

October 23, 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 07:00 PM on October 23, 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, Council President Barton, Councilor Fahrbach, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Melnyk, Councilor Huntermark, Councilor Stoner City Administrator Kevin Laughlin, and City Attorney Brian Ballenger.	
APPROVAL OF MINUTES	
October 9, 2025 Regular Council Meeting Minutes	
MOTION: Councilor Edwards made a motion to approve; seconded by Councilor Huntermark. ROLL CALL: Yes: Councilor Fahrbach, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Melnyk, Councilor Huntermark, Council President Barton, Councilor Stoner; No: None; Abstain: None RESULT: Passed (6-0)	
PRESENTATION	
PUBLIC COMMENT	
COMMUNICATIONS	
COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS	
Economic Development	Council President Jim Barton
No Report. Going to look into scheduling a meeting in November.	
Finance	Councilor Louis Fahrbach - Next Meeting: November 6th at 6:30PM
No Report. Requested the rainy day fund ordinance be added to the next agenda for discussion.	
Recreation Board	Councilor Jim Barton - Next Meeting: October 23rd at 6PM
The Recreation Board met on October 21st; although a quorum was not present, several updates were discussed. The Director reported that all planned 2025 events have been completed, including the Beats and Eats event held August 8th, and the conclusion of baseball, softball, and fall soccer seasons. The splash pad closed on Labor Day, and recent control adjustments resulted in noticeable water bill savings. Staff consulted with ODNR regarding fish stocking at Stoner Pond and were advised to stock trout, catfish, and bluegill. Recent park improvements include two new pickleball courts at Central Park, one pickleball court and two benches at Brentwood Park, and a new basketball court at Brentwood Park. Baseball and softball registration is expected to begin in December, and there was discussion on players purchasing their own pants for the upcoming season. Some uniforms and equipment are still outstanding from the previous season. The next Recreation Board meeting is scheduled for November 12th at 6:00 p.m.	
Safety	Councilor Mark Stoner - Next Meeting: October 23rd at 6:15PM
MOTION: Councilor Stoner made a motion to accept the insurance payout for the police cruiser ; seconded by Councilor Melnyk. ROLL CALL: Yes: Councilor Fahrbach, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Melnyk, Councilor Huntermark, Council President Barton, Councilor Stoner; No: None; Abstain: None RESULT: Passed (6-0)	
MOTION: Councilor Stoner made a motion to replace the police cruiser with graphics; seconded by Councilor Melnyk.ROLL CALL: Yes: Councilor Fahrbach, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Melnyk, Councilor Huntermark, Council President Barton, Councilor Stoner; No: None; Abstain: None RESULT: Passed (6-0)	
MOTION: Councilor Stoner made a motion to authorize the fire chief to apply for a grant for new radios; seconded by Councilor Melnyk. ROLL CALL: Yes: Councilor Fahrbach, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Melnyk, Councilor Huntermark, Council President Barton, Councilor Stoner; No: None; Abstain: None RESULT: Passed (6-0)	
Tree Commission	Councilor Michael Melnyk
No Report.	
Service	Councilor Dean Edwards - Next Meeting: November 6th at 6PM
No Report.	
Parks, Rec & NCC	Councilor Pat Huntermark - Next Meeting: November 6th at 6:15PM
No Report.	
Committee of the Whole	Council President Barton

October 23, 2025

No Report.

CEREMONIAL ITEMS

NEW RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION 2025-11 AUTHORIZING THE CITY ADMINISTRATOR TO APPLY FOR THE SCRAP TIRE GRANT THROUGH THE OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY (EPA) FOR IMPROVEMENTS WITHIN BRENTWOOD PARK, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

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

RESULT: *Passed (6-0) effective immediately*

PENDING RESOLUTION

NEW LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE 2025-43 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE UPDATED POSITION DESCRIPTION FOR THE DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, ZONING, AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

1st Reading - Edwards

ORDINANCE 2025-44 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE UPDATED POSITION DESCRIPTION FOR THE ZONING INSPECTOR, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

1st Reading - Edwards

PENDING LEGISLATON

ORDINANCE 2025-41 AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND ADMINISTRATIVE CLAIMS PROCESS FOR THE CITY OF NORTHWOOD, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

2nd Reading - Edwards

ORDINANCE 2025-42 AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING AND ADOPTING A GENERAL FUND RESERVE POLICY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

2nd Reading - Edwards

Mayor Schimmel explained that the ordinance permits the City to allocate between 16% and 50% of annual general fund expenditures to the reserve fund. Based on current figures, 50% equates to approximately \$3.75 to \$4 million, which is the amount being considered for the established Rainy Day Fund. With the general fund balance at about \$8 million, the City plans to earmark roughly half of that amount for this purpose. The Mayor noted that this step is intended to promote long-term financial stability and transparency for the public.

ORDINANCE 2025-39 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING NCO CHAPTER 204.01 (a) TITLED CITY LOGO.

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

RESULT: *Failed (0-6)*

MAYOR Mayor Schimmel

Mayor's Report

STREETS/BUILDINGS & GROUNDS:

Tim Strause submitted his notice of retirement on effective December 31, 2025. He has been employed by City as a street laborer since 2015.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR Kevin Laughlin

City Administrator's Report

TOPIC/ ITEM

Brine MOU

DISCUSSION

Request authorization to sign the MOU

October 23, 2025

MOTION: Councilor Huntermark made a motion to **authorize the City Administrator to sign the Brine MOU**; seconded by Councilor Melnyk. **ROLL CALL:** **Yes:** Councilor Fahrbach, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Melnyk, Councilor Huntermark, Council President Barton, Councilor Stoner; **No:** None; **Abstain:** None
RESULT: *Passed (6-0)*

Wolf Creek Ct.
Change Order

Change order is for the change of scope due to the poor condition of the pavement. The change is for an additional \$668.25; the project will probably be below the contract price because of the built-in contingencies.

Request authorization to approve the change order.

MOTION: Councilor Stoner made a motion to **authorize the City Administrator to approve the change order** ; seconded by Councilor Edwards.**ROLL CALL:** **Yes:** Councilor Fahrbach, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Melnyk, Councilor Huntermark, Council President Barton, Councilor Stoner; **No:** None; **Abstain:** None
RESULT: *Passed (6-0)*

CITY FINANCIAL REPORT(S)

MOTION: Councilor Edwards made a motion to **acknowledge receipt of the September Financial Reports** ; seconded by Councilor Melnyk. **ROLL CALL:** **Yes:** Councilor Fahrbach, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Melnyk, Councilor Huntermark, Council President Barton, Councilor Stoner; **No:** None; **Abstain:** None
RESULT: *Passed (6-0)*

Sept month end financials

Sept bank reconciliation

LIST OF EXPENDITURES OVER \$10,000

INVOICE	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT
GRIFFIN PAVEMENT STRIPING	STREET STRIPPING	\$21,497.11
AETNA	EMPLOYEE HEALTHCARE 11/01/25-11/30/2025	\$69,786.56
MOTION: Councilor Stoner made a motion to approve the list of expenditures over \$10,000 ; seconded by Council President Barton. ROLL CALL: Yes: Councilor Fahrbach, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Melnyk, Councilor Huntermark, Council President Barton, Councilor Stoner; No: None; Abstain: None. RESULT: <i>Passed (6-0)</i>		

CITY ATTORNEY’S REPORT/DISCUSSION Brian Ballenger

CITY ENGINEER’S REPORT/DISCUSSION Dave Kuhn

City Engineer's Report

City Administrator gave Engineer's Report. It was reported that construction on the Dry Creek Aquatic and Riparian Restoration Project, being completed in partnership with Waste Management, is scheduled to begin following a pre-construction meeting next week, with work anticipated to start around November 3rd. All other engineering projects remain status quo.

Infrastructure Updates: Northwestern Water and Sewer District was working to complete the Oregon Road project, with most resurfacing finished and only a few driveways remaining. Sheffield Road has been fully resurfaced and sealed. It was also noted that the railroad company performed long-awaited repairs to several crossings earlier in the day, following ongoing communication efforts by City staff. While the work caused temporary traffic issues, the improvements are expected to greatly enhance driving conditions. Wales Road reopened around 6:00 p.m., and East Andrus is expected to reopen later this evening after patching. More extensive repairs are planned for next year.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Fahrbach requested that the Planning Commission review the topic of marijuana dispensaries and THC businesses, considering recent documents shared by staff and a University of Dayton study, with particular attention to safety concerns. Staff confirmed the materials would be sent to the Planning Commission for review. The next Planning Commission meeting is scheduled for November 10th.

MOTION: Councilor Fahrbach made a motion to **send the Marijuana Dispensary and THC ordinance and related materials to Planning Commission for review and recommendation**; seconded by Councilor Stoner. **ROLL CALL:** **Yes:** Councilor Fahrbach, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Melnyk, Councilor Huntermark, Council President Barton, Councilor Stoner; **No:** None; **Abstain:** None **RESULT:** *Passed (6-0)*

OLD BUSINESS

October 23, 2025

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

1. Joseph Smith - 5854 Huntington Rd. Addressed Council regarding his proposed 419 self-storage project at Oregon/Arbor behind Arbys, noting this was his third appearance to seek approval. Council clarified that no formal zoning application has been submitted yet. Joseph was advised to complete and submit a zoning application, after which the project would likely proceed to the Planning Commission for review. The Planning Commission’s next meeting is scheduled for November 10th. Discussion also confirmed that the project involves two adjacent plots, which will be combined into a single development.

The City Attorney clarified that Council currently has a moratorium in place on all storage facilities. He emphasized that applicants should not spend money on permits until Council decides whether to lift the moratorium. He noted that while Council could theoretically allow a single project to proceed, doing so could set a precedent and create complications. A Council member expressed mixed feelings about the proposed project, noting they are generally not in favor but are open to hearing additional input. He emphasized the importance of Oregon Road to the city’s development and suggested referring the matter to the Planning Commission for feedback and clarified that the intent was not to delay action but to gather additional perspective from the commission.

MOTION: Councilor Fahrbach made a motion to refer the storage facility moratorium to the Planning Commission for review and a recommendation; seconded by Councilor Huntermark. **ROLL CALL:** Yes: Councilor Fahrbach, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Melnyk, Councilor Huntermark, Council President Barton, Councilor Stoner; No: None; Abstain: None
RESULT: Passed (6-0)

2. Taylor 4151 Woodville Road. The owner of The Original Bin at 4151 Woodville Road, introduced his business to Council. The Original Bin operates both an in-person bin store and an online auction center, drawing customers from across Ohio and neighboring states. He highlighted the economic benefits to the area, including increased traffic for nearby businesses. Taylor also discussed plans for a donation program to support local schools and churches and emphasized his commitment to becoming an active member of the Northwood community. He invited Council members to visit the business, meet the team, and explore opportunities for collaboration to strengthen the local economy.

3. Molly Tomaszewski, 211 Earl Street. Spoke in support of Taylor and The Original Bin, reinforcing that the business has a positive impact on Northwood. She highlighted Taylor’s friendliness, community involvement, and efforts to draw visitors from outside the area who contribute to local commerce. Molly noted his donations to schools and participation in the Fall Festival, and she praised the hard work of Taylor and his partners. She also supported the suggestion of a ribbon-cutting ceremony with the Mayor to provide publicity and promote the business. The Mayor requested the City Administrator reach out to the Chamber of Commerce to plan a ribbon cutting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION: Councilor Stoner made a motion to enter into Executive Session at 7:34PM with Mayor, Council, City Administrator and City Attorney to discuss hiring of a public employee; seconded by Councilor Huntermark. **ROLL CALL:** Yes: Councilor Fahrbach, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Melnyk, Councilor Huntermark, Council President Barton, Councilor Stoner; No: None; Abstain: None
RESULT: Passed (6-0)

The meeting was called back to order at 7:42PM 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, Council President Barton, Councilor Stoner City Administrator Kevin Laughlin, and City Attorney Brian Ballenger.

No Action Taken.

ADJOURNMENT

07:42 PM

ATTEST: _____
Council Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Mayor