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*Circulated 2/25/26*

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**The JOINT CD and FINANCE Committee held a meeting on Monday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2026 beginning at 6:05 P.M.**

**FINANCE PRESENT:** Chair Tollett, Cerra, Schneider, Van Wormer, Davis  
**COM DEV PRESENT:** Chair Schneider, Mitchell, Rothgery, Doehne  
**OTHERS PRESENT:** Armstrong  
**EXCUSED ABSENCE:** Oswald, Lipian

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Law Dir Deery, Safety Svc Dir Pyanowski, Mayor Brubaker, Finance Dir Pileski, Assistant Dir Farrell, Engineer Schneider, CD Director A. Scott, CD Manager Almobayyed

**1. The matter of approval of meeting minutes from the JOINT Community Development & Finance Committee Meeting, on February 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026, as circulated on February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026.**

CD ~ Motion made by Mrs. Mitchell and seconded by Mrs. Rothgery to approve the said Joint Meeting Minutes.  
Finance ~ Motion made by Mr. Cerra and seconded by Mr. Van Wormer to approve the said Joint Meeting Minutes.

**MOTION CARRIES BY BOTH COMMITTEES**

**2. The matter of Adopting the 2025 Report of the Elyria Tax Incentive Review Council, which met on February 5, 2026.**

Referred By: Community Development Director Scott

Dir Scott said TIRC met on February 5<sup>th</sup> to review contractual compliance of the various companies which have CRA and Enterprise Zone Agreements. It was determined that all the companies complied with their agreements. It's recommended to approve the report and continue the abatement at their current levels. Foster Senior Lofts requested an extension of their hiring dates to push back and extend the hiring and completion date to the end of this calendar year and the TIRC recommended approval of that amendment to their agreement. That completed Dir. Scott's comments and there were no questions.

*There were no questions and Chair Schneider read the committee report and asked for a motion:*

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:**

**Motion made by Mrs. Mitchell and second by Mrs. Rothgery to authorize a resolution authorizing the adopting the report of the Elyria Tax Incentive Review Council and Emergency Clause is requested due to timeline for reporting to the State.**

**MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

*Chair Tollett asked for a motion:*

**FINANCE:**

**Motion made by Mrs. Davis and second by Mr. Cerra to authorize a resolution authorizing the adopting the report of the Elyria Tax Incentive Review Council and Emergency Clause is requested due to timeline for reporting to the State.**

**MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

**3. The matter of a CRA Tax Exemption Application from Buckeye State Welding located in Community Reinvestment Area #2, 131 Buckeye Street.**

Referred By: Community Development Manager Almobayyed

Manager Almobayyed said this is for a community reinvestment area tax abatement with Buckeye State Welding at 131 Buckeye St. They are requesting a 15-year 75% CRA Abatement to support a 2.81-million-dollar investment in the facility. They anticipate to be completed by March 2027 and will include two full-time positions generating approximately \$150,000 in new annual payroll for the city. Proper notice has been served to the affected school districts and they have not rec'd any questions or concerns from them. This does not require formal approval, only notification. They are asking to pass as emergency due to State requirements, which is within 14 days of execution and those requirements also direct communities to submit the full executed agreement and supporting documents within 15 days, Council approval and emergency passage will allow to remain complaint with these timelines.

Mr. Van Wormer asked if the 75% is a standard request?

Ms. Almobayyed said they usually grant between 75 and 100%. Anything over 75% requires school board approval.

Mrs. Mitchell asked if this is an expansion?

Ms. Almobayyed said this is both an expansion and improvements to the facility.

Ms. Almobayyed said Buckeye Welding is in attendance to answer more questions.

Jim Yorks, 7525 Leavitt Rd., Amherst, is the architect on the project and a friend of the owner, introduced himself.

Ken Reddinger Jr., 152 Buckingham Dr., Elyria introduced himself and he is the owner of this business and he introduced his son Ryan who is the business partner and in the audience. Mr. Reddinger said they are looking to expand the business. The main office is a 120-year-old building and a small machine shop. He has purchased 11 lots over the past seven years. They just need more space, newer facilities and offices and more manufacturing space.

Chair Schneider thanked Mr. Reddinger for his investment in our city.

Mr. Tollett asked how long Buckeye State Welding has been around?

Mr. Reddinger said next year will be 70 years. It's a long-time family business. Things are going well with the business.

Mr. Yorks said they are basically doubling the size of the facility. The building itself is a big industrial building and it's done tastefully with appropriate landscaping, drainage, screening, etc. There is a new 2-story office building in the front of the building.

Mrs. Davis asked how many employees do they currently have?

Mr. Reddinger said they have the 2 locations; the location on Buckeye Street has 10 employees. The other location is the fabricating shop which is located on Woodford and there are 6 employees at that location. The projected completion date is Spring 2027.

Mr. Yorks said this is a great project to invest in and partner with. Good business owners who have been a part of this city and will continue to be a part of this city. The area on Buckeye Street is an industrial area and any improvements that they can do within that context to improve that will improve the entire neighborhood, which is the end goal.

*There were no more questions and Chair Schneider read the committee report and asked for a motion:*

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:**

**Motion made by Mrs. Mitchell and second by Mrs. Rothgery to authorize an ordinance authorizing the 'said' CRA Tax Abatement request, Emergency clause requested to meet State requirements.**

**MOTION CARRIES**

**COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

*Chair Tollett asked for a motion:*

**FINANCE:**

**Motion made by Mr. Cerra and second by Mrs. Davis to authorize an ordinance authorizing the 'said' CRA Tax Abatement request, Emergency clause requested to meet State requirements.**

**MOTION CARRIES**

**COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

**4. The matter of a Residential HVAC Energy Efficiency Grant Program.**

Referred By: Community Development Director Scott

Director Scott asked the Mayor to begin the discussion on this matter.

Mayor Brubaker said this is what he had addressed at the last Council Meeting and an article was published in the Chronicle explaining this grant. We did get approval from NOPEC to proceed with this. He thanked Dir Calvert, Dir Scott and Ms. Almabayyed for their work in putting this program together quickly so it can be rolled out. He is hoping to be able to help some residents in an emergency situation with HVAC and water tanks.

Dir Scott said a copy of the program was delivered to the Clerk's office. This program will provide grants up to \$10,000 per household. It would address inoperable or faulty furnaces, AC units, heat pumps, hot water tanks and any electrical or ventilation upgrades required for the installation. The amount would be funded not to exceed \$100,000 provided by NOPEC. There is an income requirement, which is slightly higher than the CDBG program requirement. This would allow more residents to apply. They set the program up like the Spruce up Elyria program. The homeowners will be responsible for obtaining a minimum of two quotes to ensure reasonable costs. The housing rehab specialist will be highly involved. She will go the site to make sure the need is there. The contractors will be registered with the Building Department and proper licenses. The City will provide payment directly to the contractor upon completion. That is an overview of guidelines.

This program is open to owner occupied properties only and there will be no repayment or loan process.

Mrs. Mitchell asked what is the income required?

Dir Scott said they spoke to different social service agencies and agreed that 150% of the area median income would be the limit. We currently cap out at 80%. For a family of four, it would be roughly \$140,000 gross annual income.

*There were no more questions and Chair Schneider read the committee report and asked for a motion:*

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:**

**Motion made by Mrs. Mitchell and second by Mrs. Rothgery to authorize an ordinance authorizing the implementation of the 'said' program.**

**MOTION CARRIES**

**COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

*Chair Tollett asked for a motion:*

**FINANCE:**

**Motion made by Mr. Cerra and second by Mr. Van Wormer to authorize an ordinance authorizing the implementation of the 'said' program.**

**MOTION CARRIES**

**COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

**5. The matter of a New Agreement with Lorain County Community College for Continuation of the Elyria Skill City Program for the Year 2026.**

Referred By: Community Development Director Scott

Dir Scott said the Skill City Program was established in March of 2021 as a job and economic development initiative to provide tuition gap scholarships to help eligible Elyria residents. The programs are for education and industry recognized credentials and workforce training.

Authorization is requested for funding in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 for 2026. There was \$60,000 remaining on the prior year agreement which ended at the end of 2025. Those funds are currently under a purchase order and we would put that back into the budget and open a new purchase order. The total amount available is \$100,000 and would be paid for with 2016 ½ percent income tax, economical development funds.

Cynthia Kushner from LCCC is here to give a presentation on the program.

Cynthia Kushner, 3540 Edgewater Dr., Vermilion. She is glad to be here to provide an update and perhaps an introduction for the new council members. Ms. Kushner's presentation on the update of Skill City is attached to these meeting minutes and known to all as Exhibit A.

The program began March 2021. This is a gap scholarship and they apply all other forms of aid available to Elyria residents to fill the gap which may stop a student from completing their certificate or degree. They have narrowed down the number of programs to about 15 high impact, high opportunity areas for Elyria and northeast Ohio. Also, jobs where the employee can grow with it and have that family sustaining wage. So far, they have had had about 285 students enrolled in the program. Average age is about 29, average award is about \$1100.00 per student. The idea of these programs is that they are short-term in nature, and they stack. Individuals are expected to earn as they learn. The primary programs are advanced manufacturing, IT, healthcare and finance programs as well. They received about 17% of graduates from the program that responded to update on their work progress. Of those employed full or part-time, 89% indicate they earned while working on getting their certificate or degree and 46% are currently working full-time. 34% are employed in Elyria and 15% are employed in Lorain County.

Ms. Kushner expressed her gratitude to the City of Elyria; this program has changed lives.

Chair Schneider thanked Ms. Kushner and agrees that the college is truly one of the best assets of our community.

Mr. Armstrong asked if the students are eligible to get more than one of these certificates? Ms. Kushner said yes, they can obtain more than one to give them a better opportunity for successful careers. They actually put that expectation out there, especially for those short-term programs.

Mr. Tollett wanted to understanding the funding better. We had \$60,000 that carried over from last year and are we looking at \$40,000 in new money for the program?

Dir Scott said yes. The current contract expired at the end of 2025 with \$60,000 remaining from that agreement.

Mrs. Mitchell asked if the college works with students to help them find jobs? Ms. Kushner said yes, they do. She is the director of the school workforce and community partnership, which is the employer end. Then they have career services, which actively reaches out to those students to help them find employment.

Dir Pileski said that there is money in the permanent appropriations.

*There were no more questions and Chair Schneider read the committee report and asked for a motion:*

**COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:**

**Motion made by Mrs. Rothgery and second by Mrs. Mitchell to authorize an ordinance authorizing the continuation of the 'said' program.**

**MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

*Chair Tollett asked for a motion:*

**FINANCE:**

**Motion made by Mr. Cerra and second by Mr. Schneider to authorize an ordinance authorizing the continuation of the 'said' program.**

**MOTION CARRIES COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

*There is no further business to come before the Community Development Committee and Chair Schneider asked for a motion to adjourn Community Development.*

**Motion made by Mrs. Rothgery and second by Mrs. Mitchell to adjourn the Community Development Committee portion of this evening's meetings at 6:35 P.M.**

**MOTION CARRIES**

***The evening's meetings continued with Finance Committee which began at 6:37 P.M.***

***The Next Joint Meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026.***

Respectfully Submitted by,  
Colleen Rosado, Secretary/Administrative Assistant







A jobs and economic development initiative

Elyria Skill City provides a tuition scholarship for tuition gaps for Elyrians pursuing in-demand skills.



February 2026

## Eligible 16-Week or Less Programs\*

### Health Care Programs

#### Credit Programs

- Emergency Medical Technician
- Healthcare Technology
- Medical Coding
- State Tested Nursing Assistant

### Business Programs

#### Credit Programs

- Accounting Clerk with QuickBooks
- Customer Service
- Guest Services in Hospitality
- Pre-License Real Estate Sales Agent

#### Non-Credit Programs

- Project Management Program

### Information Technology Programs

#### Credit Programs

- Business IT Fundamentals
- Computer Diagnostics and CompTIA A+ Cert Prep
- Computer Networking and CompTIA
- Information Security for Business
- Network Infrastructure Technology/CCNA
- Software Development Fundamentals
- Software Development Introduction
- Web Design Fundamentals
- Web Programming Fundamentals

### Manufacturing Programs

#### Credit Programs

- Electronics Fabrication
- Industrial Safety Technology/Technician
- Mechatronics technology – Micro-Electromechanical Systems
- Manufacturing Foundations
- Machining Technician
- Robotics Operator
- Welding Technology and AWS-3F Certification
- Welding Technology – Basic Welding
- Welding Technology – Welding & Visual Inspection

#### Non-Credit Programs

- Additive Manufacturing
- Assembly
- Engineering
- Machining
- Maintenance
- Quality

\*FastTrack program list is subject to changes.

Fast-Track to Employment Programs

## Eligible Two Semester (32 Week) Programs\*

### Business and Entrepreneurship

- Accounting – Bookkeeper I
- Accounting Bookkeeper II
- Accounting – Payroll Clerk
- General Business Administration
- Government/Not-for-Profit Accounting Specialist
- Real Estate
- Tax Specialist

### Computers and IT

- Blockchain Bootcamp I – Blockchain System Architect
- Blockchain Bootcamp II – Blockchain Developer
- Computer Maintenance & Networking
- Cyber Security Bootcamp I – Cyber Security Specialist
- Digital Forensics and CompTIA+ Security Certification Preparation

- Network Administration
- Network Security Foundations

### Engineering and Manufacturing

- Computer Aided Design
- Computer-Aided Machining/Manufacturing Processes
- Construction and Renovation Tradesman
- Entry-level Machining Technician
- Environmental Safety
- General Technician
- Industrial Electrical Technician
- Industrial Internet of Things
- Industrial Mechanical Technician
- Maintenance Technician
- Manufacturing Foundations
- Right Skills Now
- Welding Technology – Advanced Welding
- Welding Technology – Gas Metal Arc Welding

- Welding Technology – Welding

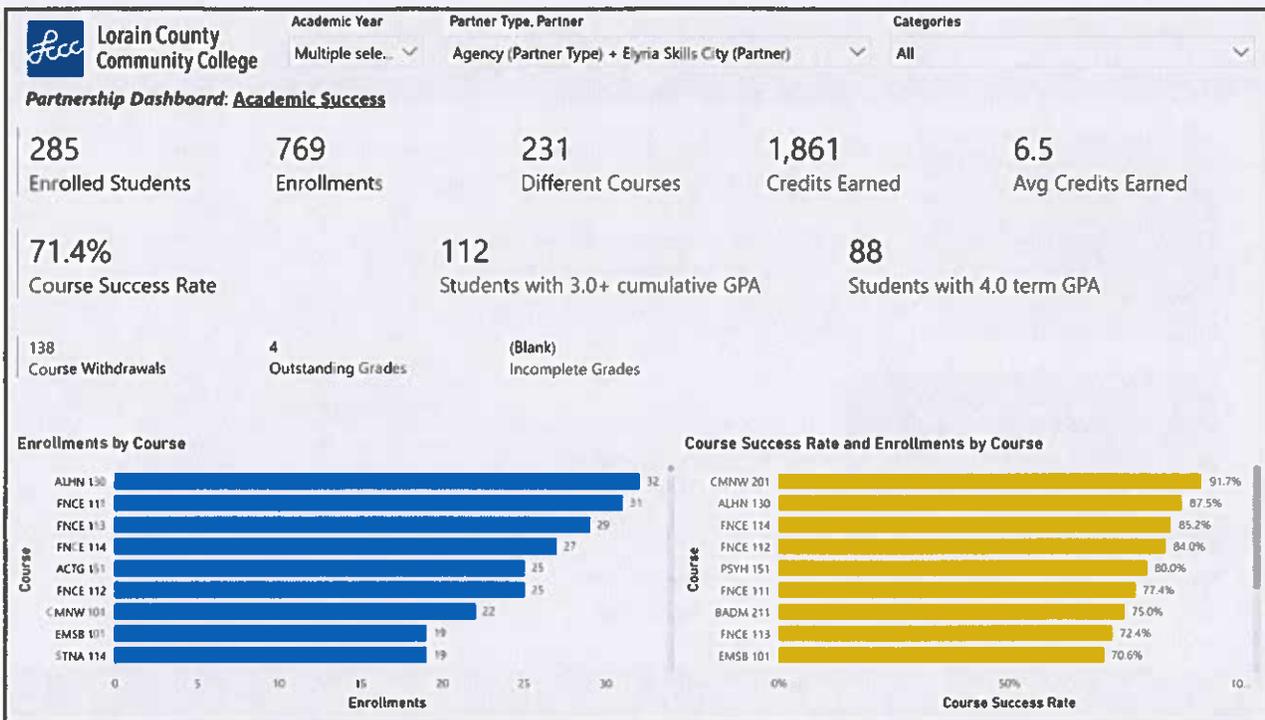
### Health and Wellness

- Health & Wellness Coaching and Promotion
- Phlebotomy
- Sterile Processing

\*FastTrack program list is subject to changes.

## Fast-Track to Employment Programs





## Employment Updates – Grad Tracking Survey

Employment Status	Percent of total
Full time	46.19%
Part time	34.60%
Seeking employment	6.45%
Skipped Question	12.76%
Total	100.00%

Of those employed Full or Part time, 89% indicated they apply to some degree skills and knowledge from the program at their work.

Top industries where graduates are working:

- Health Care and Social Assistance
- Information Technology (IT)
- Manufacturing

Employed at same, different or first job since first enrolling	Percent of those employed
Different job	50.81%
First job in field	11.97%
Same job	37.23%
Total	100.00%

Of those that provided a location of their employer, 34% are within Elyria and another 15% within Lorain County.

Of those that reported beginning a new job, 64% reported one or more of the following changes; higher level position, higher pay, and/or increased responsibilities.

Reported Annual Earnings	Percent of total employed Full time
\$35,000 - \$44,999 (hourly ~ \$17 - \$21.99)	28.37%
\$45,000 - \$ 54,999 (hourly ~ \$22-\$25.99)	4.59%
\$45,000 - \$54,999 (hourly ~ \$22 - \$25.99)	36.35%
\$75,000 or over	22.23%
Skipped Question	8.47%
Total	100.00%

89% reported receiving access to benefits like retirement, health care

### Fast-Track to Employment Programs

## Elyria Skills City Awards



Credential	Program	Credentials Awarded
Certificate of Completion	Medical Coding	28
Certificate of Completion	Pre-License Real Estate Sales Agent	21
Associate of Applied Science	Associate Degree Nursing	15
Certificate of Completion	Computer Diagnostics & CompTia A+ Certification Preparation	14
Short Term Tech Certificate	Emergency Medical Services - Emergency Medical Technician	13
Associate of Arts	Universal Arts	12
Certificate of Completion	State Tested Nurse Aide (STNA)	9
Short Term Tech Certificate	General Business Administration	8
Associate of Science	Universal Science	7
Certificate of Completion	Computer Information Systems - Software Development Introduction	6
Associate of Applied Business	Accounting	4
Bachelor of Applied Science	Manufacturing Engineering Technology - Microelectronic Manufacturing	4
Certificate of Completion	Electronic Engineering Technology - Electronics Fabrication	4
Certificate of Completion	Welding Technology - Gas Metal Arc Welding	4
Certificate of Completion	Welding Technology and AWS-3F Certification Preparation	4
Associate of Applied Science	Manufacturing Engineering Technology - Microelectronic Manufacturing	3

## Elyria Skills City Awards



Certificate of Completion	Accounting Clerk with Quickbooks	3
Certificate of Completion	Entry Level Machining Technician	3
Certificate of Completion	Insurance Fast-Track	3
Short Term Tech Certificate	Accounting - Bookkeeper I	3
Associate of Applied Business	Business Administration - Human Resource Management	2
Associate of Applied Science	Automation Engineering Technology - Systems Specialist	2
Associate of Applied Science	Occupational Therapy Assistant	2
Associate of Applied Science	Radiologic Technology	2
Certificate of Completion	Digital Forensics and CompTia+ Security Certification Preparation	2
Certificate of Completion	Robotics Operator	2
One Year General Certificate	General Arts and Sciences	2
One Year Technical Certificate	Manufacturing Engineering Technology - Microelectronic Manufacturing	2
One Year Technical Certificate	Practical Nursing	2
Short Term Tech Certificate	Accounting - Bookkeeper II	2
Short Term Tech Certificate	Accounting - Payroll Clerk	2
Short Term Tech Certificate	Customer Service	2
Short Term Tech Certificate	Phlebotomy	2
Short Term Tech Certificate	Sterile Processing	2
Associate of Applied Business	Business Administration - Management	1
Associate of Applied Business	Business Administration - Marketing	1

## Elyria Skills City Awards



Associate of Applied Business	Computer Information Systems - Mobile Device Application Development	1
Associate of Applied Business	Computer Information Systems - Network Communications Technologies	1
Associate of Applied Business	Computer Information Systems - Software Development	1
Associate of Applied Business	Computer Information Systems - Web Development	1
Associate of Applied Business	Data Analytics - Tools and Techniques	1
Associate of Applied Science	Clinical Laboratory Science Technology	1
Associate of Applied Science	Cyber and Information Security	1
Associate of Applied Science	Dental Hygiene	1
Associate of Applied Science	Electronic Engineering Technology - Applied Electronics	1
Associate of Applied Science	Electronic Engineering Technology - Computer Maintenance/Networking	1
Associate of Applied Science	Human Services	1
Associate of Applied Science	Manufacturing Engineering Technology - Mechanical Design	1
Associate of Applied Science	Surgical Technology	1
Associate of Applied Science	Sustainable Agriculture	1
Certificate of Completion	Computer Information Systems - Introduction to Networking	1
One Year Technical Certificate	Business Management	1
One Year Technical Certificate	Electronic Engineering Technologies - Applied Electronics	1
One Year Technical Certificate	Electronic Engineering Technologies - Computer Maintenance & Networking	1

Elyria Skills City Awards		
One Year Technical Certificate	Human Resource Management	1
One Year Technical Certificate	Manufacturing Engineering Technology - Computer Aided Design Operator	1
One Year Technical Certificate	Sustainable Agriculture	1
Short Term General Certificate	Success Coaching and Mentoring	1
Short Term Tech Certificate	Computer Information Systems - Network Infrastructure Technologies/CCNA	1
Short Term Tech Certificate	CyberSecurity Bootcamp I - Cybersecurity Specialist	1
Short Term Tech Certificate	Electronic Engineering Technologies - Computer Maintenance & Networking	1
Short Term Tech Certificate	Manufacturing Engineering Technologies - Computer Aided Design	1
Short Term Tech Certificate	Manufacturing Engineering Technology - Microelectronic Manufacturing	1
Short Term Tech Certificate	Specialty Crop Growers	1
Short Term Technical Certificate	Real Estate	1
Short Term Technical Certificate	Manufacturing Engineering Technology - Industrial Electrical Technician	1
Short Term Technical Certificate	Tax Specialist	1
<b>Total</b>		<b>229</b>