



**MINUTES SPECIAL MEETING
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
December 15, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

Council President Pro Temp Bhuwan Pyakurel called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

President Pro Temp Pyakurel stated that he was serving as President Pro Temp tonight as President Strickland's resignation was effective December 14, 2025.

President Pro Temp Pyakurel requested a moment of silence for City Employee Annette Kazlauskis, Administrative Assistant to City Attorney Shook, who passed away this past weekend. She was a valuable and well-respected staff member who would be greatly missed.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There are no minutes for the December 8, 2025 meeting.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Chief Baker

Chief Baker stated that he wanted to take a moment to recognize Councilmember Cotner, not just for his service as a Councilmember, but for the kind of citizen and friend he has been to law enforcement. Chief Baker explained that Councilmember Cotner does a lot for the community that goes unseen. Chief Baker wanted to thank him for being there for the RPD. Because of this, Chief Baker presented Councilmember

Cotner with an American flag. The plaque read "Presented to City Councilmember Barth Cotner. This flag was flown at the municipal building on December 15, 2025, in honor of his service to the citizens of Reynoldsburg and his unwavering support of the Reynoldsburg Division of Police."

President Pro Temp Pyakurel thanked Chief Baker for the presentation, thanked Councilmember Cotner for his work in the community, and expressed his enjoyment in working with Councilmember Cotner for the past few years.

Councilmember Baker also thanked Councilmember Cotner for his work with Council and within the community. They served together on City Council for many years and wanted to note that his hard work was always noticed, and he would be missed.

Mayoral Comments

Mayor Begeny gave a shout-out to the street crew for being able to take such good care of the roads during this winter season. They will be out to re-salt the roads soon in preparation for more snowy weather.

Mayor Begeny stated that there was an item on the agenda tonight for construction improvements to Council Chambers, which was currently being requested as a three-read non-emergency, but he asked that it be adopted as an emergency for immediate approval to begin work on the project.

PROCLAMATIONS

A Proclamation of Appreciation for Auditor Stephen Cicak

Councilmember Cotner read the Proclamation.

Auditor Cicak thanked Council for this Proclamation and for the trust given him during his years of service. He wanted to thank the RPD, his past teachers, his family, and his friends for their support throughout his career. He wishes Council the best and stated that he would continue to pray for Council and for all Reynoldsburg residents.

Councilmember Baker thanked Auditor Cicak for his commitment to the City and for all of his community service.

President Pro Temp Pyakurel stated that four years ago, Auditor Cicak asked his daughter to read a proclamation. President Pro Temp Pyakurel added he would never forget how small she was. Auditor Cicak recognized something in her, and

she has continued to pursue politics and public speaking since that evening. He thanked Auditor Cicak for sparking something in her that may not have been there before as she planned to study politics in college. President Pro Temp Pyakurel thanked him for his service to the community and for impacting his family.

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

A Proclamation of Appreciation for Barth Cotner

Councilmember Salvati stated that he began attending Council meetings around ten years ago when he knew no one on Council and knew very little about procedure. Within a few meetings, he recognized that Councilmember Cotner was someone he wanted to get to know and learn from. He explained that Councilmember Cotner was very gracious in answering all of his questions after many meetings and was thankful for his service over the years.

Councilmember Salvati read the Proclamation.

Councilmember Baker thanked Councilmember Cotner for his service on City Council.

President Pro Temp Pyakurel also thanked Councilmember Cotner for his service.

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

A Proclamation of Appreciation for Shanette Strickland

Councilmember Baker read the Proclamation.

Councilmember Baker thanked Past President Strickland for her service and congratulated her on her new role as City Auditor. He stated that when someone runs for office, it was not just for the title. There was a lot of work that goes into holding these positions. He added that he always respected her and thanked her for her time on Council.

Councilmember Towns stated that she has two daughters that she was raising in Reynoldsburg. When the girls talk about people in the City who are role models, Ms. Strickland's name is always mentioned. She showed courage and strength to stand up for what was right and for Reynoldsburg residents. She thanked her again for her impact on her own life and her family.

Ms. Strickland thanked everyone for their kind words and stated how much it meant

to her to have the respect of her colleagues. She thanked Councilmember Towns for sharing that story as it reminded her that you never know who may be looking up to you. She would always strive to do her best for those who may be watching her. She explained that, like Councilmember Baker said, they did not always see eye to eye, but she believed that was how it should be. It sparked meaningful conversation and thanked Councilmember Baker for his friendship. Ms. Strickland thanked Councilmember Cotner and Auditor Cicak for their service and for their commitment to the City. Having served as an elected official, she realized that was something she never thought she would do. She came from humble beginnings. She worked hard and valued education, and served the community before she even had a title. She stated to those, who attend meetings or watch online, they should get involved and be part of something great.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

2026 Council Meeting Dates and Submission Deadlines

President Pro Temp Pyakurel announced that there were no additional communications other than the Council meeting and submission dates for 2026 provided in the packet.

REPORTS

There is no Development, Parks & Recreation Committee meeting.

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

Public Service & Transportation Committee

This is the Public Service & Transportation Committee meeting for December 15, 2025.

Members in attendance are: Councilmember Cotner, Councilmember Towns, Councilmember Hill, and President Pro Temp Pyakurel.

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Grant the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) a Highway Easement (0.470 Acres), and Declaring an Emergency

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

Director Dorman stated that this Ordinance was for an easement for the project on the I-70 and SR 256 interchange as well as the full interchange on Taylor Road. They have been working with ODOT for the last few years to workshop this project and design concepts. ODOT has requested an easement on a piece of land for highway purposes. Director Dorman stated that the City does not use this land, and it totaled only about 0.47 acres.

President Pro Temp Pyakurel asked for clarification on where the property was located. Director Dorman stated that it was on the north side of I-70, where Taylor Road begins to curve.

Councilmember Baker stated that this was something that had been in the works for a long time, maybe even six years. He was glad to see this project coming to fruition.

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

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with Compton Construction for Design and Construction Services, and Declaring an Emergency

This item has been requested to be removed from the Consent Agenda for Third Reading and brought back to Committee to add emergency language. This item would now be included in the Public Service and Transportation Committee as item 9.c.2 and included in the Consent Agenda for Emergency approval as item 10.h.

Mayor Begeny stated that they were requesting that this item be amended to add emergency language to ensure this project could begin in a timely manner.

Councilmember Towns made a motion to amend this Ordinance to add emergency language. Second by Councilmember Pyakurel. Motion carried.

The Ordinance was now amended.

Councilmember Hill made a motion to forward this Ordinance to Council as amended for a third reading and emergency approval. Second by Councilmember



Towns. Motion carried.

Finance & Administration Committee

This is the Finance & Administration Committee meeting for December 15, 2025.

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

An Ordinance to Make Final Appropriations for Expenses and Other Expenditures for the City of Reynoldsburg, State of Ohio, During the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2026, and Declaring an Emergency

The budget is back before Committee for any final discussion.

Councilmember Salvati stated that he was appreciative of the new budget format and that it was much easier to understand. He explained that he appreciated all the work that was done in preparing this budget.

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

An Ordinance to Transfer Funds Among Various General Fund Accounts, and Declaring an Emergency

This item has been returned to the Committee to be amended to include the most current estimate of funds that need to be balanced.

Mayor Begeny stated that this item was a typical end-of-year clean-up ordinance to make sure that all existing funds were in balance.

Councilmember Baker made a motion to amend this Ordinance to include the final funds that need appropriation to bring accounts into balance. Second by Councilmember Salvati. Motion carried.

The Ordinance was now amended.

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

CONSENT AGENDA FOR EMERGENCY ADOPTION

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

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with Builderscape, Inc. for the JFK Park Pickleball Improvements Project, Appropriate Funds Therefor, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 953 Water Charges, Section 953.01(a) Water Rate Schedule of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Reynoldsburg, Ohio, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 945 Sewer Charges, Section 945.02(c) Rate Schedule of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Reynoldsburg, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 958 Stormwater Charges, Section 958.06 Equivalent Residential Unit of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Reynoldsburg, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Grant the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) a Highway Easement (0.470 Acres), and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance to Make Final Appropriations for Expenses and Other Expenditures for the City of Reynoldsburg, State of Ohio, During the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2026, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance to Transfer Funds Among Various General Fund Accounts, and Declaring an Emergency



An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with Compton Construction for Design and Construction Services, and Declaring an Emergency

CONSENT AGENDA FOR SECOND READING

These Ordinances stand for a second reading.

An Ordinance Providing for the Issuance and Sale of Bonds in the Maximum Principal Amount of \$1,300,000, for the Purpose of Paying the Costs of Improving the Municipal Waterworks System, and Declaring an Emergency

CONSENT AGENDA FOR THIRD READING

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

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

OTHER COUNCIL MATTERS

Appointment of a Ward 3 Representative

Clerk Prasher stated that as there was now a vacancy for the Ward 3 representative, Council needed to decide how they would like to proceed with choosing a new representative. Clerk Prasher stated that they would like to receive applications from residents of Ward 3, who may be interested in the position by January 6th at 5pm, and Council can hold interviews at the January 12th meeting.

Clerk Prasher

Clerk Prasher also wanted to give a shout-out to Assistant Clerk Syck, as she recently had her Registered Nurse pinning ceremony and would begin her career as a labor and delivery nurse in January.

Councilmember Baker

Councilmember Baker wished a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all and congratulated the boy's basketball team on their win. He also thanked Councilmember Cotner, Auditor Cicak, and Ms. Strickland for their service. He thanked RPD, teachers, doctors, and nurses for their service to the community.

Councilmember Johnson

Councilmember Johnson wished everyone a happy and safe holiday season.

Selection of Council President

Councilmember Baker stated that with the December 14, 2025, resignation of President Strickland, Council needed to select and appoint a new Council President. Council received three applications from residents residing within the City to fulfill the Council President's remaining two-year term. During last week's Council meeting, Council heard from each applicant and had the opportunity to ask any questions. Councilmember Baker asked if any Councilmembers would like to ask any further questions of the candidates?

Councilmember Salvati stated that he was able to watch the interview stream and review the applications. He was incredibly impressed by the resumes and presentations given by the applicants. He thanked all the applicants for applying.

Councilmember Baker also thanked the applicants for applying for this position and for having such great interviews.

Councilmember Baker asked if anyone would like to discuss any of the candidates or make a motion to nominate someone?

Councilmember Pyakurel was nominated by Councilmember Towns.

Roll Call: Towns - yes; Salvati - yes; Hill - yes; Cotner - yes; Baker - yes; Johnson - yes.

Councilmember Pyakurel was elected as the next Council President.

Councilmember Pyakurel was sworn in by Mayor Begeny.

President Pyakurel thanked Council for this nomination and stated how much it meant to him, his family, and his community. He stated he felt very emotional about being selected as Council President. He explained that only in America was he given so many wonderful opportunities. He said he was grateful to be a part of an amazing community.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

December 24 & 25, 2025 Christmas Holiday City Offices Closed
December 31, 2025 New Year's Eve City Offices Closed
January 1, 2026 New Year's Day City Offices Closed
January 12, 2026 Council (Organizational Meeting)
January 15, 2026 Planning & Zoning Board
January 19, 2026 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day City Offices Closed
January 26, 2026 Council

ADJOURNMENT

As there was no further business, Council President Pro Temp Pyakurel adjourned the meeting.

Bhuwan Pyakurel, Council President Pro Temp

Mollie Prasher, Clerk of Council