

June 12, 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 June 12, 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 Edwards, Councilor Melnyk, Councilor Huntermark, Councilor Barton, Council President Kozina, Councilor Stoner City Administrator Kevin Laughlin, City Attorney Brian Ballenger and City Engineer Dave Kuhn.

MOTION: Councilor Melnyk made a motion to **Excuse Councilor Fahrbach**; seconded by Councilor Edwards. **ROLL**

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

Result: *Passed*

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 22, 2025 Regular Council meeting minutes.

MOTION: Councilor Stoner made a motion to **Approve**; seconded by Councilor Huntermark. **ROLL**

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

Result: *Passed*

PRESENTATION

None.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Audrey Caligiuri, 423 Ravenwood - Audrey, a long-time Northwood resident, addressed Council to express concerns about a perceived disconnect between elected officials and the community. She criticized recent decisions, including the swift implementation of a moratorium on dispensaries immediately following Council approval, which she believed was based on limited opposition rather than true “public outcry.” In contrast, Audrey pointed to overwhelming public attendance and concern at a previous council meeting regarding the future of the city’s local dispatch services—calling that meeting an example of genuine public outcry. She questioned whether residents' voices were truly being heard. Audrey also referenced the city’s current survey asking if residents would support a recreation levy and suggested a similar approach be used to gauge public willingness to fund safety services, specifically local dispatch. She urged Council to consider the long-term quality of life impacts of such decisions. Audrey concluded by requesting that a motion be made before the meeting ended to place the question of retaining local dispatch on the ballot, allowing residents the opportunity to directly decide on the future of the service.

2. Dan Mikolajczyk, 2513 Skagway - Dan spoke in opposition to the proposed chicken ordinance, raising concerns about its necessity, enforcement, and potential impacts on residential neighborhoods. He questioned the validity and size of the petition supporting the ordinance, stating it included few signatures, some reportedly from individuals not residing in Northwood. He emphasized that he lives in a residentially zoned area, not agricultural, and expressed concern that allowing backyard chickens would disrupt the current peace and character of the neighborhood. Dan shared potential issues including odor, proximity of coops to property lines, and added burdens on city enforcement staff. He argued that the original justification for the ordinance—rising egg prices—was no longer relevant, as egg prices have since stabilized. He also criticized zoning enforcement, citing existing problems like abandoned vehicles, junk, and neglected buildings that, in his view, remain unaddressed despite existing ordinances. Lastly, he urged Council to “do their homework” and **vote no** on the proposed ordinance, warning that passing it may set a precedent for future requests (e.g., livestock), and unnecessarily complicate city services.

COMMUNICATIONS

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Economic Development Councilor Jim Barton

No Report.

Finance Councilor Louis Fahrbach

No Report.

Recreation Board Councilor Jim Barton

The palooza in the park was well attended, fireworks were a hit. Baseball & Softball seasons are winding down. Two weeks left in the season. Basketball court surface should be completed this week at Brentwood Park, once this is done Tom’s guys will install the hoops. We hope to have the second pickleball court finished at Central Park

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by the end of the month. The kids fishing derby is Saturday June 21st at Stoner Pond registration starts at 8:00am, and the derby is from 9:00 am – 10:00 am

Safety Councilor Mark Stoner

No Report.

Tree Commission Councilor Michael Melnyk

Last week, a social media post raised concerns about the condition of seedlings planted at Brentwood Park in October 2024. In response, a site inspection was conducted. Out of approximately 300 planting sites: 173 seedlings were located; 66 of those showed active growth; 54 had remaining stubs, some with signs of regrowth; 53 showed no evidence of any seedlings. Additionally, many of the green stakes and all white protective sleeves placed with the seedlings were missing. While some loss over winter due to wildlife was expected, the loss of over 200 seedlings was not anticipated. The Tree Commission is scheduled to meet on July 8 to discuss next steps.

Service Councilor Dean Edwards - Next meeting on 6/12 @ 6:45pm

A brief meeting was held tonight to review sidewalk estimates for Oregon Road provided by the City Engineer. The estimated cost for sidewalks on the east side of the road was \$134,550. The estimate for the west side was \$106,800. Based on this review, the committee recommended that both options be included as alternates in the bid.
MOTION: *Councilor Edwards made a motion to bid East & West side sidewalks on Oregon road as alternates; seconded by Council President Kozina. ROLL CALL: **Yes:** Councilor Edwards, Councilor Melnyk, Councilor Huntermark, Councilor Barton, Council President Kozina, Councilor Stoner; **No:** None; **Abstain:** None*
Result: Passed

Parks, Rec & NCC Councilor Pat Huntermark

The NCC celebrated its one-year anniversary on June 3rd. As of June 12 2025, the NCC has 593 primary members and 1,075 total members. This is the most members we have had since opening.

Committee of the Whole Council President Kozina

CEREMONIAL ITEMS

NEW RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION 2025-05 A RESOLUTION DIRECTING THE NORTHWOOD PLANNING COMMISSION TO REVIEW AND MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO AMEND PART TWELVE (12) OF THE PLANNING AND ZONING CODE, OF THE NORTHWOOD CODIFIED ORDINANCES (NCO), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
1st Reading - Edwards

PENDING RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION 2025-04 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING ESTIMATE OF REVENUES FOR BUDGET YEAR BEGINNING JANUARY 1, 2026; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY
MOTION: Councilor Stoner made a motion to **Move on Final Adoption**; seconded by Councilor Melnyk. **ROLL CALL:** **Yes:** Councilor Edwards, Councilor Melnyk, Councilor Huntermark, Councilor Barton, Council President Kozina, Councilor Stoner; **No:** None; **Abstain:** None
RESULT: **6-0 Passed**

NEW LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE 2025-20 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO TRANSFER CITY OWNED PROPERTY IN THE BILTMORE GARDEN SUBDIVISION KNOWN AS LOTS 374, 375, 376 AND 377, TO THE NORTHWOOD COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION(CIC); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
1st Reading - Edwards

ORDINANCE 2025-21 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE WOOD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE TO PROVIDE POLICE, FIRE AND EMERGENCY DISPATCHING SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF NORTHWOOD; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
1st Reading - Melnyk

PENDING LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE 2025-18 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 618.16 OF THE NORTHWOOD CODIFIED ORDINANCES (NCO) TITLED PROXIMITY OF ANIMALS TO RESIDENCES.
2nd Reading - Stoner

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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.

2nd Reading - Stoner

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

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

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

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

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

MAYOR Mayor Schimmel

Mayor's Report

FIRE:
Chief Whitmore recommended hiring Michael Kretz as a recruit firefighter.

MOTION: Councilor Melnyk made a motion to **hire Michael Kretz as a recruit firefighter**; seconded Councilor Barton. **ROLL CALL:** **Yes:** Councilor Edwards, Councilor Melnyk, Councilor Huntermark, Councilor Barton, Council President Kozina, Councilor Stoner; **No:** None; **Abstain:** None
Result: **Passed**

CITY ADMINISTRATOR Kevin Laughlin

City Administrator's Report

TOPIC/ ITEM	DISCUSSION
Fact Finding	Request a motion to accept the results of the fact-finder for the OPBA dispatch negotiations for their salary reopened; findings were for 3.5%. Findings are available in your council packets. MOTION: Council President Kozina made a motion to accept the results of the fact-finder for the OPBA dispatch negotiations for salary reopener ; seconded by Councilor Stoner. ROLL CALL: Yes: Councilor Edwards, Councilor Melnyk, Councilor Huntermark, Councilor Barton, Council President Kozina, Councilor Stoner; No: None; Abstain: None RESULT: 6-0 Passed
Committee of the Whole Meeting July 2nd	Sheriff Wasylyshyn will be in attendance to answer questions regarding dispatch contract. Council discussed scheduling a Committee of the Whole meeting for July 2, 2025, to provide a public forum for the Wood County Sheriff to attend and answer questions regarding the pending dispatch agreement. Concerns were raised about the timing of the meeting due to the proximity to the July 4th holiday, with some Council members expressing worry about lower resident attendance and suggesting postponing the meeting until August. A motion was made to move the meeting to August; however, no action was ultimately taken, and the motion was later recalled. The Mayor clarified that the Sheriff has limited availability due to upcoming fair commitments and training. The week of the next regular Council meeting (June 26) was also ruled out due to the Sheriff being out of town. The Mayor further explained that delaying beyond mid-August could result in the loss of a potential third dispatcher position currently being held open for a Northwood employee, as Rossford has been funding the position and the Sheriff’s department needs to fill it soon.Council discussed the option of holding a special meeting or town hall the following week if the Sheriff is available. City Administrator will follow up with the Sheriff to determine alternate availability, if any. No final decision was made at this time pending communication with the Sheriff.

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Woodville Rd. Pedestrian Crossing Beacon Update	ODOT confirmed beacon has to stay at the current proposed location.
Amendment to Ordinance 2025-18	After further review of the proposed amendments to Chapter 618.16 – Proximity of Animals to Residents, as outlined in Ordinance 2025-18, it was determined that additional revisions were necessary to avoid any conflict with existing zoning requirements of accessory structures and prevent potential confusion. The updated changes have been highlighted for clarity. The ordinance is on the agenda for its second reading tonight and would need to be adopted with amendments at the next Council meeting, should it be adopted.
ORDC grant application	Completed the rail elimination grant application for the 3rd overpass on Wales Road this afternoon. The project is in the fact-finding phase but continues to move forward.
RISE	The RISE is expanding; 3 new buildings are planned; over \$1.5 million investment. Councilor Stoner asked if there were any predictions on the number of employees. At this time it is unknown about potential jobs. Right now they are obtaining zoning approval for the buildings.
Former BP on Woodville Road	Moving forward with de-branding June 18th. The new owner has been ordered by BP to remove all signage Hoping that is a step in the right direction that the proposed development that has been before Planning Commission will continue.
Gino's Pizza	In front of Great Eastern has an interested buyer and will keep council updated.

CITY FINANCIAL REPORT(S)

MOTION: Councilor Huntermark made a motion to **acknowledge receipt of the May City Financial Reports**; seconded by Councilor Edwards.**ROLL CALL:** **Yes:** Councilor Edwards, Councilor Melnyk, Councilor Huntermark, Councilor Barton, Council President Kozina, Councilor Stoner; **No:** None; **Abstain:** None
Result: Passed

MAY EXPENDITURES

MAY BANK RECONCILIATION

MAY REVENUE & EXPENDITURE REPORTS

LIST OF EXPENDITURES OVER \$10,000

INVOICE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
AETNA	06/01/25-06/30/25 HEALTH INSURANCE	\$74,689.40
FELLER FINCH	WEST ANDRUS ROAD PAVEMENT IMPROVEMENTS	\$11,185.00
VC3	MAY MONTHLY BILLING	\$11,441.27
FENSON CONTRACTING, LLC	THE ENCLAVE- DITCH ENCLOSURE PHASE 2- FINAL	\$21,910.67
DAVEY RESOURCE GROUP	NATURE TRAILS STREAM RESTORATION- FINAL CLOSE OUT PROJECT	\$29,787.98

MOTION: Councilor Stoner made a motion to **approve the list of expenditures over \$10,000**; seconded by Councilor Melnyk. **ROLL CALL:** **Yes:** Councilor Edwards, Councilor Melnyk, Councilor Huntermark, Councilor Barton, Council President Kozina, Councilor Stoner; **No:** None; **Abstain:** None
Result: Passed

CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT/DISCUSSION Brian Ballenger

No Report.

CITY ENGINEER’S REPORT/DISCUSSION Dave Kuhn

City Engineer's Report

PROJECT UPDATES

Project Name	Project Budget	Current Status	Key Changes Since Last Meeting
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The Enclave	N/A	Constructio n	Waiting for sensor to be installed on irrigation system
Curtice Rd. Resurfacing & Curbs over I-280	\$195,600.00	Design	Finish plans by end of June & submit to ODOT for approval. Bid after approval.
Dry Creek Aquatic and Riparian Restoration Project	\$500,000.00	In Design	Waiting for 100% design plans from DRG to review. Construction to be later in 2025.
NNC	N/A	Warranty Work	We contacted contractor about replacing the bad sidewalk sections and waiting for the date when the sidewalk will be fixed.
ODOT	N/A	Misc. Item	ODOT is working on traffic sequencing traffic signals on Woodville Rd. and Curtice Rd.
ODOT	N/A	Misc. Item	ODOT performed a traffic safety study at Fostoria Rd. and Williston Rd. (SR 579) and recommended a roundabout to be 100% funded by ODOT and grants. ODOT later this year will perform a traffic safety study at Bradner Rd. and Williston Rd. (SR 579)
Wolf Creek Court Drainage Improvements	\$261,775.00	Constructio n	Contractor indicated that work will begin no later than Sept. 1, 2025.
West Andrus Road Pavement Improvements	\$402,950.75 or \$405,060.12	Award	Council to award contract.
Northwood 2025 Pavement Resurfacing Improvements	\$513,745.00	In design	Trying to get the project out to bid at the end of June; with the addition of Oregon Rd. sidewalks. The project will involve resurfacing, fixing sidewalks and curbs on Chantilly Rue, Anderson Street and Mary Street, plus the sidewalks along Oregon Road.

ISSUES REQUIRING COUNCIL ATTENTION

Motion to advertise for Bids

Project Name	Bid Opening Date
Northwood 2025 Pavement Resurfacing Improvements	7/15/25 +/-

Motion to Award Contract

Project Name	Contractor	Bid Amount
W. Andrus Rd. Pavement Improvements	Henry W. Bergman, Inc. Geddis Paving & Excavating, Inc.	\$402,950.74 \$405,060.12

Two bids were received, with only a \$2,100 difference between them. It was noted that **Bergman** had worked on a similar project approximately five years ago but was removed due to poor performance, specifically multiple issues with concrete work. This past experience raised concerns about awarding the project to Bergman again. Council deliberated on how to proceed with the award, taking into consideration both bid amounts and past contractor performance.

MOTION: Councilor Edwards made a motion to award the W. Andrus paving improvement project to Geddis Paving for \$405,060.12; seconded by Councilor Stoner. **ROLL CALL:** **Yes:** Councilor Edwards, Councilor Melnyk, Councilor Huntermark, Councilor Barton, Council President Kozina, Councilor Stoner; **No:** None; Abstain: None
Result: Passed

Lastly, City Administrator Laughlin added that the city painted the island on Oregon Road earlier this week, and actually found out that some of the streetlights in that area were not operational. ODOT has been notified and they are working to adjust them.

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NEW BUSINESS

NA

OLD BUSINESS

NA

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

1. Carol Albright, 2510 Revilla - raised concerns about the proposed transition of local dispatch services to Wood County, questioning the accuracy and transparency of cost estimates and emphasizing the value of maintaining Northwood’s in-house dispatchers. She referred to a handout circulated at the meeting outlining dispatch costs and questioned the figures shown — particularly a comparison of the \$204,000 annual fee proposed by Wood County versus the current \$529,285 cost of Northwood’s dispatch services. The speaker requested the city provide a clear breakdown of dispatcher salaries, benefits, and total costs, including how many calls are received by fire and police departments, and how many dispatchers are required per shift. She expressed distrust in “political spin” and urged the city to release factual data to residents before holding any town hall or bringing in Wood County representatives. Carol shared a personal experience where local dispatch provided extremely quick response during an emergency, stating that losing that level of service is not worth the potential savings. Additionally, she noted Rossfords recent increase for dispatching services from 2024 to 2025 and raised concerns about a cost guarantee for the city.

City officials confirmed that: The current annual cost of operating Northwood’s dispatch center is \$529,285, inclusive of salaries, contracts, and maintenance. The estimates were not made up figures. A three-year contract for \$204,000 per year has been proposed by Wood County and there is an option to exit the contract if desired. Regional dispatch efforts have been explored multiple times over the past two decades, but failed due to lack of cost savings and disagreements over location. Lastly, Carol questioned the timeline for extending Dalling Drive to the Enclave development, to which officials responded that it is a joint project tied to grant applications and future development efforts.

2. DC Gallaher, 307 Lester Ave - Thanked whoever compiled the dispatch cost handout distributed at the meeting and emphasized the value of public access to that information. He suggested holding another meeting specifically focused on the dispatching issue, noting it was heavily opposed approximately seven months ago and still warrants community discussion as the city moves forward. DC raised concerns about ongoing budget limitations and proposed that the city consider exploring a modest income tax increase, pointing out that Northwood currently has one of the lowest municipal income tax rates in the region. He recommended studying how a potential adjustment could align Northwood with neighboring communities and help generate revenue for public safety and other future city projects. He closed by stating that such an approach could help “reclaim” funding while assessing how it would impact residents, and encouraged Council to give it thoughtful consideration.

3. Dan Mikol 2513 Skagway - voiced frustration over inconsistencies in how street lighting assessments are applied across the city. He cited instances where residents on one side of a street are being assessed while those directly across are not, despite receiving the same lighting benefit. He emphasized that this is not about targeting specific residents but about ensuring fair and uniform distribution of costs for public services. Dan referenced past conversations with the Mayor and Council, stating that the perception is City leadership has been unwilling to address the issue. He stated he has spoken with the Ohio Attorney General’s Office, who advised he must first seek resolution at the local level before escalating. The Mayor responded that Toledo Edison determines billing for street lighting and that the City only passes along costs it is billed for. Dan stated that there is a city ordinance governing assessments, suggesting that Toledo Edison only bills for what the city gives them, however the Mayor countered by explaining the city is not responsible for running the electric meters or monitoring use. Next, Dan expressed concern about his perceived decline in zoning and property maintenance enforcement: He referenced the former role of the Code Enforcement Officer, which included routine patrols and a proactive approach to identifying violations, and noted that his neighborhood has numerous ongoing issues—such as abandoned vehicles, neglected structures, and general property maintenance violations—which he feels are being overlooked. Dan requested access to monthly enforcement activity logs and suggested that current enforcement efforts are inconsistent or insufficient. Mayor Schimmel responded that the City still tracks and addresses complaints, and offered to email a breakdown of enforcement activity to the resident.

4. Carol Albright, 2510 Revilla - Carol returned to emphasize and expand upon previous concerns related to streetlight assessments. She recounted multiple prior attempts to raise the issue with council members, including during block watch meetings and council sessions and accused the Mayor of stating he would not pursue the matter because it would result in “losing votes” Mayor responded by repeating his statement of “why would he hurt other residents by turning them in”. She continued, explaining how residents are being unfairly billed while others pay significantly less—or nothing—for equivalent services and the city should step in and contact Toledo Edison to correct any streetlight assessment gaps.

5. Audrey Caligiuri, 423 Ravenwood - Suggested to Carol that when contacting Toledo Edison, she should ask how other municipalities determine which properties are assessed for streetlights, to help address current assessment inconsistencies. Additionally, she expressed concern over the dispatch issue, stating that in November, residents made it clear they did not want to eliminate in-house dispatchers. She suggested letting residents vote on the matter, potentially through a levy or tax increase, rather than allowing the decision to be driven by external officials. She emphasized that the Sheriff is an elected official who works for the public, and that local decisions should remain in the hands of city residents and their elected representatives, not influenced by outside pressure

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or deadlines.

6. Molly Tomaszewski, 211 Earl - Molly shared her personal experience as a property owner in Toledo, noting that she is billed individually for each streetlight located on her property. She suggested this may be standard billing practice by Toledo Edison and recommended further research into how Edison bills other cities to clarify assessment inconsistencies. She also reiterated her support for retaining the city’s in-house dispatch services.

7. Kyle Simok, 136 Chesapeake - Kyle shared his experience as a public safety employee and former employee of a consolidated dispatch center, stating the center is failing and can't keep employees. He emphasized the importance of retaining all local public safety jobs, warning against the potential loss of even one or two positions. He raised concerns about data presented in favor of consolidation, noting flaws such as the sheriff’s use of misleading statistics when speaking to other municipalities. Lastly, he encouraged the city to keep dispatch services local and to continue exploring the idea of forming a Northern regional dispatch center rather than consolidating with the Wood County Sheriff's office.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NA

ADJOURNMENT

07:56 PM

ATTEST: _____
Council Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Mayor