

MEDINA CITY COUNCIL

Monday, May 27, 2025

Call to Order:

Medina City Council met in regular session on Tuesday, May 27, 2025 at Medina City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m., by President of Council John Coyne III, who also led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call:

The roll was called with the following members of Council present: D. Simpson, J. Coyne, N. DiSalvo, R. Haire, P. Rose, J. Shields and C. Simmons.

Also present were the following members of the Administration: Mayor Hanwell, Greg Huber, Keith Dirham, Patrick Patton, Chief Kinney, Dan Gladish, Chief Walters, Kathy Patton, Jansen Wehrley, Jarrod Fry, Andrew Dutton and Kimberly Marshall.

Reading of Minutes:

Mr. Shields moved that the minutes from the regular meeting on May 12, 2025 as prepared and submitted by the Clerk be approved, seconded by Mr. Simpson. The roll was called and minutes were approved with the yea votes of J. Coyne, N. DiSalvo, R. Haire, P. Rose, J. Shields, C. Simmons and D. Simpson.

Reports of Standing Committees:

Finance Committee: Mr. Shields stated the Finance Committee met prior to Council this evening and will meet again in two weeks.

Public Properties Committee: Mr. Shields had no report.

Health, Safety & Sanitation Committee: Mr. Simpson had no report.

Special Legislation Committee: Mr. Rose had no report.

Streets & Sidewalks Committee: Ms. Haire had no report. Mentioned they will be meeting to discuss some safety issues on Smith Road.

Water & Utilities Committee: Mr. Simmons will have a meeting on Monday, June 9th at 5:30 p.m. prior to finance to discuss recommendations from a Utility Rate Review Committee meeting.

Emerging Technologies Committee: Ms. DiSalvo had no report. Will be discussing looking at creating a Communications Dept.

Requests for Council Action:

Finance

25-113-5/27 – Bond Anticipation Notes Ordinances

25-114-5/27 – Purge Damaged Equipment from Service Dept. Flood

25-115-5/27 – Grant Application & Acceptance of MCDAC Grant – Police Dept.

25-116-5/27 – Purchase New Duty Handguns – Police Dept.

25-117-5/27 – Zoning Map Amendment R-1 to R-4 – E. Washington Street

25-118-5/27 – Increase Exp. – Valley Technical Services – Law Dept.

25-119-5/27 – Amend Ord. 76-25, Henderson Products – Street Dept.

25-120-5/27 – Increase Exp. P.O. #2025-1003 – Wintrow Construction – Engineering

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25-121-5/27 – Grant Application – Ohio Rail Development Commission – Engineering
25-122-5/27 – MCRC Locker Room Renovation – Medina City Schools
25-123-5/27 – Donate Items to Medina County District Library
25-125-5/27 – Easements for Medina Street Bridge

Emerging Technologies Committee

25-124-5/27 – Discussion - Transitioning Cable TV Dept. to Communications Dept.

Reports of Municipal Officers:

Dennis Hanwell, Mayor, reported that on May 14th the Mayor attended the 44th annual Ohio Fire Service Hall of Fame and Fire Awards Ceremony in Columbus. Fire Chief Larry Walters was presented the Fire Service Valor award for his efforts in saving a resident trapped in her basement during a fire. Members of the MCSO, Chatham Twp. Fire Dept., Erhart/York Twp. Fire Dept. also assisted Fire Chief Walters. Walters and the resident were treated at Medina Hospital for smoke inhalation. Mutual aid at the scene was provided by Lafayette, Litchfield, Brunswick Hills, Valley City/Liverpool Twp., Village of Lodi fire departments as well as South Lorain ambulance, well done by all. This was an outstanding example of regional collaborative efforts to assist and handle such serious events.

Memorial Day Parade and service Monday, May 26th was well attended and respectful tribute to our lost service members.

Square events:

Farmer's Market 9 a.m. – 1 p.m. started May 17th and continues every Saturday thereafter.
Medina Community Band Concerts each Friday of June and July 7 p.m. weather permitting.
Kids Day of Safety and Play/Teen Fest June 7th 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
ORMACO Jazz/Opera under the stars June 7th 7 p.m.
Mayor expressed best wishes to Laureen on her retirement.

Keith Dirham, Finance Director, Keith echoed the mayor's comments. Laureen spent a lot of time in the Finance Dept. We in the Finance Department have a lot of interaction with the Civil Service Dept. Laureen has always been a pleasure to work with and has done her job very well and we all here appreciate your time.

Greg Huber, Law Department, had no report. Wished Laureen well, stating she will be missed.

Kimberly Marshall, Economic Development Director, Kimberly

Chief Kinney, Police Department, had no report. Chief had the unique perspective of working with Laureen from the position of getting hired here in 1997 and going through her process and dealing with her back then and of course throughout the years. You have always been great to work with and stated that Laureen could be one of the nicest ladies he has ever met in his life.

Nino Piccoli, Service Director, was absent.

Patrick Patton, City Engineer, they were contacted by the Wheeling Lake Erie Railroad notifying us that on May 30th they need to close West Smith Road (near 850 W. Smith) in order to complete a repair that may last 10 -12 hours. Traffic will maintain access to all businesses at all times throughout but just won't be able to cross over the tracks there.

Congratulations to Chief Walters – great job.

Laureen you will be missed, it's been an honor and pleasure! Just to note, Nino chose not to attend this meeting.

Chief Walters, Fire Department, had no report. Chief thanked Laureen for everything, especially helping to create a much more professional hiring process for their part time employees. Best of Luck.

Jansen Wehrley, Parks and Recreation Director, updated the public that our pools and splashpads will be open Saturday, May 24th, 2025. Operating hours at Fred Greenwood Park are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Ray Mellert Park 12 p.m. to 8 p.m. Pool hours vary depending on programs but generally open 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Dan Gladish, Building Official, had no report. Wished Laureen well in her retirement.

Andrew Dutton, Planning and Community Development Director, Lead Safe Ohio Program is currently available to income qualified home owners in Medina County. The program is free assistance with no cost to home owner and can be used to test for and remove lead in homes.

Medinaco.org/planning for more info. Andrew thanked Laureen for all she did, stating when he was hired she couldn't have been more accommodating and welcoming and really appreciated that.

Notices, communications and petitions

There were none.

Unfinished Business

There is none.

Introduction of visitors

Angela Mansier 149 Essex Lane – weather induced move took place this last weekend for the Square Farmer's Market. Thanked everyone for all their help.

Jim Palmquist 6 Public Square – Chairman of the Civil Service Commission and has been on the commission for roughly 40 years and have gotten to know Laureen very well as have all the commissioners (Mr. Jones and Mr. Monhollon) Common theme we can all echo is what you all already know, she is a professional, great person and a classic, and we want to thank her so very much. She kept the commission onboard and helped us work well with all the agencies and departments of the city. We wish her only the best of luck in her future. We tried to keep her here we even offered a huge raise in pay out of our own pockets of course, but no luck.

Introduction and consideration of ordinances and resolutions.

Mr. Shields moved to suspend the rules requiring three readings on the following ordinances and resolutions, seconded by Mr. Simpson: Res. 98-25, Ord. 99-25, Ord. 100-25, Ord. 101-25, Ord. 102-25, Ord. 103-25, Ord. 104-25, Ord. 105-25, Ord. 106-25. The roll was called and the motion passed by the yea votes of R. Haire, P. Rose, J. Shields, C. Simmons, D. Simpson, J. Coyne, and N. DiSalvo.

Res. 98-25

A Resolution offering congratulations to Laureen Wilson on the occasion of her retirement, commending her for years of dedicated service to the City of Medina and wishing her happiness and fulfillment in her future endeavors. Mr. Shields moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 098-25, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Jim Shields stated he has a unique perspective of working with Laureen as the Chief does. Jim explained in his day job Laureen handled all their support staff employees and they start here with her testing them and she would certify the test and sends over the list, but without fail for 20 plus years everyone that comes over to the school always says that person that took care of them at City Hall has got to be the nicest person they ever met in their life.

Mr. Simpson stated he can honestly say he doesn't think he has ever seen Laureen without a smile on her face. Dennie stated she is truly loved by the people that she worked with and he wished her success and happiness in her retirement.

Ms. Haire explained she hasn't worked with Laureen as some of the others but when she has, Laureen was the sweetest person and so friendly.

Mr. Rose stated to Laureen that she is that person that puts a smile on everyone's face when they are with her.

Mr. Coyne wished her well in her retirement stating we will miss her and she taught us all a little bit more about ourselves and we will be better people because of you. Thank you Laureen.

Kathy Patton stated her and Laureen go way back and she loves her and wishes her congratulations on her retirement.

The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 098-25 passed by the yea votes of N. DiSalvo, R. Haire, P. Rose, J. Shields, C. Simmons, D. Simpson, and J. Coyne.

Ord. 99-25

An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to advertise for competitive bids and to award a contract to the successful bidder for Job #1168 – Granger Road Water Line Project. Mr. Shields moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 099-25, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Patrick stated this agreement was each party the city and county will pay for 50% of the cost of the work. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 099-25 passed by the yea votes of P. Rose, J. Shields, C. Simmons, D. Simpson, J. Coyne, N. DiSalvo, and R. Haire.

Ord. 100-25

An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to advertise for competitive bids and to award a contract to the successful bidder for the 2025 Street Repair Program. Mr. Shields moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 100-25, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Mr. Shields moved that the emergency clause be added to Ordinance/Resolution No. 100-25, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Patrick stated this is their annual program to replace concrete panels throughout the city.

Asking for emergency clause as one of his employees that works with this program was off on medical leave and we are getting a late start on this and would like to get a bid and construction on the way as soon as possible. The roll was called on adding the emergency clause and was approved by the yea votes of J. Shields, C. Simmons, D. Simpson, J. Coyne, N. DiSalvo, R. Haire and P. Rose. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 100-25 passed by the yea votes of C. Simmons, D. Simpson, J. Coyne, N. DiSalvo, R. Haire, P. Rose and J. Shields.

Ord. 101-25

An Ordinance authorizing the increase of the expenditure to Wright Traffic Control LLC for the Engineering Department. Mr. Shields moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 101-25, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Mr. Patton stated this involved the East Reagan Pavement Rehabilitation project that was just completed. We exceeded the P.O. and need to increase it. Patrick noted that the project came in about \$90,000 less than they expected. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 101-25 passed by the yea votes of D. Simpson, J. Coyne, N. DiSalvo, R. Haire, P. Rose, J. Shields and C. Simmons.

Ord. 102-25

An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to grant one (1) Easement to the Board of County Commissioners of Medina County, pertaining to the Granger Road Water Line Project. Mr. Shields moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 102-25, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Mr. Patton stated the waterline passes under our old water treatment plant property and we need to grant the county this easement in order to complete the project. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 102-25 passed by the yea votes of J. Coyne, N. DiSalvo, R. Haire, P. Rose, J. Shields, C. Simmons and D. Simpson.

Ord. 103-25

An Ordinance amending Section 31.01 of the Salaries and Benefits Code of the City of Medina, Ohio relative to the Schedule of Pay for Elected Officials. Mr. Shields moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 103-25, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Mr. Rose stated they were all in agreement with the Director of Finance and the Mayor's salaries. President of Council's pay raise was also agreed to. The biggest discussion was the pay for city council positions. It was agreed to delay any increases to any council positions until election of 2028. Paul stated all the salaries are pretty much in the mid-range of comparable cities in the Northeast Ohio area. Mr. Dirham explained they are not setting the salaries for the persons but for the positions. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 103-25 passed by the yea votes of N. DiSalvo, R. Haire, P. Rose, J. Shields, C. Simmons, D. Simpson, and J. Coyne.

Ord. 104-25

An Ordinance to provide for the issuance and sale of not to exceed \$3,000,000 of notes of the City of Medina for the purpose of paying a portion of the costs of constructing, reconstructing, furnishing, equipping and otherwise improving building facilities improvements comprising the Courthouse Project, including all necessary appurtenances thereto. Mr. Shields moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 104-25, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Mr. Shields moved that the emergency clause be added to Ordinance/Resolution No. 104-25, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Keith asked to discuss this ordinance and the next together.

Keith stated the emergency clause is because we are starting to write checks on this already and we have to issue these bond anticipation notes before the money is spent for this amount of money so that we can show that we borrowed (even though we aren't borrowing) something that we were acquiring not for something we already had. In section 2 it says the interest shall be paid semi-annually and he wants to eliminate the semi and make that annually. Mr. Shields moved to amend the ordinance to read that it would be annually rather than semi-annually, seconded by Mr. Simpson.

Mr. Coyne reiterated that we are not borrowing money to do anything with the courthouse at this time, we have the cash available to do the courthouse we are just preserving the right that if interest rates go down we can borrow the money and pay it back. The courthouse project ended up costing us around \$11.4 million. The City of Medina will end up spending about \$3.5 million to do the courthouse and the courthouse special project fund is spending the remaining \$8 million dollars. The roll was called on adding the emergency clause and was approved by the yeas of R. Haire, P. Rose, J. Shields, C. Simmons, D. Simpson, J. Coyne, and N. DiSalvo. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 104-25 passed as amended by the yeas of P. Rose, J. Shields, C. Simmons, D. Simpson, J. Coyne, N. DiSalvo, and R. Haire.

Ord. 105-25

An Ordinance to provide for the issuance and sale of not to exceed \$5,000,000 of notes of the City of Medina for the purpose of paying a portion of the costs of constructing, reconstructing, furnishing, equipping and otherwise improving building facilities improvements comprising the Courthouse Project, including all necessary appurtenances thereto. Mr. Shields moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 105-25, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Mr. Shields moved that the emergency clause be added to Ordinance/Resolution No. 105-25, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Mr. Shields moved to amend this ordinance to change semi-annually to annually, seconded by Mr. Simpson. The roll was called on adding the emergency clause and was approved by the yeas of J. Shields, C. Simmons, D. Simpson, J. Coyne, N. DiSalvo, R. Haire and P. Rose. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 105-25 passed as amended by the yeas of C. Simmons, D. Simpson, J. Coyne, N. DiSalvo, R. Haire, P. Rose and J. Shields.

Ord. 106-25

An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute a Donation Agreement and Bill of Sale for the Interurban Building Donation to the Medina County Historical Society. Mr. Shields moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 106-25, seconded by Mr. Simpson. Mr. Huber stated this ordinance allows the mayor to sign a donation agreement where the City of Medina's interest in the Interurban building will be transferred to the Medina County Historical Society. The mayor will also be signing a bill of sale which is the formal document that transfers our ownership interest in the building to the Historical Society. In order to put this in effect the council will need to approve the ordinance. Brian Feron from the Medina County Historical Society, 206 North Elmwood thanked the Mayor and Council and all that made this possible. This action tonight has restored a significant part of our history and is another example of how well the city works to really preserve our history. Mr. Simmons is grateful the history and stories behind the Interurban building will now come to life since it's being moved to the Historical Society. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 106-25 passed by the yeas of D. Simpson, J.

Coyne, N. DiSalvo, R. Haire, P. Rose, J. Shields and C. Simmons.

Council comments.

Mr. Simpson stated it's important for everyone to remember the service men that gave their lives and that we celebrated yesterday. Congratulations to Chief Walters and congratulations to Laureen

Ms. Haire congratulated Chief Walters, he is a great example of what our community does. Best wishes to Laureen.

Mr. Simmons congratulated both again. Thanked the members of the Utility Rate Review Commission for taking their time to help support the city.

Ms. DiSalvo congratulated Laureen and the Fire Chief.

Mr. Rose echoed council in congratulating Laureen and Chief Walters. Paul mentioned Memorial Day being yesterday and asked when you see a Gold Star Family, thank them and console with them their sacrifices. Paul stated some local business owners reached out to him with concerns about the protesting taking place in the public square.


Mr. Shields thanked Chief Walters for his bravery and service to the community, we are very fortunate to have him as our chief. Jim stated it will not be the same without Laureen, he appreciates her so much and enjoyed working with her all these years. Jim spoke of some things that have been happening here in our community starting with the Career Center Graduation on Thursday, the Half Marathon, The Medina HS graduations, the Memorial Day Parade. The city looked beautiful and everyone was so appreciative of the service that was held in the cemetery. The Farmer's Market in the Square this Saturday.

Adjournment.

There being no further business, the Council meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.



Kathy Patton, Clerk of Council



John Coyne III, President of Council

