

April 23, 2026

City of Northwood Regular City Council Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

The Regular meeting of the Northwood City Council was called to order by Mayor Schimmel at 07:12 PM on April 23, 2026 in the Council Chambers and via Live Stream.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE Mayor Schimmel

Pledge of Allegiance was given.

ROLL CALL

The roll was called by Clerk of Council Popovitch and those in attendance were as follows: Mayor Schimmel, Councilor Barton, Councilor Dickey, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Kretz, Councilor McGaharan, Council President Melnyk City Administrator Kevin Laughlin, and City Attorney Brian Ballenger.

MOTION: Councilor Edwards made a motion to **excuse Councilor Huntermark**; seconded by Council President Melnyk. **ROLL CALL:** **Yes:** Councilor Barton, Councilor Dickey, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Kretz, Councilor McGaharan, Council President Melnyk; **No:** None; **Abstain:** None

RESULT: *Passed (6-0)*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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MOTION: Councilor Edwards made a motion to **approve**; seconded by Councilor Kretz. **ROLL CALL:** **Yes:** Councilor Barton, Councilor Dickey, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Kretz, Councilor McGaharan, Council President Melnyk; **No:** None; **Abstain:** None

RESULT: *Passed (6-0)*

PRESENTATION

PUBLIC COMMENT

Recognition was given to Emily Popovitch for assisting a local business owner seeking expansion opportunities. Her efforts helped connect the business with the Community Investment Corporation, resulting in a pending low-interest loan that will support business retention and create two new jobs. Council thanked Emily for her efforts.

COMMUNICATIONS

Activation of Northwood Walbridge Police MOU

City Administrator shared an email received from the new Village Administrator of Walbridge thanking the City for assistance provided through the Walbridge MOU after two patrol officer resignations.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Economic Development Councilor Barton

No report.

Finance Councilor Dickey

No report.

Recreation Board Councilor Barton

No report.

Safety Councilor Kretz

No report.

Tree Commission Council President Melnyk

Reminder given that Arbor Day tree planting would be held the following day at 11:00 AM at Brentwood, north parking lot off Andrus Road.

Service Councilor Edwards

No report.

Parks, Rec & NCC Councilor Huntermark

No report.

Committee of the Whole Council President Melnyk - Meeting on 4/23 @ 6PM

Discussion topics included:

- Moving forward with Recreation Board restructuring
- Moving forward with Northwest Water and Sewer District membership

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- Fire apparatus and revenue discussions tabled pending additional financial information

MOTION: Council President Melnyk made a motion to **draft a resolution for the City of Northwood to become a member of the Northwest Water and Sewer District**; seconded by Councilor Barton. **ROLL CALL:** **Yes:** Councilor Barton, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Kretz, Councilor McGaharan, Council President Melnyk; **No:** Councilor Dickey; **Abstain:** None
RESULT: *Passed (5-1)*

MAYOR Mayor Schimmel

CITY ADMINISTRATOR Kevin Laughlin

City Administrator's Report

Ohio EPA Scrap Tire Grant

The City was awarded an Ohio EPA Scrap Tire Grant to assist with funding for the inclusive playground project. Initial site work and grading are expected to begin soon, with construction anticipated in late July.

Community Investment Corporation

The CIC approved its first revolving loan fund project for a speech pathology and occupational therapy clinic located in Commerce Park. The low-interest matching loan will assist with business growth and job retention.

Council Chambers Renovation

Wallpaper removal and chamber updates will begin shortly.

Council Retreat

Reminder that the Council Retreat will be held Saturday from 10:00 AM–1:00 PM at the Community Center.

Shred Day Request

A resident inquired about hosting a community shred day. Administration will explore options.

CITY FINANCIAL REPORT(S)

MOTION: Councilor Barton made a motion to **acknowledge receipt of the March financial reports**; seconded by Councilor McGaharan. **ROLL CALL:** **Yes:** Councilor Barton, Councilor Dickey, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Kretz, Councilor McGaharan, Council President Melnyk; **No:** None; **Abstain:** None
RESULT: *Passed (6-0)*

March bank reconciliation

March month end financials

LIST OF EXPENDITURES OVER \$10,000

<u>INVOICE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
ANTHEM	EMPLOYEE HEALTH & VISION INSURANCE 5/1/26-6/1/26	\$61,277.73

MOTION: Councilor Edwards made a motion to **approve the list of expenditures over \$10,000**; seconded by Council President Melnyk. **ROLL CALL:** **Yes:** Councilor Barton, Councilor Dickey, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Kretz, Councilor McGaharan, Council President Melnyk; **No:** None; **Abstain:** None
RESULT: *Passed (6-0)*

NEW RESOLUTION

PENDING RESOLUTION

NEW LEGISLATION

PENDING LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE 2026-12 AMENDING NCO CHAPTER 1240.06 TITLED DEFINITIONS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION: Councilor Edwards made a motion to **Move on Final Adoption**; seconded by Councilor Barton. **ROLL CALL:** **Yes:** Councilor Barton, Councilor Dickey, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Kretz, Councilor McGaharan, Council President Melnyk; **No:** None; **Abstain:** None
RESULT: *Passed (6-0)*

ORDINANCE 2026-13 AMENDING SECTIONS OF NCO CHAPTER 1274, C COMMERCIAL DISTRICT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION: Councilor Edwards made a motion to **Move on Final Adoption**; seconded by Councilor Kretz. **ROLL CALL:** **Yes:** Councilor Barton, Councilor Dickey, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Kretz, Councilor McGaharan,

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Council President Melnyk; **No:** None; **Abstain:** None
RESULT: *Passed (6-0)*

CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT/DISCUSSION Brian Ballenger

Attorney Ballinger provided an update regarding the Great Eastern property litigation.

The current property owner sold the property prior to trial. The City will join the new owner into the case and proceed with additional legal action. The City plans to pursue nuisance abatement on several severely deteriorated buildings, including immediate action on unsafe structures with possible demolition orders if corrective action is not taken. Trial remains scheduled for September.

CITY ENGINEER’S REPORT/DISCUSSION Josh Auman

City Engineer's Report

Council was informed that the City recently completed its Ohio EPA MS4 audit. No findings have been issued at this time, and initial feedback was positive.

NEW BUSINESS

Concerns were raised regarding overgrown grass and maintenance issues on several ball diamonds creating potential safety hazards for youth sports. Administration will follow up with the Service Department and Recreation Department. Discussion also occurred regarding a possible future new smaller ball diamond near the concession stand for T-ball, coach pitch, and softball. Grant funding opportunities are being explored.

OLD BUSINESS

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

7:30PM

ATTEST: _____
Council Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Mayor