funds from the very beginning. As far as the legal side of this and signing contracts, he will have to have further discussions with the City Attorney.

President Strickland asked if there were any legal issues that may come up or anything they should be made aware of. Attorney Shook stated that the project loan and grant agreement specifies that the money from OPWC should go directly from them to the contractors, but in this case, it was flipped. To resolve this issue, OPWC has asked us to move forward in this manner to ensure that the City still receives the funds it was promised.

Councilmember Baker asked how the CIP account is doing. Auditor Cicak stated that right now, the Auditor's Office is understaffed due to some medical issues, so they are about one month or two behind on appropriation calculations. He explained that there is one person doing the finance management work who has only been here since April and the payroll specialist has only been here since August. The finance manager was out, the deputy auditor was out, and the tax administrator was out for months due to medical issues. So, they are trying to keep up with the day-to-day items like payroll and paying bills. He stated that things are taking a little bit longer, but everything will get done.

President Strickland asked how they would be able to plan for the budget for 2026 with the CIP account not in order and how they would mitigate this issue with staffing shortages at this time. Auditor Cicak stated that they will try to bring in extra help through a virtual finance manager or GFOA certified employees that have



recently retired to come back as independent contractors to assist during this shortage. He explained that the senior accountant is doing double work, working on weekends and until 8pm to get the accounting done.

President Strickland asked what the 2026 budget looked like at this time based on the CIP funds, since the budget will be coming to Council in November. Mayor Begeny stated that the difficulties with the CIP account are different from the general fund budget. Directors are already well into that process and should be wrapping that information within the next couple of weeks. He doesn't want to say that they are completely separate issues, but they are different accounts, and they do not have much clarity on the CIP situation at this time. The timeline for the budget is still on track even with staffing shortages, but there may be things to address in the future.

Chair Pyakurel moved to forward this Resolution to Council for approval. Second by Councilmember Towns. Motion carried.

Finance & Administration Committee

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract for the City of Reynoldsburg's Health Insurance Coverage with Medical Mutual of Ohio for the Period from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026

Director Cornell explained that this legislation would renew the City employee health insurance for 2026. Coverage would remain the same for the next year.

Chair Baker moved to forward the Resolution to Council for approval. Second by Councilmember Johnson. Motion carried.

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract for the City of Reynoldsburg's Dental Insurance Coverage with Delta Dental for the period from January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026

Director Cornell stated that this legislation would renew the employee dental coverage. There would be a slight increase in premium. There would be no other changes.

Chair Baker moved to forward this Resolution to Council for approval. Second by Councilmember Johnson. Motion carried.

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Renewal Contract with



Mutual of Omaha for Employee Life, Accidental Death & Dismemberment, Short-Term Disability, and Long-Term Disability Insurance for the Period of January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2026

Director Cornell indicated that this legislation would renew the employee life, death, short-term and long-term disability. There would be no change in coverage for this policy.

Chair Baker moved to forward this Resolution to Council for approval. Second by Councilmember Salvati. Motion carried.

RESOLUTIONS - CONSENT AGENDA

RESULT:	7 - 0 (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Councilmember Salvati
SECONDER:	Councilmember Johnson
AYES:	Cotner, Johnson, Strickland, Towns, Salvati, Pyakurel, Hill

Councilmember Baker left the meeting at 7:36pm, prior to voting.

A Resolution Authorizing the City Auditor to Remove a Police Vehicle from the City's Fixed Asset List for the Reynoldsburg Police Department

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CONSENT AGENDA FOR EMERGENCY ADOPTION

RESULT:	7 - 0 (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Councilmember Pyakurel
SECONDER:	Councilmember Towns
AYES:	Cotner, Johnson, Strickland, Towns, Salvati, Pyakurel, Hill

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

CONSENT AGENDA FOR SECOND READING

This legislation was stood for a second reading.

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

OTHER COUNCIL MATTERS

President Strickland, on behalf of Councilmember Baker, thanked the RPD for their service, doctors, nurses, retail workers, and teachers for keeping our community functioning.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

November 6, 2025 Planning & Zoning Board
November 10, 2025 Council
November 11, 2025 Veterans Day City Offices Closed
November 20, 2025 Planning & Zoning Board
November 24, 2025 Council
November 27 & 28, 2025 Thanksgiving Holiday City Offices Closed
December 4, 2025 Planning & Zoning Board
December 8, 2025 Council



December 15, 2025 Council

December 18, 2025 Planning & Zoning Board

December 24 & 25, 2025 Christmas Holiday City Offices Closed

December 31, 2025 New Year's Eve City Offices Closed

ADJOURNMENT

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

Shanette Strickland, Council President

Mollie Prasher, Clerk of Council