

President Chad Doll called the meeting to order at 7:30pm on July 20, 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. Law Director Grant Neal, Mayor Dan Lee and Safety Service Director Tyler Price were also present. There were 19 visitors present.

Motion by Sheipline, second by Greve to approve the minutes of the July 6, 2026 council meeting as submitted. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Communications Committee will review their report at next Council meeting.

Streets & Alleys Committee – a meeting was held on 7-13-2026 and the following was discussed:

Veteran Banner Project

The committee reviewed quotes and outlined the responsibilities for all contributing groups involved with the Veteran Banner Project.

After thorough discussion, the following plan was established:

The City and VVA have agreed on a select number of streets to use for the Veteran Banners

City will be responsible for the installation and maintenance on a specific route. This route will consist of approximately 150 banners, with a potential of roughly 50 more.

The contractor will be responsible for the installation and maintenance on a specific route as well. This will consist of about 300 banners.

If a veteran wants to have a banner installed in a location that is not included in the selected route, they will pay for the installation and maintenance costs for that banner.

As things stand today, there are banners hanging outside of the newly agreed upon streets. These banners will remain in those locations, until it is time to replace them. Once they need replaced, they will be relocated to the newly approved route.

The VVA has a list of banners that need replaced and new banners needing installed. The city will hang them on the "City" route first. This will help keep costs down for the contractor as we get caught up.

The City provides the hardware (excluding straps)

The VVA will supply Stainless Steel straps. This will be an improvement from the plastic straps currently used.

All new requests (installation and maintenance) from the VVA will be directed to the SSD. Tyler will then distribute and assign work as necessary. This process looks like...

VVA will handle application process

Veterans will sell banners, and submit to the city (Tyler)

The banner and hardware will then be assigned to either the Electric Dept or the Contractor, based upon the location of the banner

Anytime a banner is removed, the banner needs to be returned to the VVA

The project currently has an approved budget of \$10,000.00 annually. If this budget is reached, work will stop unless directed and approved otherwise. The budget will be reviewed in 2027.

After the above plan was discussed and quotes were reviewed; John Sheipline made a motion to write an ordinance for the city to work with VVA on the Veterans Banner Project and to proceed with signing a contract with "Out on Limbs Tree Service, LLC" and to pass under an emergency. The motion was 2nd by Greve.

Communications -

Mr. Dunlap read a lengthy email from a citizen voicing concerns over the use of Flock cameras in the City of Wapakoneta. The email contained numerous questions about the decision-making process to install the cameras and the use of the data they collect. Mr. Dunlap will provide a copy of said email to Administration for review. Mayor Lee noted that the Flock cameras purchase was done publicly and was listed within the City's budget. An ordinance was not necessary for the purchase. Specific locations of the cameras will be provided for the public. Law Director Neal agreed to review the Supreme Court cases cited within the email, as well as the Flock camera service agreement.

Guest Petitions –

Mrs. Linda Knerr of 312 E. Mechanic Street voiced concern about the proposed switch from Wapakoneta garbage bags to wheeled refuse totes. Mrs. Knerr suggested the City workers not pick up the trash bags if they have been made too heavy to lift. Mrs. Knerr added that the refuse totes can be difficult for senior citizens to move out to the curb, and the storage of the totes is also an issue.

Mr. Jim Elshire of 314 Dogwood Drive addressed Council about significant flooding problems on his street, sometimes several feet high after heavy rains and running over top of the mailboxes. Mr. Elshire stated that he has approached City Council and Administration many times over the years about the problem, but it has never been resolved. Mr. Greve and SSD Price both agreed to speak to the City Engineering Department about the matter to determine a solution.

Ms. Rachel Barber of 401 W. Auglaize Street questioned whom wrote the email to Councilman Dunlap regarding Flock camera concerns. Mr. Dunlap answered, 'John Doe'. Ms. Barber invited the public to attend a wreath laying ceremony at Fort Amanda Park on July 26th at 1:30pm in honor of two Revolutionary War Veterans. Ms. Barber also voiced concerns regarding the proposed changes to Wapakoneta's refuse collection services, noting that she has reached out to national organizations with experience in unit-pricing refuse collection methods. Ms. Barber suggested arranging a Zoom meeting with these organizations to learn about current best practices for optimal recycling within the community. President Doll requested Administration's assistance with arranging a Zoom call for this purpose.

Ms. Jessica Rich of 505 S. Wagner Avenue suggested Council read about the 'Condor upgrade' to Flock cameras, specifically facial-recognition software. Ms. Rich asked if the refuse tote sizes displayed within Council chambers will be available for residents to pick from. SSD Price answered, likely a 96 gallon or 35 gallon will be offered. SSD Price added that residents would receive a 96 gallon tote at no up-front cost if the proposed changes are implemented. The white Wapakoneta city trash bags would no longer be required and any garbage bag could be used. There will be an option for residents to purchase additional totes if needed and monthly rates would apply. Ms. Rich asked why Council was in a rush to decide the matter by August 2026. President Doll clarified that August would be the third reading for the ordinances related to this item, but Council could choose to table the decision if they wish. Ms. Rich asked when Council will receive public input on this matter. President Doll answered that the public is welcome to attend council meetings and share their input during the three separate readings of the ordinances or reach out to individual councilpersons with their concerns. Ms. Rich pointed out that any change in refuse collection will affect all city residents and recommended that Administration conduct a public survey on the topic to gather input. Ms. Rich also noted the possibility of a decline in recycling rates should the city change to refuse totes, as well as a possible increase in landfill costs. Ms. Rich added that she read about a recent House Bill that will offer a recycling rebate to communities who continue to make efforts in their recycling programs. Ms. Rich noted that employee safety seems to be one of the driving factors to making the change to refuse totes, but asked Council when employee safety becomes the consumer's responsibility versus the employer's responsibility. SSD Price answered that all industries have historically moved to utilizing tools and machinery that alleviate the need for workers to perform difficult tasks that can cause injury. Mayor Lee expressed that the city must address the matter of safety for its employees, as it is hard on the body to lift numerous bags each day. Mayor Lee stated that senior citizens may find the totes easier to maneuver than the bags. He further added that less staff would be necessary for refuse pickup if the automated truck is purchased. Ms. Rich asked if maintenance costs for the new trucks would be higher than those incurred with current refuse trucks. SSD Price answered that the current refuse trucks are in a constant state of disrepair, and no matter what decision is ultimately made, new refuse trucks will need to be purchased as soon as possible. Mayor Lee added that the state of the current refuse trucks is another reason the city was pressed to re-evaluate the refuse collection process and determine what kind of trucks to purchase.

Unfinished Business –

A Streets & Alleys Committee meeting will be scheduled to discuss parking enforcement procedure updates.

President Doll noted the two parks levy options being presented to Council: Resolution 2026-40 that proposes a 2-mill levy for five years, and Resolution 2026-41 that proposes a 1.5-mill levy for three years.

Council can chose to put either or neither of these on the ballot for consideration. Board of Election deadlines are fast approaching. Mrs. Muhlenkamp pointed out that the current parks levy is lapsing at the end of 2026. Mr. Dunlap added that neither the 1.5-mill nor the 2-mill options will fully address the needs of the parks department improvements.

New Business –

First council meeting of September will be moved from September 7th to September 8th at 7:30pm due to the Labor Day holiday.

SSD Price noted that a weather camera has been installed on the north side of the City. This camera livestream may be accessed by visiting the city's website.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2026-34 for the second time re: AN ORDINANCE MAKING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2026-36 for the second time re: A RESOLUTION TO APPROVE GENERATION FEE ABOLISHMENT/REPEAL FOR THE AUGLAIZE SOLID WASTE DISTRICT.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2026-37 for the second time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY TO PURCHASE TWO NEW WAY SIDEWINDER ASL REFUSE TRUCKS FROM ISER EQUIPMENT, LLC AND TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH DAIMLER TRUCK FINANCIAL SERVICES USA LLC FOR THE PURCHASE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Dunlap asked for the purpose of the emergency language. SSD Price answered that the language allows the purchase to be made immediately after passage of the ordinance. Mrs. Muhlenkamp asked if Council decides not to adopt Ord 2026-37, would SSD Price present a new ordinance for a different model of refuse truck to be purchased. SSD Price answered, yes.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2026-38R for the second time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING \$30,000.00 PER YEAR FOR THE DOWNTOWN WAPAKONETA PARTNERSHIP AND OHIO MAIN STREET PROGRAM FOR YEARS 2026-2028.

Mrs. Muhlenkamp stated she feels the revision to said ordinance does not provide clarification. SSD Price noted the original version listed "\$30,000" and the revision reflects the breakdown of \$20,000 per year to the DWP Façade Program and \$10,000 per year to the Ohio Main Street Program. Council may choose to adopt the original wording or the revised wording of said ordinance. Law Director Neal will review this revision and address it in his report. Mr. Neal added that while revising an ordinance does not interfere with the process of reading it three times, a best practice regarding ordinance revisions is for Council to vote as a body to adopt a proposed revision or not.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2026-39 for the second time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY TO PURCHASE REFUSE COLLECTION TOTES FROM ISER EQUIPMENT, LLC AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

SSD Price noted there are two ordinances for purchasing refuse collection totes, and that Council has the option of choosing either company's proposal.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2026-40 for the first time re: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN ADDITIONAL TWO-MILL TAX LEVY IN EXCESS OF THE TEN-MILL LIMITATION FOR PARKS AND RECREATION PURPOSES TO THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS FOR SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Greve, second by Parsons to suspend the rules for Res 2026-40. Vote – 5 yeas, 2 nays (Behr, Shepline.) Motion did not pass.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2026-41 for the first time re: A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE SUBMISSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ONE AND A HALF MILL TAX LEVY IN EXCESS OF THE TEN-MILL LIMITATION FOR PARKS AND RECREATION PURPOSES TO THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS

FOR SUBMISSION TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Greve asked if having three readings will allow enough time to submit required paperwork to the Board of Elections. SSD Price answered that special council meetings would be needed to complete the three readings and submit the paperwork in time to meet the deadline.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2026-42 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE ALLOCATION OF TWELVE PERCENT (12%) OF ALL LODGING TAX REVENUES RECEIVED BY THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA TO THE PARKS DEPARTMENT FOR PARK IMPROVEMENTS, MAINTENANCE, BEAUTIFICATION, AND TOURISM-RELATED ENHANCEMENTS.

Mrs. Muhlenkamp summarized that this would be an income to the parks department unrelated to the proposed levy that would allow for non-residents to contribute to the care and maintenance of Wapakoneta's parks. Mr. Greve asked what kind of public feedback has been received on this item. Mrs. Muhlenkamp stated that the 8-10 people whom attended the recent parks levy meeting were in favor of the ordinance, but no other public feedback has been received.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2026-43 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE MEANS OF INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF BANNERS HONORING VETERANS IN THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Law Director Neal noted that he spoke to VVA members about language specifics regarding installation of equipment, and by stating that the city is taking responsibility for installation implies this includes all equipment and costs necessary to do so for the infinite future.

Motion by Dunlap, second by Parsons to suspend the rules for Ord 2026-43. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays.

Motion passed. Motion by Dunlap, second by Behr to adopt Ord 2026-43. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays.

Mr. Greve asked administration to contact 'Out on Limbs' to inquire how quickly the work can be completed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2026-44 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY TO PURCHASE REFUSE COLLECTION TOTES FROM BEST EQUIPMENT COMPANY, INC AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2026-45 for the first time re: A RESOLUTION APPROVING CERTAIN CITY-SPONSORED AND COMMUNITY EVENTS AS SPECIAL EVENTS OR FESTIVALS PURSUANT TO SECTION 864.01 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2026-46 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE EDITING AND INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ORDINANCES AS PARTS OF THE VARIOUS COMPONENT CODES OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR THE ADOPTION AND PUBLICATION OF NEW MATTER IN THE UPDATED AND REVISED CODIFIED ORDINANCES; REPEALING ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mayor Report:

Mayor Lee stated he is excited to have Ord 2026-43 passed to celebrate our Veterans in perpetuity and he encourages the public to continue to voice their concerns at Council meetings and to City Administration. Mr. Lee pointed out that citizens may view a list of permitted solicitors and food truck vendors on the city's website. Mr. Lee thanked all the employees and volunteers who helped with the Summer Moon Festival this year. Mr. Lee also noted that today is 'Moon Day' and recognized all the people who made this anniversary possible.

Mr. Dunlap asked if there were any further plans to have a super-charger installed in Wapakoneta for rapid charge of electric vehicle batteries. Mr. Lee answered that he is communicating with a couple entities about this.

Safety Service Director Report:

Pre-construction meeting for the 501/198 project is tomorrow. Utility bills will soon show a breakdown of costs for better clarity.

Mrs. Muhlenkamp thanked the city for improvements to the Blackhoof Street traffic light timing.

Law Director Report:

Regarding Ord 2026-38R, the nature of Ohio Main Street Program is that the city enrolls in it and is choosing to appropriate money for the city's purposes and not giving funds to a large organization.

Scheduling Committee Meetings:

President Doll noted the need was expressed for a Committee of the Whole for public input about the refuse trucks and totes purchases, as well as a need for special meetings to read ordinances for a second and third time in order to meet ballot deadlines for a possible parks levy. Mayor Lee agreed to formally schedule two special meetings on Monday, July 27th at 7pm and 7:15pm at City Hall in order to address both of these topics.

Parks Levy Committee will meet on July 23rd at 4:30pm at Harmon Park Gazebo.

Streets & Alleys Committee will meet on July 27th at 6:30pm at City Hall.

Motion by Dunlap, second by Parsons to adjourn the meeting at 8:51pm. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President

Clerk of Council