

December 11, 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 07:03 PM on December 11, 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 Acting Clerk, Jolene Sabo and those in attendance were as follows: Mayor Schimmel, Councilor Fahrbach, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Melnyk, Councilor Huntermark, Council President Barton, Councilor Stoner, Councilor Dickey, City Administrator Kevin Laughlin, City Attorney Brian Ballenger and City Engineer Dave Kuhn and Josh Auman.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 4, 2025 Regular Council meeting minutes

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

PRESENTATION

Certificate of Appreciate for Tim Strause

Certificate of Appreciation for Patrick McGaharan

Mayor Schimmel read both certificates into the record and presented the certificate to Patrick as he was in attendance at the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

COMMUNICATIONS

City Administrator Kevin Laughlin reported that Columbia Gas has notified the City of potential minor rate increases permitted under a section of the Ohio Revised Code that allows utilities to recover infrastructure improvement costs. Columbia Gas has invested approximately \$29.5 million statewide in recent years. The administration is reviewing the notice to determine the impact on Northwood residents and will provide an update once more information is available.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Economic Development Council President Jim Barton

No Report.

Finance Councilor Louis Fahrbach

No Report.

Recreation Board Councilor Jim Barton

No Report.

Safety Councilor Mark Stoner

No Report.

Tree Commission Councilor Michael Melnyk

It was previously reported that the four trees scheduled to be relocated from the front of the Community Center have not yet been moved. After contacting the contractor, it was learned the delay was due to an oversight. The contractor has committed to completing the relocation by next week.

Service Councilor Dean Edwards

No Report.

Parks, Rec & NCC Councilor Pat Huntermark

No Report.

Committee of the Whole Council President Barton

No Report.

CEREMONIAL ITEMS

NEW RESOLUTION

PENDING RESOLUTION

December 11, 2025

NEW LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE 2025-52 AN ORDINANCE ADJUSTING THE 2025 CERTIFICATE OF ESTIMATED RESOURCES FOR THE CITY OF NORTHWOOD; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

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

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

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

PENDING LEGISLATION

ORDINANCE 2025-49 AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE FIREFIGHTER STAFFING SUSTAINABILITY FUND, AUTHORIZING INCREASING ESTIMATED RESOURCES, APPROPRIATIONS AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS OF THE CITY OF NORTHWOOD; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

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

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

ORDINANCE 2025-50 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS 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 Fahrbach, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Melnyk, Councilor Huntermark, Council President Barton, Councilor Stoner, Councilor Dickey; **No:** None; **Abstain:** None

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

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

ORDINANCE 2025-51 AN ORDINANCE INCREASING ESTIMATED RESOURCES, SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS AND THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS FOR THE BUDGET STABILIZATION FUND #111; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

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

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

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

MAYOR Mayor Schimmel

Mayor's Report

POLICE:

Chief Zahradnik presented the letter of resignation of Jolene from the police department, effective January 2026. Jolene had worked for the PD full-time from June of 2014 to December of 2019 (5 ½ years), and part time from December 2019 until January 2026 (6 years). She had worked in the positions of DARE & SRO well as Code Enforcement Officer and Bailiff.

Chief Zahradnik presented the recommendation to promote Nathan Fawcett to the rank of Police Sergeant effective January 1, 2026.

MOTION: Councilor Stoner made a motion to **promote Nathan Fawcett to the rank of Police Sergeant effective January 1, 2026**; seconded by Councilor Melnyk. **ROLL CALL: Yes:** Councilor Fahrbach, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Melnyk, Councilor Huntermark, Council President Barton, Councilor Stoner, Councilor Dickey; **No:** None; **Abstain:** None

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RESULT: *Passed (7-0)*

RECREATION:

Recreation Director Pat McGaharan submitted his letter of resignation effective December 31, 2025. Pat served the City of Northwood since 2017, starting as Part-Time Recreation Director and moving to Full-Time in 2024. During his time, he grew the Recreation Department & programs, organized numerous community events, and played a key role in the opening and operation of the Northwood Community Center. Pat will be transitioning to Council in January, and we thank him for his dedicated service and contributions to the community.

Recommendation to appoint Anthony Harmon as the Recreation Director effective January 1, 2025.

MOTION: Councilor Huntermark made a motion to **appoint Anthony Harmon as the Recreation Director effective January 1, 2025.** ; seconded by Councilor Edwards. **ROLL CALL:** **Yes:** Councilor Fahrbach, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Melnyk, Councilor Huntermark, Council President Barton, Councilor Stoner, Councilor Dickey; **No:** None; **Abstain:** None

RESULT: *Passed (7-0)*

Mayor Schimmel also shared that he received a letter of resignation from Terry Kretz from the Planning Commission.

CITY ADMINISTRATOR Kevin Laughlin

City Administrator's Report

<u>TOPIC/ ITEM</u>	<u>DISCUSSION</u>
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Lexipol Contract	The contract was in the approved 2026 budget (\$18,000). If we can execute the contract in 2025 they will invoice us in 2026, and cut the implementation cost by 50%, resulting in a new contract amount of \$11,426.60.
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Request authorization to sign the Lexipol contract

MOTION: Council President Barton made a motion to **authorize the City Administrator to sign the Lexipol contract;** seconded by Councilor Edwards. **ROLL CALL:** **Yes:** Councilor Fahrbach, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Melnyk, Councilor Huntermark, Council President Barton, Councilor Stoner, Councilor Dickey; **No:** None; **Abstain:** None

RESULT: *Passed (7-0)*

CITY FINANCIAL REPORT(S)

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

RESULT: *Passed (7-0)*

November bank reconciliation

November month end financial reports

NOVEMBER 2025 EXPENDITURES

LIST OF EXPENDITURES OVER \$10,000

<u>INVOICE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
GEDDIS PAVING & EXCAVATING CONTRACT INVOICE	WOLF CREEK STORM SEWER	\$234,980.11
VC3	NOVEMBER 2025 MONTHLY BILLING	\$12,130.62
WOOD COUNTY OFFICE	SHERIFF'S NOVEMBER 2025 DISPATCHING FEE	\$17,370.82

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

RESULT: *Passed (7-0)*

CITY ATTORNEY'S REPORT/DISCUSSION Brian Ballenger

No Report.

CITY ENGINEER'S REPORT/DISCUSSION Dave Kuhn

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City Engineer's Report

PROJECT UPDATES

Project Name	Project Budget	Current Status	Key Changes Since Last Meeting
Curtice Rd. Resurfacing & Curbs over I-280	\$195,600.00	Design	Plans to be submitted to ODOT this month for review and approval.
Dry Creek Aquatic and Riparian Restoration Project	\$500,000.00	Construction	Construction to begin as soon as weather permits.
Dalling Drive Extension Improvements	\$713,562.02	Construction	In the process of getting contracts signed. Contractor to start Jan. 2026 weather permitting.
West Andrus Road Pavement Improvements	\$405,060.12	Construction	Construction is complete. Waiting on contractor's invoice. Will begin to calculate sidewalk assessments
Northwood 2025 Pavement Resurfacing Improvements	\$721,775.00	Construction	Construction is complete. Waiting on contractor's invoice. Will begin to calculate sidewalk assessments

ISSUES REQUIRING COUNCIL ATTENTION

Motion to advertise for Bids

Project Name	Bid Opening Date
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Motion to Award Contract

Project Name	Contractor	Bid Amount
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NEW BUSINESS

Councilor Melnyk noted that with Amy Stribdy's recent resignation after 22 years of service, it was his opinion the City may not have provided adequate support. He expressed concern that staff needs have not been evaluated in many years and recommended that, after the new council is seated, the City hire an independent agency to conduct a comprehensive audit of personnel and services. Councilor Melnyk requested that the administration begin gathering quotes for such an audit. The Mayor and Administrator agreed to start looking into pricing.

Mayor Schimmel thanked Mark and Louis for their many years of service on Council, noting that it will be a significant change not having them present. He expressed appreciation for their dedication, insight, and contributions over the years, stating that much has been accomplished during their tenure and that the City will continue moving forward.

Councilor Fahrbach thanked the citizens of Northwood for the privilege of representing them over the past 12 years. He expressed gratitude to fellow council members and mayors he has served with, noting the meaningfulness of the experience. He offered words of guidance to incoming council members, encouraging them to lead with integrity, pursue what is good, and stand against what is harmful. He referenced Romans 13, emphasizing that good governance honors what is right and discourages what is wrong. He concluded by expressing his prayers for the City of Northwood and gratitude for the opportunity to serve.

OLD BUSINESS

Councilor Melnyk requested a sketch of the plan for the Curtis Road corridor. The administration responded that the sketch would be provided by the following day.

Mayor Schimmel initiated discussion regarding a request for an exemption from the City's storage unit moratorium for a property on Oregon Road. He provided background, noting that the Planning Commission had reviewed the request but took no action, leaving the decision to City Council. The property owners have submitted an application to the Planning Commission for review and are actively pursuing the project. Mayor Schimmel requested clarification from Council to ensure the applicants do not invest additional time and resources if an exemption will not be granted. Councilor Melnyk explained that the property owner purchased the first parcel prior to the moratorium and later sought to acquire a second parcel, during which the moratorium was instituted. He expressed support for granting the exemption based on fairness regarding the timing of the moratorium.

Council members then discussed the proposal, considering concerns about the limited economic benefit of storage units, the potential precedent for similar developments, and the property's future potential for higher-value projects. Some members noted low tax revenue, minimal job creation, and misalignment with the City's comprehensive plan as reasons for hesitation. It was clarified that, if granted, the project would still require Planning Commission review and approval. After discussion, Council agreed to make an official decision to provide clarity to the property owners and avoid unnecessary expenditure of time and resources.

MOTION: Councilor Melnyk made a motion to **grant an exemption for the property on Oregon Rd to allow a storage facility** ; seconded by Councilor Edwards. **ROLL CALL:** **Yes:** Councilor Melnyk; **No:** Councilor Fahrbach, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Huntermark, Council President Barton, Councilor Stoner; **Abstain:** Councilor Andrew

December 11, 2025

Dickey

RESULT: *Failed (1-5)*

PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ADJOURNMENT

07:32 PM

ATTEST: _____
Council Clerk

APPROVED: _____
Mayor