

February 26, 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 07:00 PM on February 26, 2026 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 Barton, Councilor Dickey, Councilor Edwards, Councilor Huntermark, Councilor Kretz, Councilor McGaharan, Council President Melnyk City Administrator Kevin Laughlin, City Attorney Brian Ballenger and City Engineer Josh Auman.

### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

#### February 12, 2026 Meeting Minutes

**MOTION:** Councilor Edwards made a motion to **Approve**; seconded by Council President Melnyk. **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

### PUBLIC COMMENT

### COMMUNICATIONS

### COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### Economic Development Councilor Barton

No Report.

#### Finance Next Meeting: 2/26/26 @ 6PM

Councilor Dickey reported that the Finance Committee met and appointed him to serve as Chair.

Mr. Yant provided an update on the City's year-end finances. The City is currently reflecting an \$818,215 loss. The General Fund balance stands at approximately \$4,192,000, with an additional \$4 million in the stabilization fund, bringing total combined reserves to approximately \$8 million. The Committee discussed requesting additional financial data from Mr. Yant, including a 10-year breakdown of business and residential income tax revenues, in order to better understand recent revenue trends and the factors contributing to the current loss. The Committee also briefly discussed the financial status of the bridge project phases, noting that the City is anticipated to move into Phase 3 in the near future.

#### Recreation Board Councilor Barton

No Report. Next meeting: March 4th at 6PM @ NCC. Meeting was moved up to finalize the spring sports teams

#### Safety Councilor Kretz - Next Meeting: 3/3/26 @ 4:30PM

No Report. Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 3rd at 4:30PM

#### Tree Commission Council President Melnyk

No Report.

#### Service Councilor Edwards

No Report. Next Meeting: March 12th at 6:30PM

#### Parks, Rec & NCC Councilor Huntermark

No Report.

#### Committee of the Whole Council President Melnyk - Next Meeting: 2/26/26 @ 6:30pm

Ryan Wichman, President of Wood County Plays, presented on the proposed all-inclusive playground at Brentwood Park.

Mr. Wichman shared that approximately \$300,000 has been raised to date toward the estimated \$750,000 total project cost. The playground will encompass approximately 11,000 square feet and will feature a variety of inclusive equipment. A highlight of the project will be a wheelchair-accessible in-ground trampoline, with the next closest similar feature reportedly located in Chicago, making it a potential regional attraction. Mr. Wichman also noted that a grant application is pending for recycled tire surfacing materials. If awarded, the grant would provide an additional \$125,000 toward the project, reducing the City's financial responsibility.

Additionally, the Committee discussed the upcoming Council Retreat. Proposed topics include strategic planning, establishing Council priorities, outlining expectations for administration, and discussing charter review matters.

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The retreat is tentatively being planned for April. Council members were asked to submit their availability to Kevin by the end of next week.

## MAYOR Mayor Schimmel

### Mayor's Report

Chief Zahradnik presented the resignation of Officer Padilla from the Northwood Police Department.

## CITY ADMINISTRATOR Kevin Laughlin

### City Administrator's Report

requested that Council reschedule the public hearing for the proposed zoning amendments regarding storage facilities due to advertising timeline requirements. **MOTION:** Council President Melnyk made a motion to **hold a public hearing on March 26 at 7:00 p.m prior to the regular Council meeting;** 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)**

Council briefly discussed Ordinance 2026-06 regarding golf cart regulations. Clarification was provided that golf carts would be permitted only on streets with speed limits of 25 mph or less, may cross higher-speed roadways but may not travel along them, and are not permitted on sidewalks.

The City Administrator revisited the proposed clock tower project at the intersection of Park Avenue and Main Street, last discussed on September 25, 2025. Option 1, the all-masonry design, had previously received the most support. A proposal in the amount of \$37,100 for planning, design, and architectural services was presented. **MOTION:** Councilor Barton made a motion to **authorize the City Administrator to sign the proposal;** seconded by Councilor Dickey. **ROLL CALL: Yes:** Councilor Barton, Councilor Dickey, Councilor McGaharan, Council President Melnyk; **No:** Councilor Edwards, Councilor Huntermark, Councilor Kretz; **Abstain:** None  
**RESULT: Passed (4-3)**

It was noted that a Service Committee meeting needs to be scheduled to further discuss TrainFo's proposed advance warning system for the Wales Road rail crossing. The meeting was scheduled for March 12 at 6:30 p.m., prior to the next Council meeting.

Lastly, the City Administrator provided an update regarding Council's request for a staff audit. An initial meeting with WorkSpring is scheduled for March 5 to begin discussions, which may also include strategic planning and additional HR-related services.

## CITY FINANCIAL REPORT(S)

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

<u>INVOICE</u>	<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
COMMERCIAL SYSTEMS, INC	GLAZING COMPLETION OF STA 82 WINDOWS	\$11,730.00
ANTHEM	HEALTH & VISION INSURANCE 3/1/26-4/1/26	\$64,934.27
GEM INC	INSTALL MINI SPLITS	\$48,695.00

**MOTION:** Councilor Barton made a motion to **Approve** ; 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)**

## NEW RESOLUTION

## PENDING RESOLUTION

## NEW LEGISLATION

**ORDINANCE 2026-10 ADOPTING THE 2026 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE AS RECOMMENDED BY THE NORTHWOOD PLANNING COMMISSION, AND THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN COMMITTEE; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

1st Reading - Edwards

## PENDING LEGISLATION

**ORDINANCE 2026-09 ADJUSTING THE 2026 CERTIFICATE OF ESTIMATED RESOURCES OF THE CITY OF NORTHWOOD ; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

2nd Reading - Huntermark

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### **ORDINANCE 2026-06 ESTABLISHING CHAPTER 477 TITLED LOW SPEED VEHICLES, TO TITLE TEN OF THE NORTHWOOD CODIFIED ORDINANCES; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

**MOTION:** Councilor Edwards made a motion to **Move on Final Adoption**; 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)*

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### **ORDINANCE 2026-07 REALLOCATING THE DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS RECEIVING INTEREST INCOME AND THE DISTRIBUTION THEREOF BY THE FINANCE AND REVENUE DIRECTOR.**

**MOTION:** Councilor Edwards made a motion to **Move on Final Adoption**; 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)*

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### **ORDINANCE 2026-08 AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS OF THE CITY OF NORTHWOOD FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**

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

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

No Report.

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

##### **City Engineer's Report**

The City Engineer reported that Curtice Road has been submitted to ODOT for review, and once that review is complete, the project will move forward to the bidding stage.

Dry Creek - site stabilization and seeding were completed this week, and planting is scheduled for April, so the project should be finished in a couple of months.

Dalling Drive extension - the updated construction schedule shows a tentative start date of May 4th, with work expected to continue through July 31st.

Sidewalk assessments are ongoing for West Andrus and Wolf Creek, with the goal of completing them before the next Council meeting.

2025 pavement resurfacing improvements- The pay application from Gerkin has been received and forwarded to Ken for processing.

2026 pavement resurfacing work, the survey crew is scheduled within the next week or two, and curbs on Dillrose and Richmond will be reviewed and marked for repair.

Parking Lot Phase 2 is moving forward, with design work nearing completion. Glenn Grisdale is revising the site plan, and the project may be ready for bidding before the next Council meeting.

The TrainFo project requires a Service Committee meeting before it can be advertised for bids.

The final 200 feet of fencing along the entrance drive to the Community Center has been installed, completing all 400 feet of the project.

Tracy Road is currently closed for water line work from Wales Road to McNerney Road for approximately 60 days. Council members expressed concerns about the timing and management of the closure, as residents and businesses may be impacted. Follow-up with Northwest Water will be needed to clarify traffic management and ensure access.

Lastly, in some neighborhoods, crews have been repainting yellow lines and marking hydrants. This work is part of Northwest Water's ongoing lead line identification and removal program required by the EPA. Homes with copper lines are not affected.

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#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Council President Melnyk brought up the crosswalk from the parking lot to the VFW and raised concerns about vehicles not slowing down, particularly on Friday nights during the fish fry, making it difficult for pedestrians to cross safely. He requested the City to look into the possibility and cost of installing activated yellow beacons to improve safety, noting that the crosswalk is on city right-of-way and would likely be the city's responsibility.

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### OLD BUSINESS

Councilor McGaharan asked about the old entrance and exit near 579 and whether it could be used as an additional access point to the Community Center. It was clarified that the entrance is in Lake Township, although the city owns the boulevard strip. Current plans for the new parking lot do not include using this access, but Council agreed to keep the idea under consideration, taking into account existing storm sewers and other site constraints.

### PERSONS APPEARING BEFORE THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL

None.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

### ADJOURNMENT

07:29 PM

**ATTEST:**

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*Council Clerk*

**APPROVED:**

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*Mayor*