

Lyndhurst, Ohio  
April 21, 2025

The Council of The City of Lyndhurst held a Regular Meeting on Monday, April 21, 2025 at 7:32 P.M., Council Member Stephen C. Grushetsky, presiding.

Members Present: Council Representatives J. A. Marko, J. Price, J. A. Gambatese, L. A. Schlessel, C. A. LoPresti.

Others Present: P. A. Ward, Mayor;  
J. P. Luskin, Director of Law;  
R. J. Schmidlin, Assistant Director of Law;  
C. Cianciolo, Executive Lieutenant;  
J. Maichle, Building Commissioner;  
T. Fioritto, Director of Service.  
R. Petrunyak, Director of Finance;  
K. L. Miller, Assistant Clerk of Council.

Absent: Vice Mayor David A. Frey;  
P. A. Rhode, Chief of Police;  
M. J. Carroll, Chief of Fire.

\* Mr. LoPresti attended the meeting remotely via the Zoom Meeting Application.

It was moved by Mr. Price, seconded by Mr. Gambatese, that the reading of the minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council held on Monday, April 7, 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 began his report by wishing his wife, who was present and in the audience, a happy birthday! He then talked about the successful Bunny Breakfast event held on Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at the community center. He thanked the Council members who were able to help at the event as well as many others. Mayor Ward shared how he received compliments on how engaged the students were with some patrons giving additional donations; Corpus Christi Academy raised just over \$2,100 from this event for their upcoming class trip.

Mayor Ward reported that a new police officer, Raymond Hildreth, was sworn in on April 14<sup>th</sup> and another police officer, Tom Smith, will be sworn in on April 24<sup>th</sup>. He also shared that 5 fire fighters were recently interviewed for 2 open positions in the fire department. Mayor Ward thanked Council for allowing him to advance an additional hire in the fire department, allowing him to make 3 conditional offers to prepare for another retirement in June.

Mayor Ward reported that improvements at the Community Center started a week ago and includes flooring, wall treatments, and audio visual equipment. He reminded everyone that these improvements are being funded by a grant. The project should be completed before the State of the City Address on May 19<sup>th</sup>.

Mayor Ward announced that new business Palmeros & Co. held their grand opening and ribbon cutting last Saturday evening. He, along with several Council members attended the celebration for the new beauty salon in the former Style Bar location on Mayfield Road.

Mayor Ward aired that NOPEC held an informational session on April 15<sup>th</sup> to discuss the natural gas anniversary mailing that was recently sent out; they also talked about the increase in electric rates this summer due to capacity charges. He encouraged everyone to make sure they are in a fixed rate program before June.

Finally, Mayor Ward talked about the Illuminate CLE event hosted by Destination Cleveland he attended. He explained how the seven and a half million dollars (\$7,500,000) project has lighting displays and music all throughout Public Square every evening from dusk until 11pm.

**FINANCE COMMITTEE** – Chairperson Grushetsky had no formal report; however, he mentioned the minutes from the February meeting have been submitted and approved.

**PUBLIC LANDS & BUILDINGS COMMITTEE** – Chairperson Frey was absent; therefore, no report was given.

**ROADS & UTILITIES COMMITTEE** – Chairperson Price had no report.

**SERVICE & SEWERS COMMITTEE** – Chairperson Price had no report.

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

**LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE** – Chairperson Grushetsky had nothing to report.

**PLANNING COMMISSION** – Council member Schlessel reported there is a meeting tomorrow night.

**SOUTH EUCLID LYNDHURST BOARD OF EDUCATION** – This was not the first meeting of the month; therefore, a member of the school board was not present to deliver a report.

There were no requests for additions to the Agenda.

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

Heidi Parries, 840 Richmond Road, wished Mrs. Ward a happy birthday and then went on to compliment the Fire Department. She explained how she has lived in Lyndhurst for 15 years and how her 97 year old mother lives with her. Last year she had to call EMS on a regular basis because of her mother's health. Ms. Parries expressed her gratitude for the professionalism and empathy of those paramedics who came to care for her mother. She wanted to thank the Fire Chief for all the training and services the department provides.

Mayor Ward responded that the Fire Chief is at a conference out of town and Captain Drum was on a call and unable to attend the meeting. He thanked Ms. Parries for her kind words and told her that he will pass along her comments to the Fire department.

Gwen Johnson, 1616 Curry Road, who has lived in Lyndhurst for 3 years offered compliments to the Service Department on leaf collection, garbage, and snaking her front yard drain. She said they are so polite and did a wonderful job! Ms. Johnson also complimented the police and fire departments as well.

Cathy Covarrubias, 879 Richmond Road, spoke about the local protests at the Lyndhurst Tesla dealership that have taken place every week for the last few months. She stated that she is one of the organizers for those protests and the one thing missing from these events is the presence of any member of the City Council or the Mayor. Ms. Covarrubias officially invited them to the protest this weekend and suggested they take this as an opportunity to learn who is protesting and why they are protesting. She went on to talk about how people have lost their jobs, access to services, and personal data has been leaked all because of Musk and his Doge. She reminded the Mayor and City Council that they are our elected officials and in a position to advocate on behalf of their constituents to those above them.

Mayor Ward responded to Ms. Covarrubias by reminding her of a conversation they recently had in his office at her request in which he thanked her and the organizers of the protests for attention to detail. He stated how he also made a comment to the newspaper about how thankful he is to not to have such activities that are taking place elsewhere happen here in Lyndhurst.

Ms. Covarrubias remarked that there is a reason the same photos are being used over and over again because those types of activities are not happening as frequently as portrayed and she would like to correct any misconceptions.

Mayor Ward stated that if she wants to correct him, then she should correct what is put on her website about him. He explained that when she indicates to her group that he is less than empathetic and lies about what he said regarding no impacts when they had a specific conversation about a potential impact she was facing. He also spoke about his friends who are directly impacted by things going on in Washington. He reminded her that he cares about one thing and that is the 4.7 square miles of Lyndhurst.

Ms. Covarrubias responded that they did talk about Doge and the impacts. She also reminded him that is why they are protesting. Ms. Covarrubias expressed frustration with the tone in his email stating that it crossed a line that is not acceptable; she offered to share the email with anyone who would like to read it.

Mr. Grushetsky called for order and suggested Ms. Covarrubias schedule a meeting with Mayor Ward as this is not the forum for this discussion.

Ms. Covarrubias went on to say that she is not going away, and they can't make her go away in terms of being in this neighborhood, and she will continue to advocate for those people who think the Mayor does not care.

Mayor Ward responded that people think he doesn't care because of the lies she has told them!

Ms. Covarrubias passionately stated, "the only liar here is you Mr. Ward because you will not stand up on principals and will not denounce Trump or anything that is going on" and then she left Council Chambers.

Mayor Ward apologized to everyone present and asked for the opportunity to explain how this transpired. He said he made a public comment printed in the newspaper talking about the impacts on what is going on at the Tesla protests because he was asked. He shared how he thanked the local organizers for making sure that what is going on here in Lyndhurst is peaceful. He also thanked the police force for helping keep the peace.

Mayor Ward explained that Ms. Covarrubias asked for a meeting and wanted to expound upon his printed comments, and within 15 minutes he obliged her request. He shared that they had a conversation about her personal impact surrounding a scholarship opportunity because she was a mathematician and not a scientist. Mayor Ward stated that he told her he thought that was ridiculous and was very empathetic just as he is empathetic about his friends that have been impacted. He went on to say that Ms. Covarrubias made a comment to her group, which has generated a bevy of misinformation directed at the city and him personally which is not fair and not right.

Mayor Ward expressed that he has no opinion of the protests, and his only opinion has to do with what happens within the 4.7 square miles of Lyndhurst that is done peacefully. He further commented that for him to participate in any protests or otherwise is improper and not appropriate. Sadly, there are hurt feelings from things being shared that are just not true. Mayor Ward remarked that "he can be called out on what he says, but don't ever lie about him because that crosses a line." He thanked Council for allowing him to set the record straight.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2025-19  
INTRODUCED BY: ADMINISTRATION**

**AN ORDINANCE PARTIALLY SUSPENDING THE RULES AND  
REGULATIONS REGARDING THE POSSESSION AND CONSUMPTION OF BEER  
AND WINE AT THE LYNDHURST PARK DURING SCHEDULED 2025 SUMMER  
CONCERT EVENTS**

It was moved by Mr. Schlessel, seconded by Mr. Gambatese, that rules set forth under Section 123.01 of the Codified Ordinances be suspended, that Ordinance No. 2025-19 be placed on third reading for final passage and that it be highlighted.

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

Motion carried.  
Rules Suspended.

Ordinance No. 2025-19 was highlighted by Ms. Miller, with section 3 being read in its entirety.

It was moved by Mr. Schlessel, seconded by Mr. Marko, that Ordinance No. 2025-19 be passed.

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

Motion carried.  
Ordinance No. 2025-19 is passed.

**ORDINANCE NO. 2025-20  
INTRODUCED BY: ADMINISTRATION**

**AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING TRANSFERS AND ADVANCES 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. 2025-20 be placed on third reading for final passage and that it be highlighted.

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

Motion carried.  
Rules Suspended.

Ordinance No. 2025-20 was highlighted by Ms. Miller, with section 4 being read in its entirety.

It was moved by Mr. Schlessel, seconded by Mr. Price, that Ordinance No. 2025-20 be passed.

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

Motion carried.  
Ordinance No. 2025-20 is passed.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-21  
INTRODUCED BY: ADMINISTRATION**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING PARTICIPATION IN THE ODOT ROAD  
SALT CONTRACTS AWARDED IN 2025, 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. 2025-21 be placed on third reading for final adoption and that it be highlighted.

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

Motion carried.  
Rules Suspended.

Resolution No. 2025-21 was highlighted by Ms. Miller, with the emergency clause being read in its entirety.

It was moved by Mr. Schlessel, seconded by Mr. Price, that Resolution No. 2025-21 be adopted.

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

Motion carried.  
Resolution No. 2025-21 is adopted.

**RESOLUTION NO. 2025-22  
INTRODUCED BY: MAYOR WARD AND ALL MEMBERS OF COUNCIL**

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING APRIL 25, 2025 ARBOR DAY IN THE CITY  
OF LYNDHURST**

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. 2025-22 be placed on third reading for final adoption and that it be highlighted.

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

Motion carried.  
Rules Suspended.

Resolution No. 2025-22 was highlighted by Ms. Miller, with section 3 being read in its entirety.

It was moved by Mr. Schlessel, seconded by Mr. Gambatese, that Resolution No. 2025-22 be adopted.

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

Motion carried.  
Resolution No. 2025-22 is adopted.

**Planning Commission Recommendation:**

Recommendation made to Council to approve the request for a Conditional Use Permit to an already existing Schedule E Use, located at 1370 Richmond Road, First Assembly of God church, and due to the requested use, Pipeline Behavioral Health Services, is found to be a harmonious use to the original use within Chapter 1160.03.

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 the meeting be adjourned.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

Approved: May 5, 2025

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of Council

\_\_\_\_\_  
Vice Mayor