

May 22, 2025

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 07:01 PM on May 22, 2025 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 Fahrbach, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Melnyk, Councilor Huntermark, Councilor Barton, Council President Kozina, Councilor Stoner City Administrator Kevin Laughlin and City Attorney Brian Ballenger.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 8, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Minutes

MOTION: None made a motion to **Approve**; seconded by Councilor Huntermark. **ROLL CALL:** **Yes:** Councilor Fahrbach, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Melnyk, Councilor Huntermark, Council President Kozina, Councilor Stoner; **No:** None; **Abstain:** Councilor Jim Barton
Result: Passed

PRESENTATION

PUBLIC COMMENT

COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Schimmel shared a complaint he received from a resident regarding the quality of the baseball jersey and hats; the complaint is going to be forwarded to Pat McGaharan. Mayor Schimmel shared another resident complaint about the recent election location, preferring the previous school site due to convenience and distance. The Mayor clarified that voting locations are determined by the Wood County Board of Elections, not the city. The community center was used because it didn't conflict with other events, and some poll workers and residents disliked the AAA building due to walking distance. Concerns were raised about weather issues during high-turnout elections, especially if voters are left waiting outside. Mayor stated he will pass feedback to the Board of Elections and discuss whether other complaints have been received.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Economic Development Councilor Jim Barton

No Report.

Finance Councilor Louis Fahrbach

No Report.

Recreation Board Councilor Jim Barton

Spring soccer wraps up this weekend, Fall soccer with start at the end of August.
Baseball and Softball have been playing for a few weeks.
Concession stand is open at Brentwood Park,
Palooza in the park will be Friday June 6th, this event starts at 5:30 with the community service award be presented at 6pm. Fireworks will be at dusk.
Fishing derby at Stoner Pond will be Saturday June 21st. This event starts at 9:00am

Safety Councilor Mark Stoner - Meeting on 5/22/25 @ 6:30P

Meeting held this evening.
Fire Chief WhitmoreJoel presented the feasibility study via PowerPoint.
He reviewed Phases 1, 2, and 3. Phase 4 would cost approximately \$26,500. Based on the recommendation of both chiefs, Phase 4 will be deferred until at least 2026, pending funding availability in 2026 or 2027. The next topic of discussion was regarding the Fire Station and Josie Room Renovations. The estimated cost for renovations is approximately \$240,000. Chief Whitmore believes the project can be completed for \$150,000 or less, as some work will be done in-house. The Committee made a motion to refer the request for additional funds to council. Lastly, Chief Whitmore provided departmental statistics and the committee granted authorization to apply for a firefighter grant.

Tree Commission Councilor Michael Melnyk

A meeting was held on May 13th
The committee discussed relocating the trees at the NCC this fall and replacing them with Armstrong Maple trees.Discussion continued on the memorial tree program. Tree pricing was provided and awaiting a final price for memorial plaques before setting a public price point. FirstEnergy expressed interest in partnering again this year (different from last year’s program). They may provide smaller trees (bare root or potted) to help supplement the tree farm at the nature trails.Plans to mulch trees planted last fall are underway. Efforts will be made to engage local organizations (e.g., Girl Scouts) to help with mulching.

May 22, 2025

Service Councilor Dean Edwards

No Report.

Parks, Rec & NCC Councilor Pat Huntermark

The splash pad was adjusted to run shorter times in each sequence. By doing this it should save quite a bit of water. Also saved \$450 by making adjustments ourselves rather than calling someone out to do it. The NCC will offer gym rentals during off-hour rentals for an additional \$150/hr. The NCC will celebrate its one-year anniversary on Tuesday, June 3rd at 10:00am at which time we will unveil the plaque that will be mounted near the front entrance.

Committee of the Whole Council President Kozina

No Report.

CEREMONIAL ITEMS

NEW RESOLUTION

PENDING RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION 2025-04 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING ESTIMATE OF REVENUES FOR BUDGET YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2026; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

2nd Reading - Kozina

NEW LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE 2025-18 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 618.16 OF THE NORTHWOOD CODIFIED ORDINANCES (NCO) TITLED PROXIMITY OF ANIMALS TO RESIDENCES.

1st Reading - Kozina

ORDINANCE 2025-19 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO RENEW A CONTRACT WITH THE NORTHWOOD LOCAL SCHOOL DISTRICT TO PROVIDE THE DISTRICT WITH A "SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO)" PROGRAM FOR THE 2025-2026 SCHOOL YEAR;AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

1st Reading - Kozina

PENDING LEGISLATON

ORDINANCE 2025-16 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS OF THE CITY OF NORTHWOOD; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

2nd Reading - Kozina

ORDINANCE 2025-17 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE COMPENSATION OF NON-UNION PERSONNEL OF THE CITY OF NORTHWOOD; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

2nd Reading - Kozina

ORDINANCE 2025-10 AN ORDINANCE CONCURRING WITH THE NORTHWOOD PLANNING COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION TO AMEND SECTION 1240.06, DEFINITIONS, OF THE NCO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION: Council President Kozina made a motion to **Move on Final Adoption**; seconded by Councilor Stoner.

ROLL CALL: **Yes:** Councilor Fahrbach, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Melnyk, Councilor Huntermark, Councilor Barton, Council President Kozina, Councilor Stoner; **No:** None; **Abstain:** None

Result: Passed

ORDINANCE 2025-11 AN ORDINANCE CONCURRING WITH THE NORTHWOOD PLANNING COMMISSION'S RECOMMENDATION TO AMEND CHAPTER 1270, MHP MANUFACTURED HOME PARK DISTRICT, OF THE NCO; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION: Council President Kozina made a motion to **Move on Final Adoption**; seconded by Councilor Melnyk.

ROLL CALL: **Yes:** Councilor Fahrbach, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Melnyk, Councilor Huntermark, Councilor Barton, Council President Kozina, Councilor Stoner; **No:** None; **Abstain:** None

Result: Passed

ORDINANCE 2025-12 AN ORDINANCE CONCURRING WITH THE NORTHWOOD PLANNING COMMISSIONS RECOMMENDATION TO REZONE THE FOLLOWING ADDRESSES/PARCELS 1905 TRACY ROAD (PARCEL M50-812-300000014000), 0 ANDRUS ROAD (PARCELS M50-812-300000013000 AND M50-812-300000011000), 550 EAST FLORENCE AVE (PARCEL M50-812-300000007000) AND 0 ANDRUS (parcel M50-812-300000006001) TO MHP, MANUFACTURED HOME PARK DISTRICT; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION: Council President Kozina made a motion to **Move on Final Adoption**; seconded by Councilor Melnyk.

ROLL CALL: **Yes:** Councilor Fahrbach, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Melnyk, Councilor Huntermark, Councilor

May 22, 2025

Barton, Council President Kozina, Councilor Stoner; **No:** None; **Abstain:** None
Result: Passed

ORDINANCE 2025-13 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE TERMS OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORTHWOOD, AND THE AMERICAN FEDERATION OF FEDERAL, STATE AND COUNTY MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES, OHIO COUNCIL 8, LOCAL #755 (AFSCME), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION: Councilor Stoner made a motion to **Move on Final Adoption**; seconded by Council President Kozina.
ROLL CALL: **Yes:** Councilor Fahrbach, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Melnyk, Councilor Huntermark, Councilor Barton, Council President Kozina, Councilor Stoner; **No:** None; **Abstain:** None
Result: Passed

ORDINANCE 2025-14 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS OF THE CITY OF NORTHWOOD; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION: Councilor Huntermark made a motion to **Move on Final Adoption**; seconded by Council President Kozina. **ROLL CALL:** **Yes:** Councilor Fahrbach, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Melnyk, Councilor Huntermark, Councilor Barton, Council President Kozina, Councilor Stoner; **No:** None; **Abstain:** None
Result: Passed

MAYOR Mayor Schimmel

Mayor's Report

STREETS/BUILDINGS & GROUNDS:

Recommendation to hire Brandon Didion as a seasonal groundskeeper.

MOTION: Councilor Stoner made a motion to **to hire Brandon Didion as a seasonal groundskeeper**; seconded by Councilor Huntermark. **ROLL CALL:** **Yes:** Councilor Fahrbach, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Melnyk, Councilor Huntermark, Councilor Barton, Council President Kozina, Councilor Stoner; **No:** None; **Abstain:** None

Result: Passed

The Mayor initiated a discussion regarding the necessity of moving forward with the pedestrian crossing beacon at Commerce Drive and Woodville Road, given that the roundabout project will no longer proceed. It was noted that: The beacon project is fully funded by a grant and would not incur costs to the city. However, with the roundabout canceled, its placement at Commerce may no longer be relevant or necessary. Mayor consulted with Kevin about possibly reallocating the grant funds to other projects such as the Wise Street connection, but learned the funds must remain within the original project area. Council discussion included: General agreement that Commerce Drive is no longer a priority location for a beacon. Consideration of moving the beacon to a more impactful site within the corridor, such as Lemoyne and Woodville, where pedestrian crossing needs are greater. Alternatives like improved lighting or enhanced crosswalk markings were discussed as potentially more effective than a beacon. Clarification that the original purpose of the project was to improve pedestrian safety and infrastructure as a precursor to the now-canceled roundabout. There were no objections from Council to exploring alternatives for how the grant funds might be used within the project boundaries. The Mayor indicated staff would move forward with exploring more appropriate uses for the grant funds if possible and coordinate with the state regarding feasibility.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR Kevin Laughlin

City Administrator's Report

Ongoing discussions between Councilman Stoner and Community Investment Corporation. President Dave Gallagher, looking to identify particular areas in the city that could be involved with developing more natural areas and providing some amenities for the city.

In addition to those conversations, City Administrator Laughlin stated there are internal discussions regarding the former Clark Station property located on Woodville Road, adjacent to the old Postal Carriers Union building. The city had previously reviewed this location last year, but interest has renewed and discussions are gaining momentum. The discussion involved the city investing some money for minor site improvements, such as laying gravel and installing electrical hookups to support food truck vendors or temporary events. This would eliminate the need for ongoing city maintenance (e.g., mowing) and offer a modest revenue stream through rentals or leasing of the space. The concept is currently in the fact-finding and early planning stages. Lastly, the City Engineer thinks the reduction in water usage at the splash bag could be up to 50% with the improvements.

CITY FINANCIAL REPORT(S)

LIST OF EXPENDITURES OVER \$10,000

CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT/DISCUSSION Brian Ballenger

CITY ENGINEER’S REPORT/DISCUSSION Dave Kuhn

City Engineer's Report

City Administrator Kevin Laughlin shared that bids will be opened for the Andrus Rd project next Tuesday.

May 22, 2025

NEW BUSINESS

None.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Council President Kozina made a motion to go into Executive Session with Mayor Schimmel, City Council, City Administrator Kevin Laughlin, and City Attorney Brian Ballenger to discuss contract negotiations; seconded by Councilor Stoner.

ROLL CALL: Yes: Councilor Fahrbach, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Melnyk, Councilor Huntermark, Councilor Barton, Council President Kozina, Councilor Stoner **No:** None **Abstain:**None **MOTION:** Passed
So Moved at 7:23pm

The meeting was called back to order at 7:49pm and the roll was called by Council Clerk Popovitch. Those in attendance were as follows: Mayor Schimmel, Councilor Fahrbach, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Melnyk, Councilor Huntermark, Councilor Barton, Council President Kozina, Councilor Stoner City Administrator Kevin Laughlin, and City Attorney Brian Ballenger.

No Action Taken.

MOTION: Councilor Stoner made a motion to **approve up to and additional \$150,000 for Josie Room renovations for the Fire Department** ; seconded by Councilor Melnyk.

Councilor Fahrbach raised a point of order, expressing concern about the process by which a significant budget item—approximately 2% of the total budget—was brought forward. He noted that the item was introduced primarily through a 20-minute Safety Committee meeting and requested that such items be included in council packets in advance for adequate review.

ROLL CALL: **Yes:** Councilor Fahrbach, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Melnyk, Councilor Huntermark, Councilor Barton, Council President Kozina, Councilor Stoner; **No:** None; **Abstain:** None

Result: Passed

ADJOURNMENT

07:51 PM

ATTEST:

Council Clerk

APPROVED:

Mayor