



**MINUTES REGULAR MEETING
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
December 8, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER

President Strickland called the meeting to order and welcomed the community. She advised the audience that this meeting would be her last meeting as President. Her resignation would be effective December 14, 2026, in order to assume the office of Reynoldsburg City Auditor. She thanked her fellow Councilmembers and the community for their support and enjoyed and appreciated her experience serving as Reynoldsburg City Council President.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes of November 24, 2025

The regular meeting minutes of December 8, 2026 were approved as submitted.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Jude Hampshire

13318 Havens Corners Road

I wanted to say a few words about my friend as a neighbor one city over, as a mentor to fellow Council people, as a role model to young people, as a business person, as a community member that he clearly loves, and as my friend. You have always made decisions in the best interest of Reynoldsburg and never for yourself. You have helped kids raise money to go to camp and benefit non-profits like the scouts, including my own boys over several summers when they were younger. You always opened your business to anyone and everyone who needed or wanted somewhere to go. You generally do not think of a funeral home as being warm and inviting, but it quickly

became a favorite place for me and my children that we could not wait to go to whenever there was a city event. Home was the key word there. There were always snacks, fellowship, and plenty of chairs, which I need these days. It is the kind of place that your Mom and Dad wanted to live in. You donate to everyone who asks you. You sponsor young people that need a boost to get a foothold on their future. You volunteer. I am so sure there is more that you do than we know. When I think of great men in history — George Washington, John Glenn, Thomas Edison, Albert Einstein and Barth Cotner. With your unwavering devotion to this City and your ability to always put others first, your being on this list of great men is because you always do the right thing for the right reason. You put others before yourself and you offer others, often at their very end literally, dignity. If you think you have not made a difference here, please look in the mirror, because you are the right person that was needed. You have changed the world. I am so glad our paths crossed in 2008. I cannot wait to see what you do next. Thank you, my friend.

Mayor Begeny

Mayor Begeny thanked the community for attending the City's annual Tree Lighting Ceremony. The weather was a little cooler, but there was a good turnout, with everyone having a good time. A special thanks to the Reynoldsburg Community Association for putting on another great Christmas on the Town this past Saturday. Every organization that participated, from Cotner Funeral Home to the Masons and the school district made that a wonderful day. The City has received its third recycled bench. If you remember, way back in the day, we had a program to recycle single-use plastics. It was so successful that they changed the rules because of the quantity of plastics the City provided. They increased the number of pounds of plastic that was to be turned in and limited the number of benches we could earn. These benches are being installed in McPherson Park off of Rodebaugh Road and Firstgate. I also wanted to advise Council that Waggoner Road will not be paved this year due to the drop in temperatures. Paving now could cause the project to be out of warranty and that just is not worth the risk to the City.

2025 Mel Clemens Award

Councilmember Baker explained that the Mel Clemens Award was in recognition of a resident, City employee and the longest serving Councilmember in Reynoldsburg. It takes a special person to want to better the community and receive no accolades; to just serve because they love the community.

Mayor Begeny read one of the nomination forms for Ms. Lisa Wood. "Lisa Wood is a staple in the Reynoldsburg Community. She has lived here for over twenty-five years and raised her family here. She began coaching with Parks and Rec fifteen years ago and has coached every year since. She has been the community coordinator for Cotner Funeral Home for the last decade, serving hundreds of families who lost loved ones. She has run events like Christmas at Cotner Funeral

Home and field trips to the mural talking with students about the significance of Reynoldsburg history. She has worked for the Slate Ridge PTO. She is connected to events like the Braxton Run for cancer research and the NC4k run. She is a loving mother of four children, a compassionate neighbor, and a friend to all she meets. She would be hard-pressed to go anywhere in Reynoldsburg without people knowing her name. I am so thankful to know her, to work alongside her, and to see the great things she has brought to her community." Those words were submitted by April Oats.

Ms. Wood was presented the Mel Clemens Award by the Mayor and the Clemens family.

PUBLIC HEARING

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

President Strickland opened the Public Hearing to comments. As there were no comments, the Public Hearing was closed.

COMMUNICATIONS

Resignation Letter from Council President Strickland

There were no additional communications, other than the resignation letter from President Strickland.

REPORTS

Clerk of Court Report for November 2025

Clerk Prasher announced that the Clerk of Court submitted monies collected from the courts held in November 2025 in the amount of \$24,016.00.

West Licking Fire District - October 2025

Councilmember Baker reported that there was no new information in the October



report. The West Licking County Fire District was constantly working to maintain the highest level of service to the ever-growing service area.

Development, Parks & Recreation Committee

This is the Development, Parks & Recreation Committee meeting for December 8, 2025.

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

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

Director Meyer explained that the proposed zoning code changes were being returned to Council following the review and recommendations of the Planning & Zoning Board. The Board reviewed the code in two separate meetings and voted unanimously to approve the proposed changes. All the proposed changes were in Council's packet information and were mostly tweaks to language and cleaning up redundancies to allow for continuity.

Councilmember Hill moved to forward the Ordinance to Council for a second reading. Second by Councilmember Towns. Motion carried.

Public Safety, Law & Courts Committee

This is the Public Safety, Law & Courts Committee meeting for December 8, 2025.

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

A Resolution Authorizing the City Auditor to Remove Report Writing Workstations from the City's Fixed Asset List for the Reynoldsburg Police Department

Chief Baker stated that this request was to remove writing workstations that were original to the building that were approximately twenty years old. The current workstations were damaged and will be destroyed as they have no significant value. These stations would be replaced with new work tables.

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



Public Service & Transportation Committee

This is the Public Service & Transportation Committee meeting for December 8, 2025.

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

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

Director Dorman stated that this legislation was being returned to Council to add language to recognize that Compton Construction was the sole bidder on this project.

Councilmember Pyakurel moved to amend the Ordinance to add the sole bidder language. Second by Councilmember Towns. Motion carried. The Ordinance was amended.

Councilmember Pyakurel moved to forward the amended Ordinance to Council for a second reading. Second by Councilmember Towns. Motion carried.

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

Mayor Begeny discussed the recent meeting he had with the cities of Columbus, Bexley, and Gahanna. The discussion revolved around the excessive increase in water rates and the overall impact of what Columbus is doing with the funding.

These funds were being used to build infrastructure (a \$2.1 billion dollar water treatment facility) that would not be of any benefit to our cities and only benefit the northwest and northern Columbus region. There was also discussion that our cities should not be charged as high a rate as our cities' maintained our own infrastructure. The difference of six percent between cities that had Columbus make repairs versus our cities that make our own repairs was not an ample cost savings. Columbus indicated that they were willing to meet again in February to further discuss this issue to gain a better understanding of the actual costs of infrastructure.

Director Dorman indicated that the City would be looking into providing some sort of financial break for low-income residents through a program similar to the city of Columbus. Columbus advised that rates for the next several years would increase with an eighteen percent increase this year, sixteen percent in 2027, fifteen percent in 2028, thirteen percent in 2029, and ten percent in 2030.



President Strickland asked how Council could explain these increases to our residents when the increases were technically out of our control.

Mayor Begeny explained that it was unfortunate that the city of Reynoldsburg was in this position. The alternative would be to get our water from the Southwest Licking Water District, which could take five to ten years to establish. The City has no alternative but to accept these rates. That is why the City will be looking into establishing some discounts for lower-income families. I am willing to work with Columbus, but they have to be willing to give something. Columbus residents would also be seeing a twelve percent rate increase.

Councilmember Baker indicated that this increase would be very hard on our residents, especially when the funds were being used for infrastructure improvements that would not benefit Reynoldsburg. I am willing to work with Columbus, but they have to be willing to give something.

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

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

Director Dorman indicated that the sewer rates were also increasing to \$12.20 per 1,000 gallons.

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

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

Director Dorman indicated that the sewer rates were also increasing to \$6.58.

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

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Intergovernmental Working Agreement with Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District to Support the Big Walnut Watershed Coordinator Program Administered by Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District in Coordination with and Support from MORPC and the State Watershed Program with ODNR and Ohio

EPA

Director Dorman explained that the City was required by the EPA to participate in the NPDS program every year. Franklin District provides support for programs like the rain barrel and rain garden workshops that they put on for the City. If you attend those programs, you get a free rain barrel at the end and free native plants for the garden. If you want to install a rain garden, it would help decrease the amount of urban runoff and pollution. We have had a good working relationship with Soil and Water for many years.

Councilmember Pyakurel moved 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 the District Advisory Council of the Franklin County General Health District and Franklin County Public Health for Health Services

Director Dorman explained that this legislation was for the annual contract with Franklin County Board of Health. They cover all three of the counties in the City providing a plethora of services. There was a small increase to the per capita rate this year.

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

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Sign an Agreement with the City of Columbus for Snow and Ice Removal Services

Director Dorman indicated that this legislation was a renewal of the agreement with the city of Columbus to share snow and ice removal. The agreement allows the city of Columbus to extend their plowing services along a roadway they were already plowing in Columbus. The City of Reynoldsburg will plow East Main Street to McNaughton, even though a portion of that roadway was in the city of Columbus. It was a beneficial arrangement for both cities.

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

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Reject All Recycling Processing Bids and Reissue Bid Invitations

Director Dorman stated that the refuse consortium that the City was a member for trash and recycling pick-up, recently sent out bids for the recycling portion of our service. Only two contractors submitted bids — Rumpke and Waste Management. Rumpke's bid was not responsive and had to be discarded. Waste Management's



bid was a hundred dollars more than the consortium was currently paying. This legislation asked Council to reject this sole bid and reissue bid invitations to secure a better price.

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

Finance & Administration Committee

This is the Finance & Administration Committee meeting for December 8, 2025.

Members in attendance are: 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

Mayor Begeny explained that the budget was going to look a little different than previous budgets due to staffing issues in the Audit Department. Baker Tilly has done their best to determine the City's potential revenues for 2026, which was included in the packet. Based on those revenue numbers, a number of positions and a number of line items were removed from the budget. Staff will not be hiring any new positions in 2026, but will be authorizing those positions in Chapter 160.

Parks and Rec and the Service Department were primarily impacted by this change. Additionally, the camera van for the Water/Sewer Department was removed, a new truck for the Parks Department, two cruisers for RPD, and a vehicle for the Communications Department were removed. Part of the issue is the unknown nature of what the overall revenue will be, but we wanted to err on the conservative side. The last four years, the City of Reynoldsburg returned about twelve and a half percent of its budget back to the General Fund each year. The City will remain well above the threshold for the Government Finance Officers Association recommendation of twenty-five percent of your General Fund in reserve, which would be roughly about \$9.25 million in this budget. The City was actually at forty percent, being significantly higher. The CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) predictions were not impacted by the budget numbers. We had hoped to do something different this year and actually bring our CIP into the budget to help alleviate some of the impacts of when contracts go out for street projects to lessen the number of legislative emergencies.

Councilmember Baker moved to forward this Ordinance to Council for a first reading. Second by Councilmember Johnson. Motion carried.

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 160 Employee Compensation, 160.01 Definitions - Employee Service Date and Prior Service Credit, 160.02 Authorized Positions, Personnel, Classification and Pay Grade, 160.03 Salary Schedule, 160.04 Other Compensation, 160.07 Longevity, 160.11 City Clothing, 160.12 City Clothing (Senior Police Management), 160.13 Paid Family Leave, Adding Section 160.14 Acting Interim Pay, and Declaring an Emergency

Mayor Begeny stated that this legislation was being returned to the Committee to be amended to include the changes made to reflect positions that were eliminated or altered due to reductions.

Councilmember Baker moved to amend this Ordinance to include the final draft of changes to the pay grades and positions. Second by Councilmember Johnson. Motion carried.

Councilmember Baker moved to forward the amended Ordinance to Council for a third reading and approval. Second by Councilmember Pyakurel. Motion carried.

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

Mayor Begeny explained that that cost of the Waggoner Road Phase 2 project was significantly higher than Phase 1. Due to the higher cost, staff decided to bond the project for approximately \$10.5 million. This bond would also include the cost of installing a new roadway to the Parks & Recreation/Service facility. This roadway needed to be included in this bond process as the engineering had not been completed when that facility bonds were issued. Additionally, \$1.2 million dollars would be included for the extension of a water line to the Summit Road area in order to loop the system and help equalize pressure in that area.

President Strickland asked the rate of this new bond. Mayor Begeny indicated that the rate would not be known until the bonds were sold, but should be more favorable than the rates for the PR/Service facility.

Councilmember Baker moved to forward this Ordinance to Council for a first reading. Second by Councilmember Pyakurel. Motion carried.

A Resolution Authorizing the City Auditor to Fund the Health Savings Accounts for 2026

Mayor Begeny explained that this legislation was an annual housekeeping item; however, due to contractual obligations, the federal government raised the HSA amounts for a family to \$4,200 (up from \$4,000) and a single to \$2,100 (up from \$2,000). This increase would allow our non-union employees to receive the same benefits as those union members.

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

RESOLUTIONS - CONSENT AGENDA

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

A Resolution Authorizing the City Auditor to Remove Report Writing Workstations from the City's Fixed Asset List for the Reynoldsburg Police Department

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Intergovernmental Working Agreement with Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District to Support the Big Walnut Watershed Coordinator Program Administered by Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District in Coordination with and Support from MORPC and the State Watershed Program with ODNR and Ohio EPA

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with the District Advisory Council of the Franklin County General Health District and Franklin County Public Health for Health Services

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Sign an Agreement with the City of Columbus for Snow and Ice Removal Services



A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Reject All Recycling Processing Bids and Reissue Bid Invitations

A Resolution Authorizing the City Auditor to Fund the Health Savings Accounts for 2026

CONSENT AGENDA FOR EMERGENCY ADOPTION

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

An Ordinance to Amend the Personnel Procedure Manual Regarding Separation, Compensatory Time, Inclement Weather, Sick Leave Conversion, FMLA, Donated Leave, Vacation Leave, Prior Service Credit, Holidays, Workers Compensation, City Clothing, Investigations and Discipline, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 160 Employee Compensation, 160.01 Definitions - Employee Service Date and Prior Service Credit, 160.02 Authorized Positions, Personnel, Classification and Pay Grade, 160.03 Salary Schedule, 160.04 Other Compensation, 160.07 Longevity, 160.11 City Clothing, 160.12 City Clothing (Senior Police Management), 160.13 Paid Family Leave, Adding Section 160.14 Acting Interim Pay, and Declaring an Emergency

CONSENT AGENDA FOR FIRST READING

President Strickland announced that these Ordinances stand for a first reading.

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 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 SECOND READING

President Strickland announced that these Ordinances stand for a second reading.

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

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 Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with Compton Construction for Design and Construction Services

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

OTHER COUNCIL MATTERS

Councilmember Towns thanks President Strickland for her hard work, dedication, and service to Council and the residents of Reynoldsburg, as her work has been greatly appreciated. She added that she looked forward to working with her in 2026.

Councilmember Baker also thanked President Strickland for her service and stepping in the Council President position last year and putting her best foot forward in serving the community. He wished her well in her new position and looked forward to continuing to work with her and moving the City forward. He thanked the RPD, doctors, teachers, Black Friday retail workers, and congratulated the mens wrestling team, mens basketball team, and girls basketball team on their wins. Also, congratulations to the Reynoldsburg bowling team on their first place.

Interviews for Council President Position

Councilmember Pyakurel recused himself from the meeting and left the dais.

President Strickland explained that with her resignation as Council President effective December 14, 2025, Council needed to begin the process of selecting a new Council President. Council received three applications from residents residing within the City limits, who would fulfill the remaining three-year term of Council President. President Strickland stated that each candidate would be invited to the podium to make a brief one-minute presentation. Councilmembers could then ask questions of each candidate. Following the interview process, Council may discuss the candidates, but no decision would be made until the December 15, 2025 special Council meeting.

Tim Madrid

Tim Madrid

Mr. Madrid stated that he had fifteen years of strategic planning and construction work experience ranging from Nationwide Children's Hospital to a mechanical contractor. He was currently working in a data center in construction and design. He stated he had three areas of interest in serving on Council. He was interested in continuing support for the Parks & Recreation Department. He served as a soccer and baseball coach as well as an umpire for his four boys. He expressed

excitement about the Parks & Recreation Master Plan work and hoped to help support that process. His second area of interest was City infrastructure, both physical and human, focusing on maintaining capital funding for the well-being and safety of all Reynoldsburg residents. His third area of interest was Reynoldsburg's economic development, focusing on attracting new businesses and construction that benefits all residents. He and his family moved to Reynoldsburg ten years ago and witnessed those changes in the City. He expressed excitement about potentially helping to continue to move positive development forward.

Councilmember Baker asked what Mr. Madrid could bring to the table to move economic development forward. Mr. Madrid responded that continued improvement and support for the Parks & Recreation Department would attract more development by focusing on improving program resources offered to the citizenry. Secondly, by utilizing the results of the Master Plan to strategically look at what things may need replaced and what areas could be expanded.

Councilmember Baker asked what his top priority would be. Mr. Madrid stated that working through the Master Plan process and involving all the key stakeholders in that process and incorporating their input would be his main focus.

Councilmember Baker asked Mr. Madrid about what leadership skills he would bring to the Council President position. Mr. Madrid explained his experience in working with various unions, mentoring skills, and work on establishing institutional goals. He added that he had served on statewide union boards as a Trustee and a number of community engagement boards. He had experience engaging with multiple different stakeholders, providing him with skills in listening to a variety of points of view to drive consensus.

Bhuwan Pyakurel

Councilmember Pyakurel stated that he had lived in Reynoldsburg for ten years and his children go to school there. After having served on Council for the past six years, he was now interested in expanding my service as Council President. As a Councilmember and, if selected, as Council President, I want to focus on extending sidewalks throughout the City, improving infrastructure, and communication to all community members. Because of all the support I have received since coming to America as a refugee, I want to continue to share my experiences, give back to this country, and serve the community.

Councilmember Baker asked what Councilmember Pyakurel would do regarding the continued developmental growth in central Ohio. Councilmember Pyakurel would continue supporting projects like the Waggoner Road project, continue to complete annual street improvement projects, and work to repair and extend sidewalks throughout the City.

Councilmember Baker asked what strengths Councilmember Pyakurel would bring to the Council President position. Councilmember Pyakurel stated that he would listen to everyone's voice and make decision based on that information. He would take on the leadership component of the position, taking on more responsibility and decision-making opportunities.

Kirby Samuell

Kirby Samuell started by referring to an email he sent Council regarding the Council selection process to fill vacancies and his concerns. He expressed his appreciation for how seriously Council responded to his email and his strong regard for Council as a whole, as it showed how much Council strives to hear every possible voice. He explained that he was interested in the Council President position because he believed the community deserved leadership that was thoughtful, accessible, and grounded in real accountability. He added that he built his public service around those values in his work as a Guardian Ad Litem, community advocate, and member of local boards and commissions. Mr. Samuell stated that he listened closely, strives to communicate clearly, and made decisions based on fact and longer-term equity, not just on convenience, popularity, or routine. If appointed, he would focus on strengthening public trust, improving communication with residents, and ensuring that policies reflect the needs of every neighborhood in Reynoldsburg. He would bring a steady hand, a collaborative mindset, and commitment to transparent government.

Councilmember Baker explained that Councilmembers had always been open and transparent with the public about Council processes and procedures since his tenure on Council. Prior to his tenure, applicants were interviewed in Executive Session, away from public view. Councilmember Baker credited Councilmember Cotner with suggesting that the applicant interviews be held in an open meeting, so the process was completely transparent. Councilmember Baker asked what Mr. Samuell would do regarding the continued developmental growth in central Ohio.

Mr. Samuell responded that he was a highly organized person bordering on OCD and ADHD. He expressed that he had a very strong sense of community and would focus on equity and assuring everyone was heard and included adding that citizens that used to be underrepresented or smaller community groups within the City were now dominant voices. Governments should reflect that change and decisions should reflect that change. That inclusion could be accomplished by opening the conversation to communicate with residents and make decisions based on that fact.

Councilmember Baker asked what strengths Mr. Samuell would bring to the Council President position. Mr. Samuell indicated that his OCD helped him be a

major workhorse in all things. Organization was a huge part of leadership for the Council President position. He agreed with Councilmember Pyakurel that institutional knowledge was valuable for Council service and the importance of function day to day. He stated that he attended meetings, paid attention, and was a quick study. He affirmed that he would do his best.

President Strickland explained that she purposely did not ask any questions as she thought it was unfair to ask questions about a position she was leaving. She thanked all the candidates for applying for this position. She added that as Council President, the position required the person to work with the City Attorney, Mayor, and staff to lead the City. You will attend local community events and respond to residents in the grocery store or sporting events. The Council President was responsible for attending Council meetings twice a month and lead Council in making the best decisions regarding the City. Council President Strickland stated that Council would review the applications over the next week and make a decision at the next meeting on December 25, 2025.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

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
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

Shanette Strickland, Council President

Mollie Prasher, Clerk of Council

Reynoldsburg
OHIO • 1839