

President Chad Doll called the meeting to order at 7:30pm on April 20, 2026 at 701 Parlette Court with the following members present: Alex Stinebaugh, Jessica Muhlenkamp, Charity Behr, John Shepline, Jacob Parsons and Chad Dunlap. Safety Service Director Tyler Price, Mayor Dan Lee and Law Director Grant Neal were also present. There were 8 visitors present. Councilman Alex Greve was absent.

Motion by Dunlap, second by Shepline to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2026 council meeting as submitted. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Lodging Tax Committee – a meeting was held on 04-08-2026 and the following was discussed:

The meeting was called to discuss the St. Joseph Fireworks application for Lodging Tax Dollars. The total cost of the project is \$16,500 with a \$7000 Lodging Tax request. This is the 3rd year the Fireworks have requested funding. The representatives from St. Joseph explained the project and discussed the number of people it brings to town. The Fireworks are separate from the festival which is a fundraiser for the church.

There was a long discussion about funding the project including whether or not Council should have the right to overrule the committee, should repeat funding requests come from City Council's General fund and how the committee could improve their application year over year by including more data.

The Lodging Tax completed the rubric with an abstention from Eric Ireland, the project scored a 17.75 on the rubric and was not eligible for funding.

A follow-up meeting was scheduled to discuss the proposal from Back the Blue.

Lodging Tax Committee – a meeting was held on 04-13-2026 and the following was discussed:

The meeting was called to discuss the Back the Blue AIM (Always Inspire Mental Wellness) Event to be held at the Performing Arts Center in September. Back the Blue is planning to host Travis Howze, an international touring speaker, author and motivational wellness educator for first responders and law enforcement personnel to attend. Tickets will be discounted to \$20.

The project has a budget of \$48,989. Representative Anne Niemeyer had indicated that she would like municipalities to contribute around \$5000 and she provided a list of commitments from other organizations including the City of St. Marys.

Howze is said to have a huge following with registrations already coming in from Ohio, Tennessee, Kentucky, Illinois and Indiana. The hope is that out of area residents would stay in Wapakoneta's hotels and eat local.

The project scored a 23 on the rubric.

Dan Lee made a motion to fund the project at \$5000 with a second from Eric Ireland, the motion was passed.

Motion by Muhlenkamp, second by Dunlap to approve \$5000 of funding to the 'Back the Blue' event. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Mr. Dunlap reviewed data provided by Councilman Alex Greve about the city's Facebook page, noting percentages of followers who live outside the city and the volume of interaction with posts about the fireworks festival. Mrs. Muhlenkamp stated that perhaps one-off events should not be funded with lodging tax dollars, and rather the monies be directed at efforts for Wapakoneta tourism as a whole rather than one event on a specific day. Mr. Dunlap stated that the annual fireworks event is one way for Wapakoneta to host many people, including those who may not have extra income for taking their families to special events. Mr. Dunlap added there will be times that Council will override the recommendation of the Lodging Tax Committee on a funding request. Motion by Dunlap, second by Behr to approve the \$7000 of funding for the St. Joseph Fireworks display. Vote – 5 yeas, 1 nay (Muhlenkamp). Motion passed. Mr. Shepline suggested re-evaluating the rubric used for lodging tax funding applications. Mrs. Muhlenkamp answered that this matter was addressed last year, with little feedback from councilors and resulted in no changes made to the scoring. Mrs. Muhlenkamp asked SSD Price if funding will again be taken from the lodging tax dollars to reimburse city services for events. SSD Price answered yes, that a set amount of lodging tax dollars will be utilized every year for this purpose and the matter need not be voted on each year.

Guest Petitions –

Mr. Chas Roemer of 6837 Rue Bocage, Baton Rouge, LA and representing Regensyn Energy LLC addressed council about Ord 2026-20 and the emerging technology regarding the removal of forever chemicals from wastewater streams while simultaneously creating energy. Mr. Roemer explained that his company's efforts in the technology have transitioned from lab level testing to a commercialized model in Corpus Christi, TX. Mr. Roemer stated there is no financial obligation on the City of Wapakoneta, nor any obligation on Regensyn Energy LLC to continue their investments and efforts indefinitely, but instead, Ord 2026-20 is a cooperative agreement between the parties to show this technology can be used to clean the wastewater system and generate energy.

Mr. Josh Bloomfield, Executive Director of Wapakoneta Area Economic Development Council introduced Mr. Rick Johnson of Applied Environmental Solutions who has been working closely with Wapakoneta's Wastewater Department for project development on said cooperative agreement. Mr. Johnson explained that Wapakoneta's geographical location is very unique and offers a great position for this technology, adding that the parties involved work well together and are committed to the project's success.

Unfinished Business –

Mr. Dunlap noted that Waste Minimization Committee met recently to discuss the overflowing dumpsters of cardboard at the recycling drop-off location on Harrison Street. The committee discussed the possibility of closing the drop-off during weekends to prevent the frequent mess, as Auglaize County can only empty said dumpsters during weekdays. Mr. Dunlap read a letter from Rachel Barber of the Waste Minimization Committee, in which she stated that the city ought to leave the recycle drop-off open through the weekend as a service to its citizens. Mr. Dunlap noted that rules signage and security cameras are being considered for this location. SSD Price responded by saying the city is meeting with county officials to determine solutions to this logistical problem.

New Business -

President Doll gave a reminder that a special collections day will be held on April 25th 9am-12noon at the Wapakoneta Street Department on Harrison Street.

President Doll noted that Linda Knerr has been appointed to serve on the Design Review Board.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2026-16 for the second time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF EIGHT SELF-SUPPORTING STEEL STRUCTURES AS PART OF THE SOUTH LOOP TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2026-17 for the second time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY TO PURCHASE A FORD F450 TRUCK FOR THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT AND TO UPFIT THE VEHICLE WITH REQUIRED EQUIPMENT.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2026-18 for the second time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY TO SET SPECIFICATIONS, ADVERTISE FOR BIDS, AND EXECUTE AN ASPHALT OVERLAY, CRACK SEAL, GRIND AND PAVE PROJECT USING TAX LEVY MONIES FOR VARIOUS STREETS IN THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2026-19 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 410.05 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA SPECIFIC TO CITY VEHICLE POUND FEES.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2026-20 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA AND REGENSYN ENERGY LLC AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Motion by Sheipline, second by Muhlenkamp to suspend the rules for Ord 2026-20. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Dunlap, second by Parsons to adopt Ord 2026-20. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Mayor's Report:

Administration

Observed National Public Safety Telecommunications Week;

National Lineman Appreciation Day on April 18;

Tax Department

Continues to be very busy as tax returns are being submitted and they will continue to be busy as they handle them

IT Department

Installation of water tower camera scheduled for next week.

Police Department

492 calls for service; 40 required additional documentation.

E bikes are in use

Multiple scam-related calls.

Three sergeants attended legal update training.

Thank all for the out pouring of support for our Dispatchers

Fire Department

Parks / Pool Department

Waterpark preparations: Everything is on schedule to open on time weather permitting

Water Reclamation Department

Collection crew:

Responded to 5 sanitary backups (all on property owner's side).

Completed 2 sanitary tap inspections.

Water Treatment Department

3M gallon storage tank site ready for footers; completion expected July 2027.

Hosted the citizens academy on site with tour and education

Recognition given to Joe Hower and Nicole Huelskamp for salt tank cleanup work.

Engineering Department

Continued review and finalization of building permits.

198/501 Traffic Light Improvements:

Miller Contracting Group is apparent low bidder.

ODOT to schedule pre construction meeting.

Public Works / Refuse & Recycling

Heritage Park:

Stage pad excavated and formed for concrete pour next week.

Prepared west side of service building for new concrete at mower garage entrance.

Researching thermoplastic application machine for long lasting roadway striping; quotes pending.

Joint site review with Wapakoneta City Schools and Choice One for school zone crosswalks; recommendations forthcoming.

Bonnie Wurst Tree dedication. Friday at 330. She was a city councilor and served on the School report

A big thank you to all the people that have been involved in bring the ordinance ORD 2026-20 COOPERATION AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA AND REGENSYN ENERGY LLC.

Safety Service Director Report:

ODOT is scheduling a pre-construction meeting for the 501/198 project and official start date will be determined.

Midwest Rail will be re-doing the crossway at Gibbs and Maple Streets.

Improvements are needed for the school zone crosswalks at Hamilton and Redskin Trail.

Mr. Shepline asked if security cameras will be installed at Heritage Parkway. SSD Price noted this will be discussed during the bid process.

Mrs. Muhlenkamp stated she had some qualms about the \$17,000 desk design proposal for council chambers and asked what other improvements are planned for the room. SSD Price stated the second quote received was in the \$50,000 range. He added that the mayoral photo wall may be updated but no other significant expenses for council chambers are planned.

President Doll asked about the plan for fencing at the dog park. SSD Price answered that weather conditions have delayed this work.

President Doll asked about the work done recently at Mechanic and Auglaize Streets, noting rough conditions there. SSD Price stated that Public Works is aware.

Law Director Report:

No report.

Scheduling Committee Meetings:

Mrs. Muhlenkamp advised that the Recreation Advisory Commission meeting scheduled for today was cancelled.

Recreation Advisory Commission will hold informational sessions for the public regarding the upcoming park levy. These sessions are scheduled for April 27th at 6:30pm at Heritage Park Gazebo and April 30th at 5pm at Veterans Park shelter house.

Miscellaneous Business:

Motion by Sheipline, second by Dunlap to enter executive session at 8:21pm for conferences with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action and inviting City Administration as well as Attorney Jeffrey M. Stopar by phone
Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays.

Motion by Dunlap, second by Parsons to exit executive session at 8:45pm. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Sheipline, second by Behr to adjourn the meeting at 8:45pm. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President

Clerk of Council