

**Minutes of the COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
which held a meeting on Monday, August 10th, 2026 at 6:00
p.m. *circulated 8/31/2026***

FINANCE PRESENT: Chair Tollett, Cerra, Schneider, Van Wormer, Davis
COM DEV PRESENT: Chair Schneider, Mitchell, Doehne, Rothgery
UTILITIES PRESENT: Chair Mitchell, Davis, Armstrong, Oswald, Rothgery
ABSENT: Lipian

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Brubaker, Asst Law Dir O'Bryon, Finance Dir Pileski,
Asst Finance Dir Farrell, Engineer Schneider, Public Works Supt. Conner, CD Mgr.
Almabayyed, Parks Dir Reardon, Legal Counsel Craig

1. The matter of approval of meeting minutes from the Community Development Committee Meeting, which took place July 13th, 2026, as *circulated on 7/30/2026*.
Motion made by Mrs. Mitchell and seconded by Mrs. Rothgery to approve these Meeting Minutes.
MOTION CARRIES

2. The matter of a PUBLIC HEARING for an application for Placement of 26.22 Acres of Farmland in an Agricultural District.
Referred by: Jeffrey and Lynette Fowl

Chair Schneider read the call to Public Hearing and asked for proponents:
First proponent is Lynette Fowl, 43655 Telegraph Road, Amherst Township and their part of the farm is in Amherst Township. But, the 26.22 acres of land that they want to have placed in the Agricultural District is actually located in Elyria.
Chair Schneider asked if there were any more proponents two more times and there were no other proponents.
Chair Schneider asked if there were any opponents three times, and there were none.
Chair Schneider declared that this Public Hearing has been held.

Chair Schneider read the Committee Report for this matter and asked for a motion.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT:
Motion made by Mrs. Mitchell and second by Mrs. Rothgery to authorize the 'said' Placement of 26.22 acres of Farmland in an Agricultural District.
MOTION CARRIES **COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN**

3. The matter of a Request for a New Liquor License for Al Lalim Temple #223, located at 1519 West Ave., Elyria.
Referred by: Ohio Division of Liquor Control

Chair Schneider called Chief Welsh to come up and speak on this matter. He received a liquor permit request for 1519 West Ave. former location of The Grenadiers Club. It's a request for new ownership license for a liquor permit under the applicant, Asa Knowles., called the 1519 Club, AL Lalim Temple #223. It's a request for a D4 Permit, which is for private clubs, such as VFW, Am Legion, they serve beer, wine & mixed drinks to members only and only until 1:00AM.

Based on Chief's investigation, he does not believe that it would be in the City's best interest based on Public Safety and could be detrimental to the neighborhood. He conducted his investigation and submitted his findings to the Division of Liquor Control and recommended that this Liquor Control Board not approve this request. The factors this was based on are that the applicant, Asa Knowles has a conviction for operating a vehicle while intoxicated, and that it is in close proximity to another liquor permit on that block at 1509 West Ave., which is a club called 'Just One More', which is a public club and is in the same block of the residential neighborhood. Two clubs on the same block could cause issues for police resources with excess liquor permits in a residential neighborhood.

There were issues with the owners of the previous club; which involved having the permit suspended or taken away based on tax issues. There were four police calls at the address just this year which included assault, felonious assault, disorderly conduct and other investigations where the detective bureau surrounded that establishment or was in the vicinity and the detectives reached out to the owners or the operators and they were unwilling and did not respond to requests for information.

Based on these facts Chief doesn't believe it's in the best interest for the City to approve this permit. He conducted his investigation and these are his findings. He doesn't have the ability to ask for a hearing, that is something council can ask for.

Chair Schneider thanked the Chief and asked if there were questions for the Chief?

Mr. Armstrong said that club has been a social club for a long time and members had to get buzzed in. He didn't know what happened with these four incidents, but 3 happened on the same day and the other was just a disturbance. He has never had any complaints from any neighbors and never gotten any calls from 'Just One More' to report any problems.

Mrs. Mitchell said if you look at the history of this location, there has always been something on that corner for many years; a barbeque, a beauty shop. She knows what this club does, they do a lot of good for the community and she thinks because of four calls that's penalizing them, unnecessarily, in her opinion.

Mrs. Davis asked if the calls were for that specific address?

Chief Welsh said the calls were for the address of 1519 West Ave. Chief wanted the committee to know that he doesn't know the applicant and doesn't know anyone associated with the 1519 Club. He doesn't know if it's going to be operated the same as the previous club. All he has is the info that was provided by the Division of Liquor Control, the name of the new club and the name of the new liquor applicant.

Based on prior issues and that it's on the same block as another club, which is what concluded his findings from the investigation which is what raised concerns. He is providing his information and it's up to the committee to make their decision.

Mr. Oswald said the Chief did his job and provided us with information and we appreciate that info.

Mrs. Rothgery asked if the incidents were associated with the previous owner or the current owner?

Chief said all he knows is that they were associated with the address of 1519 West Ave. He also wanted to say that this would be approved under the zoning ordinances. If the permit was approved as a D4 and they were selling to the public, that would be in violation of the zoning code because it won't be a pre-existing license.

Mr. Armstrong said Zoning Dir Schoenig didn't have any issues as long as it stays as a social club, as it's always been. Yes, if issues come up, they should be addressed.

Chair Schneider called the applicant to speak to the committee.

Asa Knowles, Imperial Deputy of The Oasis for Al Lalim #223. He is not the owner, he's on the paperwork to get the license, he is the statutory agent. The new owner is Al Lalim #223, which is a Shriners Organization. He said he did have an OVI, but he doesn't see reason that should stop him from being a statutory agent for this organization which has been around for 39 years. He didn't reach out to the Police, because no one mentioned to him to do so. The State did tell him to speak to the Police and he made a beeline to do so to tell them what the organization is about and what they do. This license is for their members and associate members. There have been a few problems in the past but not a lot for council to even consider taking the license away. They are a philanthropic organization, they try to do a lot for the community. Their members try to be the best they can be and sometimes they stumble and fall. That doesn't mean the organization should be penalized. They are asking for permission to continue with the good work they have been doing. They are here today due to the fact that the liquor license had elapsed. He went to the State and spoke to the Liquor Board and they said to go back to City Council and that is why he is here.

Mr. Tollett asked if the tax issues have been resolved?

Mr. Knowles said yes, they have been resolved. He said the Liquor Board Agent was at the establishment today and they completed their inspection of the building and the results of this will be available soon. Mr. Knowles asked if maybe the Chief and he could discuss the findings of the police investigation.

Mrs. Mitchell asked what safeguards will be put in place that they are only selling to members?

Mr. Knowles said their safeguards were in place before. Members who are noble are the core members and they have associate members who have to present membership cards before they get in the door. There have been times when someone rents the building for private parties. And if they have to stop renting, they will to prevent this from happening.

Mr. Armstrong thanked Mr. Knowles and the brothers for being a part of the southside for these many years and to continue to do the great work they do.

There was no further discussion and Chair Schneider read the committee report and asked for a motion:

Motion made by Mrs. Mitchell and second by Mrs. Rothgery that the City does not request a hearing on the liquor license permit request.

MOTION CARRIES

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

4. The matter of an Annual Review for Objections to Renewal of Liquor License Requests within the City.

Referred by: Ohio Division of Liquor Control

Asst Law Dir O'Bryon read a note from Law Dir Deery stating that she reached out to the Fire Dept and the Police Dept and there were no objections and no issues with any permit holders within the city.

There was no further discussion and Chair Schneider read the committee report and asked for a motion:

Motion made by Mrs. Mitchell and second by Mrs. Rothgery that the City does not request a hearing on any liquor license renewal requests.

MOTION CARRIES

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

The evening's meetings continued with the JOINT Community Development with Finance Committee and Chair Tollett called Finance to order at 6:30 P.M.

The next Community Development Committee Meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 14th, 2026 at 6:00 P.M.

*Respectfully submitted by, Colleen Rosado,
Council Clerk Secretary/Administrative Assistant*