



**MINUTES REGULAR MEETING
REYNOLDSBURG CITY COUNCIL
June 8, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER

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

INVOCATION - Pastor Matthew Stephens of Vineyard Christian Church

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

President Pyakurel advised that there was a change to the agenda. An Appeal Hearing section is being added following the Public Hearing portion of the meeting. As there were no additional changes, the agenda stood as amended.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting Minutes of May 26, 2026

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

COMMUNITY COMMENTS

Roger Gauthier

334 Pathfinder Drive

Mr. Gauthier voiced profound concern and resentment regarding the rapid expansion of Flock Safety surveillance technology within Reynoldsburg. He expressed concern about the abundance of automated license plate readers (ALPRs) installed across the community. He characterized the network as an instance of government overreach, arguing that behind a "smoke screen" of safety and protection was a dangerous, invasive program that compiled a nationally accessible database. He stated the database lacked sufficient oversight and could be accessed at will by local police officers, federal agents, and federal immigration authorities—pointing to documented instances nationwide where the technology has reportedly been misused by rogue

officers for personal stalking or by immigration agents targeting immigrant families and political dissenters. Mr. Gauthier sharply criticized the structural and financial accountability of Flock Safety as a private corporation, highlighting that the company held immense data power while offering virtually no recourse for constituents. Pointing to the company's liability terms, he noted that in the event of a severe security breach, individual residents were only eligible for up to \$100 in settlement funds, a threshold deemed offensive to personal dignity. Furthermore, Mr. Gauthier alleged that the geographical placement of the hundreds of cameras in and around Reynoldsburg was not coincidental, claiming that devices were explicitly pointed at middle schools, residential neighborhoods, and grocery stores in areas densely populated by the City's immigrant communities.

Irina Perry

6922 Nocturne Road

Ms. Perry addressed City Council to advocate for families navigating the complex issue of special educational needs, behavioral health challenges, and domestic hardships. Reflecting on recent difficulties observed within the local community, she requested information regarding existing municipal resources, local organizational partnerships, and future strategic plans to support vulnerable children and their families. The resident emphasized the critical need for community connections, specialized educational programs, and parent-centric support networks designed to help children with special needs succeed despite hurdles. Ms. Perry shared a recent incident where a mother with mental health struggles stemming from domestic violence was attempting to care for a child diagnosed with ADHD and severe behavioral challenges. She noted that the child's behavioral issues had recently culminated in a school suspension, leaving the family entirely isolated without academic structure or immediate therapeutic intervention.

Councilmember Abram asked how local professional organizations and community groups could actively collaborate with the City to provide programming for parents and youth alike, and how community members could effectively advocate for additional program funding, expanded mental health initiatives, and dedicated, inclusive community spaces tailored to children facing behavioral health crises. Ms. Perry urged Council to identify immediate crisis-response pipelines and collaborative frameworks to ensure families in such fragile circumstances did not slip through the safety net.

Greg Trapp

870 Lancaster Avenue

Mr. Trapp wanted to offer a personal perspective on the short-term rental market, speaking directly to Council's ongoing legislative discussion regarding potential restrictions or a ban on platforms like Airbnb and VRBO. While acknowledging the

stories of disruptive parties, excessive noise, and localized police interventions, he urged Council to carefully weigh the critical utility these properties provide to families navigating unexpected life transitions and health crises. Mr. Trapp shared a personal scenario that occurred with his own family last week. Faced with an ongoing, sudden medical emergency involving a close relative, one of his siblings had to travel immediately from South Carolina with her spouse and two children. Both children have special needs, including one who is severely autistic and frequently vocalizes loudly when stressed. The resident noted that the emotional and behavioral friction of a traditional hotel environment would have posed severe challenges, carrying a risk of the family being asked to leave due to the child's loud vocalization. The family successfully mitigated this crisis by booking a short-term residential rental in the nearby Royal Manor neighborhood of Gahanna. Mr. Trapp commented that the quiet, single-family residential setting provided a sense of stability and routine, shielding the special-needs children from a public hotel stay. This environment allowed the family to remain settled, adapt smoothly to an abrupt change in schedule, and focus entirely on supporting their relative during a medical emergency. Mr. Trapp emphasized that while regulatory guardrails against true nuisance properties were understandable, the City should preserve accessible avenues for short-term residential housing, as individual properties could make an immeasurable difference for families.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Begeny discussed the recent "teen takeover" incident occurring in Bexley, where an unregulated crowd of 500 to 800 individuals gathered at St. Catharine's Catholic Church's FunFest, which resulted in mass disruptions and an early shutdown of the event. In response to inquiries from Reynoldsburg community members regarding the City's safety protocols, he noted that the City addressed these vulnerabilities several years prior by implementing a strict 18-and-over accompaniment policy alongside mandatory security wristbands for major City gatherings like the annual Tomato Festival. To ensure a safe environment ahead of the current year's events, the City was actively collaborating with the Reynoldsburg Police Department to refine security protocols, promising full public transparency before starting any new logistical modifications. The Mayor encouraged residents to attend the upcoming Pride celebration at Huber Park, scheduled for June 13th from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Additionally, the City will celebrate Juneteenth on June 20th, also at Huber Park from 4:00pm to 8:00pm. Regarding infrastructure updates, Mayor Begeny shared progress regarding the Waggoner Road project with paving operations commencing today. The entire Phase 1 portion of Waggoner Road was projected to be fully operational and open to the public within the next two weeks. The Mayor addressed the Flock Safety automated license plate reader program. He announced plans to host a formal presentation to Council prior to the August recess. This briefing would explicitly map out the exact oversight guardrails, data privacy steps, and accountability policies the City has deployed versus a comprehensive review of the measurable public safety benefits

the community has experienced since the Flock Safety network was implemented.

Presentations by Helping Hands, ETSS

Mary Ann Ammerman, a Board Member and Volunteer with Reynoldsburg Helping Hands (RHH), provided a detailed operational update to Council, explaining the significant and sustained increase in local food insecurity. In 2025, the organization served an average of 122 families per month, totaling over 1,400 family visits throughout the year. This volume reflected a 31% increase in service demand over the past five years, underscoring the growing need for basic household necessities within the Reynoldsburg School District. In order to sustain these efforts, RHH has submitted an application requesting a quarterly budgetary allocation of \$4,750 from the City. These funds are vital for bridging the gap between donated goods and the rising cost of essential staples that the pantry must purchase independently. Ms. Ammerman explained that RHH was a "shopping agency" rather than a full-fledged partner of the Mid-Ohio Food Collective. While this status allowed the pantry to purchase items from the Mid-Ohio warehouse in Grove City and access some free goods, those surplus items were becoming increasingly scarce as economic conditions tightened. While the pantry frequently takes advantage of "shop-through" opportunities for fresh produce, the shelf life of these items was often extremely limited—sometimes as short as 24 hours. Because fresh produce could not be reliably collected during community food drives due to its perishability, RHH must often use cash reserves to buy fresh, healthy food directly from local retailers to ensure families receive balanced nutrition.

Councilmember Abram asked how the community could provide support beyond direct, tax-funded grants, Ms. Ammerman emphasized the importance of targeted food drives attached to local community events. While the organization is currently well-staffed with volunteers, there was a constant, pressing need for high-protein shelf-stable items, specifically canned meats like tuna and chicken, which have seen significant price increases. She added that resident could visit and/or drop off items at the pantry at 7453 East Main Street on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday from 10:00am to noon and on Wednesday from 3:00 to 5:00pm.

Presentation by The Center for Family Safety and Healing (Nationwide Childrens' Hospital)

Dr. Sheronda Palmore and Julie Sespico presented a comprehensive briefing to Council on behalf of the Center for Family Safety and Healing (TCFSH), an advocacy and treatment organization operating under the umbrella of Nationwide Children's Hospital. The Center provides a continuum of research-based

prevention, intervention, and trauma-informed treatment programs addressing family violence, serving as an umbrella term encompassing child abuse, elder abuse, teen dating violence, and intimate partner violence (IPV). TCFSH centralizes its impact by locating critical multi-system partners at its facility, including the Child Assessment Center, Fostering Connections, Franklin County Children Services, the Columbus Police Department, regional prosecutors' offices, and pediatric behavioral health teams. Recognizing that partner homicides are overwhelmingly preceded by documented histories of abuse, Dr. Palmore opened with an acknowledgment of the individual lives lost to domestic violence both locally and nationally, urging the community to confront the pervasive reality of relationship abuse. She explained that national data underscored the alarming public health impact of IPV, affecting an estimated 10 million individuals annually across the United States. Lifetime victimization rates reveal that 41% of women and 26% of men experience sexual violence, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner, with a disproportionate impact landing on LGBTQ+, trans, and non-binary communities. Nationally, an average of more than three women were murdered daily by their partners, making IPV the leading cause of death for pregnant individuals and a primary cause of workplace fatalities for women. Dr. Palmore highlighted that Reynoldsburg saw a substantial year-over-year increase in domestic violence charges, jumping from 117 cases in 2024 to 163 cases in 2025. Furthermore, the county recorded 681 strangulation filings in 2025, with 29 occurring specifically in Reynoldsburg, emphasizing that strangulation—commonly referred to by families as "choking"—serves as one of the most critical clinical warning signs for lethal escalation, a reality reflected in Ohio's 2023 statutory upgrade of strangulation from a misdemeanor to a felony offense. To improve community recognition of these dangers, TCFSH utilized the Power and Control Wheel model. This framework emphasized that domestic violence extends far beyond physical or sexual assault, which represented the outer rim holding the structure together. The core of the abuse relies on coercive control—a systematic pattern of intimidation, isolation, financial manipulation, emotional degradation, and threats designed to strip a victim of their liberty and selfhood. To combat these barriers, Ms. Sespico discussed that TCFSH launched a free, evidence-based trauma-informed counseling service alongside legal advocates, who assist survivors with safety planning and judicial navigation at zero cost. Since assuming management of the 24/7 Franklin County Domestic Violence Hotline on March 2, 2026, TCFSH has processed 1,822 unique emergency calls. Notably, 399 of those calls originated directly from the scene of an incident via the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP), an initiative where on-scene law enforcement officers directly connect high-risk survivors with emergency advocates and shelter options in real time.

Councilmember Abram commended the presentation, specifically praising the Center's structural shift from merely identifying negative "red flags" to proactively

promoting healthy relationship behaviors through its youth-centered "Green Flags" initiative and inquired about local teen outreach and partnership possibilities. Dr. Palmore confirmed active collaborations with the City of Columbus Office of Violence Prevention, Columbus Public Health's Care Coalition, and an internal Youth Advisory Council. While TCFSH maintains active communication with the counseling department at Reynoldsburg City Schools, she noted they were not currently embedded in the standard classroom health curriculum to deliver grade-wide relationship education.

Councilmember Baker strongly recommended pursuing a formal school-wide partnership with Reynoldsburg City Schools to ensure factual crisis resources and healthy relationship guidelines are institutionalized for local youth.

PUBLIC HEARING

An Ordinance Adopting the Tax Budget for the City of Reynoldsburg, Ohio for the Fiscal Year Beginning 2027, and Declaring an Emergency

President Pyakurel invited anyone to speak about this Ordinance. As no one appeared to speak, the Public Hearing was closed.

APPEAL HEARING

Appeal Hearing of the Planning & Zoning Board March 5, 2026 Decision for Application #2026-0010 for 6591 East Main Street

Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law

President Pyakurel explained that Council held an Appeal Hearing on Application #2026-0016 during Council's May 11th and May 26th meetings. During the May 26th meeting, Council directed Attorney Shook to present Council with the Findings of Fact and Conclusion of Law.

Attorney Shook presented the finalized resolution regarding the administrative zoning appeal brought forward by Splash Laundry. He noted that under the City's zoning code requirements, City Council must formally adopt a comprehensive Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law during the next scheduled meeting following the official closure of an Appeal Hearing. The document provided an account of the procedural history, the relevant land-use facts, and the specific

statutes that governed the administrative denial. Attorney Shook advised that the document be kept as structurally precise and direct as possible, ensuring that the City's legal rationale would remain defensible should the applicant choose to file a further appeal in the Court of Common Pleas.

President Pyakurel called for a motion to officially deny the zoning appeal as submitted and adopt the prepared Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law.

RESULT:	8 - 0 (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Salvati
SECONDER:	Johnson
AYES:	Abram, Baker, Johnson, Pyakurel Towns, Salvati, Chambers, Hill

PROCLAMATIONS

A Proclamation Recognizing Pride Month June 2026

Councilmember Towns read the Proclamation.

Councilmember Salvati moved to approve the Proclamation. Second by Councilmember Abram. Motion carried.

Councilmember Baker thanked Councilmember Towns for bringing this Proclamation forward.

A Proclamation Recognizing Juneteenth

Councilmember Johnson read the Juneteenth Proclamation.

Councilmember Chambers moved to approve the Proclamation. Second by Councilmember Baker. Motion carried.

Councilmember Baker expressed sincere gratitude to Councilmember Johnson for sponsoring the Juneteenth proclamation and maintaining a deeply meaningful City tradition. The celebration of Juneteenth was originally initiated by former Councilmember and current State Representative Meredith Lawson-Rowe. The fact that the City has successfully carried the mantle forward seven years later was a powerful testament to Reynoldsburg's steadfast commitment to civic progress,

cultural education, and historical inclusivity. Councilmember Baker noted that the celebration served as a vital reminder of a painful chapter in American history, specifically pointing to the two-year delay between the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation and the actual enforcement of freedom for enslaved individuals in Galveston, Texas. He emphasized that preserving this history was critical to preventing past injustices from being repeated. Coupled with the concurrent Pride weekend celebrations, both proclamations were important instruments in fostering community-wide understanding, equity, and a shared path toward long-term cultural growth. Councilmember Baker added that Reynoldsburg was the first in the state of Ohio to establish a dedicated Juneteenth event well before the federal government declared Juneteenth a national holiday.

Mayor Begeny advised that a final date for the official flag-raising ceremony had not yet been finalized, the announced plans would be communicated to Council ahead of the holiday weekend.

REPORTS

Development, Parks & Recreation Committee

This is the Development, Parks & Recreation Committee meeting for June 8, 2026.

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

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) for Short-Term Planning Services and Waive Competitive Bidding

Director Meyer stated that with the recent departure of a staff member and the high volume of applications, the department was currently experiencing issues with processing the applications. He added that the volume of active plan reviews was currently at an all-time high, and while the vacant planning position was posted, the standard recruitment timeline represented a substantial structural lag. Because the position was categorized under the Civil Service framework, it required mandatory, multi-layered screening and testing procedures that typically prolonged the hiring window for several months, rendering the current workload unsustainable under regular staffing levels. Director Meyer proposed a bridge this critical operational gap was to utilize an innovative regional resource through the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC). Recognizing widespread high turnover within the

municipal planning profession, MORPC established a specialized planner pool program, wherein the governmental agency hired a centralized roster of qualified urban planners and contracted them out to member communities facing temporary vacancies. He presented a proposed contract with MORPC to secure a temporary planner for 20 to 26 hours per week over a fixed 15-week duration. The contract was structured as a fee-for-service arrangement with an absolute not-to-exceed cap of **\$48,690**, a figure that included built-in contingency buffers to cover fluctuating operational demands. The outsourced planner would be specifically tasked with managing the high volume of routine, administrative zoning applications that did not require formal Planning Commission or Council hearings. This included reviewing standard residential and commercial submittals such as backyard shed placements, fence installations, residential home additions, and minor commercial occupancy certificates for new businesses moving into existing structures. Because these applications rely on strict, objective municipal code adherence, they lend themselves seamlessly to external review. The temporary MORPC planner would analyze the incoming submittals, compile comprehensive technical comment lists, and hand them off to City staff for final verification and distribution. Director Meyer strongly endorsed this partnership, noting that a recent MORPC planner assigned to Etna Township provided valuable service. He suggested this agreement was a cost-effective mechanism to maintain efficient public services while permanent recruitment continued.

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

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with Evans, Mechwart, Hambleton & Tilton, Inc. (EMH&T) for Engineering Review Services for the COTA BRT

Director Meyer indicated that this Ordinance was for formal engineering services contract totaling **\$38,400** to fund ongoing municipal design reviews for the regional Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) initiative. He clarified that while the City has collaborated with the Central Ohio Transit Authority (COTA) and engineering consultant EMH&T for the past three years. This contract required Council approval as its valuation exceeded the administration's spending threshold. Director Meyer noted that an earlier, lower-cost review contract had been executed independently earlier in the year. This legislation would address the remaining funding needed through the remainder of the calendar year.

Councilmember Baker expressed frustration regarding COTA's perceived lack of progress. He stated that despite significant tax-funded investments and widespread public relations campaigns celebrating regional connectivity, the project appeared perpetually stalled in the planning phase. He expressed skepticism about authorizing additional funds for an initiative where residents have seen no

progress, instead of physical construction, raising concerns that the project was dragging its feet while separate long-term infrastructure improvements—such as the widening of State Route 256—threaten to outpace the transit timeline entirely.

Director Meyer explained that independent engineering oversight was a standard, mandatory policy for every major public or private development in Reynoldsburg, including standard residential home permits. He added that neighboring municipalities along the East Main Street BRT corridor, including Whitehall and Bexley, must similarly hire dedicated external engineering firms to protect their local infrastructure assets. Whereas the City of Columbus utilized an in-house engineering division.

Addressing the timeline delays, Director Meyer explained that the project was an exceptionally complex, multi-jurisdictional engineering endeavor navigating severe federal regulatory hurdles. COTA was statutorily prohibited from initiating physical construction, executing property appraisals, or negotiating exact rights-of-way dimensions with local property owners until it secured formal environmental clearance from the federal government. The environmental approval process faced substantial procedural backlogs due to consecutive administrative transitions within the federal government. COTA recently submitted its "60% design phase" blueprints, which were already thoroughly reviewed by the City's engineer, the local fire department, and planner to generate an extensive list of technical feedback. While a 60% submittal represents a major milestone, Director Meyer cautioned that engineering documents were rarely stable until they reach the 90% or 100% construction document phase, citing parallel experiences on the West Broad Street corridor where massive design overhauls were forced at the absolute final hour. Offering to provide regular project updates to Council, Director Meyer reiterated that the \$38,400 allocation was vital to keeping Reynoldsburg's technical interests represented as regional partners adapt to changing federal timelines.

Councilmember Baker reiterated his frustration with COTA and the phantom BRT line.

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 May 26, 2026.

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

An Ordinance to Establish Section 705 Prohibiting Short-Term Rentals of the Codified Ordinances for the City of Reynoldsburg

Assistant Prosecutor Triplett presented the latest draft of Chapter 705, marking a shift from prohibiting short-term rentals (STR) to establish a regulatory framework. She clarified that the purpose of the Ordinance remained unchanged: to implement strict municipal safeguards and penalties that deter crime, combat chronic noise disturbances, and mitigate neighborhood nuisances associated with unmonitored properties. She indicated that Council's prior feedback was incorporated into the new draft. The proposed Ordinance applies to properties rented for durations between three and thirty consecutive days, effectively narrowing definitions to ensure traditional hotels, motels, and bed-and-breakfast establishments remain governed under separate sections of the code. Under the new guidelines, STR hosts must secure a mandatory annual permit from the City with a yearly registration fee. The application required detailed operational disclosures, including: specific hosting platforms (such as Airbnb) or independent websites where a property was actively advertised; maximum number of permitted overnight guests and vehicles, calibrated to existing neighborhood zoning and parking limits; maintenance of rigorous guest logs and compliance records, which must be surrendered to City officials upon request; and designation of a local, 24-hour contact individual legally authorized to respond immediately to active onsite crises or neighborhood complaints. She added that the draft outlined distinct grounds for permit denial or immediate revocation, targeting any misrepresentation of facts on application materials, an explicit history of neighborhood endangerment, or repeated occupancy and noise violations. Enforcement was backed by a progressive penalty system that scales based on the frequency of infractions within a rolling one-year period. Initial draft penalties included a \$250 fine for a first offense and escalated to a \$1,000 maximum cap. For chronic offenders, the City retained the authority to institute mandatory probationary periods, revoke operational permits, block re-registration for multiple years, or permanently ban an individual property from operating within the short-term rental market entirely. Existing rentals would be given a hard compliance deadline to meet all structural and permitting mandates without being forced to immediately cease operations upon the bill's initial passage.

Councilmembers questioned the potential legislative threat of **Ohio House Bill 109**, a state-level bill designed to limit municipal authority over short-term rentals. Attorney Triplett affirmed awareness of the state bill, but expressed strong confidence that local regulation remained fully protected under Ohio's constitutional **Home Rule** authority, allowing the City to proceed with local zoning oversight.

Councilmember Baker argued that property owners prioritize profits over community safety. He advocated for a tougher "high-risk, high-reward" stance. He

suggested raising the baseline first-offense penalty from **\$250 to \$500** to create a greater penalty as an economic deterrent against non-compliance.

Councilmember Salvati discussed the previous incident regarding the rental involving gunfire at a local cul-de-sac property. He noted that if the disruptive party had been a standard two-night weekend booking, the three-night minimum requirement may have stopped the rental from occurring in the first place, effectively preventing the safety hazard. He added that when the property was rented the following week by a quiet crew of traveling construction workers, neighbors reported a highly positive experience. Councilmember Salvati commented that these rentals showed the need for these services, but validated clear community utility, but a need to regulate and establish guardrails rather than issue an outright ban.

Councilmember Abram asked about the logistics of enforcing the new code as violations frequently required active police intervention. Attorney Triplett commented that the legislation could be adjusted to empower the RPD to log incident reports and issue formal revocation recommendations, ensuring rapid enforcement when a property compromises public safety.

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

Public Service & Transportation Committee

This is the Public Service & Transportation Committee meeting for May 26, 2026.

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

An Ordinance to Repeal and Replace Chapter 907 Rights-of-Way Management Policy of the Codified Ordinances for the City of Reynoldsburg

Attorney Shook explained that this Ordinance was an extensive repeal and replace of the City's right-of-way management policy. The legislative overhaul was prompted by findings from a broadband strategy consultant retained by the City in January. During the audit of existing policies, the consultant identified severe, long-standing deficiencies in the current code, which had not been substantively updated since 2005 despite brief, unsuccessful revision attempts by previous Councils in 2008 and 2019. While acknowledging that a forty-two-page technical document was a dense and dry read, the administration emphasized that modernizing the policy was absolutely critical to regaining control over local infrastructure corridors. The Ordinance established strict regulatory oversight regarding who can enter municipal property to construct or excavate utilities. This

framework directly impacts the installation of natural gas mains and electrical lines—such as those planned for the Summit Road corridor—as well as the rapid deployment of small-cell wireless telecommunications equipment and commercial internet fiber-optic lines. The updated policy mandates that all utility companies must submit formal plans and secure explicit administrative approval before commencing any work. This preventative screening is designed to eliminate dangerous physical clutter beneath and alongside city streets, organize the spatial distribution of commercial infrastructure, and prevent subcontractors from accidentally damaging existing public investments, such as water mains, stormwater systems, and baseline roadway beds.

Councilmember Salvati thanked Attorney Shook for the thorough work on this legislation. He agreed that the document was not a page turner, but seemed to address serious issues involving rights-of-way and easements as he had lived through a year's worth of fiber installation in his backyard and neighborhood.

Chair Hill moved to forward this legislation to Council for a first reading. Second by Councilmember Abram. Motion carried.

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Purchase the Rights-of-Way and Easements Necessary for the Construction of the Summit Road Improvement Project, Appropriate Funds Therefor, and Declaring an Emergency

Director Dorman described the legislation as a collaborative infrastructure project with neighboring Etna Township to widen Summit Road. The project will include an intergovernmental agreement between Etna Township and Reynoldsburg. This legislation would provide funding for the right-of-way acquisition process and distribute legal compensation to affected property owners along the corridor.

Director Dorman indicated that preliminary negotiations with property owners were going well.

Discussions with a majority of impacted residents have been completed and have advanced detailed, formal options discussions with approximately one-third of the property owners. The community response was collaborative, with discussions focusing heavily on key engineering adjustments, such as modifying driveway approaches to accommodate the newly widened roadway and working with utility providers to bury existing Columbia Gas lines underground to improve neighborhood aesthetics and safety.

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

Finance & Administration Committee

This is the Finance & Administration Committee meeting for May 26, 2026.

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

A Resolution to Approve Payment of Services Performed to the Auditors Certificate of Availability of Funds

Mayor Begeny explained that the purchase order for Shred-It's services during the April Community Clean-Up day was not opened until after the event due to an administrative oversight. Under Ohio municipal accounting laws and Auditor Strickland's internal protocols, the Auditor's office has the authority to clear and process post-service invoices, but only up to an administrative threshold of **\$3,000**. This legislation would authorize the payment of \$3,046.50 to resolve the outstanding vendor invoice.

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

RESOLUTIONS - CONSENT AGENDA

RESULT:	8 - 0 (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Salvati
SECOND:	Towns
AYES:	Abram, Baker, Johnson, Pyakurel Towns, Salvati, Chambers, Hill

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with the Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission (MORPC) for Short-Term Planning Services and Waive Competitive Bidding

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with Evans, Mechwart, Hambleton & Tilton, Inc. (EMH&T) for Engineering Review Services for the COTA BRT

A Resolution to Approve Payment of Services Performed to the Auditors Certificate of Availability of Funds

CONSENT AGENDA FOR EMERGENCY ADOPTION

RESULT:	8 - 0 (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Baker
SECONDER:	Towns
AYES:	Abram, Baker, Johnson, Pyakurel Towns, Salvati, Chambers, Hill

An Ordinance Authorizing the Expansion of the Eastern Community Reinvestment Area Eligible for Tax Abatement Originally Established by Ordinance No 97-2023, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract and Accept Funding Assistance through the OPRA State Initiative Program in Partnership with GameTime, Appropriating Funds Therefor, Waive Competitive Bidding, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with EMH&T for Engineering Design Services Related to the Main Street Sidewalk Program, and Declaring an Emergency

An Ordinance Adopting the Tax Budget for the City of Reynoldsburg, Ohio for the Fiscal Year Beginning 2027, and Declaring an Emergency

CONSENT AGENDA FOR FIRST READING

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

An Ordinance to Establish Section 705 Prohibiting Short-Term Rentals of the Codified Ordinances for the City of Reynoldsburg

An Ordinance to Repeal and Replace Chapter 907 Rights-of-Way Management Policy of the Codified Ordinances for the City of Reynoldsburg

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Purchase the Rights-of-Way and Easements Necessary for the Construction of the Summit Road Improvement Project, Appropriate Funds Therefor, and Declaring an Emergency

CONSENT AGENDA FOR SECOND READING

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

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Agreement with the Center of Science and Industry (COSI) and Appropriating Funds Therefor

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with MS Consulting for Professional Engineering Services Pertaining to Storm Sewer Improvements as Outlined in the Recently Completed Blacklick Creek Watershed Study

CONSENT AGENDA FOR THIRD READING

RESULT:	8 - 0 (UNANIMOUS)
MOVER:	Salvati
SECONDER:	Baker
AYES:	Abram, Baker, Johnson, Pyakurel Towns, Salvati, Chambers, Hill

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract to Purchase a Chevrolet Equinox EV for the Building Department and Appropriating Funds Therefor

An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into a Contract with EMH&T for Engineering Design Services Related to Various Traffic Signal Studies

OTHER COUNCIL MATTERS

President Pyakurel reminded the community about the Pride event in Huber Park on Saturday, June 13th and the Juneteenth Celebration on Saturday, June 20th.



Councilmember Baker congratulated all the recent Reynoldsburg High School graduates, including President Pyakurel's daughter. He also congratulated all the college and advanced degreed graduates. He wished all teachers a relaxing summer and thanked them for their hard work. He also thanked Heart Food Pantry for sponsoring their 5K fundraiser this past Saturday. He indicated that he attended the event, but did not run.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- June 13, 2026 Reynoldsburg Pride Celebration**
- June 18, 2026 Planning & Zoning Board**
- June 19, 2026 Juneteenth City Offices Closed**
- June 20, 2026 Reynoldsburg Juneteenth Celebration**
- June 22, 2026 Council**

ADJOURNMENT

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

Bhuwan Pyakurel, Council President

Mollie Prasher, Clerk of Council