

Lyndhurst, Ohio
October 6, 2025

The Council of The City of Lyndhurst held a Regular Meeting on Monday, October 6, 2025 at 7:31 P.M., Vice Mayor David A. Frey, presiding.

Members Present: Council Representatives J. A. Marko, J. A. Gambatese, L. A. Schlessel, S. C. Grushetsky.

Others Present: P. A. Ward, Mayor;
J. P. Luskin, Director of Law;
R. J. Schmidlin, Assistant Director of Law;
P. A. Rhode, Chief of Police;
M. J. Carroll, Chief of Fire;
J. Maichle, Building Commissioner;
T. Fioritto, Director of Service;
R. Petrunyak, Director of Finance;
K. L. Miller, Assistant Clerk of Council.

Absent: Council Representatives J. Price and C. A. LoPresti.

It was moved by Mr. Marko, seconded by Mr. Gambatese, that the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on Monday, September 15, 2025, copies of which were distributed to all Members, be dispensed with, and said minutes stand approved as circulated.

The question was put to a voice vote and passed unanimously.

MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Ward spoke about the annual Council Coffee & City Expo event that took place over the weekend. He mentioned the partner agencies that attended including NOPEC, NEORS, Cleveland Water, Community Partnership on Aging, Lyndhurst Municipal Court, SEL School District, and Cuyahoga County Board of Health, and all the city departments were present to provide valuable information to the residents. Mayor Ward thanked council for their help!

Mayor Ward reminded everyone of the community shredding event coming up this Saturday, October 11th from 11:30am-3:30pm in the back parking lot; donations will be accepted for the Greater Cleveland Food Bank. He also mentioned Trick or Treat Trail will be coming up on Friday, October 17th from 6-8pm in Lyndhurst Park.

Finally, Mayor Ward aired that the curbside leaf vacuum will begin the week of October 20th once the Service Department completes stump grinding throughout the city.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Chairperson Grushetsky shared that the Finance Director has requested department heads have their 2026 Capital Budget requests turned in by October 24th. He announced there will be an accelerated schedule of committee meetings beginning in November. Mr. Grushetsky asked that Council start to schedule their respective committee meetings noting that the Finance Committee meeting as a whole will be scheduled for the end of February 2026.

PUBLIC LANDS & BUILDINGS COMMITTEE – Chairperson Frey had no report.

ROADS & UTILITIES COMMITTEE – Chairperson Price was absent; therefore, no report was given.

SERVICE & SEWERS COMMITTEE – Chairperson Price was absent; therefore, no report was given.

SAFETY COMMITTEE – Chairperson Gambatese had no report at this time.

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE – Chairperson Grushetsky had no report.

PLANNING COMMISSION – Council member Schlessel did not have anything to report.

Prior to the school board report, Mr. Marko gave a reminder to the clerk that Allison Dirk, Ward 1 City Council Candidate, be included in the budget committee meetings.

SOUTH EUCLID LYNDHURST BOARD OF EDUCATION – On behalf of the School Board and Superintendent Dr. Kaple, School District Treasurer Joshua Hill spoke about the upcoming levy that will be on the ballot in the November 4th General Election.

Mr. Hill stated that the district is asking for 7.9 mills to fund general operations (6.9 mills) and permanent improvements (1.0 mills), including repairs and maintenance of district buildings.

Mr. Hill wanted to talk more in depth about general operating. He acknowledged the timing is not ideal because of the recent re-evaluation that happened last summer. He cleared any misconception that funds were received; the only increase received was inside millage. He then spoke about the 5 year forecast, which is on the agenda to be approved next Tuesday because it needs to be submitted by November 15th. With that being said, Mr. Hill reported there will be a deficit in fiscal year 2028 of \$10.8 million. He stated the district is roughly 73% locally funded with minimal to no increase from the state which is why they are dependent on the taxpayers.

Mr. Hill talked candidly about what happens if the levy does not pass. He stated that the permanent improvements will be delayed; however, speaking specifically to the operating piece, the district will have to go immediately into fiscal oversight, and the State of Ohio will get involved. Mr. Hill stated that if a district has to go through this process, drastic cuts are made in the classroom. He noted the district will continue to audit positions as faculty members retire, whether the levy passes or not.

Mr. Hill thanked the members for their time and asked that they reach out if have any questions.

Mayor Ward pointed out that this is the first time he remembers the district having an evaluation done of the buildings, with some of the necessary repairs being critical. He remarked on the importance of providing a clean and organized learning space for the students.

Mr. Hill responded that the continued growth in the classroom resulting in 3.5 star rating would be greatly impacted if they have to cut operating costs and increased classroom sizes.

Mr. Gambatese asked if the increase has been presented based on home value. Mr. Hill stated it would be approximately \$23 per month or \$277 annually on a \$100,000 home. He further stated that if any taxpayer is looking for specific calculations on their home, they can contact him directly as he used to work for the Cuyahoga County Auditors office calculating property tax valuations.

Mr. Schlessel inquired as to the effective date of the increase. Mr. Hill responded that it would take effect January 1, 2026. Mr. Schlessel additionally asked whether the district would come back with the levy again if it does not pass this year. Mr. Hill stated that they would have no other choice because they do not want to have a negative impact on the progress made in the classroom because of budget cuts.

There were no requests for additions to the Agenda.

The floor was opened for public comment, with the following being heard:

Sally Lang, 5288 Chickadee Lane, asked for any updates on the group home next door to her noting that the transfer took place last October.

Mayor Ward responded there are no updates, other than he received correspondence from a third party consultant on behalf of the property owner. He commented on the impact of the community if it becomes over saturated with group homes.

Mr. Schlessel complimented the Service Department on the new improvements at Brainard Park, with the new walkways and pickle ball courts.

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-49

INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR WARD AND ALL MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING OCTOBER 5 THROUGH OCTOBER 11, 2025
AS "FIRE PREVENTION WEEK" IN THE CITY OF LYNDBURST**

It was moved by Mr. Marko, seconded by Mr. Gambatese, that rules set forth under Section 123.01 of the Codified Ordinances be suspended, that Resolution No. 2025-49 be placed on third reading for final adoption and that it be highlighted.

Roll Call: Yeas: Marko, Gambatese, Schlessel, Grushetsky, Frey.

Nays: None

Motion carried.

Rules Suspended.

Resolution No. 2025-49 was highlighted by Mrs. Miller, with section 3 being read in its entirety.

It was moved by Mr. Schlessel, seconded by Mr. Gambatese, that Resolution No. 2025-49 be adopted.

Roll Call: Yeas: Marko, Gambatese, Schlessel, Grushetsky, Frey.
Nays: None

Motion carried.
Resolution No. 2025-49 is adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-50
INTRODUCED BY: ADMINISTRATION**

**A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR HALLOWEEN OBSERVANCE ON
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 31, 2025 BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 6:00 P.M. AND 8:00 P.M.
AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

It was moved by Mr. Grushetsky, seconded by Mr. Schlessel, that rules set forth under Section 123.01 of the Codified Ordinances be suspended, that Resolution No. 2025-50 be placed on third reading for final adoption and that it be highlighted.

Roll Call: Yeas: Marko, Gambatese, Schlessel, Grushetsky, Frey.
Nays: None

Motion carried.
Rules Suspended.

Resolution No. 2025-50 was highlighted by Mrs. Miller, with section 3 being read in its entirety.

It was moved by Mr. Schlessel, seconded by Mr. Gambatese, that Resolution No. 2025-50 be adopted.

Roll Call: Yeas: Marko, Gambatese, Schlessel, Grushetsky, Frey.
Nays: None

Motion carried.
Resolution No. 2025-50 is adopted.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2025-51
INTRODUCED BY: ADMINISTRATION**

**AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES
AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF LYNDBURST FOR THE PERIOD
ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025, REPEALING ORDINANCE NO. 2025-41 AND
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

It was moved by Mr. Grushetsky, seconded by Mr. Gambatese, that rules set forth under Section 123.01 of the Codified Ordinances be suspended, that Ordinance No. 2025-51 be placed on third reading for final passage and that it be highlighted.

Roll Call: Yeas: Marko, Gambatese, Schlessel, Grushetsky, Frey.
Nays: None

Motion carried.
Rules Suspended.

Ordinance No. 2025-51 was highlighted by Mrs. Miller, with section 5 being read in its entirety.

It was moved by Mr. Schlessel, seconded by Mr. Gambatese, that Ordinance No. 2025-51 be passed.

Roll Call: Yeas: Marko, Gambatese, Schlessel, Grushetsky, Frey.
Nays: None

Motion carried.
Ordinance No. 2025-51 is passed.

It was moved by Mr. Marko, seconded by Mr. Gambatese, that correspondence from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control regarding a new permit for Locally Spruced LLC, 26473 Cedar Road, was noted with no hearing requested.

It was moved by Mr. Schlessel, seconded by Mr. Gambatese, that the meeting be adjourned.

The question was put to a voice vote and passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 P.M.

Approved: October 20, 2025

Attest: _____
Clerk of Council

Vice Mayor