



**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

**Thursday, May 28, 2026 at 6:00 PM | 6000 Wales Road, Northwood, OH 43619 ; in the Council Chambers**

Access meeting materials and information via the Northwood, Ohio Public Portal:

<https://northwoodoh.portal.civicclerk.com/>

**Members of Committee of the Whole**

Michael Melnyk, Council President

Jim Barton

Andrew Dickey

Dean Edwards

Pat Huntermark

Terry Kretz

Pat McGaharan

**CALL TO ORDER:**

**ROLL CALL:**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

- April 23, 2026 Meeting Minutes

**TOPICS/ISSUES:**

- 1) COUNCIL RETREAT FOLLOW UPS
- 2) POTENTIAL CHARTER AMENDMENTS
- 3) REVENUE
- 4) FIRE APPARATUS

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**OLD BUSINESS:**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

April 23, 2026

## City of Northwood Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

### CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Northwood Committee of the Whole was called to order at 06:00 PM on April 23, 2026 in the Council Chambers and via Live Stream.

### ROLL CALL

The roll was called by and those in attendance were as follows: Council President Michael Melnyk; Council Members: Dean Edwards, Jim Barton, Andrew Dickey, Terry Kretz, Pat McGaharan. City Administrator Kevin Laughlin, and Finance Director Ken Yant.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### February 26, 2026 Meeting Minutes.

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

### TOPICS/ISSUES

#### Rec Board By-laws

Council discussed outdated Recreation Board bylaws, which date back to 2008 and do not reflect the addition of the Recreation Director position or the expanded Parks and Recreation Department. Discussion focused on eliminating confusion between the Recreation Board, Parks/Recreation/NCC Committee, and the Recreation Director's responsibilities. The recommendation was made to dissolve the current Recreation Board and combine it with the Parks, Recreation, and NCC Committee to create one unified committee. Proposed membership would include:

- Three Council members currently serving on Parks, Recreation, and NCC
- Community members at large
- A school-appointed representative
- Recreation Director involvement

Council discussed retaining the current Ball Commissioner through the current season and revisiting that role after baseball season. It was determined that repealing or amending the relevant section of the Northwood Codified Ordinances (NCO) would be required through ordinance.

Consensus was reached to move forward with the process.

#### Joining NWWSD

Council discussed the potential benefits of becoming a member community of the Northwest Water and Sewer District.

Benefits discussed included:

- No additional cost to the City
- Representation and a voice at the table
- Ability to appoint a Northwood representative to the board
- Continued Northwood involvement in regional water and sewer decisions

Council also discussed advertising the board position and accepting applications from interested residents. Consensus was reached to move forward with preparing legislation for membership.

#### FD Apparatus Requested Purchase

Council discussed the Fire Department's request for new apparatus and concerns regarding funding.

Members agreed the equipment need exists, but concerns were raised regarding:

- Long-term financial sustainability
- SAFER Grant expiration
- Future personnel costs
- Rising equipment and repair costs

# April 23, 2026

Council agreed funding for staffing after the SAFER Grant should be prioritized before committing to major apparatus purchases.

---

## Revenue Discussion

Council held an extensive discussion regarding overall City finances, revenue shortfalls, and possible future funding options.

Topics included:

- Income tax revenue shortfalls projected near \$1 million
- General fund balance and stabilization policy
- Fire apparatus funding needs
- Police and street department staffing vacancies
- Capital improvement obligations
- TIF revenue projections from Enclave development
- Potential levy vs. income tax increase options
- Statewide concerns regarding possible property tax elimination ballot initiatives

Discussion centered around whether Council should pursue:

- An income tax increase
- A property tax levy
- A fire-specific levy
- General operational revenue increases

Council agreed additional financial analysis from the Finance Director is needed before making decisions.

Requested information includes:

- Revenue projections for quarter-percent and half-percent income tax increases
- Resident cost examples based on income levels
- Levy comparisons
- Long-term funding projections

Council agreed Council should determine a preferred direction before holding public informational meetings.

---

**Senate Bill 239 - legislation to increase employer contributions to the OPF from 19.5% to 24% over 5 years**

---

**NEW BUSINESS**

**OLD BUSINESS**

**ADJOURNMENT**

7:08PM

**ATTEST:** Emily Popovitch  
*Clerk*

**APPROVED:** Michael Melnyk  
*Chair*