

May 28, 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 07:11 PM on May 28, 2026 in the Council Chambers.

### 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, Council President Melnyk, Councilor Barton, Councilor Dickey, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Huntermark, Councilor Kretz, Councilor McGaharan, City Administrator Kevin Laughlin, and City Engineer Josh Auman.

**MOTION:** Council President Melnyk made a motion to **excuse City Attorney Brian Ballenger**; seconded by Councilor Edwards. **ROLL CALL: Yes:** Councilor Barton, Councilor Dickey, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Huntermark, Councilor Kretz, Councilor McGaharan, Council President Melnyk; **No:** None; **Abstain:** None  
**RESULT: Passed (7-0)**

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### May 14, 2026 Meeting Minutes

**MOTION:** Councilor Edwards made a motion to **Approve**; seconded by Councilor Huntermark. **ROLL CALL: Yes:** Councilor Barton, Councilor Dickey, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Huntermark, Councilor Kretz, Councilor McGaharan, Council President Melnyk; **No:** None; **Abstain:** None  
**RESULT: Passed (7-0)**

### PRESENTATION

Judge Joel Kuhlman, Administrative Judge of the Wood County Common Pleas Court General Division, addressed Council regarding several rehabilitation and reentry programs being implemented through the court system. He explained that the court has increased its focus on mental health treatment, substance abuse recovery, job training, and reducing barriers that contribute to repeat criminal behavior.

Judge Kuhlman highlighted the court's investment in GPS monitoring for eligible defendants, noting that providing electronic monitoring can be more cost-effective than incarceration while allowing individuals to maintain employment, housing, and family responsibilities. He also discussed a transportation assistance program that provides rides to court appearances and probation appointments, helping participants comply with court requirements and reducing transportation-related obstacles.

Additionally, Judge Kuhlman described workforce development initiatives available through the county jail, including partnerships with skilled trades unions, Owens Community College, and CDL training programs. These programs provide inmates with job skills and certifications prior to release, improving employment opportunities and reducing recidivism. He shared examples of participants who successfully transitioned into apprenticeship and skilled trade positions following completion of the programs.

Judge Kuhlman reported that the court has been able to return approximately \$1.3 million annually to the County General Fund over the past three years through efficient management and participation in grant-funded programs. He concluded by expressing appreciation for the opportunity to speak and offered to answer questions regarding the court system and its programs.

Mayor Schimmel mentioned an email that was sent to himself and Council regarding proximity of animals.

### PUBLIC COMMENT

### COMMUNICATIONS

### COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Economic Development Councilor Barton

No report. Next meeting: June 25th @ 6:30PM

#### Finance Councilor Dickey

No report. Next meeting: June 11th @ 6:30PM

#### Recreation Board Councilor Barton

No report.

#### Safety Councilor Kretz

No report.

#### Tree Commission Council President Melnyk

Meeting rescheduled for June 9th @ 5:30PM

# May 28, 2026

## Service Councilor Edwards

No report.

## Parks, Rec & NCC Councilor Huntermark

No report.

## Committee of the Whole Council President Melnyk - Meeting on May 28, 2026 @ 6PM

Council President Melnyk reported that the Committee of the Whole met at 6:00 p.m. and primarily discussed revenue-generating options presented by the Administration. Topics included the potential reduction or elimination of the municipal income tax credit, preparation of a 3.13-mill levy for a future election, and evaluation of a possible increase to the City's income tax rate. Extensive discussion was held; however, no consensus was reached on any of the revenue options.

The Committee also discussed the potential purchase of a Quint fire truck. Members determined that additional information was needed before moving forward. The Finance Director will provide the requested information by midweek, and the matter will be revisited at the next Finance Committee meeting.

## MAYOR Mayor Schimmel

### Mayor's Report

For informational purposes only, it was reported that Braydon Dotson was hired as a part-time firefighter/EMT for the Fire Department. Council discussed the formation of a Charter Review Commission to examine the City Charter. Members discussed potential commission composition, with an initial concept of appointing three to five residents representing different areas of the city. It was noted that commission members would likely need to be electors of the City. Council expressed that any substantive discussion of charter amendments should likely occur after the City's current fiscal issues are addressed, although planning for the commission could begin in the meantime. Council members were encouraged to submit recommendations for potential commission members to the Mayor.

## CITY ADMINISTRATOR Kevin Laughlin

### City Administrator's Report

- Reported that, based on the recommendation of the City Attorney, Ordinance 2026-15 regarding the proposed Revolving Loan Fund should be moved to final adoption, with Council subsequently voting against final passage.
- Announced that the groundbreaking ceremony for the Brentwood Inclusive Playground is scheduled for June 8, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. Initial site work has begun, and construction is expected to proceed on an aggressive timeline with completion anticipated by late summer.
- Updates were provided regarding utility restoration work by AT&T on Wise Street and Brander Road. Administration also reported that the City expects to receive approximately \$120,000 in refunded retainer funds from RITA.
- The TrainFo rail crossing warning system project is progressing, with sensors received and installation expected to begin in the coming weeks. Administration also highlighted public information efforts related to blocked rail crossings and municipal income tax credits.
- Council was informed that the Woodville Road Pedestrian Improvement Project came in significantly below the engineer's estimate. As a result, ODOT agreed to cover the cost of construction inspection services, resulting in additional savings to the City.

**MOTION:** Council President Melnyk made a motion to **authorize the City Administrator to execute an agreement with OHM Advisors for construction inspection services once the final contract is received;** seconded by Councilor Kretz. **ROLL CALL: Yes:** Councilor Barton, Councilor Dickey, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Huntermark, Councilor Kretz, Councilor McGaharan, Council President Melnyk; **No:** None; **Abstain:** None

**RESULT:** *Passed (7-0)*

### Economic Development Update

Administration reported that representatives for the proposed redevelopment of the former gas station property at 3808 Woodville Road indicated construction is expected to begin within approximately six weeks. Plans include a new convenience store and gas station facility.

## CITY FINANCIAL REPORT(S)

**MOTION:** Councilor Huntermark made a motion to **acknowledge receipt of the April financial reports;** seconded by Councilor Barton. **ROLL CALL: Yes:** Councilor Barton, Councilor Dickey, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Huntermark, Councilor Kretz, Councilor McGaharan, Council President Melnyk; **No:** None; **Abstain:** None

**RESULT:** *Passed (7-0)*

### April bank reconciliation

### April month end financial reports

May 28, 2026

**LIST OF EXPENDITURES OVER \$10,000**

<u>INVOICE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
MANN'S WOODWARD STUDIOS	NORTHWOOD PUBLIC SAFETY COMPLEX STUDY	\$11,879.50
MPH INDUSTRIES	BEE III SPEED RADARS	\$19,000.00
GERKEN PAVING INC	2025 PAVEMENT RESURFACING	\$29,696.00
GEDDIS PAVING & EXC. INC	W. ANDRUS PAVING PROJECT	\$36,853.55
ANTHEM	EMPLOYEE HEALTH & VISION INSURANCE 6/1/26-7/1/26	\$65,190.37
SSH MECHANICAL SERVICES	SPRING 2026 PREVENTATIVE MAINT.- MUNICIPAL COMPLEX, NCC, TRACY RD FIRE STA	\$10,003.35

**MOTION:** Councilor Barton made a motion to **Approve the list of expenditures over \$10,000**; seconded by Councilor Huntermark. **ROLL CALL:** **Yes:** Councilor Barton, Councilor Dickey, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Huntermark, Councilor Kretz, Councilor McGaharan, Council President Melnyk; **No:** None; **Abstain:** None  
**RESULT:** *Passed (7-0)*

**NEW RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION 2026-04 ADOPTING ESTIMATE OF REVENUES FOR BUDGET YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2027; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

1st Reading - Barton

**PENDING RESOLUTION**

**NEW LEGISLATION**

**ORDINANCE 2026-18 AMENDING NCO CHAPTER 220.02 RULES; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

1st Reading - Edwards

**ORDINANCE 2026-19 AMENDING NCO CHAPTER 270 RECREATION BOARD; PARKS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

1st Reading - Edwards

**ORDINANCE 2026-20 AMENDING NCO CHAPTER 208.08 MISCELLANEOUS FEES; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

1st Reading - Edwards

**PENDING LEGISLATION**

**ORDINANCE 2026-14 AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO RENEW A CONTRACT WITH NORTHWOOD LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT TO PROVIDE THE DISTRICT WITH A "SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO)" PROGRAM FOR THE 2026-2027 SCHOOL YEAR; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

2nd Reading - Edwards

**ORDINANCE 2026-15 EXPRESSING THE INTENT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTHWOOD, WOOD COUNTY, OHIO, TO ESTABLISH A REVOLVING LOAN FUND (RLF) TO SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, RETENTION, AND EXPANSION; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

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

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

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

**RESULT:** *Failed (0-7)*

**ORDINANCE 2026-16 AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION OF THE STATE OF OHIO FOR THE RESURFACING OF STATE ROUTE 51, INCLUDING THE PORTION LOCATED WITHIN THE CORPORATE LIMITS OF THE CITY OF NORTHWOOD, AS PART OF AN ODOT 2027 RESURFACING PROJECT; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

2nd Reading - Edwards

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**ORDINANCE 2026-17 AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO THE FIRE/EMS MUTUAL-AID AGREEMENT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

2nd Reading - Edwards

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**CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT/DISCUSSION** Brian Ballenger

**CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT/DISCUSSION** Josh Auman

**City Engineer's Report**

The City Engineer reported that contract documents are being finalized for the Curtice Road project and that construction on the Dalling Drive extension project is underway. Final sidewalk assessments for West Andrus Road and the 2025 resurfacing program have been completed. The bid opening for the 2026 resurfacing program was rescheduled and is expected to occur in early June.

Additional updates included:

Wales Road restoration work is anticipated during the first or second week of June.

Traffic signal sensors have been installed and are operational at Woodville Road and Wheeling Street.

Utility work along Woodville Road is expected to begin June 1.

Council discussed concerns regarding heavy construction traffic on Main Street associated with the Brander Road project. The Engineer indicated that the ditch enclosure work has been completed and that construction vehicles should no longer need to utilize Main Street. Council discussed the proposed community center parking lot project and whether available grant funds should be reserved for future capital improvements given ongoing fiscal concerns. Administration indicated that grant funding may be restricted to community center-related capital projects and committed to verifying any spending deadlines or restrictions before further consideration. No action was taken.

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**NEW BUSINESS**

No Discussion

**OLD BUSINESS**

No Discussion

**PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL**

NA

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

NA

**ADJOURNMENT**

7:44PM

**ATTEST:**

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*Council Clerk*

**APPROVED:**

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*Mayor*