

Minutes Approved

As Circulated September 15, 2025
October 20, 2025 Regular Council Meeting
Elyria City Council

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of Elyria City Council was called to order on Monday September 15, 2025 at 7:02 p.m. by President Stewart. President Stewart opened the meeting requesting a moment of reflective silence. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by council member Armstrong. President Stewart requested all cell phones please be turned off or placed on silent mode.

2. ROLL CALL: COUNCIL MEMBERS

PRESENT: Callahan, Cerra, Armstrong, Oswald, Mitchell, Tollett, Lipian, Siwierka, Davis, Schneider, Stewart

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Brubaker, Fin. Dir. Pileski, Law Director Deery, Police Chief Welsh, Fire Chief Pronesti, Engineer Schneider, HR Dir. Yousefi

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None

5. REMARKS AND REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS:

Mayor:

Mayor Brubaker provided an update on the completion of the chip and seal process of Fowl Road in collaboration with the County Engineer's office. Mayor Brubaker expressed his appreciation to SSD Strohsack, the street department and County Engineer for their hard work and stated the road looks great. Mayor Brubaker introduced the shops on Broad Street and shared with council members he had the opportunity earlier in the day to participate in the ribbon cutting of one of the businesses, Roxie's Emporium. Three other businesses will open soon as well to include Kreations by Kianga. Kreations by Kianga was the first business as part of the incubator space in the city hall building until downtown space could be located for ongoing business. On Tuesday September 16th at two o'clock will be the kick-off of Forge 417 E-Sports. Mayor Brubaker expressed his excitement of all the things happening in downtown Elyria.

Finance Director: No Report

Law Director Deery:

Law Director Deery welcomed Councilmember Lipian back to council. Law Director Deery provided councilmembers with an update to an amendment to the economic development agreement for DBR Commercial Realty that was signed the week of September 8th and forwarded appropriately.

Council member Siwierka inquired if there were any new updates on the Holiday Inn receivership? Law Director Deery provided an update that the application that was submitted to have the property declared as a historic landmark had been tabled at least through December.

EPD: No Report

Council member Oswald inquired if there are report of calls to the police department of homelessness and property damage. Council member Siwierka stated she received calls in support of marking cars more prominently.

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5. REMARKS AND REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS: Continued

EFD: No Report

Chief Pronesti responded to the question from Council member Oswald. He shared there has been an uptick in calls in that area of unresponsive persons, who are homeless. He expressed the concern within the fire department and fire prevention bureau is that if a fire happens, there will most likely be homeless persons in the building. Chief Pronesti stated the Elyria Fire fighters will have to risk their lives in the most deplorable building he would describe in thirty- seven years. Council member Oswald commented that the Cedar Street fire station repairs look very nice. Chief Pronesti expressed his appreciation to the administration for the needed repairs. Council member Siwierka asked in SSD Pyanowski absence if there was an update to the EMS Study. Chief Pronesti shared the entire report had not been received. The portion that has been received, has been GIS, mapping and data. Council member Siwierka requested a deadline date of the report. Chief Pronesti stated he believed the deadline is October 10, 2025.

Eng. Schneider: No Report

Council member Siwierka shared a concern of an issue with a left turn visibility onto Chestnut Ridge into Aldi's that would require some attention along with the traffic study in the Chestnut Ridge Road area.

Council Member Schneider inquired about a road sign off of Reaser Point Crossing, Weston Way, he inquired if the project is a permanent project or an access point for a construction project. In addition, he inquired about a follow-up question to a previous concern regarding, no right turn on Hilliard and Abbe Rd. due to Northwood pedestrian traffic. Engineer Schneider explained the driveway to Weston Way is a driveway to the water tower. The existing driveway comes off of the Wal-Mart property, Water Distribution is putting in a drive to make accessibility more feasible for service vehicles. The Hilliard concern was investigated and the recommendation is to install a no turn on red during school hours only sign.

Council member Mitchell inquired on the status of the residential street repaving. Engineer Schneider explained they are awaiting a start date from the contractor.

Council member Lipian requested a follow-up of completion date for Ward One streets.

HR Dir. Yousefi:

Director Yousefi provided an update of a preliminary Gallagher Salary Study. She shared the final report is anticipated to be available by the end of October 2025. The new salary structure has been established which collapses the current thirty-seven ranges to a more manageable sixteen ranges. The steps remain the same at zero to twelve. The results reflect a mix of some jobs below market, some above and many that are in line with the market. All of the jobs benchmarked are earning within 15% of the market median. Five positions were low enough to warrant an increase to a higher level. The final report will provide recommendations for keeping the payrates relevant in the market as well as a methodology for moving employees through those steps.

Council member Siwierka asked about an update on a list of trainings that were budgeted for the year. Ms. Yousefi explained that line items had not been appropriated, however she worked with the finance team to get in in line. Some of the trainings scheduled were Leadership Lorain County, DEI Committee, and Manager trainings.

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6. PRESIDENT'S REFERRAL'S:

** Matter is completed or partially completed*

1. The matter of authorizing the Mayor to apply for and accept a TLCI (Transportation for Livable Communities Initiative) grant.

REFERRED BY: ENGINEER SCHNEIDER

REFERRED TO: FINANCE

2. The matter of disposal of city property unfit for use: IBM # 0537, Serial 3 3780, Serial # FX125-3588.

REFERRED BY: PWS EYE

REFERRED TO: FINANCE

3. The matter of a project change order to 2025 OPWC Murray Ridge Resurfacing project.

REFERRED BY: ENGINEER SCHNEIDER

REFERRED TO: FINANCE

4. The matter of authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with Brown and Caldwell to complete a comprehensive biosolids study for the Elyria Wastewater Pollution Control Plant.

REFERRED BY: WWPC SUPERINTENDENT STEWART

REFERRED TO: FINANCE/ UTILITIES

5. The matter of authorizing the Mayor to apply for and if offered accept and enter into a Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) agreement.

REFERRED BY: OPERATIONS SUPERINTENDENT JACOB

REFERRED TO: FINANCE/ UTILITIES

Items 6 -9 received and placed on file in the clerk's office:

6. Denied Claim for Damages: Joseph W. Turner.

7. List of receipts collected by each division of the Clerk of Court's Office for August 2025.

8. August 2025 General Fund Cash Balance Report.

9. Income Tax Collections Received in August 2025.

Referrals from the floor

10. The matter of authorizing the Mayor to advertise for bids and award a contract.

REFERRED BY: P& R DIRECTOR REARDON

REFERRED TO: FINANCE/ UTILITIES

11. The matter of renewing the Horizon Education Center agreement for East Recreation Center.

REFERRED BY: P& R DIRECTOR REARDON

REFERRED TO: FINANCE/ UTILITIES REFERRED TO: FINANCE/ UTILITIES

7. PETITIONS- LOBBY:

Anne Swab- Elyria flags lowered for Charlie Kirk

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8. PETITIONS--COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

9. REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES:

Sponsored by

C. Schneider
D. Mitchell
K. Oswald

Finance

C. Schneider
M. Siwierka
B. Davis
J. Cerra

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2025- 6

WE HAVE CONSIDERED THE MATTER OF A 115 - UNIT SENIOR HOUSING DEVELOPMENT LOCATED AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF MIDWAY BLVD. AND LEONA STREET UTILIZING THE FUNDING PROGRAMS OF THE OHIO FINANCE AGENCY (OHFA) AND THE COMMITTEE DOES NOT OBJECT TO THE SAID PROJECT.

Schneider moved, Mitchell seconded to pass this committee report and the city of Elyria does not object.

PASSAGE

AYE: 11

NAY: 11

ABSENT: 11

MOTION CARRIED

Sponsored by

C. Schneider
D. Mitchell
K. Oswald

Finance

C. Schneider
M. Siwierka
B. Davis
J. Cerra

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2025- 7

WE HAVE CONSIDERED THE MATTER OF A 122 - UNIT AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMMUNITY LOCATED ON WEST RIVER ROAD, N AND UTILIZING THE FUNDING PROGRAMS OF THE OHIO FINANCE AGENCY (OHFA) AND THE COMMITTEE DOES NOT OBJECT TO SAID PROJECT.

Schneider moved, Mitchell seconded to pass this committee report and the city of Elyria does not object.

PASSAGE

AYE: 11

NAY: 11

ABSENT: 11

MOTION CARRIED

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9. REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES: Continued

Sponsored by

C. Schneider
D. Mitchell
K. Oswald

Finance

C. Schneider
M. Siwierka
B. Davis
J. Cerra

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 2025- 8

WE HAVE CONSIDERED THE MATTER OF A 120- UNIT NEW CONSTRUCTION, MULTI-FAMILY DEVELOPMENT LOCATED AT APPROXIMATELY 441 GRISWOLD ROAD AND UTILIZING THE FUNDING PROGRAMS OF THE OHIO HOUSING FINANCE (OHFA) AND THE COMMITTEE DOES NOT OBJECT TO THE SAID PROJECT.

Schneider moved, Mitchell seconded to pass this committee report and the city of Elyria does not object.

PASSAGE

AYE: 11

NAY: 11

ABSENT: 11

MOTION CARRIED

10. RESOLUTIONS FIRST READING:

Sponsored by

Finance

B. Davis
M. Siwierka
C. Schneider
J. Cerra

RESOLUTION NO. 2025- 40

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A LIST SUBMITTED BY THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR THE COLLECTION OF DELINQUENT INACTIVE UTILITY ACCOUNTS AND DIRECTING THE CLERK OF COUNCIL TO CERTIFY SAID ACCOUNTS TO THE LORAIN COUNTY AUDITOR.

Tollett moved, Davis seconded to pass this resolution on its first reading under suspension of rules.

SUSPENSION

AYE: 11

NAY: 0

ABSENT: 0

MOTION CARRIED

PASSAGE

AYE: 11

NAY: 0

ABSENT: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Sponsored by

Finance

B. Davis
M. Siwierka
C. Schneider
J. Cerra

RESOLUTION NO. 2025- 41

A RESOLUTION FINDING THAT THE CITY HAS UNFIT FOR MUNICIPAL USE CERTAIN CITY PROPERTY.

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10. RESOLUTIONS FIRST READING: Continued

Tollett moved, Davis seconded to pass this resolution on its first reading under suspension of rules.

SUSPENSION	PASSAGE
AYE: 11	AYE: 11
NAY: 0	NAY: 0
ABSENT: 0	ABSENT: 0
MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED

Sponsored by

Finance

B. Davis
M. Siwierka
C. Schneider
J. Cerra

RESOLUTION NO. 2025- 42

A RESOLUTION FINDING THAT THE CITY HAS UNFIT FOR MUNICIPAL USE CERTAIN CITY PROPERTY.

Tollett moved, Davis seconded to pass this resolution on its first reading under suspension of rules.

SUSPENSION	PASSAGE
AYE: 11	AYE: 11
NAY: 0	NAY: 0
ABSENT: 0	ABSENT: 0
MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED

11. RESOLUTIONS--SECOND READING: None

12. RESOLUTIONS--THIRD READING: None

13. ORDINANCES--FIRST READINGS:

Companion to above Resolution

Sponsored by

Finance

B. Davis
M. Siwierka
C. Schneider
J. Cerra

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-141

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF ELYRIA TO DISPOSE OF CITY PROPERTY THAT IS UNFIT FOR MUNICIPAL USE.

Tollett moved, Schneider seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of rules.

SUSPENSION	PASSAGE
AYE: 11	AYE: 11
NAY: 0	NAY: 0
ABSENT: 0	ABSENT: 0
MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED

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13. ORDINANCES--FIRST READINGS: Continued

Sponsored by

Finance

B. Davis
M. Siwierka
C. Schneider
J. Cerra

ORDINANCE NO. 2025- 142

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SAFETY SERVICE
DIRECTOR OF THE CITY OF ELYRIA TO DISPOSE OF CITY
PROPERTY THAT IS UNFIT FOR MUNICIPAL USE.

Tollett moved, Schneider seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of rules.

SUSPENSION

AYE: 11

NAY: 0

ABSENT: 0

MOTION CARRIED

PASSAGE

AYE: 11

NAY: 0

ABSENT: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Sponsored by

Finance

C. Schneider
D. Mitchell
K. Oswald

Community

Development

C. Schneider
M. Siwierka
B. Davis
J. Cerra

ORDINANCE NO. 2025- 143

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF
CERTAIN VACANT LAND (REAL PROPERTY) FROM THE
CITY OF ELYRIA TO THE ELYRIA COMMUNITY
IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION.

Tollett moved, Cerra seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of rules.

SUSPENSION

AYE: 11

NAY: 0

ABSENT: 0

MOTION CARRIED

PASSAGE

AYE: 11

NAY: 0

ABSENT: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Sponsored by

Finance

B. Davis
M. Siwierka
C. Schneider
J. Cerra

ORDINANCE NO. 2025- 144

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER
INTO INSURANCE CONTRACTS WITH TRAVELERS,
THROUGH ARTHUR J. GALLAGHER RISK MANAGEMENT
SERVICES, INC., FOR THE CITY OF ELYRIA'S GENERAL
LIABILITY, PROPERTY, AUTO LIABILITY AND PHYSICAL
DAMAGE, LAW ENFORCEMENT LIABILITY, PUBLIC ENTITY
MANAGEMENT LIABILITY, EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES
LIABILITY, UMBRELLA/EXCESS LIABILITY INSURANCE,
AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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13. ORDINANCES--FIRST READINGS: Continued

Tollett moved, Cerra seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of rules and declaring an emergency.

SUSPENSION	PASSAGE	EMERGENCY
AYE: 11	AYE: 11	AYE: 11
NAY: 0	NAY: 0	NAY: 0
ABSENT: 0	ABSENT: 0	ABSENT: 0
MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED

Sponsored by

Finance

B. Davis
M. Siwierka
C. Schneider
J. Cerra

ORDINANCE NO. 2025- 145

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN INSURANCE CONTRACT WITH ALLMERICA FINANCIAL BENEFIT COMPANY, THROUGH ARTHUR J. GALLAGHER RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES, INC., FOR THE CITY OF ELYRIA'S CRIME INSURANCE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Tollett moved, Cerra seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of rules and declaring an emergency.

SUSPENSION	PASSAGE	EMERGENCY
AYE: 11	AYE: 11	AYE: 11
NAY: 0	NAY: 0	NAY: 0
ABSENT: 0	ABSENT: 0	ABSENT: 0
MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED

Sponsored by

Finance

B. Davis
M. Siwierka
C. Schneider
J. Cerra

ORDINANCE NO. 2025- 146

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN INSURANCE CONTRACT WITH UNDERWRITERS AT LLOYD'S OF LONDON, (CFC SYNDICATE), THROUGH ARTHUR J. GALLAGHER RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES, LLC, FOR THE CITY OF ELYRIA'S CYBER LIABILITY INSURANCE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Tollett moved, Davis seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of rules and declaring an emergency.

SUSPENSION	PASSAGE	EMERGENCY
AYE: 11	AYE: 11	AYE: 11
NAY: 0	NAY: 0	NAY: 0
ABSENT: 0	ABSENT: 0	ABSENT: 0
MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED

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13. ORDINANCES--FIRST READINGS: Continued

Sponsored by

Finance

B. Davis
M. Siwierka
C. Schneider
J. Cerra

ORDINANCE NO. 2025- 147

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN INSURANCE CONTRACT WITH NAVIGATORS SPECIALTY INSURANCE COMPANY, THROUGH ARTHUR J. GALLAGHER RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES, LLC, FOR THE CITY OF ELYRIA'S POLLUTION LIABILITY INSURANCE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Tollett moved, Schneider seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of rules and declaring an emergency.

SUSPENSION	PASSAGE	EMERGENCY
AYE: 11	AYE: 11	AYE: 11
NAY: 0	NAY: 0	NAY: 0
ABSENT: 0	ABSENT: 0	ABSENT: 0
MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED

Sponsored by

Finance

B. Davis
M. Siwierka
C. Schneider
J. Cerra

ORDINANCE NO. 2025- 148

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN INSURANCE CONTRACT WITH HARTFORD STEAM BOILER (HSB), THROUGH ARTHUR J. GALLAGHER RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES, LLC, FOR THE CITY OF ELYRIA'S EQUIPMENT BREAKDOWN INSURANCE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Tollett moved, Schneider seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of rules and declaring an emergency.

SUSPENSION	PASSAGE	EMERGENCY
AYE: 11	AYE: 11	AYE: 11
NAY: 0	NAY: 0	NAY: 0
ABSENT: 0	ABSENT: 0	ABSENT: 0
MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED

Sponsored by

Finance

B. Davis
M. Siwierka
C. Schneider
J. Cerra

ORDINANCE NO. 2025- 149

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 2025-37, KNOWN AS THE "2025 PERMANENT APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE," TO CHANGE FUNDS IN VARIOUS ACCOUNTS.

Tollett moved, Schneider seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of rules.

SUSPENSION	PASSAGE
AYE: 11	AYE: 11
NAY: 0	NAY: 0
ABSENT: 0	ABSENT: 0
MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED

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13. ORDINANCES--FIRST READINGS: Continued

Sponsored by
Community
Development
C. Schneider
D. Mitchell
K. Oswald

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1131.02, CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ELYRIA, OHIO, KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE, TO REZONE CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT 525 MUSSEY AVENUE, ELYRIA, OHIO, FROM H-I HEAVY INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT TO S-I SPECIAL INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT.

Public Hearing Scheduled October 20, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Sponsored by
Community
Development
C. Schneider
D. Mitchell
K. Oswald

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 1135 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ELYRIA, OHIO, TO 525 MUSSEY AVENUE LLC FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS STORAGE LOCATED AT 525 MUSSEY AVENUE, ELYRIA, OHIO.

Public Hearing Scheduled October 20, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Sponsored by
Community
Development
C. Schneider
D. Mitchell
K. Oswald

ORDINANCE NO. 2025-

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 1135 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ELYRIA, OHIO, TO 525 MUSSEY AVENUE LLC FOR A JUNKYARD LOCATED AT 525 MUSSEY AVENUE, ELYRIA, OHIO.

Public Hearing Scheduled October 20, 2025 at 7:00 PM

Sponsored by
Community
Development
C. Schneider
D. Mitchell
K. Oswald

ORDINANCE NO. 2025- 150

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE DEDICATION OF CERTAIN LANDS, EASEMENTS AND RIGHTS-OF-WAY FOR THE INSTALLATION OF STREETS AND UTILITIES AS PROVIDED FOR IN THE FINAL PLAT OF HARVEST MEADOWS SUBDIVISION NO. 4.

Schneider moved, Mitchell seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of rules.

SUSPENSION

AYE: 11

NAY: 0

ABSENT: 0

MOTION CARRIED

PASSAGE

AYE: 11

NAY: 0

ABSENT: 0

MOTION CARRIED

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13. ORDINANCES--FIRST READINGS: Continued

Sponsored by
Community
Development
C. Schneider
D. Mitchell
K. Oswald

ORDINANCE NO. 2025- 151

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ACCEPT A
SANITARY EASEMENT FROM K. HOVNANIAN AT HARVEST
MEADOWS, LLC, AN OHIO LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY.

Schneider moved, Mitchell seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of rules.

SUSPENSION

AYE: 11

NAY: 0

ABSENT: 0

MOTION CARRIED

PASSAGE

AYE: 11

NAY: 0

ABSENT: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Sponsored by
Community
Development
C. Schneider
D. Mitchell
K. Oswald

ORDINANCE NO. 2025- 152

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING THE PETITION OF CHESTNUT
RIDGE BAPTIST CHURCH FOR ANNEXATION OF 9.7093
ACRES OF LAND TO THE CITY OF ELYRIA

President Stewart recused himself

Schneider moved, Tollett seconded to pass this ordinance on its first reading under suspension of rules.

SUSPENSION

AYE: 8

NAY: 2 Lipian, Siwierka

ABSENT: 0

MOTION CARRIED

PASSAGE

AYE: 8

NAY: 2 Lipian, Siwierka

ABSENT: 0

MOTION CARRIED

4. ORDINANCES--SECOND READINGS: None

15. ORDINANCES--THIRD READING: None

16. COMMITTEE CALLS:

FINANCE / UTILITIES

Mon. 9/29/2025 Immediately following Joint All Referred Items Council Chambers w/Mayor,
Finance Director, Law Director, SSD, Engineer

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Mon. 10/6/2025 Immediately following Council Meeting All Referred Items
Council Chambers

W/ Mayor, Safety Service Director, Finance Director, Law Director, Engineer

Minutes Approved

As circulated
October 20, 2025

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17. MISCELLANEOUS AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Council member Lipian read a letter expressing his appreciation to his colleagues, clerk's office and members of his ward for their assistance and understanding his absence during his military training. He shared his appreciation to the Sheriff and EPD regarding the safety during the Charlie Kirk rally in Elyria that he was in attendance at.

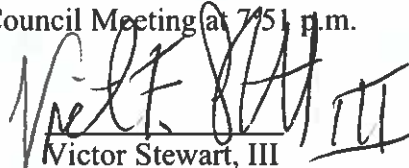
Council member Mitchell invited everyone to attend the 45th Annual Elyria Apple Festival.

18. ADJOURNMENT:

Mitchell moved, Cerra seconded to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting at 7:51 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED


Michael J. Lotko, III
Clerk of Council


Victor Stewart, III
President of Council

YouTube Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H6Y0MI_Jfm4Rlp/

GOOD EVENING, MAYOR BRAUNEN, Council members
I AM HERE TO VOICE MY CONCERNS about lowering the flag
FOR CHARLIE KIRK ON PUBLIC BUILDINGS

My name is Anne Swabb, and I am the parent of a U.S. Naval Academy graduate, now a commissioned officer. My family has served this country, and I take pride in the values of honor, sacrifice, and respect. That is why I am deeply concerned and disappointed that Elyria recently lowered its flags to half-staff in honor of Charlie Kirk.

Lowering the flag is traditionally reserved for public servants, local heroes, or moments of national tragedy. Extending this honor to a political commentator whose rhetoric has targeted marginalized groups does not reflect the inclusive values Elyria should stand for.

As a woman, I have felt my rights stripped away. I had more rights as a teenager at Elyria High in 1989 than I do now, at age 54, living in Ohio in 2025. My experience is only a glimpse of what people of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, and immigrants have long endured. *ITS UNSETTLING - and other marginalized groups*

I understand that Governor DeWine issued the order. However, Elyria's leaders still have a duty to reflect the values of their citizens. If the city takes issue with such orders in the future, I urge you to please "run your concerns up the flagpole" with the state, so our community's voice is heard and ALL citizens are protected. *represented*

Our flags should represent unity, sacrifice, and respect for all. Honoring a man who opposed inclusivity turns our backs on the very people democracy must protect. I respectfully ask you to reconsider the message Elyria is sending. Our community deserves symbols that uplift us all, not symbols that divide and diminish. *governor*

Thank you ~~(for your attention to this matter)~~

