



**MINUTES REGULAR MEETING
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
February 9, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Council President Pyakurel, Council Member Salvati, Council Member Baker, Council Member Johnson, Council Member Hill, Council Member Towns, Council Member Abram, Council Member Chambers

ABSENT:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes of January 26, 2026

The regular meeting minutes of January 26, 2026 were approved as submitted.

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

**Senator Michele Reynolds
7130 Rosemount Way
Canal Winchester**

Senator Reynolds stated that she wanted to stop by this evening to share that the Ohio General Assembly is having a 2026 Capital Budget. She explained that around \$150 to 175 million dollars will be made available for community projects and Franklin County will receive \$15 to 20 million for the entire county. The projects they are looking to fund include programming that involves mental health, any kind of opiate treatment or detoxification, recovery, domestic violence shelters, YMCAs, or YWCAs all qualify for this funding. It also includes parks and recreation with items like hiking or biking trails, swimming pools, splash pads, parks, nature preserves, playgrounds, state park upgrades, and wildlife items. Cultural and sports facilities like museums, art galleries,

halls of fame, zoos, historical sites, stadiums, arenas, and other public venues promoting culture or historic facilities, and some higher education joint use agreements that partner with hospitals also qualify for applying. She explained that she wanted to attend Reynoldsburg City Council because our community always has great projects happening, and she is very supportive of these projects. Senator Reynoldsburg stated that last year the Capital Budget had more than enough money, but that is not the case for this year. She wanted to further explain that whatever projects Reynoldsburg would like to submit should be sent to both her office and Representative Meredith Lawson-Rowe's office for review. She stated that if they are both in agreement about the proposal, it could better the City's chances of receiving the full funding for the project. The applications were out as of Friday, February 6, and will be due by March 12.

Councilmember Baker asked if roads would be included as a possible project to be funded by this. Senator Reynolds stated that that does not qualify for funding through this application but the remainder of the Capital Budget, which is normally around \$3 billion, will include \$600 million for Ohio schools, facility construction, and public works. The transportation budget that deals with roads and bridges, and things like that is separate from this budget. Councilmember Baker stated that Blacklick Park and Blacklick Golf Course are both in need of some updating and some TLC. He asked if those updates could be funded by this budget. Senator Reynolds stated that this is something that could qualify if they were to submit it to the State. She explained that since it is a state park, there are multiple sources of funding it could come from. Councilmember Baker stated that the City recently received federal grant money to assist with realigning Brice Rd at E Main St and wanted to note that there is a park not far from this intersection that is new. He explained that with the construction going on at Brice Rd, maybe they would like to add some new features to this park since it would qualify for the State Capital Budget. Senator Reynolds agreed that the park would qualify as a project that could possibly receive funding. She also explained that that State typically does not like to fund an entire project and prefers to be the finishing money. They tend to cover about 50% of the project if the other half of the project is already being funded by another source but just does not have enough to complete the project.

Councilmember Abram asked what is the typical amount a city might hope to get from the State for these projects, she explained that she understands it is project dependent but wanted a rough estimate. Senator Reynolds stated that last year they had more than enough money for all these projects, but that is not the case for this year. She explained that she would not try to request \$1 million dollars; she believes that any project under \$1 million is something that would receive more serious consideration. Councilmember Abram asked how they would make their decisions as to what projects will receive funding. Senator Reynolds explained that after projects are submitted, they will meet with the representatives to try to agree on which projects they will present to

the State. Their goal is to ensure that every district will receive some funding. Senator Reynolds explained that they will rank the projects and return to that city to discuss which projects they would like to fund. They will also take into account whether that city has recently received funding in hopes of trying to fund projects for areas that have not been awarded money in the past. She explained that when cities submit their projects, they should be clear on which projects are the most important to them so that they can take that into account when choosing one to submit. Councilmember Abram asked if there was a certain project that Senator Reynolds had in mind for Reynoldsburg. Senator Reynolds stated that she would love to see the food pantry expanded, but she is not sure if that would fit into this budget, but hopefully, it could be funded through another budget. She also believes that a splash pad would be a great addition to the City.

Councilmember Baker asked why this budget was lower than the previous year. Senator Reynolds stated that last year they were in a surplus because of good fiscal operation. They decided they could supplement the Capital Budget last year with this extra money in hopes that it would all be sent back to communities as a one-time allotment.

President Pyakurel thanked Senator Reynolds for coming to Council to discuss this opportunity.

Councilmember Johnson

She thanked Director Clemens for organizing a snow shoveling effort made up by community volunteers to remove snow from seniors' sidewalks. That effort was very much appreciated.

Councilmember Towns

She thanks Jason Gibson and all the band students that volunteered to help with shoveling the snow. It was amazing to see so many young people out helping in the community.

Mayor Begeny

He advised Council that over twenty volunteers came together to help remove snow from over sixty homes, with the oldest homeowner being ninety years old. Mayor Begeny report sad news that police Officer Nichols was facing some severe health issues. There was a fundraising effort being planned for Sunday, March 8th, from noon-3pm at Kingy's Pizza Pub in Canal Winchester. The Mayor indicated he would forward Council a flyer showing the 50/50 raffle and silent auction. The Mayor reported that during the first two months of the City's composting project, over one ton of food waste was collected. He recognized the Parks and Recreation Department for being

designated as a Tree City again, making this the eleventh year. Mayor Begeny updated Council regarding the Governor's new guidelines regarding eliminating property tax and how it could impact the City. More information will be available this week through social media. He added that the City would receive two million dollars in federal funding for the Brice Road realignment and additional turn lanes. This project would coincide with the installation of the BRT line, which would also include \$4.2 million in transportation infrastructure improvements. That project would likely commence in late 2027. Mayor Begeny also reminded Council of the State of the City address on Thursday, February 26th, with doors opening at 6:30m with the presentation beginning at 7:00pm.

PROCLAMATIONS

A Proclamation Recognizing Black History Month, February 2026

Councilmember Baker read the proclamation. Following the proclamation, Councilmember Baker explained that Black History Month is American history, so to celebrate Black History Month as part of American 250 was really special. He also provided a brief history of how Black History Month started. It started as Negro History Week based on Frederick Douglass' and Abraham Lincoln's birthdays.

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

MOTIONS

A Motion to Approve the Rules of Council

President Pyakurel stated that the Rules of Council were submitted for Council review. He asked if Council had any questions or any additional changes to the Rules and if Council reviewed the changes suggested by Clerk Prasher.

Clerk Prasher explained that the only major change was not needing to return from conference with an agenda and just provide a review of the material covered or the information learned.

Councilmember Salvati moved to approve the Rules of Council. Second by Councilmember Chambers. Motion carried.

REPORTS

Development, Parks & Recreation Committee

This is the Development, Parks & Recreation Committee meeting for February 9, 2026.

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

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Agreement with DLZ for Inspection Services for the JFK Pickleball Court Conversion, Appropriate Funds, and Declaring an Emergency

Director Bauman indicated that the department was ready to begin moving forward with converting the tennis courts into pickleball courts; however, inspection services for the construction project with DLZ needed to be established. This legislation would approve the contract with DLZ and appropriate funds. Director Bauman stated that she was requesting emergency passage after three reads in order to begin the project when weather breaks in March.

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

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Purchase UTV and Equipment for the Parks and Recreation Department and Waive Competitive Bidding

Director Bauman explained that this legislation would authorize the Mayor to purchase UTV and related equipment using the Sourcewell contract.

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

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Purchase a Toro Groundsmaster 4000-D (Mower) and Related Equipment for the Parks and Recreation Department and Waive Competitive Bidding

Director Bauman explained that this legislation would authorize the Mayor to purchase a new mower and related equipment using the Sourcewell contract. This new mower would replace an existing mower that has reached its lifespan.

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

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Purchase an F-450 4x4 and Related Equipment for the Parks and Recreation Department

Director Bauman stated that this legislation would authorize the Mayor to purchase an F-450 4x4 and related equipment for the Parks and Recreation Department.

This truck would be purchased using the Franklin County Board of Commissioners contract, which is similar to the state purchasing contract. This truck would replace an existing truck that has reached its lifespan. The purchase was included in the 2026 Budget.

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

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

Public Service & Transportation Committee

This is the Public Service & Transportation Committee meeting for February 9, 2026.

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

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with OR Colon for Support Services Relating to Waggoner Road Phase II, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and Declaring an Emergency

This item was returned to Council to add language to reimburse the CIP fund once bond moneys become available and add emergency language.

Chair Hill made a motion to amend this Ordinance to include language to reimburse the CIP fund when bond moneys become available and add emergency language. Second by Councilmember Chambers. Motion carried.

This Ordinance was amended.

Chair Hill made a motion to forward this Ordinance as amended to Council for a second reading and emergency approval. Second by Councilmember Abram. Motion carried.

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with EMH&T for Support Services Relating to the City's 2026 Street Maintenance and Repair

Program and Appropriating Funds Therefor

Mayor Begeny stated that in 2025, Council authorized the evaluation of all roads within the City to establish a priority list of what streets should be addressed. He stated that to maximize the money that was available, they were going to focus on good curbs - bad roads to try to cover as many areas as they can throughout the entire City. There was a plan for 2026, 2027, and 2028 available online for what roads they plan to prioritize. Depending on funding, they may move items up or down depending on the cost.

President Pyakurel asked when these projects would be completed. Mayor Begeny stated that these were smaller, local roads that did not need curb replacement, so it would be as quick as two weeks.

Councilmember Baker requested that Rosehill Road be on the radar for possible upgrades in the future.

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

There is no Finance & Administration Committee meeting.

RESOLUTIONS - CONSENT AGENDA

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

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Purchase UTV and Equipment for the Parks and Recreation Department and Waive Competitive Bidding

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Purchase a Toro Groundsmaster 4000-D (Mower) and Related Equipment for the Parks and Recreation Department and Waive Competitive Bidding

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Purchase an F-450 4x4 and Related Equipment for the Parks and Recreation Department

CONSENT AGENDA FOR EMERGENCY ADOPTION

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

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with OR Colon for Support Services Relating to Waggoner Road Phase II, Appropriating Funds Therefor, and Declaring an Emergency

CONSENT AGENDA FOR FIRST READING

President Pyakurel stated that these Ordinances stand for a first reading.

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Agreement with DLZ for Inspection Services for the JFK Pickleball Court Conversion, Appropriate Funds, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with EMH&T for Support Services Relating to the City's 2026 Street Maintenance and Repair Program and Appropriating Funds Therefor

OTHER COUNCIL MATTERS

Councilmember Hill thanked the residents and the Mayor for participating in the food waste compost program. Collecting 2,400 pounds of food waste was an impressive start to the program.

Councilmember Chambers was also appreciative of the success of the compost program as the City has empowered residents to help reduce food waste. She added that as a resident of Reynoldsburg for the past thirteen years, it was inspiring how much the City did to recognize our various cultures.

Councilmember Baker thanked the RPD, doctors, nurses and the City's snow warriors for all of their hard work. He also congratulated the mens' basketball team on their final

home game this Friday. He also gave a shout-out to the Reynoldsburg Bowling team for their very successful season.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 121.22(G)(3) "to conference with an attorney concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action."

President Pyakurel reported that Council was going into Executive Session and could conduct business following the end of the Executive Session. The audience was welcome to wait in the lobby until the Executive Session was completed, and the open meeting was resumed.

Councilmember Salvati made a motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to ORC Section 121.22 (G)(3) "to conference with an attorney concerning disputes involving the public body that was the subject of pending or imminent court action." Second by Councilmember Johnson.

AYE: Abram - yes, Baker - yes, Johnson - yes, Pyakurel - yes, Towns - yes, Salvati - yes, Chambers - yes, Hill - yes.

NAY:

Motion carried.

President Pyakurel invited Mayor Begeny, Attorney Shook, Auditor Strickland, Attorney Batke, and Clerk Prasher to remain in the session.

As Executive Session ended, Councilmember Salvati made a motion to leave Executive Session. Second by Councilmember Chambers.

AYE: Abram - yes, Baker - yes, Johnson - yes, Pyakurel - yes, Towns - yes, Salvati - yes, Chambers - yes, Hill - yes.

NAY:

Motion carried and Council returned to open session.

President Pyakurel explained that Council needed to authorize the Mayor to enter into a settlement agreement. Attorney Shook encouraged Council to make a motion making such an authorization. Clerk Prasher read a proposed motion to authorize the Mayor to enter into a settlement agreement regarding pending litigation.



Councilmember Salvati moved the proposed motion. Second by Councilmember Johnson.

AYE: Abram - yes, Baker - yes, Johnson - yes, Pyakurel - yes, Towns - yes, Salvati - yes, Chambers - yes, Hill - yes.
NAY:

Motion carried. The Mayor was hereby directed to enter into such an agreement.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

February 5, 2026 Planning & Zoning
February 9, 2026 Council
February 16, 2026 Presidents' Day City Offices Closed
February 19, 2026 Planning & Zoning
February 23, 2026 Council

ADJOURNMENT

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

Bhuwan Pyakurel, Council President

Mollie Prasher, Clerk of Council