

President Chad Doll called the meeting to order at 7:30pm on August 3, 2026 at 701 Parlette Court with the following members present: Alex Stinebaugh, Jessica Muhlenkamp, Charity Behr, Alex Greve, John Shepline, Jacob Parsons and Chad Dunlap. Law Director Grant Neal, Mayor Dan Lee and Safety Service Director Tyler Price were also present. There were 13 visitors present.

Motion by Greve, second by Shepline to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2026 council meeting as submitted. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Shepline, second by Parsons to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2026 special meeting number one as submitted. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Dunlap, second by Greve to approve the minutes of the July 27, 2026 special meeting number two as submitted. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Communications Committee – a meeting was held on 7-20-2026 and the following was discussed:

Chad and I spoke on the informer. I showed him a prototype that I've been working on in an attempt to future proof and standardize the way the informer is done in the future. I coded a tool that scrapes the city's website and formats all the current and future events into a printable pdf.

Mr. Stinebaugh stated his next step is to work with city administration and department heads on proper distribution.

Streets & Alleys Committee – a meeting was held on 7-27-2026 and the following was discussed:

Item 1: Chapter 452 of Wapakoneta

Councilor Parson's had made the committee aware there is a discrepancy between Wapakoneta codified ordinance Chapter 452 and Ohio Revised Code 4521, regarding parking offense. The current Wapakoneta code 452 still allows for parking offenses to become a criminal offense if the ticket is not paid within a certain period of time. Ohio Revised Code 4521 establishes a noncriminal, civil framework for local parking infractions.

A motion was made by Stinebaugh to make an ordinance to adopt the civil penalty process of Ohio Revised code 4521 and create a method for citizens to contest it. 2nd by Greve.

Committee of the Whole – a meeting was held on 7-30-2026 and the following was discussed:

President Doll opened by discussing ground rules for the meeting.

Rachel Barber introduced Mark Dancy of ZeroWaste. Mr. Dancy shared a presentation about Pay-as-You-Throw refuse systems benefits. It included examples of success in other communities.

The meeting then had a public participation and Question & Answer period.

Mr. Dancy spoke to bag sizes suggesting using only two and having weight limits on them of 25 and 35 pounds. He said bag pricing should cover the costs of the service. He expressed that variable rate carts also help in refuse reduction, but considerably less than the bags option.

Mr. Dancy also briefly described an option in which the bag system is still used but they are then placed in carts for ease of truck pick up with a camera system used to make sure bag use is compliant.

There was also discussion regarding combining refuse and recycling in one truck route as well as the benefits of single & dual stream recycling.

Several residents expressed concerns related to difficulties for senior citizens related to cart movement, cart placement in crowded communities and other logistical topics.

Mr. Dunlap expressed his belief that the most important thing to consider was doing what was right to leave a better place for the future and not just a financial consideration.

There was a question about a vote of the citizens. Mr. Doll explained why that method is not used in the representative system of government our nation uses and also explained how the voter initiative process works in Ohio should local citizens wish to pursue that option for a decision.

Guest Petitions –

Mrs. Linda Knerr of 312 E. Mechanic Street addressed council about the proposed changes in refuse collection. Mrs. Knerr encouraged everyone to think about which option is best for the town as a whole, rather than their individual preferences on refuse collection methods.

Ms. Rachel Barber of 401 W. Auglaize Street encouraged city administration to examine fixed costs versus variable costs to determine the proper trash bag rate, ensuring said rates serve the city and the people. Ms. Barber reiterated that refuse collection decisions should be done methodically and with as much information as possible.

Mr. Tom Vehorn of 911 Fieldstone Court noted that numerous citizens have approached him to express that they prefer the current trash bag system of refuse collection, and only one person stated they prefer to have a garbage tote. Mr. Vehorn also feels the city will stay cleaner looking by using the bag system.

Mrs. Bonnie Rausch 703 S. Blackhoof Street stated she prefers the current trash bag system and will not be accepting any proposed wheeled trash barrel for her property.

New Business –

Mrs. Muhlenkamp stated the Recreation Advisory Commission is seeking a new member. A parks levy meeting is scheduled for August 6th at 4:30pm at the Harmon Park gazebo.

SSD Price spoke to the anonymous letter read by Mr. Dunlap during the July 20th council meeting having to do with Flock camera concerns. The city acquired five cameras in 2024 and two additional cameras in 2026. SSD Price provided camera locations, capabilities, and data sharing and retention protocol. A transparency portal has been launched on the city's website that allows the public to review the last 30 days of data. SSD Price stated that there is a large amount of misinformation circulating about Flock camera capabilities. The City of Wapakoneta owns the data collected by said cameras. Flock does not own this data nor do they sell it. Wapakoneta Police Department controls access permissions. Data collected is deleted after 30 days' time. Every search requires a documented reason, and these records are created at the moment when an officer conducts a search of the data. Cameras were purchased under existing administrative purchasing authority and no additional legislation was required to make the purchases. Automated license plate readers have been used for decades and courts have recognized that municipalities may use this technology within constitutional limits. SSD Price cited court cases summarizing that recording license plates from public roadways does not constitute a 4th amendment search. The City of Wapakoneta will continue to review law updates and applicable cases moving forward. Every search of the data is permanently logged and auditable, and supervisors can review these to ensure compliance with the law. There are no facial recognition or biometric technology capabilities with the flock camera system. The cameras can only read the license plate as an investigative lead, and cannot tell an officer who the vehicle belongs to.

Administrative Lieutenant Patrick Green of the Wapakoneta Police Department spoke to City Council about the use of Flock cameras in the city, noting they are utilized for criminal justice purposes only. Alerts can be entered into the system to link a specific license plate to an abduction, wanted person or stolen vehicle report. Lt. Green then reviewed each section of the online transparency portal, noting success stories, data & usage summaries, usage policy, myths on flock cameras and a public search audit spreadsheet. Lt. Green further noted that some flock cameras are not for criminal justice purposes, such as those being utilized by private entities such as homeowners associations or businesses. Officers may not take action solely from an alert from flock cameras, but must verify information using LEADS or other methods before making a stop or arrest. Private entities or businesses are likely using flock cameras to mitigate loss from theft, but they cannot obtain criminal justice information from LEADS. Lt. Green further pointed out that Wapakoneta's location on the I-75 and US 33 corridor can increase the likelihood of flock cameras alerting local officers to any violent persons, wanted persons, missing children or stolen vehicles traveling through the town. Currently, there is no evidence that Flock has shared any data collected with a third party. Law Director Neal added that per the Supreme Court as things stand today, the usage of Flock cameras is absolutely allowed by law and have not been deemed unconstitutional.

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

Motion by Dunlap, second by Shepline to adopt Ord 2026-34. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

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

Motion by Parsons, second by Muhlenkamp to adopt Res 2026-36. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2026-37 for the third 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.

Motion by Greve, second by Dunlap to table Ord 2026-37. Vote – 6 yeas, 1 nay (Shepline). Ordinance 2026-37 is now tabled.

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

Motion by Dunlap, second by Behr to adopt Ord 2026-38R. Mr. Shepline pointed out that there will be no carryover of funds from year to year with this program. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2026-39 for the third 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.

Motion by Parsons, second by Muhlenkamp to adopt Ord 2026-39. SSD Price noted that the totes listed in Ord 2026-44 were of better quality and price. Vote – 0 yeas, 7 nays. Motion did not pass.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2026-42 for the second 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.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2026-44 for the second 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 second 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.

Mrs. Muhlenkamp asked if events hosted by non-profit organizations would need to have permits. SSD Price answered that the section addresses procedure if a non-profit organization is operating a booth at an event. Mrs. Muhlenkamp asked how a group might apply for exemption for vendor permits. SSD Price answered that the group would need to make said request and council would need to consider it for approval.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2026-46 for the second 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:

Transparency on Flock

Foreign actor attacked our computer systems at 6 am on Wednesday July 29

6 computers were affected

The city has a \$10,000.00 deductible and we are currently under that amount.

We have notified all of the entities that need to know and now we are notifying the community. We do not feel there is any more danger to our systems at this time.

Our IT department and cyber security firm reacted appropriately.

Reviewed the water tower project today. It is on schedule. The firm does work 10 days on and 4 days off. So if you are there and there is no activity it would be on their day off.

I would like to acknowledge that Donnie Schnarre has retired and would like to publicly thank him for his service.

National Night out tomorrow. I encourage our community to come out for this free event.

Thanks the WPD Department and Nikki Sawmiller for all their work

I would also like to that all of those that came together to sponsor this annual event

Wapakoneta Wal Mart. Let's Back the Blue, Embridge Gas Ohio, Stolly Ins. Alan Davis. Ins, Midwest Electric, Lowes, Friends of FOE #691, VFW Post #8445, Kah Meats, Beer and Wine Depot, Knights of Columbus #1272, Noon Optimist Club of Wapakoneta, Open Arms Entertainment DJ Services, Side Rails, Operation BBQ Rescue

The Auglaize County Fair has started and I would encourage the community to attend the fair.

Safety Service Director Report:

501 / 198 project should begin this week.

Mr. Greve asked if a contract has been signed for the Veterans Banners project. SSD Price answered, a meeting was held this evening.

Mr. Greve asked city administration to reach back out to Mr. Dancy of ZeroWaste again.

Mr. Dunlap asked if there was a way to poll the city's residents on if they prefer bag collection to tote collection for refuse services. Mayor Lee stated that those wishing to have a refuse tote can make that request through the city's website. Mr. Sheipline requested that the tote sizes be pictured and shown on the city's website and facebook pages.

Mr. Josh Bishop of 20025 St. Rt. 501 and Wapakoneta refuse and recycling employee approached council to add that some residents set out 10-20 trash bags a week for collection, some of the bags weighing over 50 pounds. Mr. Bishop feels limits should be enforced to protect the workers. Mr. Bishop noted that Wapakoneta is growing and total refuse weight collected have increased over the last year. Ms. Behr asked what the current weight limit was for city trash bags. SSD Price answered, 50 pounds. Mr. Dancy of ZeroWaste recommended dropping this weight limit to 35 pounds and increasing bag prices. Weighing the bags to enforce the rule is a challenge.

President Doll asked administration to explore helping Burger King on Bellefontaine Street with sign repair and cleanup. Please contact the companies who have posted numerous advertisements for landscaping and seeding on the city's utility poles to notify them this is not allowed. The Wapakoneta banners in Heritage Park are in need of replacement. Cleanup from area geese in the Heritage Park walkways is also needed.

Law Director Report:

No report.

Ordinance regarding traffic violation procedure updates will be presented at next council meeting.

Scheduling Committee Meetings:

Parks Levy Committee will meet on August 6th at 4:30pm at Harmon Park Gazebo.

Tree Commission will meet August 4th at 8am at City Hall.

Miscellaneous Business:

Mr. Dunlap and Mr. Greve encouraged residents to educate themselves on the importance of the parks levy. Deb Zvez added that the City Parks Levy expires at the end of 2026, and it has not been updated or changed for at least two valuation increases. Mrs. Zvez provided her property as an example, noting that the proposed two-mill park levy tax will be a change in cost for her from \$32 to \$113 per year if the levy passes. A tax calculator will be supplied on the city's website allowing residents to plug in auditor valuations to determine park levy tax for individual properties. Campaign cards will be created and passed out to help educate residents as well.

Mr. Stinebaugh and Mrs. Muhlenkamp noted technical issues with email in the last week.

Mr. Shepline complimented the Roots & Shoots garden club for their work on the flowers downtown.

Motion by Parsons, second by Behr to adjourn the meeting at 8:43pm. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President

Clerk of Council