WAPAKONETA CITY COUNCIL OCTOBER 5, 2026

President Chad Doll called the meeting to order at 7:30pm on October 5, 2026 at 701 Parlette Court with the following members present: Alex Stinebaugh, Jessica Muhlenkamp, Charity Behr, Alex Greve, John Sheipline, Jacob Parsons and Chad Dunlap. Mayor Dan Lee and Safety Service Director Tyler Price were also present. There were 14 visitors present. Law Director Grant Neal was absent.

Motion by Dunlap, second by Parsons to approve the minutes of the September 21, 2026 council meeting as submitted. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Guest Petitions –
Ms. Betsey Stauffer Wise of 1107 W. Auglaize Street requested a deer crossing sign in the area of the fairgrounds and Auglaize Street. Ms. Wise also advised that the Neil Armstrong sign along her property line is surrounded by black muck in the grass. Ms. Wise further expressed frustration about parking problems along her property line and speeding through the area, and is asking for help from the City with all of these concerns. Councilman Greve agreed to address the matters in the upcoming Streets & Alleys Committee meeting.

Mayor Lee issued a proclamation for Domestic Violence Awareness. Ms. Misty Mihm of the Auglaize County Crisis Center shared statistics of those receiving aid and services through the center over the last several years, noting a significant increase in need. Ms. Mihm explained the types of support and resources available for domestic violence survivors in Auglaize County and encouraged those in need to reach out for help.

Mr. Josh Bloomfield, Executive Director for Wapakoneta Area Economic Development Council, addressed City Council to announce the potential for a 30-acre, 50 megawatt data center project within the West Central Ohio Industrial Center. Mr. Bloomfield explained that the proposed project is in its due diligence and feasibility stage, with examination of the viability of electrical and utility needs for the site. Before a formal request is brought before City Council, the company involved will conduct a press release to the public, as well as provide a project-specific web page and webinars to distribute information to interested citizens. The proposed facility would use a closed-loop, oil-cooled system, which will limit its water and wastewater needs. The company has not requested tax abatements, extension of additional utilities to the site or the building of additional roadways. 25 permanent full-time positions plus 25 jobs from outside employers and 200 construction workers would be needed. The proposed project would be an estimated 500 million dollar investment into the Wapakoneta community. Mrs. Muhlenkamp asked if the company would ultimately have any option to expand the project to a larger scale than 30-acres. Mr. Bloomfield answered that the company would ideally like to expand to a total of 70-acres and 200 megawatts if possible. Mr. Greve asked how the City can limit the scope of future expansion. Mr. Bloomfield encouraged Council to codify these details if the project moves forward, noting that the conditional use parameters within the zoning code does provide additional protections. Mrs. Muhlenkamp asked for project timelines. Mr. Bloomfield answered there would be 6 weeks of community engagement followed by a conditional use request to City Council, then potential to break ground in Spring of 2027 with a 12 month construction timeline. Ms. Behr, Mr. Dunlap and Mr. Greve recommended that the developers conduct town hall style meetings for public input. Mr. Bloomfield added that the informational website should go live sometime this week.

New Business -
President Doll noted that due to a revision of Ord 2026-50 that adds emergency language, a motion is needed by council to approve said revision before its third and final reading. Motion by Dunlap, second by Greve to bring Ord 2026-50R to the floor for consideration. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2026-50R for the third time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA TO ENTER INTO A DEVELOPMENT AGREEMENT WITH ELFIE PROPERTIES, LLC AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
Motion by Dunlap, second by Behr to adopt Ord 2026-50R. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2026-51 for the third time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING EXECUTION OF THE 2026-2032 FIXED VOLUME ENERGY SUPPLY SCHEDULE WITH AMERICAN MUNICIPAL POWER, INC. ("AMP").
Motion by Muhlenkamp, second by Greve to adopt Ord 2026-51. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2026-52 for the third time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY TO PURCHASE A LABRIE EXPERT HELPING HAND REFUSE TRUCK FROM BEST EQUIPMENT COMPANY, INC. AND TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH NCL GOVERNMENT CAPITAL FOR THE PURCHASE.
Motion by Parsons, second by Sheipline to adopt Ord 2026-52. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2026-55 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE NAME OF WARREN AVENUE THROUGHOUT ITS ENTIRE LENGTH IN THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA, OHIO.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2026-56 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OHIO PUBLIC WORKS COMMISSION STATE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND/OR LOCAL TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF AGREEMENTS AND CONTRACTS AS REQUIRED.
Mrs. Muhlenkamp asked if the residents not currently on city water in this area will be forced to accept city water and incur costs. SSD Price answered that the EPA would wish for this to happen in the future.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2026-57 for the first time re: A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR.
Motion by Parsons, second by Dunlap to suspend the rules for Res 2026-57. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.
Motion by Parsons, second by Dunlap to adopt Res 2026-57. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Mayor Report:
Police Department
Service Calls: Handled 832 calls for service (106 requiring further reports)
Staff Recognition: Congratulated Officer Corey Zwiebel for being named Officer of the Year by the local Mason's lodge.
Fire Department
46 EMS calls for service
4 Call for service for motor
Staff Recognition: Congratulated Firefighter/Paramedic Trey Sager on receiving the Firefighter of the Year Award.
Professional Development: Captains Shook and Bellman attended University of Dayton training on practical workplace applications for ChatGPT.
Eagle Scout Projects:
Veterans Park entrance sign is 75% complete (pavers, mulch, and a new bench being installed next week by Bryson Cramer).
Batting cage replacement project starts in two weeks.
Human foosball court site prep has begun, with full completion targeted for November.
Electric Department
Testing & Training: Jared Osborne is attending a two-week climbing school.
Water Reclamation Department
Staffing: Began interviews for an open maintenance position in collections.
Water Treatment Department
Shoutout: Recognized Matt Griffo, Joe Hower, and Nicole Huelskamp for their assistance with fire hydrant installations.
Attended the Ohio Municipal League Annual Meeting
Discussions on the Energy Grid, Cyber security, Data centers. Legislature Updates.

Big thank you To Ann Neimeyer and the Lets Back the Blue Board for bringing Travis Howze to town

Safety Service Director Report:
501 / 198 project updates are being communicated on Facebook. Traffic light is back in service for a day or two, then will return to flashing yellow upon closure of 198.

Scheduling Committee Meetings:
Lodging Tax Committee meeting is scheduled for Oct. 6th at 3pm at City Hall.
Parks Levy Committee meeting is scheduled for Oct. 8th at 4:30pm at Harmon Park.
Streets & Alleys Committee meeting is scheduled for Oct. 12th at 6pm at City Hall.
Utilities Committee meeting is scheduled for Oct. 7th at 5:30pm at City Hall.

Motion by Dunlap, second by Sheipline to adjourn the meeting at 8:25pm. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

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President Clerk of Council