

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of City Council

Held August 21, 2025

Special Meeting Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 11:22 AM.

Roll Call

Teri Murphy	Mayor	Present
Donald Burchett	At-Large	Present
Ora Allen	At-Large	Present
Mike Daugherty	Ward 1	Present
Dave Miller	Ward 2	Present
Shirley Whitt	Ward 3	Present
Jeanette Marcus	Ward 4	Absent

Staff Attendance: City Manager Michael Davis; Clerk of Council Karen Powell

Mrs. Allen moved to excuse Ms. Marcus' absence; Mr. Miller seconded the motion.

RESULT: *(Yes 3, No 3, Abstained 0)*
MOVER: Ora Allen
AYES: Ora Allen, Mike Daugherty, Dave Miller
NAYS: Teri Murphy, Shirley Whitt, Donald Burchett
ABSTAIN: None

Business

City Manager Michael Davis provided a review of the meeting agenda.

Parks and Recreation Vision Plan

Mr. Davis said he asked Mr. Shane and staff to pick five items out of the Parks and Recreation Vision Plan which they feel are the most important based on surveys and feedback. He discussed the five projects that were chosen by Parks and Recreation: a splash pad, an amphitheater, a rebranding of Parks and Recreation with new logo and signage, a dog park adjacent to Deer Meadow Park, and to additionally tackle one smaller park enhancement each year for ten years. He said the splash pad was chosen as the number one project in Ora Everett Park at the Gerhardt Civic Center. He asked Council about the possibility of funding and initiating designs in 2025 with supplemental and project legislation and then in upcoming budget discussions, Council could propose construction in 2026 and seek funding. He said with the activities the City of Moraine has been having, staff feels this would be a great time to add an amphitheater at Wax Park.

Mayor Murphy suggested that removal of buildings and demolition should be a project also.

Mr. Davis remarked that the removal of buildings and preparation would be included as part of the projects. He said the buildings in front of the Payne Recreation Center would be removed as part of the demolition. He said that would not include the ticket booth area as that has been redone and will not be removed. He said the food vendor building has been completely remodeled inside and can be used in the future. He said two quotes for demolition came in at \$90,000.00 to \$100,000.00. He explained to Council that these five items are not in a particular order and ultimately he is asking Council to choose three projects out of the five to initiate and get underway.

Mrs. Whitt asked if there would be a time the City could charge for concerts?

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Mr. Davis replied that could be a possibility. He said the amphitheater would remove the need for renting stages in the future. He and Council discussed uses for the amphitheater and the storage building. Mr. Davis said as a third project, the Parks and Recreation Department would like rebranding in the form of a new logo and signage and marketing and branding funds for 2026. He said the rebranding and marketing would be implemented in all active parks and facilities. He said the staff feels it would help with the social media presence and allow for more activities. He said the dog park adjacent to Dear Meadow Park is a consideration. He said a park bathroom should also be considered in that park.

Mrs. Whitt discussed self-locking and self-cleaning restrooms she had seen at a National League of Cities meeting.

Mr. Davis said the City has many smaller parks, and Parks and Recreation would like to enhance one park per year for the next ten years with playground equipment and amenities. He said he is on the CDBG Review Committee through Montgomery County, and the City has received funding for projects before through CDBG grant applications. He said the City could apply for funding for the park projects.

Mr. Daugherty said it was embarrassing this past Friday with the caution tape around the swings and slide and the state of disrepair of the equipment at Ora Everetts Park.

Mr. Davis discussed the DP&L park and said he will be talking to DP&L to see if they are interested in selling the park to the City as the City provides the equipment for that park. He noted that with the splash pad, Ora Everetts may be the first park in the series of parks to receive enhancements. He reported that staff feels the splash pad will increase rentals of the Civic Center for gatherings, birthday parties, and other types of events.

Mayor Murphy asked if Council is to vote on the proposed packet, on three items, or each item?

Mr. Davis replied if Council is in agreement, there could be a voice vote stating they are supportive of staff continuing the research of a splash pad and design and bringing a request for a supplemental to Council to fund design of a splash pad in 2025 with construction budgeted for 2026. He said if Council is supportive of all five proposals, then staff can begin to initiate the projects.

Mr. Daugherty said this would show the public that Council is serious and making steps in the right direction. He said he feels the rebranding needs to happen almost immediately.

Mrs. Allen agreed.

Mrs. Whitt remarked that you do not want to rebrand after the projects start.

Mayor Murphy asked if money should be provided this year for demolition?

Mr. Davis discussed how these projects will need to be paced from 2025 to 2027 due to the expense amount.

After Council discussion on marketing and other projects, Mayor Murphy moved to approve the design of the splash pad, design of an amphitheater and demolition of buildings, and rebranding of the Parks and Recreation Department.

RESULT: Passed (*Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0*)
MOVER: Teri Murphy

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NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

Mr. Davis reminded Council that once the projects and funding are approved and the projects go out to bid, staff will want to make the community aware through social media.

Mr. Daugherty asked if there is something that can be done to make the repairs at Ora Everetts Park?

Mr. Davis said he will have Mr. Dunn look into what repairs are needed.

Mayor Murphy recessed the meeting at 12:05 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 12:35 p.m.

Mr. Miller said if Wawa moves in, one of the chief concerns of residents was the nearby park. He said that park is really important to that Ward. He said the equipment looks to be in really great shape. He said maybe the fencing should be raised six to eight feet to prevent kids from running into the street. He noted the park entrance is on Lehigh Place. He said maybe that entrance could be pushed down closer to Lauderdale Drive or move the entrance to Lauderdale Drive.

Mr. Davis said Mr. Shane noted this Parks and Recreation plan had the possibility of upgrades for this park in three to five years. He said Mr. Shane stated if the development gets approved, he would like to move the upgrades to the park up to one to three years. He said if the development passes, the City needs to make sure the concerns of residents are addressed. He said in the site plan and review process, lights and buffering landscape will be addressed.

Mr. Daugherty stated that based on comments made from the Wawa representative, safety upgrades to the park could be a community partnering between Wawa and the City of Moraine.

Council continued discussion on ways to slow down traffic on the impacted streets.

Council Etiquette

Mr. Davis said this topic is just a friendly reminder which has been brought to his attention by the Law Director and Mayor. He noted the Council Rules are included in the packet as a refresher for Council. He said a few important things to remember is to be cautious with language and avoid humor or personal slurs as comments can be taken out of context. He reminded Council to remember that the microphones are on. He said this is not directed at anybody because he thinks the meetings go very well. He said Council members and the public are expected to treat each other with respect and without any attacks. He stated the Council Rules do not address a dress code; however, a professional appearance is traditionally expected. He said Council has a budget for clothing and the amount will be increased next year. Mr. Davis said he will review this information with Ms. Marcus as she is not present today. He reviewed the online clothing portal link and attire with Council.

Clerk of Council Karen Powell stated she would send out the clothing links to Council. She said if anyone has a question about the clothing, she can order samples before an order is made.

Mr. Davis said he has heard from Council that the desire is that Council members wear a City logo or emblem on their shirts.

Mrs. Whitt said she would like to have a Council vote on this topic. She said due to the fact that Council has a clothing budget, there is no reason why Council should not wear logo shirts

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at the meeting.

Mr. Davis said he could speak with the Law Director and look into adding dress requirements to the Council Rules.

Mr. Daugherty asked if there are Council pins available?

Mayor Murphy said she would provide pins at the next meeting.

Mr. Davis wrapped up the conversation by stating consistency and City attire is the desire of Council. He reiterated that the City provides a budget for clothing and the clothing can have the City seal or the logo. Council agreed that the City seal is preferred. He provided a handout regarding public meeting rules and decorum that he feels the audience should follow.

Mr. Daugherty confirmed that Mayor Murphy is the person who calls the time and maintains civility in meetings.

Mayor Murphy suggested the handout be in a place where the public may obtain a copy.

Ms. Powell said she can create a condensed version of the handout and place it with the agendas.

Mr. Davis said in the packet there are tips on social media. He said Council has a copy for review, and he wants Council to understand that any comments made on social media are a public record. He said because social media comments are considered public record, those records fall under record retention rules which means the person who commented may be required to pull up any comments on request. He said the City does have a social media policy and is part of the personnel manual. He read objectives regarding social media to Council. He said sometimes Council may want to respond to something they read that is not correct, and he asked Council to contact him instead and he would have Mr. Vietor post a comment on the City's website.

Mr. Daugherty said he recommended everyone take the training he did through the Ohio Electronic Records Committee.

Mr. Davis stated the Law Director recommended a disclaimer, and he reviewed the verbiage with Council. Mr. Davis stated that emails are also public records.

Executive Session

Matters Pertaining to Employment and Compensation of Public Employees

Mrs. Whitt moved to enter into Executive Session for matters pertaining to the employment and compensation of a public employee.

RESULT: Passed (*Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0*)
MOVER: Shirley Whitt
AYES: Teri Murphy, Ora Allen, Mike Daugherty, Dave Miller, Shirley Whitt, Donald Burchett
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None

Council adjourned into Executive Session at 1:25 p.m.

Other Business

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Council reconvened the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

Flower Policy

Mr. Davis said there are inconsistencies with when the City provides flowers, whose budget is used, and who receives flowers.

Mayor Murphy said Council just found out last year that flowers were being provided from the Council budget.

Mrs. Whitt stated that Council should only be responsible for the seven members of Council, the City Manager, the Law Director, and the Finance Director.

After Council discussion, it was decided that Council is responsible for flowers for Council, the City Manager, the Law Director, and the Finance Director, and the City Manager's budget should provide flowers for the remaining employee groups. It was also decided that for non-flower situations, a card should be sent to employees.

Mrs. Allen said the practice of sending flowers should be consistent. She also noted some people send throws instead of flowers.

After further discussion, it was decided that, depending on the situation, flowers, throws, or food is appropriate to send, and a limit was set at \$100.00 per purchase. Council agreed that it is appropriate to send funeral flowers for the Council members or listed employees and their spouses, parents and stepparents, grandparents, children, grandchildren, children's spouses, in-laws, and siblings. Council also agreed it is appropriate to send an arrangement to Council members and listed employees who are ill or have had surgery.

New Council Chamber Chairs

Mr. Davis said some members of Council have expressed interest in purchasing new chairs for the dais. He asked the Council members for their opinions. He said there is funding available from the Building Fund. He said also the table and chairs will be replaced in the conference room. He discussed vendor options.

Mr. Daugherty said he does not have a problem with the existing chairs, but with the renovations he feels the furniture should be upgraded.

Council was agreeable with the purchase of new Council Chamber chairs.

Other Concerns or Comments

Mr. Davis said he learned this week that the .719 gas aggregation rate will now be .662.

Council discussed various roads that are in disrepair, potential grass violations, and eyesore properties.

Mr. Davis listed projects the Street Division is working on, and he and Council discussed potential part-time or seasonal positions for mowing and other tasks.

Mrs. Allen reported she has had several calls over the past couple years from residents who stated that they call the Street Department and leave a message and they do not receive a call back.

Mr. Davis replied he would talk with the Administrative Assistant from the Street Division.

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Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 PM.



Mayor Teri Murphy



ATTEST: Clerk of Council, Karen Powell