

Approved 1/26/26

**The FINANCE COMMITTEE held a meeting on
Monday, January 12th, 2026 beginning at 6:45 P.M.**

(circulated 1/26/2026)

COM DEV PRESENT: Chair Schneider, Mitchell, Lipian, Rothgery, Doehne

FINANCE PRESENT: Chair Tollett, Cerra, Schneider, Davis, Van Wormer

OTHERS PRESENT: Armstrong, Stewart

EXCUSED ABSENCE:

OTHERS PRESENT: Law Dir Deery, Safety Svc Dir Pyanowski, Mayor Brubaker, Finance Dir Pileski, Fin Dir Farrell, Planner Schoenig, Engineer Schneider, Fire Chief Pronesti, Public Works Supt Conner, HR Dir Yousefi, Reclamation Supt Stewart

1. The matter of approval of meeting minutes from the Finance Committee Meeting, which took place on December 8th, 2025, and circulated on December 12th, 2025.

Motion made by Mr. Cerra and seconded by Mrs. Davis to approve the 'said' Meeting Minutes.

MOTION CARRIES

2. The matter of a 2026 Funding Contribution to the Elyria Community Partnership.

Referred By: Monet Roberts – Elyria Community Partnership

Monet Roberts of The Elyria Community Partnership introduced herself and gave the address of 225 East Ave., Elyria. She began by discussing the Elyria Community Partnership 2025 Impact Report which is attached to these meeting minutes as Exhibit 'A'. Ms. Roberts thanked the committee as well as the administration are what makes it possible for the Community Partnership to continue to do what they do. This is the second year that they have done this impact report. They want to highlight the total investment that is happening in Elyria along with profile information on the community. Ms. Roberts sat down with Placer AI and they got some insights from that. Typically, downtown sees about 10,000 people throughout the day according Placer AI. Elyria is the county seat and shows that information is helpful. Also, there is about 3,000 residents downtown. The economic impact has gone up substantially. The most recent Applefest had about 60,000 people attend in one day. They are working closely with all the events happening downtown so they can more readily collect this information and combine the numbers effectively together. They will continue this collaboration and what it means to the city.

She listed updates; they are in the final stages of the wayfinding and entryway planning program which is in partnership with the City. This is not just for downtown but for entryway and wayfinding for the whole city and to make it more welcoming. They did a workshop on November 17th with city employees and stakeholders in the community to help identify what represents Elyria and what's special here.

They have some schematic designs and were able to identify some tweaks and changes and they will have those presented in February.

They are hoping for a cohesive design to welcome visitors to Elyria and so that it flows throughout the community. Wayfinding and entryway placemaking will bring investments from other investors. This is a huge step forward. They also launched the mural call for artists and will have a workshop with hopefully a representative from City Council. The looking glass that was unveiled last summer in the square is still standing and they are currently working on the site plan for two additional looking glass markers. They are hoping to do the installation of those in June and will coincide with the walking tours and discover these unique pieces of Elyria's history and showcasing it in a special way. There will be a celebration in June in celebration of the 250th celebration.

They are excited about the Foster Lofts and that is looking to be completed in May. They have worked with business owners and have created a downtown database. And they are also building property owner information and connecting business owners with property owners with spaces that are available. They have an event and engagement coordinator, Libby and Ms. Roberts introduced her to the committee. Libby comes from the Solon Chamber of Commerce and she has been working with the database tool and business development.

2025 was a remarkable year and she's excited what 2026 is going to bring and it would not be possible without the support of the City and City Council. They are looking to be more collaborative and how they help more with some of the other events that are happening. They partnered with the Farmers Market and Garford Arts last year.

Chair Tollett thanked Ms. Roberts and asked Finance Dir Pileski if he allocated monies for Elyria Com Partnership for 2026?

Dir Pileski said they took a percent of the final 2025 permanent appropriations. If there was anything in the 2025, there would be some of that in the Temporary for 2026. If they committee chooses to move forward with the whole amount there are other line items within the Economic Dev Dept that can be moved into that line item.

Chair Tollett asked Dir Pileski if he would recommend that we move forward with this or should we hold off until after the permanent budget is passed.

Dir Pileski stated it would probably be better to wait until after the permanent budget is passed.

Mrs. Davis said that the area coming off the turnpike onto Rt 57 going either way, north or south is just not looking good and she hopes those entry ways will be fixed with as part of the project Ms. Roberts was talking about.

Mr. Roberts said they have looked at other cities entryways to get ideas from the Work with Guide Studio. They have also presented a detailed report on those things in the city. The report also says that we have too many billboards.

Mrs. Davis asked when the Foster Ave Senior Loft will be starting? Ms. Roberts said that is phase 2 and that depends on funding if they will get the funding. And that phase, phase 2 will have to come back to the city to pass as family living instead of senior only.

Mr. Schneider thanked Ms. Roberts on her presentation. He asked if the city signage update is in conjunction with the Planning Dept.?

Mayor Brubaker said that project is part of the Engineering Dept and it will be in accordance with wayfinding that is part of the new zoning code.

President Mitchell asked Mayor Brubaker about phase 2 of the Foster lofts, which she thought was a one-time deal.

Mayor Brubaker said they would have to come back to council for phase 2 of the project, for the building of it, not for funding. The \$250,000 that city appropriated was that they had to take down the old school, which they did and the city will pay that invoice after the permanent budget is in place. They are responsible for their own funding for that phase of the project.

Mrs. Mitchell asked Ms. Roberts where the grant funding came from?

Ms. Roberts said, Nord Family Foundation is the largest supporter, City of Elyria, Key Bank, Huntington Bank and PNC Bank, Lorain County Public Health Dept., and The Community Foundation. They were able to give about \$27,000 in funding support to small businesses last year.

Chair Tollett asked for a motion to table this matter until after the permanent budget is passed.

Motion made by Mrs. Davis, second by Mr. Cerra to Table this matter until after the Permanent Budget is passed.

MOTION CARRIES **COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

3. The matter of entering into a contract for the purchase of chemicals for the Water Treatment Plant for the years 2026 and 2027.

Referred By: Superintendent S. Naelitz
[This matter was approved by Utilities Committee on 1/7/2026].

Supt Naelitz said this is the annual process where we go out for bid and enter into a contract for the purchase of chemicals for the Water Treatment Plant for '26 and '27. There is a small increase in the quantity of what is needed for this year partly because there may be a new municipal customer later this year. That additional sale of water will require additional water production.

Motion made by Mr. Cerra, second by Mr. Schneider to authorize an ordinance for the Mayor to go out for bid and enter into a contract for the purchase of the 'said' chemicals for '26 and '27. Emergency clause requested.

MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

4. The matter of entering into a contract for the purchase of chemicals for the WWPC Plant – Water Reclamation Facility for the years 2026 and 2027.

Referred By: Superintendent S. Stewart

[This matter was approved by Utilities Committee on 1/7/2026].

Supt Stewart said the is similar to the purchase of chemicals at the Pumping Plant, and annual housekeeping. The estimated amounts have increased from last year and it is hard to do a comparison of the cost per year. The estimated amounts of usage would be the maximum and are usually under that amount.

Motion made by Mrs. Davis, second by Mr. Cerra to authorize an ordinance for the Mayor to go out for bid and enter into a contract for the purchase of the 'said' chemicals for '26 and '27. Emergency clause requested.

MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

5. The matter of Amendment #3 for a Professional Service Agreement with Black & Veatch for Improvements and Upgrades at the Water Treatment Plant.

Referred By: Engineer Schneider

Engineer Schneider said they entered into a contract with Black & Veatch for assessments and design work. There is a total of three projects they are working on with us. This project will be for the final design for the chlorine building. The city received some deficiencies from the EPA and these need to be taken care. They will do the design and then come back to council before going out for bid. This amendment is for an additional \$367,075 to complete the work. Emergency clause.

Motion made by Mr. Cerra, second by Mr. Schneider to authorize an ordinance for the 'said' Amendment to the 'said' agreement.

MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

6. The matter of a Loan Agreement through DEFA for the Wet Weather Program, Activated Sludge Aeration Tank Improvement Project.

Referred By: Engineer Schneider

Engineer Schneider said this is to raise the overall rating of the plant up to 40 inches. It's part of the consent decree that we do this. Then will have to apply for the DEFA Loan to cover the costs, the DEFA loans are low interest of part of the loan can be forgiven. They are hoping to receive something from this.

They need to apply for that loan and the full amount needed is \$12,164,140, which is for construction engineering and inspection costs and construction costs.

They did bid it out and it was at \$10.5 million and it's in the temporary budget in the Wastewater pollution control fund, consent decree projects, we have to do it.

Motion made by Mr. Cerra, second by Mr. Schneider to authorize an ordinance for the 'said' Amendment to the 'said' agreement.

MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

7. The matter of a Project Change Order for the Leona Street, (Midway to Griswold) OPWC Project.

Referred By: Engineer Schneider

Engineer Schneider said they got favorable pricing with the Leona St project and had money left over. They did some additional curbing and sidewalks there. They bid for the project came in at \$95,150 and they need a change order approved up to the amount of \$118,811.36 to cover the final cost. It's under the grant amount as far as what we had to pay.

There were no questions and Chair Tollett read the committee report and asked for a motion.

Motion made by Mrs. Davis, second by Mr. Cerra to authorize the 'said' change order.

MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

8. The matter of hiring a Project Manager for the Waste Water Pollution Control Plant Water Reclamation Facility.

Referred By: HR Director Yousefi

Dir Yousefi said this is a position at the Reclamation Facility. They are looking to add a project manager. The position already exists in the City within The Water Dist. and Engineering Depts. There is a need for this because of so many EPA Changes and so much to be done with the Consent Decree. The current employee in the department is an Operations Supervisor and a lot of work has fallen on that employee without the correct pay. This will not add any new employees but will give a promotion to a current employee.

Dir Pyanowski said this was presented by Supt Stewart. Supt Stewart said this addition is needed because of these expensive projects, such as the 12.1-million-dollar project for the aeration basin project. They always look at what can they do in house with these large projects, using their own teams. That consent decree is in effect until 2040 and he doesn't see that need going away. It's a fair thing to do to have someone oversee these projects.

Mr. Van Wormer asked if there are any certifications needed form this employee?

Supt Stewart said this person has a class two water reclamation certificate which he has obtained and he is currently working on his class three to be a backup operator.

There were no further questions and Chair Tollett read the committee report and asked for a motion.

Motion made by Mr. Cerra, second by Mr. Schneider to authorize the 'said' position for the Water Reclamation Facility and amending applicable ordinances to facilitate the same. Emergency Clause requested.

MOTION CARRIES **COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

9. The matter of City property (Cemetery Dept.) which is unfit for use and to be disposed of by the best means possible.

Referred By: Public Works Supervisor R. Eye

Dir Pyanowski said this is a 2002 truck that is not safe to use.

There were no more questions and Chair Tollett read the committee report and asked for a motion.

Motion made by Mr. Cerra, second by Mr. Schneider to authorize a resolution to certify said charges as liens to the LC Auditor's Office.

MOTION CARRIES **COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

10. The matter of City property (Fire Dept.) which is unfit for use and to be disposed of by the best means possible.

Referred By: Fire Chief Pronesti

This matter was Tabled.

Motion made by Mr. Cerra, second by Mr. Schneider to Table this matter.

MOTION CARRIES **COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

11. The matter of delinquent and final utility accounts approved by the Utility Resolution Board and to be certified to the Lorain County Auditor's Office.

Referred By: Public Works Supt Conner

Supt Conner said this is a list of 29 accounts totaling \$18,802.15 approved at the EPU resolution board meeting. These accounts are past due and some are multi-units and some were sewer and sanitation only.

There were no questions and Chair Tollett read the committee report and asked for a motion.

Motion made by Mr. Cerra, second by Mr. Schneider to authorize a resolution to certify said charges as liens to the LC Auditor's Office.

MOTION CARRIES **COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

12. The matter of an Amendment to 'Exhibit C' of the Rural Lorain County Water Authority Agreement to reflect the new rates.

Referred By: Public Works Supt Conner

Supt Conner said this is an agreement that's been in effect with LC Rural Water since 2014. Each year they give us new rates which haven't changed in a few years.

This is only for the Chestnut Commons area, we bill for the water and they get a third of what we pay them quarterly.

There were no questions and Chair Tollett read the committee report and asked for a motion.

Motion made by Mr. Cerra, second by Mr. Schneider to authorize a resolution to certify said charges as liens to the LC Auditor's Office.

MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

13. The matter of Amending Elyria Codified Ordinance Ch. 137.01 regarding the number of Captains and Lieutenants on the Elyria Fire Department.

Referred By: Safety Svc Dir Pyanowski

Dir Pyanowski said Chapter 137.01 authorizes six Captains and seven Lieutenants and the Fire Dept is operating at and has been for some time at seven Captains and nine Lieutenants. The additional Lieutenants they are asking for have come about with the addition of the additional engine that is running out of the Cedar Street station to provide service to the southeast side of town. With the additional crew there are a number of firefighters who are riding up as lieutenants. They are asking to adjust this ordinance so they can increase that number and correct those numbers. This should ultimately balance the crews.

Chief Pronesti said they are at staffing levels where they were in the 1990's. With additional staffing. When there is a fire apparatus out on the street, someone has to be in charge of that and they operate as a team. The one in charge is usually the rank of lieutenant. When they department had a staffing of 50 they could get away with less supervision. But with the emphasis on safety, they need those numbers back up to where they were previously. He's asking for 12 lieutenants not 15 like they had in the past. They need to clean up the ordinance to reflect where the department is at. They are not adding more firefighters, they just need supervision for what they have.

Law Dir Deery said this is a housekeeping matter that is way overdue.

There were no additional questions and Chair Tollett read the committee report and asked for a motion.

Motion made by Mr. Cerra, second by Mr. Schneider to authorize an ordinance amending the 'said' codified ordinance to reflect the 'said' changes. Emergency clause.

MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

14. The matter of changes to the 2026 Temporary Appropriations.

Referred By: Finance Directors Pileski and Farrell *[Standing Referral]*.

Finance Dir Pileski said there are two changes to the temporary appropriations for this evening. They missed a few in Water Pumping, water fund, pumping dept and water distribution, asking to add \$136,776 to cover open P.O.'s and \$89,982 from capital outlay in water distribution dept. for open P.O.'s.

And adding \$16,700 in Civil Service operating & maintenance for Civil Service testing that has been going on for the Fire Department.

There were no further questions and Chair Tollett read the committee report and asked for a motion.
Motion made by Mr. Cerra, seconded by Mr. Schneider to authorize an ordinance for approval of the 'said' changes to the temporary appropriations for 2026.
MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

Chair Tollett said that is all the business of this evening's Finance Meeting and he asked for a motion to adjourn.

Motion made by Mr. Cerra and second by Mr. Schneider to adjourn the Finance Committee Meeting at 7:50 P.M.
MOTION CARRIES

That concluded this evening's meetings.

The Next Finance Meeting is scheduled for Monday, January 26th, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted by, 
Colleen Rosado, Secretary/Administrative Assistant

EXHIBIT 'A'

2025 IMPACT REPORT

ELYRIA COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Downtown Development:

 Special Events Counted: 32

 Special Event Attendance: 93,500

 Economic Impact: \$1,870,000 (\$20 Per Person)

 New Business Opened: 10

 Public Art Investment: \$35,778

 Completed Public Art Projects: 6

 Private Investment: \$12 Million+

 Storefronts with Direct Impact: 23

Elyria Community Partnership

 Donations from Community Businesses: \$25,500

 Individual Donations: \$13,171.88

 Grant Funds Raised: \$221,250

 Business Development Investment \$27,000

 ECP Events: 6

 Downtown Marketing & Event Sponsorship: \$13,800

 Collaborations: 35+

 Instagram Followers: 506  17% from 2024

 Facebook Followers: 3,939  16% from 2024

 Email Contacts: 843

Give Online:

elyriatogether.org/support



Scan the QR code

Community Profile

 Elyria Population: 54,030 (2025)

 Population Increase 29.91% (2012-2022)

 Median Household Income: \$53,204

 Median Home Value: \$197,500

 Median Average Age: 39.6

Building Community:

 Housing Investment: \$362.4 Million

 Volunteer Hours Donated: 1,200

 Value of Volunteer Hours: \$37,200



