



**MINUTES REGULAR MEETING  
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL  
January 12, 2026**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Council President Bhuwan Pyakurel called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM and welcomed everyone to the New Year.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as submitted.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Regular Meeting Minutes from December 8, 2025**

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

**Special Meeting Minutes from December 15, 2025**

The special meeting minutes of December 15, 2025 were approved as submitted.

**COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

Mayor Begeny advised Council that there would be a lot of big things in store for the City in 2026. Mayor Begeny also mentioned that his State of the City address was scheduled for Thursday, February 28th.

**PROCLAMATIONS**

**A Proclamation Recognizing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and His Day of Service**

Councilmember Johnson read the Proclamation.

Councilmember Baker thanked Councilmember Johnson for bringing this proclamation to Council to honor Dr. King and giving back to the community. His efforts to fight for civil rights were something that should not be forgotten.

Councilmember Johnson reminded everyone of the City's Martin Luther King, Jr. Breakfast on Saturday.

Councilmember Pyakurel thanked Auditor Strickland for initiating the breakfast five years ago.

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

## **COMMUNICATIONS**

President Pyakurel stated that there were no additional Communications.

## **MOTIONS**

### **A Motion to Confirm the Mayor's Appointment of Keith Benner, Norman Brusk, Hilary Conley, and Yannick Tuwamo to the Planning & Zoning Board**

Councilmember Towns made a motion to approve these appointments. Second by Councilmember Salvati. Motion carried.

### **A Motion to Confirm the Mayor and Council President Appointments of Council President Bhuwan Pyakurel, Auditor Shanette Strickland, and Attorney Chris Shook to the Fairfield, Franklin, and Licking County Tax Incentive Review Councils**

Councilmember Salvati moved to appoint Council President Bhuwan Pyakurel, Auditor Shanette Strickland, and Attorney Chris Shook. Second by Councilmember Johnson. Motion carried.

### **A Motion to Confirm the Council Appointments of Council President Bhuwan Pyakurel and Auditor Shanette Strickland to the Taylor Summit Community Reinvestment Area Housing Council**

Councilmember Towns moved to approve these appointments. Second by Councilmember Hill. Motion carried.

**A Motion to Confirm the Council Appointments of Council President Bhuwan Pyakurel and Auditor Shanette Strickland to the East Main Community Reinvestment Area Housing Council**

Councilmember Salvati moved to approve President Pyakurel and Auditor Strickland to this CRA. Second by Councilmember Hill. Motion carried.

**A Motion to Confirm the Council Appointments of Council President Bhuwan Pyakurel and Auditor Shanette Strickland to the Gateway Community Reinvestment Area Housing Council**

Councilmember Baker moved to approve President Pyakurel and Auditor Strickland to this CRA. Second by Councilmember Johnson. Motion carried.

**A Motion to Confirm the Council Appointments of Council President Bhuwan Pyakurel and Auditor Shanette Strickland to the Eastern Community Reinvestment Area Housing Council**

Councilmember Baker moved to approve President Pyakurel and Auditor Strickland to this CRA. Second by Councilmember Abram. Motion carried.

**A Motion to Confirm the Council Appointments of Council President Bhuwan Pyakurel and Auditor Shanette Strickland to the 1994 Reynoldsburg Community Reinvestment Area Housing Council**

Councilmember Towns moved to approve President Pyakurel and Auditor Strickland to this CRA. Second by Councilmember Baker. Motion carried.

**A Motion to Hereby Appoint Auditor Shanette Strickland and Attorney Chris Shook to Serve on the Volunteer Peace Officers' Dependent Fund Board**

Councilmember Abram moved to appoint Attorney Chris Shook and Auditor Shanette Strickland to the Volunteer Peace Officers' Dependent Fund Board. Second by Councilmember Towns. Motion carried.

**A Motion to Recommend the Appointment of Angela Abram as the Council Representative to the Reynoldsburg Visitors Bureau**

Councilmember Johnson moved to approve the appointment of Angela Abram to the Reynoldsburg Visitors Bureau. Second by Councilmember Towns. Motion carried.

**A Motion to Recommend the Appointment of Stacie Baker as the Council Representative to the West Licking Joint Fire District Board for 2026**

Councilmember Salvati moved to appoint Stacie Baker to the West Licking Joint

Fire District. Second by Councilmember Johnson. Motion carried.

**A Motion to Reappoint Mollie Prasher to Serve as Clerk of Council for the Period Beginning February 1, 2026 through January 31, 2028**

Councilmember Towns moved to appoint Mollie Prasher as Clerk of Council. Second by Councilmember Johnson. Motion carried.

**A Motion to Designate the Clerk Mollie Prasher to Attend the Required Trainings Related to Public Records Laws and Sunshine Laws on Behalf of City Council**

Councilmember Salvati moved to appoint Clerk Prasher to attend the required training sessions related to public records laws and Sunshine Law on behalf of City Council. Second by Councilmember Baker. Motion carried.

**A Motion to Recommend the Appointment of Temporary Council Committee Chairs**

Councilmember Town moved to approve the recommended appointments of the temporary committee chairs — Lou Salvati to the Development, Parks & Recreation Committee; Mildred Johnson - Public Safety, Law & Courts Committee; Erin Hill to the Public Service & Transportation Committee; and Stacie Baker to the Finance & Administration Committee. Second by Councilmember Hill. Motion carried.

**A Motion to Recommend the Appointment of Councilmembers to Council Committees Effective January 12, 2026 until the Next Council Organizational Meeting in January 2027**

Councilmember Towns moved to approve the following members to each committee:

Development, Parks & Recreation Committee Members – Councilmember Abram, New Ward 3 Councilmember, Councilmember Towns and President Pyakurel  
Public Safety, Law & Courts Committee Members — Councilmember Abram, New Ward 3 Councilmember, Councilmember Towns, and President Pyakurel  
Public Service & Transportation Committee Members — Councilmember Abram, New Ward 3 Councilmember, Councilmember Towns, and President Pyakurel  
Finance & Administration Committee Members — Councilmember Hill, Councilmember Johnson, Councilmember Salvati, and President Pyakurel

Second by Councilmember Johnson. Motion carried.

**A Motion to Recommend the Appointment of Stacie Baker to Serve as the**

**President Pro Tempore of Council for the Period Beginning January 12, 2026 until the Next Council Organizational Meeting in January 2027**

Councilmember Salvati moved to approve Stacie Baker as Council Pro Tempore. Second by Councilmember Johnson. Motion carried.

**A Motion to Reconsider Ordinance No. 65-2025 an Ordinance to Make Final Appropriations for Expenses and Other Expenditures of the City of Reynoldsburg, State of Ohio, During the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2026, and Declaring an Emergency**

President Pyakurel explained that following the passage of Ordinance 65-2025 at the December 15, 2025 Council meeting, staff determined that the incorrect 2026 Budget was submitted as the final budget and passed. The correct budget was provided in the packet and the Ordinance needed to be reconsidered, amended, and reapproved.

Mayor Begeny added the original submission of the budget was submitted as the final budget; however, some of the larger vehicle items were removed, but not reflected in the budget print-out. In order to maintain that we stay within the City's fiscal means, a correct budget needed to be reflected in the approval of the ordinance.

Councilmember Baker confirmed that the budget being voted on this evening, reflected the removal of those items. Mayor Begeny responded in the affirmative. Councilmember Baker asked if those items would be added back into the budget later in the year. Mayor Begeny responded that these items would remain out of the budget unless later in the year the financial considerations of the City improved.

Councilmember Towns moved to reconsider Ordinance No. 65-2025. Second by Councilmember Salvati. Motion carried.

President Pyakurel requested a motion to amend Ordinance No. 65-2025 to include the correct 2026 Budget.

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>(UNANIMOUS)</b>                                    |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Salvati   |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Towns   |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Abram, Baker, Johnson, Towns, Salvati, Hill, Pyakurel |

President Pyakurel requested a motion to approve Ordinance No. 65-2025 as amended.

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|--|
| <b>RESULT:</b> (UNANIMOUS)   |
| <b>MOVER:</b> Towns  |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> Salvati   |
| <b>AYES:</b> Abram, Baker, Johnson, Towns, Salvati, Hill, Pyakurel |

## REPORTS

### **Liquor Permit - Asmarina Deli Market and Cafe**

This item was pulled from the agenda.

### **Development, Parks & Recreation Committee**

This is the Development, Parks & Recreation Committee meeting for January 12, 2026.

Members in attendance are: Councilmember Abram, Councilmember Towns, Chair Salvati, and President Pyakurel.

#### Selection of Committee Chair

Temporary Chair Salvati opened the floor for nominations. Councilmember Towns made a motion to nominate Temporary Chair Salvati as chair of the Development, Parks & Recreation Committee. As there were no further nominations, nominations were closed and a voice vote taken. Motion carried.

#### Selection of Vice Chair

Chair Salvati opened the floor for Vice Chair nominations. Chair Salvati nominated Councilmember Towns to be Vice Chair. As there were no further nominations, nominations were closed, and a voice vote taken. Motion carried.

### **A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with Connected Future Consultancy, LLC for Broadband Strategy Consulting Services and Waive Competitive Bidding**

Director Meyer explained that about two years ago, the City commissioned a survey that looked at the City's overall broadband coverage. The study determined that the coverage was adequate. It was determined at that time to pause any further study and wait to see how further private extension of coverage progressed. Staff determined that it would be effective now to look at the existing service

provided by commercial vendors to decide if the City could supplement service.

There are different models where cities have extended a fiber network to expand service. There were also models where cities partnered with private contractors to develop a hybrid model. This survey would help provide answers and direction on how the City could best proceed. This survey would take six months with the results brought back to Council for your review.

President Pyakurel asked about the cost of the project. Director Meyer advised the cost was \$68,000 and was included in the 2026 Budget.

Councilmember Hill asked if the study would determine the number of residents that had access to the internet in the City and if the goal was to allow more people to connect to the internet. Director Meyer explained that this survey would help determine if the City should actively take part in creating some type of new service or continue to allow the multiple internet service providers currently in the City to continue to be responsible for providing service.

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

### **Public Safety, Law & Courts Committee**

This is the Public Safety, Law & Courts Committee meeting for January 12, 2026.

Members in attendance are: Councilmember Abram, Councilmember Towns, Temporary Chair Johnson, and President Pyakurel.

#### Selection of Committee Chair

Temporary Chair Johnson opened the floor for nominations. Councilmember Abram made a motion to nominate Temporary Chair Johnson as chair of the Safety, Law & Courts Committee. As there were no further nominations, nominations were closed, and a voice vote taken. Motion carried.

#### Selection of Committee Vice Chair

Chair Johnson opened the floor for Vice Chair nominations. Chair Johnson nominated Councilmember Abram to be Vice Chair. As there were no further nominations, nominations were closed, and a voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

### **A Resolution Authorizing the City Auditor to Remove Equipment from the**

### **City's Fixed Asset List for the Reynoldsburg Police Department**

Chief Baker explained that this legislation would remove a 2023 Ford Police Interceptor as the car was in an accident and totaled last April. The City received a settlement from the insurance company and now needed to remove the vehicle from the fixed asset list.

Chair 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 January 12, 2026.

Members in attendance are: Councilmember Abram, Councilmember Towns, Temporary Chair Hill, and President Pyakurel.

#### Selection of Committee Chair

Temporary Chair Hill opened the floor for nominations. Councilmember Towns made a motion to nominate Councilmember Hill as chair of the Public Service & Transportation Committee. As there were no further nominations, nominations were closed, and a voice vote was taken. Motion carried.

#### Selection of Committee Vice Chair

Chair Hill opened the floor for vice chair nominations. Chair Hill nominated Councilmember Towns to be Vice Chair. As there were no further nominations, nominations were closed, and a voice vote taken. Motion carried.

### **Finance & Administration Committee**

This is the Finance & Administration Committee meeting for January 12, 2026.

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

#### Selection of Committee Chair

Temporary Chair Baker opened the floor for nominations. Councilmember Johnson made a motion to nominate Temporary Chair Baker as chair of the Finance & Administration Committee. As there were no further nominations, nominations were closed, and a voice vote taken. Motion carried.

## Selection of Committee Vice Chair

Chair Baker opened the floor for Vice Chair nominations. Chair Baker nominated Councilmember Salvati to be Vice Chair. As there were no further nominations, nominations were closed, and a voice vote taken. Motion carried.

### **An Ordinance Providing for the Issuance and Sale of Bonds in the Maximum Principal Amount of \$13,910,000, for the Purpose of Paying the Costs of Improving the Municipal Vehicular Transportation System, and Declaring an Emergency**

Mayor Begeny explained, as he had mentioned at the December 15th meeting, this legislation was for the remaining bond amount. This bond was primarily for the Waggner Road Phase 2 project and the Parks/Service building roadway. The Summit Road waterline had to be requested in a separate piece of legislation. This legislation was being requested as a two-read emergency. The funds will all be bonded together in one package.

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

### **A Resolution Authorizing the City Auditor to Enter into a Contract with the Auditor of State's Office to Complete a Performance Audit**

Auditor Strickland advised that this legislation would request a complete performance audit by the state of Ohio Auditor's office. This audit was included in the 2026 Budget. With the rebuild and transition of the City's audit office, it was important to be sure that the new staff could be as efficient and functional as possible. The state Auditor's office staff would concentrate on three specific areas — organizational structure and staffing/salaries, current processes, and financial operation policies. Staff are currently working through a number of things right now and look forward to recommendations to improve processes in 2026.

Councilmember Hill indicated that she supported this process, but asked if bringing in the State Auditor had been done before? Auditor Strickland stated that she did not know if this process had happened before.

Councilmember Abram asked the scope of the audit in terms of time. Were there other areas this audit would address? Auditor Strickland explained that the City did not have a specific outline of how the process would work. This legislation was the first step in order to begin the process. She indicated that she would share with Council as soon as more information was available.

Councilmember Baker asked about the cost of this service. Auditor Strickland commented the cost was \$50,000. Councilmember Baker expressed that fresh eyes providing a review of our processes should allow the City to work more efficiently.

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

## **RESOLUTIONS - CONSENT AGENDA**

|                  |   |
|------------------|---|
| <b>RESULT:</b>   | <b>7 - 0 (UNANIMOUS)</b>                              |
| <b>MOVER:</b>    | Baker   |
| <b>SECONDER:</b> | Towns   |
| <b>AYES:</b>     | Abram, Baker, Johnson, Pyakurel, Towns, Salvati, Hill |

**A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with Connected Future Consultancy, LLC for Broadband Strategy Consulting Services and Waive Competitive Bidding**

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

**A Resolution Authorizing the City Auditor to Enter into a Contract with the Auditor of State's Office to Complete a Performance Audit**

## **CONSENT AGENDA FOR FIRST READING**

This Ordinance stood for a first reading.

**An Ordinance Providing for the Issuance and Sale of Bonds in the Maximum Principal Amount of \$13,910,000, for the Purpose of Paying the Costs of Improving the Municipal Vehicular Transportation System, and Declaring an Emergency**

## **OTHER COUNCIL MATTERS**

Councilmember Baker gave his congratulations to Ms. Chambers on being selected as Ward 3 Representative. He also thanked the RPD, the teachers that educate our children, and those who work in retail and logistics. He wished everyone a good and prosperous New Year.

Councilmember Abram thanked the voters for choosing her as their newest Council At Large member. She hoped that when her term ended, residents would have a many complimentary things to say about her work as they did her predecessor.

### **Interviews and Selection of Ward 3 Representative**

President Pyakurel explained that with the December 14, 2025 resignation of President Strickland, Council had to select a new Council President. With my appointment as Council President, the Ward 3 position was vacated. Council requested applications for this position and intended to select a new Councilmember at this meeting. Council received five applications from residents residing within the City. He added that he would invite each applicant to the podium to make a brief one-minute presentation. Councilmembers could ask questions of each candidate. Following the interview process, Council could further discuss the merits of each applicant, make a motion to approve a specific candidate, or table the selection process until the next meeting. President Pyakurel asked if there were any questions from Council or the applicants.

### **Teneah Chambers - 1175 Crestview Street**

Ms. Chambers stated that this was not just the community she lived in for the past thirteen years, this was where she raised her children, where they attended school, and where she served her neighbors. She explained that she served on the Reynoldsburg Parks and Recreation Commission, coached Reynoldsburg youth sports, and served on Reynoldsburg City Schools levy committee. These experiences gave her a better understanding of what residents expected from their local government; a community where we could feel safe, thrive, and raise happy, healthy families. As a community relations coordinator, she brings several years of strong policy, budget, and program oversight experience to the table. She recently implemented a plan to invest \$3.8 million dollars in workforce programs and created citywide processes to measure job growth. Ms. Chambers explained that she understood how legislation was developed, how public dollars should be managed, how to engage with residents, and how to collaborate across departments. She would continue the work that was already being done to support

road and street construction to connect families and keep residents safe. When the time was right, she wanted to explore opportunities to expand food compost programs and empower residents to decrease food waste. Ms. Chambers stated that she was someone who would listen to residents and collaborate with other Councilmembers. She was ready to get to work and continue to move Reynoldsburg forward.

#### Councilmember Abram

Councilmember Abram asked what Ms. Chambers felt was the top challenge for Ward 3 and what she believed she could bring to Council to assist in addressing that challenge.

Ms. Chambers stated that as a resident of Ward 3, she believed that continuing to repair the streets and sidewalks in that area was the main thing she would like to focus on in that ward. She would like to encourage residents to use the Engage app to report issues as well as try to just speak to residents to hear what they believed the greatest issues were in the ward.

#### Councilmember Salvati

Councilmember Salvati asked how becoming a Councilmember would affect her day-to-day life and if she planned to make any changes if she were appointed.

Ms. Chambers stated that she was already an invested resident of Reynoldsburg and already spent her time volunteering. As a Councilmember, she would invest more time and become available to residents and make her presence known at City events. She would like residents to see her as approachable, but also support her fellow Councilmembers at the events.

Councilmember Salvati also asked what made her decide to apply for this position and if she had ever considered public service before now.

Ms. Chambers stated that she was a public servant in her current position and understood some of what it took to be in this position. She explained that she had also run for public office before and understood the time and effort that went into running a campaign. She believed that these experiences made her the best candidate for this position.

#### Councilmember Baker

Councilmember Baker asked what was the biggest issue she would like to address in Ward 3.

Ms. Chambers stated that in Ward 3, and all over the City, she would like residents to feel heard when addressing their concerns. She explained that in the past, she was concerned about potholes near her home and spoke to Councilmember Baker, who pointed her towards the Engage app where you could directly report issues around the City to the administration.

**Joseph Eringman - 8937 Firstgate Drive**

Mr. Eringman stated he believed that it would be his responsibility to maintain stability, continuity, and trust, and not advance a personal agenda. He explained that he had lived in Ward 3 for almost four years and cared about the long-term health of Reynoldsburg. Professionally, he worked in public administration and spent much of his time supporting leaders through complex budget infrastructure and policy decisions. This experience has taught him the importance of asking good questions, respecting staff, and understanding the downstream impacts of Council decisions. He would focus on being prepared for deliberations, understanding ongoing projects, and supporting City staff while making himself accessible to Ward 3 residents. He planned to ensure continuity until the next election when voters would have the opportunity to choose their representative. He appreciated Council allowing him the opportunity to interview for this position.

**Councilmember Abram**

Councilmember Abram asked what Mr. Eringman felt was the top strength and challenge Ward 3 was facing and what he believed he could bring to Council to assist in addressing this challenge. She stated that she would like him to include what downstream impact this solution may have as well.

Mr. Eringman stated that since he had been a resident of Ward 3, he had not noticed many issues specific to this area. He enjoyed the time he spent there and appreciated how diverse it was and how it was developing. He stated that, in terms of downstream effects, he worked in public administration with Ohio State University. He understood that a lot of policy decisions looked good on paper, but caused problems when actually implementing the project for the people working directly with the effort. Mr. Eringman stated that he wanted to be sure to listen to the people who were actively working on these projects and respect their expertise. He explained that public safety was mostly his area of interest as he worked for the Ohio Department of Public Safety for seven years in city infrastructure and capital planning.

**Councilmember Salvati**

Councilmember Salvati asked how becoming a Councilmember would affect his

day-to-day life and if he planned to make any changes if he were to be appointed.

Mr. Eringman stated that he graduated with his Master's a few years ago and now had more free time. He began getting more involved with his HOA and planned to attend more Council meetings while becoming more engaged in the community. He saw this opportunity and felt he would be a good option.

Councilmember Salvati also asked what made him choose to apply for this position and if he had ever considered public service before and what public office meant for him.

Mr. Eringman stated that to be fully transparent, running a campaign sounded terrible to him. He went to the College of Public Affairs and spent time in public policy. Public office had always been of interest to him. He had worked with politicians in the past, but always viewed himself as more Chief of Staff material because he wanted to be involved in the work, but not at the podium.

### **Councilmember Baker**

Councilmember Baker asked what his vision was for Ward 3.

Mr. Eringman stated that he didn't have an exact answer for what his vision was, which he knew was a bit unconventional. He stated that he was not coming to Council with an agenda as his goal was to maintain the stability of Ward 3, City Council, and the City of Reynoldsburg. He knew that there were already many projects scheduled, and he wanted to assist in continuing to move those projects forward. He explained that if Council was looking for someone to come in and make big waves, that maybe he was not the right person for the job.

### **Dipisha Kckhatri - 8973 Coral Canyon Circle**

Ms. Dipisha Kckhatri stated that Reynoldsburg was her home. It was the place where her family bought their first house, it's where she went to school, it's where she grew up, and most importantly, it's the place that taught her what community was. She explained that she was seeking to represent Ward 3 for many reasons and wanted to ensure there was positive development and communities stayed safe for all residents, despite any language barriers. She aimed to make residents feel heard and valued. Ms. Kckhatri stated, during a time when young people were feeling voiceless and discouraged about the future, she believed appointing a young leader would send a powerful message of hope for participation and meaningful change. Reynoldsburg gave her and her family hope and belief that a better future was possible. She now wanted to turn that into action and help show others in the community that they too could have a brighter future in Reynoldsburg.

She thanked the Councilmembers for their time and consideration.

### **Councilmember Abram**

Councilmember Abram asked what Mrs. Kckhatri felt was the top challenge Ward 3 was facing and what she believed she would bring to Council to assist in addressing this challenge, especially from the point of view of a young person.

Ms. Kckhatri stated that, from her perspective, the greatest thing about living in Ward 3 was the immense amount of diversity in the area. What she felt could be better addressed was the lack of a sense of community. She explained that, back in 2020 when she first got a sense of public service, she attended the March for Our Rights protest and the sense of community she felt that day was great. Everyone came together, even during Covid, and she hoped that they could bring that sense of community back to the area.

### **Councilmember Salvati**

Councilmember Salvati wanted to take a moment to discuss how impressed he was with all the candidates and especially excited to see more young people getting involved. Councilmember Salvati asked how becoming a Councilmember would affect her day-to-day life and if she planned to make any changes if she were to be appointed.

Ms. Kckhatri stated that she worked in the Mayor's Office, so she felt she had insight into what it was like to hear the complaints, concerns, and opinions of residents. She felt she gained the ability to navigate these conversations and take the information in without being overwhelmed. She stated that she recently launched an education mentorship program within Reynoldsburg, which has already connected her to so many families and residents. She wanted to continue to use that experience and those relationships to build a sense of community and keep that line of communication open to those who need it.

Councilmember Salvati also asked what made her choose to apply for this position and if she had ever considered public service before now.

Ms. Kckhatri stated that she considered public office before, but was stepping up to the podium a little earlier than she expected. She saw this position as a great opportunity to get a head start. She stated that she knew what it took to run a campaign, having had the opportunity to work in Attorney Shook's office as well as the Mayor's office. They showed her the dedication and commitment it took to be in these positions and hoped to bring the same to City Council.

### **Councilmember Baker**

Councilmember Baker asked what she would like to focus on in Ward 3 and her vision for the future.

Ms. Kckhatri stated that she believed we live in a time when people were really yearning for a sense of community and connection. She explained that sometimes when she was out in the community, she smiled at people, but they didn't smile back. She stated that she wanted to live in a community where people were welcomed and felt comfortable. She believed Council could help facilitate that goal.

### **Madhov Pokhrel - 1029 Mueller Drive**

Mr. Madhov Pokhrel stated that he was seeking this role because he believed local government works best when it's visible, trusted, and deeply connected to the people it serves. As a Councilmember, the job is not only to create policy but to help people feel seen, heard, and included in the future of their City. That belief in community is what led him to found 50 Stars Yuva Club, a non-profit organization right here in Reynoldsburg. It was created to serve Reynoldsburg's children, youth, and families. Through sports and community, they bring young people together across neighborhoods, teaching kids discipline, teamwork, and giving families a place to feel a sense of belonging. He has watched children walk onto the field for the first time and leave believing in themselves and watched families who never knew each other, stand side by side. Mr. Pokhrel stated that, professionally, he has led a software development team on major public sector projects working closely with the US Navy and the federal government. That experience taught him accountability, prosperity, and what it means to carry public trust. If appointed, he would be a Councilmember who is present in the community, not just at meetings. He wants to open the door between City Hall and the residents. His vision for Reynoldsburg is that every resident feels seen, every voice matters, and every child knows they have a future here.

### **Councilmember Abram**

Councilmember Abram asked what Mr. Pokhrel felt was the top challenge Ward 3 faced and what he believed he could bring to Council to assist in addressing this challenge.

Mr. Pokhrel stated that he wanted to increase transparency between residents and the decisions being made in Ward 3. This included hearing the communities' concerns about projects before they begin, not after they have already finished. He stated that he looked into the Engage app before but wants to know how the City

tracks what is being done about those issues, not just that reports were made. He believes that youth engagement is also an issue in Ward 3 and would love to see more involvement.

### **Councilmember Salvati**

Councilmember Salvati asked how becoming a Councilmember would affect his day-to-day life and if he planned to make any changes if he were to be appointed.

Mr. Pokhrel stated that he had already begun to think about how this would affect his life. He stated that even if he is not appointed, he will still come to meetings and represent his community by bringing their comments or concerns to Council. He will plan his schedule to ensure that he is available throughout the week to discuss issues with residents and hear out any concerns they may have.

Councilmember Salvati also asked what made him choose to apply for this position and if he had ever considered public service before now.

Mr. Pokhrel stated that everyone had to start somewhere. He did not see this position as one where you have to have the most experience. He felt as though it was about taking the responsibility you have been given and doing the best you can. He explained that yes, this was his first time interviewing for a position like this, but he was ready for the challenge. He would love to work on larger scale projects and bring more youth programs to the City.

### **Councilmember Baker**

Councilmember Baker asked what was the biggest issue he would like to address in Ward 3.

Mr. Pokhrel stated that he would like to increase transparency and communications as to how the City makes decisions. He would like to see residents become more involved in the decision-making process and ensure that they understand what was truly happening in the City.

Councilmember Baker asked how he planned to mitigate this issue and bring that increased communication to the residents.

Mr. Pokhrel stated that he wanted to understand the issues on a deeper level, have open conversations, and open-door policies, maybe implement weekly meetings or youth-focused meetings.

Councilmember Abram asked if he felt as though he had adequate communication

with the previous representative.

Mr. Pokhrel stated that President Pyakurel was his previous Ward 3 representative, and they did have frequent, open communications. He explained that it was always good to increase communication at a deeper level when possible.

**Michael Strefelt - 944 Harrier Place**

Mr. Michael Strefelt stated that he was requesting his appointment to this position because Reynoldsburg was the community that raised him. He explained that he grew up in Reynoldsburg and has participated in many programs, including those through Reynoldsburg City Schools and scouting programs. Mr. Strefelt stated that he moved away from Reynoldsburg to attend college, but now lives and works here as a teacher with Reynoldsburg City Schools at Waggoner Road Junior High. He stated that he saw what his students go through and had insight into what families were concerned about in the community. He talked to residents and parents of Reynoldsburg throughout his career and, whether they realized it or not, they told him a lot about what they were dealing with on a daily basis. He explained that one of the issues that was frequently discussed was the affordability of the area. He stated that this issue was an area of concern for him as well. He was a young person trying to purchase a home but had to move back in with his parents after college because he could not find something affordable. This was an issue he would like to address if appointed to City Council.

**Councilmember Abram**

Councilmember Abram asked what Mr. Strefelt felt was the top challenge Ward 3 was facing and what he believed he brings to Council to assist in addressing this challenge.

Mr. Strefelt stated that one thing he would like to specifically address in Ward 3 was the cost of utilities. He understood that there were some things that were out of the control of City Council, but would like to do everything in his power, if appointed, to alleviate some of those costs for residents. Some of those options could include just making residents more aware of affordability programs they may qualify for. He would like to ensure that people can afford to stay residents of Reynoldsburg and were not pushed out due to increasing costs. He did think that there was very strong development in Ward 3 and viewed this as a great strength in that area.

**Councilmember Salvati**

Councilmember Salvati asked how becoming a Councilmember would affect his day-to-day life and if he planned to make any changes if he were to be appointed.

Mr. Strefelt stated that he already counted himself as someone who was available 24/7. He receives emails from students at all hours and tried his best to be available to them whenever needed and would do the same for residents if he were to be appointed. He also stated that he understood there was an expectation of attending City events as a representative, and he was prepared to take on that extra responsibility.

Councilmember Salvati also asked what made him choose to apply for this position and if he ever considered public service before now.

Mr. Strefelt stated that until he saw this opportunity, he had actually never considered running for public office. He explained that in December, he received an email from a former student of his saying that she was moving away, completely unexpected, because her father had been picked up by ICE. He stated that it broke his heart to see how her life was turned upside down, she had to move away from the place she had grown up in and away from her friends, and there was nothing he could do to help her. He didn't have the resources or the connections to find a way to help her. He explained that he had never felt this helpless before. He had never considered running for public office, until that morning. So when he saw this opportunity, he realized that maybe there was something he could do to help people in situations like this and create the connections needed to ensure families in Reynoldsburg are safe.

### **Councilmember Baker**

Councilmember Baker asked how he would open communication between other entities like Etna Township, Pataskala, Violet Townships, if he were appointed to this position.

Mr. Strefelt stated that one of the best ways to work with other entities, is to at least start the conversation. He explained that being a teacher, he frequently has hard conversations with people who may not want to have them. He believes that initiating these conversations, followed by action, is the only way to work with other entities in an impactful way. He would also love to be appointed to any committees to represent Ward 3 in conversations with these entities about future projects.

### **Appointment of the New Ward 3 Representative**

After hearing all the interviews, President Pyakurel thanked the candidates for submitting their applications. He stated that the City was lucky to have residents willing to serve the community.

President Pyakurel stated that he saw many great qualities in these applicants and was especially touched by Mr. Strefelt's story about his student and her father being detained by ICE as it was similar to situations he dealt with every day with people all over the country. He stated that, in his opinion, any of these five candidates would make a great representative, but unfortunately, only one person could be chosen.

Councilmember Towns, Councilmember Salvati, and Councilmember Baker thanked the applicants for interviewing for this position and that they hoped to continue to see them be involved in the community. President Pyakurel asked if anyone would like to discuss the candidates or make a motion to nominate someone.

Teneah Chambers was nominated by Councilmember Towns.

Roll Call: Abram — yes, Baker — yes, Johnson — yes, Towns — yes, Salvati — yes, Hill — yes, Pyakurel — yes.

That was a 7-0 vote.

Ms. Teneah Chambers was appointed as the new Ward 3 Representative.

Councilmember Chambers was sworn in by Mayor Begeny.

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

**January 15, 2026 Planning & Zoning Board**  
**January 19, 2026 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day City Office Closed**  
**January 26, 2026 Council**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

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Bhuwan Pyakurel, Council President



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Mollie Prasher, Clerk of Council