

Minutes of the JOINT ~ UTILITIES and FINANCE Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, October 13th, 2026 at 6:15 p.m.

circulated 10/23/2026

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, Law Dir Deery, Deputy Finance Dir Tuma, CD Manager Almabayyed, Water Supt Naelitz, City Planner Schoenig, Engineer Schneider, Public Works Supt Conner, Parks Dir Reardon

1.The matter of approval of meeting minutes of the JOINT Utilities, Safety & Environment Committee and Finance Committee Meeting, which took place on September 14th, 2026, as circulated 9/28/2026

UTILITIES COMMITTEE:

Motion made by Mr. Oswald and seconded by Mrs. Davis to approve the said Minutes.

MOTION CARRIES

FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Motion made by Mr. Cerra and seconded by Mr. Schneider to approve the said Minutes.

MOTION CARRIES

2. The matter of the purchase of a 300# Metal Seated Ball Valve for the Water Pumping Plant.

Referred By: Water Superintendent Naelitz

Superintendent Naelitz said this is for the purchase of a 20-inch 300-pound metal seated ball valve which is for the largest high service pump. It's a 15-million-gallon pump. Without the pump they've struggled trying to maintain pressure and they've been without it for a year. The purchase of the valve will take place one way or another. They have an engineering project that is currently in the design stage. They are trying to expedite the process. They have money in the budget to purchase it now which will move things along. Once they receive it, they will install it inhouse and it will take time to get it up and running. When the design project comes in, they will give one reliable pump while they're doing the work on the other pumps.

Chair Tollett asked Dir Pileski if he is okay with this purchase at this time?

Dir Pileski asked what the cost is and Supt Naelitz said \$115,000. And Dir Pileski said if those funds are in the budget, he is good with this purchase.

Law Dir Deery asked for a copy of the quote from Supt Naelitz, yes, he would do that.

Mrs. Davis asked where we purchase this valve from and how long will it take?

Supt. Naelitz said the lead time, once they place the order is from 36 to 38 weeks.

Mr. Schneider thanked for keeping this in-house for the install.

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

UTILITIES:

Motion made by Mr. Oswald and second by Mr. Armstrong to authorize the purchase of 'said' equipment for the Water Pumping Plant. Emergency clause requested.

MOTION CARRIES

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

Chair Tollett asked for a motion from Finance.

FINANCE:

Motion made by Mr. Van Wormer and second by Mr. Cerra to authorize the purchase of 'said' equipment for the Water Pumping Plant. Emergency clause requested.

MOTION CARRIES

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

3. The matter of entering into a Professional Service Agreement with Verdantas for Phase 6 of the Lead Service Line Replacement project.

Referred By: Engineer Schneider

Engineer Schneider said this one and the next agenda item go hand-in-hand. The lead service line replacement the City is required to do throughout the City and they will hire Verdantas again to proceed with Phase 6. This phase will be in different areas of the city which are scattered throughout the city.

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

UTILITIES:

Motion made by Mrs. Davis and second by Mr. Armstrong to authorize the mayor to apply for and accept and enter into the 'said' agreement. Emergency clause requested.

MOTION CARRIES

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

Chair Tollett asked for a motion from Finance.

FINANCE:

Motion made by Mr. Cerra and second by Mr. Schneider to authorize the mayor to apply for and accept and enter into the 'said' agreement. Emergency clause requested.

MOTION CARRIES

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

4. The matter of applying for and accept, an Ohio EPA Water Supply Revolving Loan Account for Phase 6 Lead Service Line Replacement project.

Referred By: Engineer Schneider

The plan is to cover the cost of this phases as with the previous phases, with the water supply revolving loan account from the Ohio EPA. Part of this will be a loan and part will be a grant.

This project is not in the 2026 budget, but will be in 2027. This request is to apply for the loan.

Mr. Oswald asked if it's going to be the same company doing this work as previous phases? His concern was that they didn't repair and replace the dirt and grass at the some of the residences.

Engineer Schneider said they will still need to bid out the job for this phase, so they don't know who the contractor will be.

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

UTILITIES:

Motion made by Mrs. Davis and second by Mr. Armstrong to authorize the mayor to apply for and accept and enter into the 'said' agreement. Emergency clause requested.

MOTION CARRIES

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

Chair Tollett asked for a motion from Finance.

FINANCE:

Motion made by Mr. Van Wormer and second by Mr. Schneider to authorize the mayor to apply for and accept and enter into the 'said' agreement. Emergency clause requested.

MOTION CARRIES

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

5. The matter of an agreement with ODOT to remove the existing railroad bridge superstructure over SR 57 and north of the Beechwood/Schaden Rd. intersection.

Referred By: Engineer Schneider

Engineer Schneider said the city was contacted by ODOT to remove the old RR bridge over Rt57, north of Schadden Rd. There will be no cost to the city and they are asking this to pass under emergency. ODOT wants to start the process in early November.

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

UTILITIES:

Motion made by Mr. Oswald and second by Mr. Armstrong to authorize the mayor to enter into 'said' agreement with ODOT. Emergency clause requested.

MOTION CARRIES

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

Chair Tollett asked for a motion from Finance.

FINANCE:

Motion made by Mr. Schneider and second by Mr. Van Wormer to authorize the mayor to enter into 'said' agreement with ODOT. Emergency clause requested.

MOTION CARRIES

COMMITTEE REPORT WRITTEN

6. The matter of hiring an Animal Control Officer for Elyria Police Dept.

Referred By: Ward 1 Representative Lipian

Chair Mitchell said Councilman Lipian made this referral and he is not here this evening, but Mayor Brubaker will speak on this matter.

Mayor Brubaker said talking in-house. Law Dir Deery provided an ordinance that shows that we have this position on the books. Checking with HR, we currently do not have a position in the salary ordinance. The County just hired an animal control officer and he would like the city to be able to talk with that person and how we could possibly collaborate with the County versus us hiring a new employee. He would like this moved down the docket and this would be the committee's decision along with the Law Dir's input on whether it will stay there or not.

Law Dir Deery said there is a codified ordinance, no. 133.06, which is very old and could be amended. The position does exist and it would be within council's discretion if they wish to appropriate money towards this position. However, council does not have the discretion or the authority to order an appointing authority to fill a position. This position would answer to the Safety Service Dir who in turn answers to the Mayor and it would be under the purview of the Mayor as to whether the position would be filled or not. She encourages discussions between Council and the Mayor or any other appointing authority, but, any action taken by council as a legislative authority to order the hiring of any personnel would be advisory, at best. She is not saying that is what is being advocating, but, she wanted that on the record.

Finance Dir Pileski said if this position was filled it would be a general fund employee and he wanted to remind everyone that expenditures are much higher than revenues. In the last 21 months, the cash balance has dropped by 4.3 million in the general fund, 2.8 last year and 1.5 so far through September this year, so, it's not really the time to be filling empty spots in the general fund.

Chair Tollett said that we should give the Mayor and the Safety Service Dir some time to research this with the new County Animal Control person and they can then provide Councilman Lipian with additional information and the ordinance can be discussed afterwards. We should move it without vote now.

Mr. Schneider said this is worded as animal warden, but, it could be defined as multiple animals and not just dogs and cats. Once we go forward and once the animal is put in custody, what is our obligation at that point? Do we pay the county to house the animal or do we pay to take it to protective services?

Law Dir Deery said those are valid questions. Those are all things that would need to be worked out. She currently has no answers at this time.

Mr. Oswald said he has a lot of questions, would it be cats, dogs, coyotes, groundhogs, etc. We've had issues with many sorts of animals.

Mr. Armstrong asked Mayor Brubaker if he could include the APL in those conversations because there's a lot of misunderstanding of what the dog warden does, what the APL does and what the EPD does and there's an incident with an injured animal. There are a lot of questions.

Mrs. Rothgery said she believes this is an AFSME position and it went into the exhibit and pulled from the list.

Mayor Brubaker said the ordinance exists, but, when we did salary changes 2 administrations ago, this position was not included, it had been eliminated as a paying position. But, originally it was an AFSME position when Doug had it and back in '07-'08 that position went away along with the park rangers. We also need to keep in mind, under the duties of the police department, there's language in the ordinance about what the police department has dual duties. The county does not have an animal warden, it's a dog warden. Anything other dogs and cats, they won't respond to. But, they will have those conversations.

Chair Mitchell recommended that we remove this item from the agenda and if we need to make amendments, we will re-visit it at that time.

There was no further business to come before the Utilities, Safety & Environment Committee and Chair Mitchell asked for a motion to adjourn Utilities portion of the evening's meetings.

**Motion made by Mr. Oswald and second by Mrs. Rothgery to adjourn the Utilities Safety & Environment Committee portion of this evening's meetings at 6:40 P.M.
MOTION CARRIES**

This evening's meetings continued with The Finance Committee which was called to order at 6:42 P.M.

The Next Joint Utilities and Finance Committee Meeting will take place on Monday, October 26th, 2026.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Colleen Rosado, Secretary/Administrative Assistant