

As circulated February 17, 2026
March 14, 2026 Regular Council Meeting
Elyria City Council

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The regular meeting of Elyria City Council was called to order on Monday February 17, 2026 at 6:59 p.m. by President Mitchell. President Mitchell opened the meeting requesting observance of a moment of silence. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by council member Rothgery. President Mitchell requested all cell phones please be turned off or placed on silent position out of respect for the council.

2. ROLL CALL: COUNCIL MEMBERS

PRESENT: Cerra, VanWormer, Armstrong, Rothgery, Davis, Oswald, Lipian, Doehne, Schneider, Mitchell

ABSENT: Tollett

Cerra moved VanWormer seconded to excuse Tollett absence.

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Brubaker, SSD Pyanowski, Fin. Dir. Pileski, Law Director Deery, Police Chief Welsh, Engineer Schneider, Chief Pronesti

3. PUBLIC HEARINGS: None

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Cerra moved, Armstrong seconded to approve the meeting minutes of December 1, 2025 council meeting.

MOTION CARRIED

5. REMARKS AND REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS:

Mayor:

Mayor Brubaker provided an update on a NOPEC grant that the city of Elyria will use to offer resident's assistance with emergency heating and cooling repairs if their HVAC fails. The Chronicle Telegram will write an article pertaining to the program in the Wednesday February 18th edition of the paper. Mayor Brubaker shared that the city would use \$100,000 of the NOPEC funds to create a grant program for emergency HVAC and hot water tank repairs.

SSD:

SSD Pyanowski provided an update on Saturday February 7th, after the streetlights turned on, several of the sanitation employees were paired in two-men crews to drive the city and identify street lights that were out, using the sanitation routes. Five hundred lights were identified, a report was created to send to First Energy. Contact has been made with the new first Energy rep. The response from First Energy is that some of the lights would be replaced with LED lights and the timeframe would be approximately three months.

Finance Director:

Finance Director Pileski provided an update on the 2026 permanent appropriations budget. He shared with council that the final budget should be delivered for their review by February 18th for discussion at the next finance committee meeting. He encouraged council members to call him with any questions and cautioned council that the general fund does not look well.

February 17, 2026
Regular Council Meeting
Elyria City Council

5. REMARKS AND REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS: Continued

EPD:

Chief Welsh approached council for approval to send Sgt. Adam Garvin to the Spring 2026 CALEA Conference in Arizona, scheduled for March 10–14, 2026. The training will provide Sgt. Garvin with essential training, networking opportunities and direct guidance from CALEA representatives to properly prepare for managing the Elyria Police Department’s next CALEA accreditation cycle.

Schneider moved to approve travel for Sgt. Garvin, Cerra seconded.

MOTION CARRIED

Law Director Deery: No Report

Law Director Deery approached council for approval to send herself and employee Rachel Branham to Nashville, Tn. April 7-10, 2026 for the Axon Conference. She explained the city of Elyria has a decade long contract with Axon. She explained the vendor has constant roll outs of new information. Rachel Branham manages records request with respect to the bodycam footage, as well as subpoenas related to that same footage.

Lipian moved to approve travel for Law Director Deery and Rachel Branham, Schneider seconded,

MOTION CARRIED

Council member Oswald asked if the DBR development agreement had been signed, what is the status of the pending lawsuit and where do we stand with the TIFF money, has any drawings, dimensions or surveys for the properties been submitted, and are there any deadlines set for all of this work to be completed by? Law Director Deery responded that no development agreement had been signed to the best of her knowledge by the developer. The city of Elyria signed September 2025 upon the legislation authorizing the city to enter the agreement becoming effective. TIFF monies are not generated until the projected is completed. There is no revenue to be produced. She further explained there is documentation that would have to be submitted to the state to facilitate TIFF money. Law Director Deery explained her understanding is that there are ongoing conversations with the Lorain County Port Authority and the developer in regard to the issuance of the bonds. In response to the legal proceedings, Law Director Deery shared the proceedings continued to be stayed. In December a status conference was held, the court at the request of the developer extended the stay and set another status for March 26th. There are no intentions to prolong the case. The city attorneys have done everything on their end that needed to be done. No deadlines were established. Council member Oswald asked again about drawings. Law Director Deery explained the drawings that were submitted by planning commission the tax increment financing schematics, were the drawings. Nothing new has been submitted.

Engineer Schneider stated the same as Law Director Deery that there are no new drawings. He explained that planning commission approved the preliminary plan and there has not been anything new submitted.

Engineer Schneider: No Report

Council member Oswald asked about the Burns Road sidewalk grant. He inquired if drainages could be covered while the sidewalks are being repaired. Engineer Schneider responded that SOQs are being prepared for hiring consultants. They are reviewing the roadwork along Burns

February 17, 2026
Regular Council Meeting
Elyria City Council

5. REMARKS AND REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS: Continued

Rd. Engineer Schneider stated they believe some stormwater work will be needed, however not certain to what degree. Any stormwater cost would be a 100 percent city cost. Council member Schneider inquired about the estimated completion time of the Lowell Street Sewer Project. Engineer Schneider responded that the contractor has run into some complications with the soil and difficulty digging. The project is taking longer than expected. The project is about three quarters of the way completed, Engineer Schneider anticipated a month and a half to two months more time to complete the sewer portion. The restoration and asphalt, plants and tree lawns would still need to be completed.

EFD: No Report

Chief Pronesti expressed what an honor and a pleasure it had been to be the Fire Chief of Elyria. He asked the council members to continue being the servant leaders that he knows of all of them. He shared that his replacement will be the best Fire Chief that the department has had. He expressed his appreciation to the administration and shared that it has been the best that he has worked for.

President Mitchell shared that she learned a lot from Chief Pronesti and wished him all the best.

6. PRESIDENT'S REFERRAL'S:

** Matter is completed or partially completed*

1. The matter adoption of the 2024 International Property Maintenance Code.

REFERRED BY: BO FARKAS

REFERRED TO: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

2. The matter of review and approval of Tax Incentive Review Council recommendations.

REFERRED BY: CDD SCOTT

REFERRED TO: FINANCE

3. The matter of Community Reinvestment Tax (CRA) Exemption Application Buckeye State Welding.

REFERRED BY: CDM ALMOBAYYED

REFERRED TO: FINANCE

4. The matter of authorizing the Mayor to advertise and award a construction contract for the Middle Avenue Sidewalk Replacement project.

REFERRED BY: ENGINEER SCHNEIDER

REFERRED TO: FINANCE

5. The matter of a request for Residential HVAC Energy Efficient Grant Program.

REFERRED BY: CDD SCOTT

REFERRED TO: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/ FINANCE

6. The matter of referral for consideration and authorization to enter into a new agreement with LCCC for continuation of the Elyria Skill City Program.

February 17, 2026
Regular Council Meeting
Elyria City Council

6. PRESIDENT’S REFERRAL’S: Continued

REFERRED BY: CDD SCOTT

REFERRED TO: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT/ FINANCE

Item 7 received and placed on file in the clerk’s office:

7. List of receipts collected by each division of the Clerk of Court’s office for January 2026.

7. PETITIONS- LOBBY:

Leon P. Robinson III-404 Furnace Street, Elyria- The Lorain Nexus HUB

8. PETITIONS–COUNCIL MEMBERS: None

9. REPORTS OF STANDING AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES: None

10. RESOLUTIONS FIRST READING:

Sponsored by

Finance

P. Tollett

C. Schneider

M. VanWormer

J. Cerra

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-6

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.

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

SUSPENSION

AYE: 10

NAY: 0

ABSENT: 1

MOTION CARRIED

PASSAGE

AYE: 10

NAY: 0

ABSENT: 1

MOTION CARRIED

11. RESOLUTIONS--SECOND READING: None

12. RESOLUTIONS--THIRD READING: None

February 17, 2026
Regular Council Meeting
Elyria City Council

13. ORDINANCES--FIRST READINGS:

Sponsored by
Community
Development

C. Schneider
E. Doehne
D. Mitchell
G. Rothgery

Finance

C. Schneider
P. Tollett
M. Van Wormer
J. Cerra

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-24

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE APPLICATION OF HUBERT OLIVER FOR IMPROVEMENTS AT 603, 605 AND 607 CLEVELAND STREET, ELYRIA, PURSUANT TO THE DOWNTOWN FAÇADE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, CREATED BY ORDINANCE 2019-19.

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

SUSPENSION	PASSAGE
AYE: 10	AYE: 10
NAY: 0	NAY: 0
ABSENT: 1	ABSENT: 1
MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED

Sponsored by
Finance

P. Tollett
C. Schneider
M. Van Wormer
J. Cerra

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-25

AN ORDINANCE RATIFYING THE MAYOR'S APPLICATION FOR, AND IF OFFERED, THE ACCEPTANCE OF, THE NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (NOPEC) 2026 ENERGIZED COMMUNITY GRANT(S) FUNDS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

SUSPENSION	PASSAGE	EMERGENCY
AYE: 10	AYE: 10	AYE: 10
NAY: 0	NAY: 0	NAY: 0
ABSENT: 1	ABSENT: 1	ABSENT: 1
MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED	MOTION CARRIED

Sponsored by
Utilities

D. Mitchell
K. Oswald
B. Davis
B. Armstrong

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-26

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE CITY OF ELYRIA EMS FEASIBILITY STUDY ADVISORY COMMITTEE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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

SUSPENSION	PASSAGE	EMERGENCY
AYE: 10	AYE: 10	AYE: 10
NAY: 0	NAY: 0	NAY: 0

Minutes Approved

February 17, 2026
Regular Council Meeting
Elyria City Council

13. ORDINANCES--FIRST READINGS:

ABSENT: 1
MOTION CARRIED

ABSENT: 1
MOTION CARRIED

ABSENT: 1
MOTION CARRIED

**Sponsored by
Strategic Planning**

- D. Mitchell
- B. Davis
- G. Rothgery
- B. Armstrong
- M. VanWormer
- J. Cerra
- C. Schneider
- E. Doehne
- K. Oswald
- A. Lipian
- P. Tollett

ORDINANCE NO. 2026-

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF ELYRIA CODIFIED ORDINANCE, PART ELEVEN, PLANNING AND ZONING CODE, TO BE EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 2026.

Public Hearing Scheduled 3/16/2026

15. ORDINANCES--THIRD READING: None

16. COMMITTEE CALLS:

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Mon. 2/23/2026 Beginning at 6:00 P.M. All Referred Items Council Chambers w/ C. Schneider, Chr., w/Mayor, Finance Director, Law Director, SSD, Engineer

FINANCE

Mon. 2/23/2026 Immediately following CD. All Referred Items Council Chambers w/ P. Tollett, Chr., w/Mayor, Finance Director, Law Director, SSD, Engineer

JOINT CD/FINANCE

Mon. 2/23/2026 Beginning at 6:00 P.M. All Referred Items Council Chambers w/ C. Schneider, Chr., w/ P. Tollett, Chr., w/Mayor, Finance Director, Law Director, SSD, Engineer

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Mon. 3/2/2026 Immediately following Council Meeting All Referred Items Council Chambers W/ Mayor, Safety Service Director, Finance Director, Law Director, Engineer

17. MISCELLANEOUS AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

Minutes Approved

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18. ADJOURNMENT:

Davis moved, Cerra seconded to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting at 7:25 p.m.

MOTION CARRIED



Victor Stewart, III

Clerk of Council



Donna Mitchell

President of Council

YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Tw6bWD5MGgI>

Rlp/

MOVING ON

Lorain football coach leaving for job with Brunswick,
SPORTS, B1

OPPOSITION

Protesters resist Trump, ICE
LOCAL, A9



THE CHRONICLE

T E L E G R A M

WEDNESDAY, February 18, 2026

\$2.60

Elyria accepts NOPEC money

Plan would fund emergency repairs

Owen MacMillan
The Chronicle-Telegram

On Tuesday, Elyria City Council voted to accept nearly \$100,000 from the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council, or NOPEC, which will be used to fund a new program to help residents repair their home heating and cooling systems.

Mayor Kevin Brubaker said that the money from NOPEC would be used to fund the creation of an emergency home repair program focusing on water heaters and heating, ventilation and air conditioning, or HVAC, systems.

The new program will mirror Elyria's existing emergency home

repair fund program, but will focus on heating and cooling because NOPEC money must be used for projects which improve energy efficiency.

"When your water heater goes out, that is an emergency," Brubaker told The Chronicle. "We will provide the dollars to replace it. If your HVAC goes out, heating or cooling, because we know seniors need air conditioning, we will replace that. Now, we are not doing the duct work and all that, we will replace the units."

NOPEC is a public aggregator that provides gas and electricity to users across Northeast Ohio, including in Elyria and most of Lorain County. The organization also provides grants and funding such as the energy efficiency grant Council received Monday.

Elyria has received money from NOPEC annually for many years, but

Brubaker said this would be the first time that money was used for a repair program for residents directly.

In the past, the city has used money it received from NOPEC for municipal emergency efficiency upgrades, like replacing the lights in City Square and at Howard Estates, and installing more efficient windows at City Hall.

In Brubaker's decision working with the city, he said he did not remember any previous time that NOPEC energy efficiency money was given directly to homeowners for projects.

"(NOPEC officials) were very happy that we were looking to do something with the money to basically give back to the community, because that is really where this money comes from," Brubaker said. "This just came to me one night watching the news. I am listening to what is happening with

the economy and what is going on in our city, and this just popped into my head. And fortunately, NOPEC was 100 percent on board."

To try and reach more residents, the program will have a higher income limit than the city's existing home repair program. Because the current program uses federal funding, it must abide by Department of Housing and Urban Development income limits, but NOPEC places no such requirements on the funding it will give to the city.

"These (federal) grants are typically for low to moderate income households, but there are people just above that level who may have a need at times as well," Brubaker said. "So this is going to bridge that gap a little bit."

Brubaker said that the city does not currently have any plans to fund

the program out of the Elyria general fund or 2016 half-percent income tax, but added that if the program is successful, it would consider seeking additional NOPEC funding and using next year's annual grant money to run the program again.

Although the money has been accepted, Council still needs to approve the creation of the emergency repair program. Brubaker said that he had referred the matter to go before the Finance Committee next week, where it could be sent to Council for final approval on March 2.

He said that if the program is approved, the city would start accepting applications shortly after and money would be granted on a first-come, first-served basis.

Contact Owen MacMillan at 440.329.1123 or owenm@chronicle.com.

2 guilty in fatal ATV crash



BRUCE BISHOP / CHRONICLE PHOTOS

Attorney Maggie Leux is pictured with her client, Jordan Phillips, as he pleads guilty Tuesday to aggravated vehicular homicide charges that came from a crash that killed Kyle Hill in November 2024.

2024 Camden Township ATV rollover crash killed their friend

Dave O'Brien
The Chronicle-Telegram

Two men involved in a 2024 crash on state Route 303 that killed a Camden Township man pleaded guilty Tuesday to felony charges in Lorain County Common Pleas Court.

David Tiptoe, 28, of Wakeman Township in Huron County, pleaded guilty to two counts of felonious assault and one count of aggravated vehicular homicide, all felonies, plus one count of reckless operation, a misdemeanor.

agreement

Sentencing in both their cases is set for April 6 in Judge Christen's courtroom. Both were charged in connection with the crash that killed Kyle Hill, 21.

Phillips agreed to testify against Tiptoe as part of his plea agreement. The Prosecutor's Office then agreed to recommend Phillips be sentenced to community control, Assistant Prosecutor Paul Griffin said in court.

Speaking via Zoom call at Tuesday's plea hearings, Hill's mother Debra Sutton demanded a prison sentence for the defendants.

"That's my goal," she said, "however that comes about."

Cook noted that the victim's father, Brent Hill, had requested leniency for the defendants.

See ATV, A2



David Tiptoe listens to the judge as he pleads guilty Tuesday to aggravated vehicular homicide charges that came from a crash that killed Kyle Hill.

VERMILION

Mayor says sewer plan is not city's

Dave O'Brien
The Chronicle-Telegram

Vermilion Mayor Russ Owens said Tuesday he wanted to reassure any concerned Vermillion residents that a proposed wastewater treatment plant within city limits that was discussed Friday by Lorain County commissioners is a county project, not a city project.

He said he was just as surprised as the dozen or more Vermillion residents who called city officials with questions on Friday, as his own city struggles with updating its wastewater

treatment infrastructure.

"The Lorain County wastewater plant and sewer line is strictly a Lorain County project. This is not a Vermillion city project," Owens said Tuesday.

He said he's had positive discussions about wastewater infrastructure with commissioners, but wasn't aware they planned to announce a \$3.2 million consulting contract to design sewer lines that would connect to a proposed wastewater treatment plant in his city.

He said he was just as surprised as the dozen or more Vermillion residents who called city officials with questions on Friday, as his own city struggles with updating its wastewater

See SEWER, A2

NEW RUSSIA TOWNSHIP

Trustees set up meeting on mega site

The Chronicle-Telegram

NEW RUSSIA TOWNSHIP — Township trustees will meet at 6 p.m. March 11 to consider the township zoning commission's recommendation to deny rezoning for the 422-acre mega site property.

The zoning commission voted 4-1 on Feb. 10 to recommend denying the rezoning application by Liberty Development on behalf of its four clients. The commission is appointed, and the final decision rests with the

trustees. In January, the county planning commission made an advisory-only recommendation that supported rezoning the property.

The township zoning commission's recommendation came after a nearly three-hour long hearing that included unanimous public comment against the change, citing concerns about construction, noise, flooding, traffic, the loss of farmland and the effect on their property values.

See MEGA SITE, A2



BREEZY,
RAINY

High of 64, Low of 40.
Forecast on A10

INDEX

ACCENT A6-7
ADVICE A7

BUSINESS B9
CLASSIFIEDS B10

COMICS B6-7
CROSSWORD B8

OBITUARIES A8, B8
OPINION A4-5

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