

Lyndhurst, Ohio
February 2, 2026

The Council of The City of Lyndhurst held a Regular Meeting on Monday, February 2, 2026 at 7:32 P.M., Vice Mayor Charles A. LoPresti, presiding.

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

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;
T. Fioritto, Director of Service;
J. Maichle, Building Commissioner;
R. Petrunyak, Director of Finance;
K. L. Miller, Assistant Clerk of Council.

It was moved by Mr. Price, seconded by Mr. Gambatese, that the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held Monday, January 19, 2026, 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 with Mr. Marko abstaining.

MAYOR'S REPORT – Mayor Ward noted that today is Groundhog Day, with Buckeye Chuck predicting an early spring, while Punxsutawney Phil forecasted winter will be here a bit longer!

Mayor Ward reported that the Service Department continues to work diligently to manage ongoing snowfall, a road salt shortage, and extreme cold temperatures. He emphasized that addressing these combined challenges requires careful oversight and effective management. He commented that the City has followed sensible salting practices for many years, supplemented by additional conservation measures. While some salt deliveries have been received, Mayor Ward stated that the City has reached the maximum salt quantity allowed under its contract resulting in an unprecedented situation. He noted that this places the City in uncharted territory and that updates will be provided as conditions evolve.

In addition to the Service department, Mayor Ward also recognized the dedication of Police, Fire, and administrative staff, stating that all departments have reported to work daily to ensure continued service to residents. He remarked that the City has an excellent team!

Mayor Ward announced two upcoming volunteer opportunities at the Greater Cleveland Food Bank on Coit Road, scheduled for Wednesday, March 11th and Thursday, October 8th, both from 6:00–8:00 p.m. if anyone would like to join in the fun.

He also shared that the Community Partnership on Aging will host a Town Hall meeting on Thursday, February 19th, from 9:30–11:30 a.m. at the Lyndhurst Community Center. Featured speakers will include State Representative Eric Synenberg, Dante Giancola of the Western Reserve Area on Aging, and Matt Scheff, an attorney with the Federal Trade

Commission. Topics will include fraud awareness and prevention, resources for senior citizens, and an overview of statewide policy issues. RSVPs are encouraged and may be made by contacting the CPA offices.

Mayor Ward reported that the ladder truck returned to Lyndhurst and expressed appreciation to Tim Toomey for overseeing the project with the contractor, Fallsway.

Lastly, Mayor Ward shared his enthusiasm for the City's new snowblower attachment and mentioned that the service crew has been using it to remove snow throughout the City.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – Chairperson Grushetsky did not have a formal report; only to say the 2026 operating budget hearings are scheduled for Tuesday, February 3rd.

PUBLIC LANDS & BUILDINGS COMMITTEE – Chairperson Marko reminded his colleagues that a meeting is scheduled for Monday, February 16th beginning at 6:45pm, prior to the next Council meeting, to discuss the 2026 pool season.

ROADS & UTILITIES COMMITTEE – Chairperson Dirk had no report at this time.

SERVICE & SEWERS COMMITTEE – Chairperson Price had no report at this time.

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

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE – Chairperson Schlessel had no report.

PLANNING COMMISSION – Council member Price stated that the commission met on January 22nd and there are two recommendations from that meeting on the Agenda for consideration this evening.

SOUTH EUCLID LYNDHURST BOARD OF EDUCATION – School Board Member Becky Richardson delivered the following report:

Ms. Richardson introduced herself, noting that this was her first meeting as a member of the School Board. She announced that Crystal Shelby has been elected to serve as Board President for 2026, Ashley King will serve as Vice President, Christian Sanders will serve as Student Services Liaison, and she will serve as Legislative Liaison.

Ms. Richardson reported that the State of Ohio has passed new legislation changing the age requirement for kindergarten eligibility. Beginning with the 2026–2027 school year, students must be five years old on or before the first day of kindergarten, which will be August 24, 2026 for SEL; the previous cutoff date was September 30th. She requested assistance in sharing this information with the Lyndhurst community.

Ms. Richardson announced that the District recently celebrated its partnership with Cleveland State University by offering tickets to families to attend a CSU Men's Basketball game on January 17th, as well as an upcoming CSU Women's Basketball game on Saturday, February 7th. She also reported that all SEL schools received a donation of 12,000 K-cups from the National PTA to support and recognize faculty and staff.

Ms. Richardson shared that the District is currently conducting a Safe Routes to School study aimed at improving safety for students who walk or bike to school. A survey has been

distributed to families to gather feedback. The study is based on the “6 E’s” of Safe Routes to School: Engineering, Education, Encouragement, Enforcement, Evaluation, and Equity. Survey results will be used to develop a school travel plan and identify potential funding sources, with completion anticipated by early summer.

Ms. Richardson stated that listening sessions have been held to begin the planning process for the District’s new strategic plan, with an additional planning meeting scheduled to follow the Board’s work session on Tuesday. She expressed enthusiasm about the launch of this process.

Finally, Ms. Richardson announced the annual PTA Founder’s Day celebration, scheduled for February 17th at 6:00 p.m. in the Brush High School Performing Arts Center. She invited City Council members to attend and remarked that this event is an excellent opportunity to learn about the accomplishments of staff and community members across the six district buildings.

Mr. Schlessel inquired about the reason for the change in the kindergarten age requirement. Ms. Richardson explained that the previous cutoff resulted in a wide range of student ages, from four to six years old, and varying developmental levels. She stated that she believes the intent of the change is to reduce this disparity and provide a more consistent starting point for both students and teachers.

Vice Mayor LoPresti asked when the next school board meeting is scheduled.

Ms. Richardson responded that the school board has a special work session scheduled on Tuesday, February 3rd and the next regular board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 10th beginning at 6pm.

There were no additions to the Agenda.

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

Andre Russell, 1227 Roland Road, owner and coordinator of the Northeast Ohio Wolf Pack Football Program, addressed City Council regarding the denial of a permit request to use parks in Lyndhurst. Mr. Russell stated that he was informed the request was denied primarily due to concerns from the School Board regarding potential competition.

Mr. Russell reported that his program currently serves just under 100 young men and women. He noted that he and his business partner closely monitor participant conduct including social media and stated that, during the program’s three years of operation, none of the participants have been delinquent juveniles or appeared before a magistrate.

Mr. Russell emphasized that the program’s greatest impact occurs on the field and shared that the organization produced more than 16 All-American Pop Warner scholars in its first year, with an anticipated 23 scholars this year. He expressed confusion regarding the denial, noting that he is a Lyndhurst homeowner and taxpayer.

Mr. Russell stated that many program participants attend South Euclid–Lyndhurst schools, and some have chosen not to continue their education at Brush High School, which he noted aligns with current school choice options. He added that he is unaware of any complaints resulting from the program’s use of Lyndhurst and Schaeffer Parks over the past two years.

Mr. Russell further reported that the program has contributed more than 100 hours of volunteer service, strengthening community relationships. He concluded by requesting that City Council reconsider and reverse the decision, allowing the program to utilize the fields for a third year.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026-06
INTRODUCED BY: ADMINISTRATION**

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH REGARDING THE PROVISION OF PHASE II STORMWATER SERVICES IN 2026-2030, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

It was moved by Mr. Price, seconded by Mr. Gambatese, that rules set forth under Section 123.01 of the Codified Ordinances be suspended, that Resolution No. 2026-06 be placed on third reading for final adoption and that it be highlighted.

Roll Call: Yeas: Marko, Price, Gambatese, Schlessel, Grushetsky, Dirk, LoPresti.
Nays: None

Motion carried.
Rules Suspended.

Resolution No. 2026-06 was highlighted by Mrs. Miller, with section 4 being read in its entirety.

It was moved by Mr. Price, seconded by Mr. Gambatese, that Resolution No. 2026-06 be adopted.

Roll Call: Yeas: Marko, Price, Gambatese, Schlessel, Grushetsky, Dirk, LoPresti.
Nays: None

Motion carried.
Resolution No. 2026-06 is adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2026-07
INTRODUCED BY: ADMINISTRATION**

A RESOLUTION CONTINUING A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON THE ISSUANCE OF BUILDING PERMITS AND/OR CERTIFICATES OF OCCUPANCY FOR ANY RETAIL VAPOR STORES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

It was moved by Mr. Price, seconded by Mr. Gambatese, that rules set forth under Section 123.01 of the Codified Ordinances be suspended, that Resolution No. 2026-07 be placed on third reading for final adoption and that it be highlighted.

Roll Call: Yeas: Marko, Price, Gambatese, Schlessel, Grushetsky, Dirk, LoPresti.
Nays: None

Motion carried.
Rules Suspended.

Resolution No. 2026-07 was highlighted by Mrs. Miller, with section 4 being read in its entirety.

It was moved by Mr. Schlessel, seconded by Mr. Grushetsky, that Resolution No. 2026-07 be adopted.

Roll Call: Yeas: Marko, Price, Gambatese, Schlessel, Grushetsky, Dirk, LoPresti.
Nays: None

Motion carried.
Resolution No. 2026-07 is adopted.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2026-08 (AMENDED)
INTRODUCED BY: ADMINISTRATION**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 757 OF THE BUSINESS
REGULATION CODE OF THE CITY TITLED "REGISTRATION AND INSPECTION
OF NON-OWNER OCCUPIED OR RENTAL PROPERTY" AND DECLARING AN
EMERGENCY**

It was moved by Mr. Marko, seconded by Mr. Grushetsky, that Ordinance No. 2026-08 be amended per the recommendation of the Law Director as outlined in the copy sent electronically to all members of council.

Roll Call: Yeas: Marko, Price, Gambatese, Schlessel, Grushetsky, Dirk, LoPresti.
Nays: None

Motion carried.
Ordinance No. 2026-08 is amended.

It was moved by Mr. Marko, seconded by Mr. Schlessel, that rules set forth under Section 123.01 of the Codified Ordinances be suspended, that Ordinance No. 2026-08 (AMENDED) be placed on third reading for final passage and that it be highlighted.

Roll Call: Yeas: Marko, Price, Gambatese, Schlessel, Grushetsky, Dirk, LoPresti.
Nays: None

Motion carried.
Rules Suspended.

Ordinance No. 2026-08 (AMENDED) was highlighted by Mrs. Miller, with section 3 being read in its entirety.

It was moved by Mr. Schlessel, seconded by Mr. Grushetsky that Ordinance No. 2026-08 (AMENDED) be passed as amended.

Roll Call: Yeas: Marko, Price, Gambatese, Schlessel, Grushetsky, Dirk, LoPresti.
Nays: None

Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 2026-08 (AMENDED) is passed as amended.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2026-09
INTRODUCED BY: ADMINISTRATION**

**AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT A CYBERSECURITY PROGRAM, AND
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

It was moved by Mr. Price, seconded by Mr. Gambatese, that rules set forth under Section 123.01 of the Codified Ordinances be suspended, that Ordinance No. 2026-09 be placed on third reading for final passage and that it be highlighted.

Roll Call: Yeas: Marko, Price, Gambatese, Schlessel, Grushetsky, Dirk, LoPresti.
Nays: None

Motion carried.

Rules Suspended.

Ordinance No. 2026-09 was highlighted by Mrs. Miller, with section 5 being read in its entirety.

It was moved by Mr. Schlessel, seconded by Mr. Price, that Ordinance No. 2026-09 be passed.

Roll Call: Yeas: Marko, Price, Gambatese, Schlessel, Grushetsky, Dirk, LoPresti.
Nays: None

Motion carried.

Ordinance No. 2026-09 is passed.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2026-10
INTRODUCED BY: ADMINISTRATION**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 2 WITH VASCO
ASPHALT COMPANY FOR THE 2024 CONCRETE PROGRAM, AUTHORIZING
THE CLOSEOUT OF SAID CONTRACT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

It was moved by Mr. Price, seconded by Mr. Gambatese, that rules set forth under Section 123.01 of the Codified Ordinances be suspended, that Ordinance No. 2026-10 be placed on third reading for final passage and that it be highlighted.

Roll Call: Yeas: Marko, Price, Gambatese, Schlessel, Grushetsky, Dirk, LoPresti.
Nays: None

Motion carried.

Rules Suspended.

Ordinance No. 2026-10 was highlighted by Mrs. Miller, with section 7 being read in its entirety.

It was moved by Mr. Schlessel, seconded by Mr. Price, that Ordinance No. 2026-10 be passed.

Roll Call: Yeas: Marko, Price, Gambatese, Schlessel, Grushetsky, Dirk, LoPresti.
Nays: None

Motion carried.
Ordinance No. 2026-10 is passed.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2026-11
INTRODUCED BY: ADMINISTRATION**

**AN ORDINANCE REPEALING SECTION 123.03 OF THE CODIFIED
ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF LYNDHURST, AND DECLARING AN
EMERGENCY**

It was moved by Mr. Price, seconded by Mr. Gambatese, that rules set forth under Section 123.01 of the Codified Ordinances be suspended, that Ordinance No. 2026-11 be placed on third reading for final passage and that it be highlighted.

Roll Call: Yeas: Marko, Price, Gambatese, Schlessel, Grushetsky, Dirk, LoPresti.
Nays: None

Motion carried.
Rules Suspended.

Ordinance No. 2026-11 was highlighted by Mrs. Miller, with section 4 being read in its entirety.

It was moved by Mr. Schlessel, seconded by Mr. Price, that Ordinance No. 2026-11 be passed.

Roll Call: Yeas: Marko, Price, Gambatese, Schlessel, Grushetsky, Dirk, LoPresti.
Nays: None

Motion carried.
Ordinance No. 2026-11 is passed.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2026-12
INTRODUCED BY: ADMINISTRATION**

**AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 135 OF THE CODIFIED
ORDINANCES OF THE CITY BY ENACTING SECTION 135.15 ENTITLED “FEE
FOR SPECIAL ASSESSMENT TAX SEARCHES” AND DECLARING AN
EMERGENCY**

It was moved by Mr. Price, seconded by Mr. Gambatese, that rules set forth under Section 123.01 of the Codified Ordinances be suspended, that Ordinance No. 2026-12 be placed on third reading for final passage and that it be highlighted.

Roll Call: Yeas: Marko, Price, Gambatese, Schlessel, Grushetsky, Dirk, LoPresti.
Nays: None

Motion carried.
Rules Suspended.

Ordinance No. 2026-12 was highlighted by Mrs. Miller, with section 3 being read in its entirety.

It was moved by Mr. Schlessel, seconded by Mr. Price, that Ordinance No. 2026-12 be passed.

Roll Call: Yeas: Marko, Price, Gambatese, Schlessel, Grushetsky, Dirk, LoPresti.
Nays: None

Motion carried.
Ordinance No. 2026-12 is passed.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2026-13
INTRODUCED BY: ADMINISTRATION**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ALL ACTIONS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT
NORTHEAST OHIO PUBLIC ENERGY COUNCIL (NOPEC) 2026 ENERGIZED
COMMUNITY GRANT(S) AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

It was moved by Mr. Price, seconded by Mr. Gambatese, that rules set forth under Section 123.01 of the Codified Ordinances be suspended, that Ordinance No. 2026-13 be placed on third reading for final passage and that it be highlighted.

Roll Call: Yeas: Marko, Price, Gambatese, Schlessel, Grushetsky, Dirk, LoPresti.
Nays: None

Motion carried.
Rules Suspended.

Ordinance No. 2026-13 was highlighted by Mrs. Miller, with section 3 being read in its entirety.

It was moved by Mr. Gambatese, seconded by Mr. Price, that Ordinance No. 2026-13 be passed.

Roll Call: Yeas: Marko, Price, Gambatese, Schlessel, Grushetsky, Dirk, LoPresti.
Nays: None

Motion carried.
Ordinance No. 2026-13 is passed.

In response to request for same, it was moved by Mr. Grushetsky, seconded by Mr. Gambatese, that the Clerk be, and he is hereby authorized and directed to advertise for bids for 2026 Asphalt Program, 2026 Concrete Program, 2026 Sidewalk Program – Contracts A and B, Edgefield Rd. SSO Elimination – Sewer Rehabilitation, and Edgefield Rd. SOO Elimination – Manhole Separations and Downspout Disconnects.

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

Planning Commission Recommendation:

Recommendation made to Council to approve the request of Andrew Gottlieb, Business Development Director of Keystate Homes, for a lot split to build two (2) new single-family homes at River Creek, Permanent Parcel Number 713-23-047.

It was moved by Mr. Price, seconded by Mr. Gambatese, that Council confirm the decision of the Planning Commission.

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

Recommendation made to Council to approve the request the decision of the Planning Commission to continue the moratorium for an additional six (6) months regarding retail tobacco and vape stores so that legislation regulating or banning these establishments can be reviewed be approved.

It was moved by Mr. Price, seconded by Mr. Gambatese, that Council confirm the decision of the Planning Commission.

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

It was moved by Mr. Schlessel, seconded by Mr. Gambatese, that correspondence from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control regarding a new permit for Saffron Shaker LLC, dba Saffron Patch, 25385 Cedar Road, was noted with no hearing requested.

It was moved by Mrs. Dirk, seconded by Mr. Grushetsky, that the meeting be adjourned.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:02P.M.

Approved: February 16, 2026

Attest: _____
Clerk of Council

Vice Mayor