

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING ELYRIA CITY COUNCIL JANUARY 5, 2026

Minutes Approved

As circulated January 5, 2026
Regular Council Meeting
January 2026 Elyria City Council

1. CALL TO ORDER

The organizational meeting of Elyria City Council was called to order on Monday January 5, 2026 at 7:02 P.M. by President Mitchell. President Mitchell opened the meeting with a moment of reflective silence followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Council member Oswald.

Mitchell cordially welcomed all Council Members, Mayor Brubaker, Safety Service Directors Calvert, Loesch, Pyanowski & Strohsack Finance Director Pileski, Law Director Deery, Chief Pronesti, Chief Welsh, Members of the Administration, news media and the local residents in the lobby to the first meeting of the new Council.

2. ROLL CALL: COUNCIL MEMBERS:

PRESENT: Cerra, Van Wormer, Armstrong, Rothgery, Davis, Tollett, Lipian, Oswald, Doehne, Schneider, Mitchell

ABSENT: None

3. BUSINESS OF THE MEETING:

Ms. Mitchell declared the floor open for nominations for Clerk of Council.

Davis moved, Schneider seconded to nominate Victor Stewart III Clerk of Council.

MOTION CARRIED

Ms. Mitchell asked if there were any other nominations Clerk of Council?

Davis motioned, Schneider seconded that the nominations be closed.

MOTION CARRIED

Vote on nomination to elect Victor Stewart III as Clerk of Council 2026-2028 term of Council.

ROLL CALL:

AYE: Cerra, Van Wormer, Armstrong, Rothgery, Davis, Tollett, Lipian, Oswald, Doehne, Schneider, Mitchell

NAY: 0

ABSENT: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Victor Stewart III has been elected Clerk of Council

Ms. Mitchell stated the appointment of Regan Phillips and Colleen Rosado as Ex. Administrators to the Council Clerk Office

Moved by Cerra, seconded by Tollett, the reappointment of Regan Phillips and Colleen Rosado as Ex. Administrators to the Council Clerk Office.

MOTION CARRIED

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3. BUSINESS OF THE MEETING: Continued

Ms. Mitchell declared the floor open for nominations for the Council President.

Davis nominated Donna Mitchell for Clerk of Council for the 2026-2028 term of Council, retroactive to January 1, 2022, Cerra seconded.

Ms. Mitchell asked if there are any other nominations for Council President

Davis moved , Cerra seconded that nominations be closed.

MOTION CARRIED

Ms. Mitchell asked the Clerk for a roll call vote for the election of Donna Mitchell for Council President

ROLL CALL:

AYE: Cerra, Van Wormer, Armstrong, Rothgery, Davis, Tollett, Lipian, Oswald, Doehne, Schneider, Mitchell

NAY: 0

ABSENT: 0

MOTION CARRIED

Ms. Mitchell declared that Donna Mitchell been elected Council President.

President Mitchell declared nominations open for President Pro Tem.

Cerra moved, Tollett seconded to nominate Ms. Davis as President Pro Tem for the 2026-2028 term of Council.

MOTION CARRIED

President Mitchell asked if there were any other nominations for Council President Pro Tem?

Cerra moved, Tollett seconded to close nominations.

MOTION CARRIED

Vote on nomination of Ms. Davis as President Pro Tem.

ROLL CALL:

AYE: Cerra, Van Wormer, Armstrong, Rothgery, Davis, Tollett, Lipian, Oswald, Doehne, Schneider, Mitchell

NAY: 0

ABSENT: 0

MOTION CARRIED

President Mitchell announced Ms. Davis was elected President Pro Tem and declared nominations open for Council Majority Leader.

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3. BUSINESS OF THE MEETING Continued

President Mitchell declared the floor open for nominations for Council Majority Leader.

Davis moved, Tollett seconded to nominate Mr. Cerra as Council Majority Leader.

President Mitchell asked if there were any other nominations for Majority Leader?

Davis moved, Tollett seconded to close nominations.

MOTION CARRIED

President Mitchell asked for a roll call vote of the Democrat Members of council for the election of Mr. Cerra for Majority Leader.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYE: Cerra, Van Wormer, Rothgery, Davis, Tollett, Oswald, Doehne, Schneider, Mitchell

NAY: 0

ABSENT: 0

MOTION CARRIED

President Mitchell announced Mr. Cerra was elected as Council Majority Leader.

President Mitchell declared the floor open for nominations for Council Minority Leader.

Lipian moved, Armstrong seconded to nominate Mr. Armstrong as Council Minority Leader for the 2026-2028 term of Council.

President Mitchell asked if there were any other nominations for Minority Leader?

Lipian moved, Armstrong seconded to close nominations.

MOTION CARRIED

President Mitchell asked for a roll call vote of the Minority member of Council for the election of Council.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYE: Lipian, Armstrong

NAY: 0

ABSENT: 0

MOTION CARRIED

President Mitchell stated that Mr. Armstrong has been elected as Council Minority Leader.

3. BUSINESS OF THE MEETING Continued

President Mitchell stated thus far, Council has operated without any rules. The proposed Council Rules for the 2026--2028 term were distributed this evening.

Davis moved, Cerra seconded to adopt the Council Rules, Committees and Seating Arrangements for the Council Term 2026-2028.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

AYE: Cerra, Van Wormer, Armstrong, Rothgery, Davis, Tollett, Lipian, Oswald, Doehne, Schneider, Mitchell

NAY: 0

ABSENT: 0

MOTION CARRIED

President Mitchell stated before they proceed with the regular order of business, she would like to recommit all matters that were in Council Committees to the same Committee of the new Council. This includes all matters still pending or matters that have not been acted upon.

President Mitchell called the Regular Council Meeting back to order and asked Clerk Stewart for a roll call.

2. ROLL CALL: COUNCIL MEMBERS:

PRESENT: Cerra, Van Wormer, Armstrong, Rothgery, Davis, Tollett, Lipian, Oswald, Doehne, Schneider, Mitchell

ABSENT: None

OTHERS

PRESENT: Mayor Brubaker, Safety Service Dir. Pyanowski, Finance Dir. Pileski, Law Dir. Deery, Police Chief Welsh, Fire Chief Pronesti, Eng. Schneider, City Planner Schoenig, HR Dir. Yousefi

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

Clerk Stewart read the call to public hearing:

You are hereby notified that a Public Hearing will be held on
Monday, January 5th, 2026 at 7:00 P.M. to consider the following:

An Ordinance Granting a Conditional Use Permit Pursuant to Chapter 1135 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Elyria, Ohio, to Hill Tide Ventures, LLC for a Multi-Family Residential Housing Development, at Real Property located at West River Rd., North, Elyria, Ohio

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS: Continued

President Mitchell asked if there were any proponents
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There were none

President Mitchell asked if there any opponents?
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President Mitchell asked if there any opponents?
There were none

President Mitchell declared the public hearing had been held.

No Sponsorship **ORDINANCE NO. 2026-1**
AN ORDINANCE GRANTING A CONDITIONAL USE
PERMIT PURSUANT TO CHAPTER 1135 OF THE
CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF ELYRIA,
OHIO, TO HILL TIDE VENTURES LLC FOR A
MULTI-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL HOUSING
DEVELOPMENT, AT REAL PROPERTY LOCATED AT
WEST RIVER ROAD NORTH, ELYRIA, OHIO.

Schneider moved, Tollett second to pass this ordinance on its third reading.

PASSAGE:

AYE: 11

NAY: 0

ABSENT: 0

MOTION CARRIED

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Cerra moved, Davis seconded that the regular meeting minutes of November 3, 2025 be approved as circulated.

MOTION CARRIED

Mayor Brubaker:

Welcomed all members of the new council. Thanked council for passing the new ordinance tonight.

5. REMARKS AND REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS:

Safety Service Director Pyanowski:

Welcomed all council members. Shared that the street planning consultant will present virtually at the committee meeting on 1/12. SSD shared about the great snow event and how well the efforts were. Council member Oswald expressed his appreciation for the snow removal.

Council member Schneider also stated the snow removal was great. He also commended Parks and Rec on the great holiday lights, downtown and at Finwood.

Finance Director Pileski:

Finance Dir. Pileski congratulated Madam President on her new position and welcomed all members. He reminded the council members that he is always here to help them.

Law Director Deery:

Law Director Deery Welcomed everyone

EFD:

Congratulated all members

EPD:

Congratulated all members

ENG. Schneider:

Congratulated all members

City Planner Schoenig:

Congratulated all members

HR Dir. Yousefi:

Congratulated all members

6. PRESIDENT'S REFERRALS AND REMONSTRANCES:

1. The matter of a request for rezone at 38550 & 38530 Chestnut Ridge Road.

REFERRED BY: LNL ELYRIA LLC D.B.A. LUV RETAIL DEVELOPMENT, INC.

REFERRED TO: PLANNING COMMISSION/ COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

2. The matter of disposal of city property unfit for municipal use: IBM#1010.

REFERRED BY: PWS EYE

REFERRED TO: FINANCE

3. The matter of amendment #3- the Professional Service Agreement for the Water Treatment Plant Improvements and Upgrades.

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6. PRESIDENT'S REFERRALS AND REMONSTRANCES: Continued

REFERRED BY: ENGINEER SCHNEIDER

REFERRED TO: FINANCE

4. The matter of amendment to Exhibit 'C' of the Rural Lorain County Water Authority.

REFERRED BY: PWS CONNER

REFERRED TO: FINANCE.

7. PETITIONS--LOBBY: None None

8. PETITIONS--COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

9. REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES: None

10. RESOLUTIONS--FIRST READING: None

11. RESOLUTIONS--SECOND READING: None

12. RESOLUTIONS--THIRD READING: None

13. ORDINANCES--FIRST READING: None

14. ORDINANCES--SECOND READING: None

15. ORDINANCES--THIRD READING: None

16. COMMITTEE CALLS:

UTILITIES 1/7/2026 6:00 P.M. All Referred Council Chambers w/Law Director, SSD,
Engineer, Bldg. Inspector, Comm. Dev. Director

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT 1/12/2026 6:00 P.M. All Referred Items Council Chambers
w/Mayor, Finance Director, Law Director, SSD, Engineer

FINANCE 1/12/2026 Immediately following Community Development All Referred Items
Council Chambers w/Mayor, Finance Director, Law Director, SSD, Engineer

STRATEGIC PLANNING 1/20/2026 Immediately following the Council Meeting Council
Chambers w/ Mayor, Safety Service Director, Finance Director, Law Director, Engineer

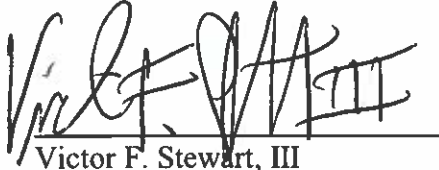
17. MISCELLANEOUS AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

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18. ADJOURNMENT:

Mitchell moved, Cerra seconded to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 7:26 P.M.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Victor F. Stewart, III", written over a horizontal line.

Victor F. Stewart, III
Clerk of Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Donna Mitchell", written over a horizontal line.

Donna Mitchell
President of Council

/RLP