

President Chad Doll called the meeting to order at 7:30pm on October 6, 2025 at 701 Parlette Court with the following members present: Alex Stinebaugh, Jessica Muhlenkamp, Brandon Miller, Alex Greve, John Shepline, Terry Campbell and Chad Dunlap. Safety Service Director Tyler Price and Mayor Dan Lee were also present. There were 10 visitors present. Law Director Grant Neal was absent.

Received Income Tax Summary Report for Month Ending 9-30-2025.

Motion by Campbell, second by Shepline to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2025 council meeting as submitted. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

Motion by Dunlap, second by Greve to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2025 special council meeting as submitted. Vote – 6 yeas, 0 nays, 1 abstain (Miller). Motion passed.

Guest Petitions -

Mr. Tom Helmstetter of 17113 Golden Bridge Road and owner of Helmstetter Properties at 326 Stinebaugh Drive, addressed City Council regarding the proposed intersection improvement project for State Route 501 / 198 PID No. 120037. Mr. Helmstetter stated the intersection is currently unsafe for the renters exiting his property there, and the proposed stop sign rather than a stop light will make it even more dangerous for cars trying to exit this location. Mr. Helmstetter added that he spoke to a majority of the residents on Stinebaugh Drive about the intersection project and obtained 30 signatures on a petition against installing a stop sign there. Said petition signatures were submitted to City Administration and Clerk McDonald. Mr. Campbell noted that the project proposal is due to traffic congestion and lag times for vehicles waiting at stop lights there, especially during peak times at the end of school days.

Mr. Mitch Thobe from Choice One Engineering summarized that the SR 501 / 198 intersection is currently a six-leg, all signalized intersection, causing traffic delays and pedestrian safety issues. A feasibility and safety study was completed per the requirements of the ODOT funding application and possible alternative designs were explored. Utilizing the proposed design change may reduce traffic crashes there by 33% and will improve the efficiency of traffic flow at the intersection. Mr. Miller noted that built-in detection will be placed at the proposed stop sign for Stinebaugh Drive. Mrs. Penny Helmstetter expressed that members of the public ought to have an opportunity to give input on the project, but no public meeting had been offered for this purpose. Mr. Miller responded by saying that this item has been discussed at several Streets & Alleys Committee meetings over recent years, which are open for the public to attend, yet guests are rarely present. Mr. Greve asked if the proposed design could be tweaked to include the concerns brought forth by the Helmstetters. Mr. Miller asked about the project timeline and funding details. Mr. Thobe answered that Choice One began working on this project in October 2023, submitted original plans in March 2024, and will submit finalized plans to ODOT in two weeks. The right of way acquisition is still ongoing. Mr. Thobe added that the estimated project cost is 1.8 million dollars, with the state paying 80%. SSD Price stated the remaining 20% will come from different street funds. Mr. Miller encouraged citizens to contact City Administration with questions or concerns about the project, and suggested scheduling another Streets & Alleys Committee meeting for public input. Mrs. Muhlenkamp suggested written policy be put in place to ensure public hearings are held for street project proposals. Mr. Thobe noted that since the project is state-funded, the state dictates the policy and procedures to be followed. Mr. Thobe added that the design has been reviewed and approved by the State of Ohio and changes will likely not be made.

President Doll noted that Ord 2025-31 remains tabled.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2025-33 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE CONTINUED OPERATION OF THE PREVIOUSLY APPROVED DESIGNATED OUTDOOR REFRESHMENT AREA IN THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA.

Mrs. Muhlenkamp asked if any changes have been made. SSD Price answered, no. Mrs. Muhlenkamp asked if business owners were contacted for input. SSD Price answered that he has not received any. Mr. Miller requested City Administration utilize social media to prompt input on the program.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2025-34 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE MAKING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

SSD Price explained that Auditor Anderson wishes to close an inactive fund and appropriate a supplemental loan.

Motion by Miller, second by Campbell to suspend the rules on Ord 2025-34. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays.

Motion passed.

Motion by Miller, second by Muhlenkamp to adopt Ord 2025-34. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2025-35 for the first time re: A RESOLUTION TO ADOPT THE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE FOR THE AUGLAIZE COUNTY SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DISTRICT.

Mr. Miller asked if there have been any changes. SSD Price answered, not that he is aware of, and the state is mandating this item.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Ord 2025-36 for the first time re: AN ORDINANCE TO ENTER INTO A PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH ODOT FOR PID NO. 120037 AUG SR 501/198 2.32/2.36.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2025-37 for the first time re: A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN PREPARED BY REVEILLE LTD. FOR THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA, OHIO.

Mr. Miller pointed out that said plan is non-binding. Mayor Lee agreed, stating the plan is a living document and changes can be made. Mr. Greve asked if there have been public responses to the finalized plan. Mayor Lee answered, no, not many so far.

President Doll asked Clerk to read Res 2025-38 for the first time re: A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE NECESSITY OF LEVYING AN ADDITIONAL TAX IN EXCESS OF THE TEN-MILL LIMITATION FOR PARKS AND RECREATION PURPOSES AND REQUESTING THE COUNTY AUDITOR TO CERTIFY THE TOTAL CURRENT TAX VALUATION OF THE CITY OF WAPAKONETA AND THE REVENUE THAT WOULD BE GENERATED BY A TWO-MILL LEVY.

Mr. Ross Kantner representing the Recreation Advisory Committee, provided Council with a list of priority projects and recommended uses for the parks and recreation levy income. Mr. Kantner summarized this list of categories to include: Revitalize / Overhaul / Upgrade all City Park playgrounds, athletic fields, and recreational spaces, as well as create an enhanced and comprehensive parks and recreation facilities / spaces maintenance agenda. Mrs. Muhlenkamp asked for the cost breakdown for the average taxpayer. Mr. Miller explained the proposed levy would be based on new assessments. Ideally, the City would pay for the salaries of employees, and the levy funding of approximately \$500,000 per year would cover park improvements as suggested by the Recreation Advisory Committee. SSD Price suggested homeowners visit the County Auditor's website for assessed values. President Doll asked for the proposed length on said levy. Mr. Miller answered, five years. SSD Price noted a second resolution would be needed to place the matter on the ballot.

Mayor Report:

Sent legislative impact memo to Council.

Attended AMP conference.

Spoke at the Gold Star Ceremony.

Issued a proclamation to St. Paul UCC for 175 years of service.

Will be attending the Ohio Municipal League annual conference this week.

Sent update to Council regarding the cannabis tax.

2025 sidewalk program is finishing up.

H-poles along the riverfront behind town have been removed.

New Public Works Superintendent is Treg Drexler.

Two police officers have passed their e-bike training course.

Rubber matting installed at Veterans Park.

Welcome to several new city employees.

Out of Dark Walk this Saturday 9am.

Back the Blue raffle ongoing.

PT tax administrator position opening.

Mr. Miller encouraged citizens to contact State Representatives and Governor's office to voice opinions regarding the use and distribution of the cannabis tax. Mr. Miller added he is in favor of Council passing a resolution pertaining to this matter as well.

Service Director Report:

Fire Department hosted homeschool students and parents for tour.
Shelter house at Veterans Park is complete.
Redskin Trail and 501 traffic light has been worked on.
Waterline industrial loop will be complete by winter.
Masonic Lodge Banquet awards recognized David Lowery and Nikki Sawmiller.

Mrs. Muhlenkamp asked if the removal of the H-poles helped alleviate the problem at Krave Creamery. SSD Price stated this item remains on the list and in-progress.
Mrs. Muhlenkamp asked about the Engineering Department finishing work on Carnation Drive. SSD Price answered that the department has reviewed these items.
Mr. Greve noted that the OSU vegetable garden across from the St. Joseph Church had several weeds this season and needs addressed next year.
Mr. Miller asked for a summary regarding refuse service updates. SSD Price stated the current trucks are in disrepair. Cost for a new truck with an arm pickup system are being explored. Mr. Campbell stated the time has come to move forward with containers to avoid employee injuries from picking up refuse bags.
Mr. Stinebaugh received a citizen complaint regarding a pump station on Stoneybrook Drive with an offensive smell. SSD Price stated a chemical has been applied to resolve this.

Scheduling Committee Meetings:

Recreation Advisory Commission will meet on October 27th at 6pm at City Hall.
Streets & Alleys Committee will meet on October 16th at 6pm at City Hall.

Motion by Campbell, second by Greve to adjourn the meeting at 9:04pm. Vote – 7 yeas, 0 nays. Motion passed.

President

Clerk of Council