REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2026 – 7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

President Jim Fodor called the Regular Council Meeting to order at 7:00 PM. City Council convened for a regular meeting in Council Chambers – Courtroom #1.

ROLL CALL FOR ATTENDANCE

Councilpersons Derrick Abney, Nick Augustine, Lori DiNallo, Jim Fodor, Mario Rodriguez and Christine Shoop were present. Paul Hach was not able to attend.

Mrs. Shoop motioned to excuse Mr. Hach from tonight's meeting, seconded by Mr. Augustine. All Council members were in favor by answering "Aye". Motion carried.

Other City Staff in attendance: City Manager Doug Lewis, Assistant City Manager Tony Zampedro, Law Director Jim Lyons, Economic Development Director Susan Crotty, City Engineer Leanne Exum, Director of Planning Sarah Sitterle, Finance Director Bill Parkinson, Human Resources Director Kris Young, Public Service Director Jarod McCrone, Police Chief Dan Waterman, Public Information Officer Maike Cook, and Clerk of Council Samantha Danielson

APPROVE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED

Mr. Fodor asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Mrs. Shoop moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez. All Council members were in favor by answering "Aye". Motion carried. Agenda approved.

INVOCATION was given by Councilperson Derrick Abney.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited.

MINUTES: Regular Meeting 03.02.26

Mr. Fodor asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting on March 2, 2026.

Mrs. Shoop moved to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting on March 2, 2026, seconded by Mr. Augustine. All Council members were in favor by answering "Aye". Motion carried. Minutes approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ray Sternot, of Birchwood Land and Heisley Park HOA Board President, addressed Council on three matters. First, he reiterated his previously stated request that Council consider an alternative arrangement allowing Heisley Park residents to pay the cost difference for vinyl-clad mailbox post replacements in keeping with the city's approved design guidelines. Second, he stated that data provided by the Army Corps of Engineers, while appreciated, was incomplete, and that he had distributed an email to Council members identifying those deficiencies. Third, he raised concerns about stormwater management within the development, specifically that a stream which was supposed to have been relocated has not been, resulting in water entering sump pumps and visible sediment in Pond 3 that should not be present after twenty years. He noted the plan is not working as implemented and designed and has caused great concern for the residents of Heisley Park. He reported that a recent two-inch rain event caused flooding in several homes and recalled that a larger rain event in 2013 led to sanitary sewer backups. Mr. Sternot requested that the City Manager and City Engineer come out to the site with residents and inquired about the status of a previously discussed meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers and Ohio EPA. He also asked that a video he had submitted be shown to Council. Council President Mr. Fodor confirmed that the emails had been distributed and would be placed in the record and noted that technical difficulties had prevented showing the video that evening but would show a portion of it at the next meeting.

Two emails were submitted by Ray Sternot on March 12, 2026 regarding Heisley Park Stormwater System are as follows:

We want to thank you once again for allowing us to review the Army Corp data that you provided. In continuing our review and providing additional data for you, the Army Corp, and the Ohio EPA, for your meeting(s), we want to share some additional field research information. On March 11, 2026, while Painesville was experiencing a significant amount of rain of ABOUT 2 inches, we took A video of our Pond #3 intake and outtake flows. We observed at the intake to the pond a water flow with a significant amount of mud/sediment of about 50-60%. We find this observation concerning and unusual since there is no new construction going on in Heisley Park

that would justify the water being as muddy as it was. It compared to the new hotel construction site on the other side of the tracks near Home Depot where muddy water could be seen in the street and in the storm trenches.As we see it, based on the stormwater paths contained in the Heisley Park Stormwater System map that the City Engineer provided to us previously (attached), Pond #3 should only be managing stormwater from homes primarily on North and South Ashwood. It should be noted that this sketch is not dated/time-stamped nor does it reflect the placement of the Lake County-Painesville realigned stream as per the 2005 recommendation of the Army Corp of Engineer. Our video observation suggests that the stormwater system flows entering Pond #3 have more than just stormwater flowing into the pond and supports the existence of the relocated stream or an unknown water source entering into the stormwater system that was designed by Mortel and ultimately approved by the Army Corp of Engineers, the Ohio EPA and the City Engineer at the time. As you are aware, our ponds are not sized or equipped to handle more than regular stormwater from that area and nor any additional stream flows. I will provide a copy of the video to you via the Council Clerk for your records at the next council meeting (3/16/26) as it is too large to attach to this email.



I want to thank you for allowing us to review the information that you received from the Army Corp of Engineers concerning Heisley Park Development and the follow-up of various stormwater concerns that we previously identified. We are currently in the process of reviewing the data. We assume that you and the City Engineer will also be reviewing the data and the results used in the meeting and subsequent discussions that you will be having with the Army Corp of Engineers, the Lake County Stormwater Management Department, and the Ohio EPA relative to our concerns. We realize that even though we have not been sanctioned as a utility to attend those discussions, we did want to share with you some additional concerns that came to our attention while reviewing the documents that you provided. While we have yet to complete our review of the data, we have identified some documentation concerns that we want to make you aware of as the Painesville Stormwater Director. You and the City Engineer may have already recognized these concerns. And, if so, we apologize for the redundancy. 1. The Army Corp documents are missing the information on when exactly the stream was relocated. We believe the realignment was supposed to occur in 2008. But the documentation seems to be missing details including who approved the design of the stream relocation; and who was responsible for inspecting the stream realignment? All that is shown is a map that said it was to exit via Wassan Ditch on our western border. To reiterate, when the City Engineer and we did an actual site visit of Wassan Ditch it showed that there was no relocated stream that could be identified nor any capability for any stream to exit via Wassan Ditch. (The above relates to our concern that the stream is not actually realigned but adversely affecting our Pond #3 capacity requirements and the entire western basin stormwater design.) 2. The Army Corp documents are missing the as-built pond #3 information. Specifically, there is no information as to who approved pond #3 design including the design details (elevations; location, etc.) or who was responsible for inspecting the location and design and details of pond #3? Thus, it cannot be determined who was responsible for this design or approval be it the City Engineer, the Lake County Stormwater Management Department, or the Army Corp of Engineers? (In fact, some of the other documents that have been made available to us show two different ponds being built in the western part of the development to manage stormwater rather than a single Pond #3. Also, it is a matter of fact that the bottom of the input pipe for Pond #3 is lower than the exit point of Pond #3 where it exits into Wassan Ditch) 3. While an On-Site Monitoring and Mitigation Report (Plan) exists for Heisley Park Development Phases 5-10 there is no such document covering the later phases specifically. 4) There is no map drawing depicting the final as-built map of the development showing the actual home, streets, or greenspace area for the western basin of Heisley Park. We will provide additional follow-up on-site field research data as soon as it is collected. As the Stormwater Management Director, I am sure you would agree that this documentation is necessary for anyone, including the Army Corp, the EPA or the Lake County Stormwater

Management Department or the City Engineer to understand how the concerns we have can be adequately addressed.

David Biro Sr., of Thornwood Lane, provided background on environmental work from the 1970s and expressed concerns about infrastructure based on Army Corps documents. He stated he has been conducting field research since the 2013 flooding and expressed perplexity at the infrastructure in Heisley Park and how its current state was permitted to continue. He referenced documents from the Army Corps of Engineers indicating that Mortell Industries was required to relocate a stream but questioned whether this was properly completed. He stated the plans show the work should have been completed in a specific manner but that it was not implemented as designed. Mr. Biro described measuring significant water flow that overwhelmed Pond 3 and reported that seven neighbors on his street flooded, with one resident moving out due to raw sewage backup. He requested city assistance and a representative of the city to attend a meeting with residents and listen to their concerns. Council President Mr. Fodor acknowledged the volume of data and indicated that the administration will investigate this matter further.

Arlene Becks, of West Eagle Street, praised City Manager Doug Lewis, City Council, and City Departments for keeping Painesville safe and in good standing. She commended Mr. Lewis's State of the City Address as overwhelming in its scope and well-presented. She encouraged Council to continue reviewing legislation carefully and stated her belief that "Painesville is on the uprise." and thanked Mrs. Exum, Mr. Lewis and Council for finally working on West Eagle Street after many years. She requested pothole repairs while construction work is ongoing and expressed hope for project completion.

Mr. Lewis introduced Mike Cook as the new Public Information Officer. Mr. Cook stated he had previously served in a similar role for the City of University Heights for approximately seven and a half years, and had also worked with the Ohio Senate, the American Red Cross Blood Services Region, and the Cuyahoga County Police Court. He noted he is also a professional photographer and expressed enthusiasm for the work ahead.

COMMITTEE REPORT: Economic Development Committee, Planning Commission, Fairport Senior Board

Economic Development Committee

Mr. Rodriguez gave a report on this meeting which was held on March 3, 2026. He reported on the following items: Nominations for four outstanding businesses were received for the 2026 John F. Clair Award. The committee reviewed the nominations and selected an award recipient by a unanimous vote. Mr. Lewis and Ms. Crotty provided members with an update on development projects that are underway and on programs affecting future development. The updates included the following: Re-designation of Opportunity Zones; Legislation for the Development Agreement for the Shamrock Commercial project off of Shamrock Boulevard will be coming before Council soon; The TownePlace Suites Hotel has been delayed but the owner hopes it will be open in mid-April; The amphitheater and Grand River Walk appear to be on track; Victoria Place is also moving along well and is on schedule; There is still restaurant space available in the Tower. The Economic Development Department is actively seeking restaurant and retail users for downtown sites; The County Safety Center project is moving along, and the City is working with the County to bury the electric lines in front of the building; The City has issued an RFQ for the solar electricity project; Design for the Skate Park should be completed in March; Two buildings on Main Street downtown have been acquired by new owners and are being renovated. The owners are seeking tenants; and the restaurant at the former Rider's Inn is open, but the owners are also planning to rent rooms at the Inn and are holding off on the grand opening while they renovate. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Planning Commission

Director of Planning Sarah Sitterle gave a report for this meeting which was held on March 12, 2026. The following items were discussed: the reconsideration of a Conditional Use Permit for a Business Park Development on Shamrock Boulevard, submitted by George Davis and Shamrock Commercial LLC. There are two parcels associated with this project. The Board voted 5–0 to approve the development with seven conditions: 1.) Before development, a site plan will need to be submitted that meets the City standards. A concept plan has been reviewed by staff, and the applicant understands they must return to the Planning Commission for substantial changes. The concept plan included parking layout, building footprints, required connections, and landscaping; 2.) Uses within the development are limited to those permitted under Section 1115.24 of the Unified Development Code; 3.) Covenants, conditions, and deed restrictions were drafted and recorded on a temporary basis pending Council review, with a revised version to be recorded thereafter; 4.) The development agreement will be completed and reviewed by Council prior to issuance of the Conditional Use Permit; 5.) A stormwater management agreement is required for the pond, with fees assessed to owners once development is underway; 6.) Access from Shamrock Boulevard will be signalized if warranted, at the developer's expense; interior

private roads will be built to public road standards, with maintenance costs the responsibility of the developer and/or subsequent owners per the Covenants, Conditions, and Deed Restrictions. A private drive for the adjacent assisted living facility will be converted to a right-in/right-out configuration with the addition of a triangle element to prevent left turns, timed to coincide with full development of the business park; and 7.) Any significant modification to the conditions of the permit requires review and approval by the Planning Commission. City Manager Doug Lewis added that, with the approval of the Conditional Use Permit, Council has 15 days—until March 28—to request a public hearing, and that the full packet of information had been emailed to all Council members.

Fairport Senior Board

Mrs. Shoop gave a report on this meeting which was held on March 6, 2026. She reported the following items: The February Treasurers report be approved; Regarding salt in the handicap area on the north side of the building, volunteers Tim Brainard, and Dan and Lois Orosz should be sent thank you notes; Judy is waiting to hear from Sunny Masters about meeting to discuss a possible grant from the Osborne Family Foundation; Sid had questions about account #2902. The Building and Repair Fund was changed several years ago to just the Repair Fund. The current balance is $93,000; Do to time constraints getting help from Fairport Public Works to remove brush and junk trees from the rear of the building probably won't happen. If they need to hire someone, the budget limit would be $3,500; The Pickel Ball Court nets will be set up soon; Chris will find a volunteer to paint the fence, and he will also check with McPhillips about checking the air conditioner on the patio. Our next meeting will be April 10, 2026, and with no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

LEGISLATION:

ITEM #1 ORDINANCE

3rd Reading* – An Ordinance establishing a schedule of fees for reviews, approvals and other procedures pertaining to the administration and enforcement relating to the Unified Development Code of the City of Painesville, and declaring an emergency. *(1st Reading 02.17.26, 2nd Reading 03.02.26)

Director of Planning Sarah Sitterle spoke on this piece of legislation. She explained that the ordinance updates Ordinance 04-20 to include permit fees for private flatwork (driveways, patios, and private sidewalks) and fees for subdivisions including minor lot splits, consolidations, and plats. She noted the update was necessary to reflect changes made with the 2019 UDC update, as subdivision fees had not been included in the regulations and the private flatwork permit category was not anticipated in the 2020 fee schedule, and to be tracked separately as inspections associated occurred. With respect to subdivision fees, the preliminary plat fee structure was updated from the prior code to a simpler lot-based structure with built-in staff review costs, modeled on the Lake County Community Development Department's fee structure. She explained that the $45 fee for private flatwork permits was based on the existing $45 fee for accessory structure permits, which previously encompassed such work. A question arose from Mrs. DiNallo regarding what appeared to be a discrepancy in the fence permit fee, with the ordinance showing $50. Ms. Sitterle clarified that the residential fence fee is $40 and has not changed since the 2020 update, when former City Planner Lynn White changed the calculation from a lineal foot basis to a flat fee. The $50 figure applies to non-residential fence permits.

Mrs. Shoop moved to adopt, seconded by Mr. Augustine.

On roll call, Mr. Abney, Mr. Augustine, Mrs. DiNallo, Mr. Rodriguez, Mrs. Shoop, and Mr. Fodor answered "Yes". Motion carried 6-0.

ORDINANCE 05-26 is ADOPTED.

ITEM #2 ORDINANCE

***1st Reading* – An Ordinance amending appropriations for the current expenses and expenditures of the City of Painesville, State of Ohio for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2026 and adopting the operating budget, and declaring an emergency.**

Finance Director Bill Parkinson spoke on this piece of legislation. He explained first, an additional appropriation related to the solar grant for the position of Sustainability Project Manager/Assistant Electric Superintendent, confirmed to be 100 percent reimbursable by the grant at no cost to the City; Second, also related to the solar grant, a proposed change regarding land acquisition. The original 2026 appropriation included $1,000,000.00 for land acquisition. Since then, Administration determined it is more advantageous to lease the land rather than purchase it. The Finance Director asked Council to move that $1,000,000.00 from the land acquisition line item to a land lease line item and to increase appropriations by an additional $5,000,000.00, for a total of $6,000,000.00 for the land lease through the end of the fiscal year;

Third, also solar grant-related: an appropriation modification for storage, machinery, equipment, and rentals, also 100 percent reimbursable; and Fourth, a $7,000.00 appropriation for downtown tree removal and replacement. The Finance Director explained that many of the trees along Main Street have grown to approximately 30 feet, are blocking business signage, are impeding the electric department's ability to install Christmas lighting, and their root systems are encroaching on stormwater basins beneath each planter. He noted that the $7,000 would be offset by savings from two ongoing HVAC projects at the Courthouse and on Morse Avenue, asking Council to redirect those savings to the tree project. This prompted a substantive discussion. Mrs. Shoop sought clarity on the figures, regarding the $1,000,000.00 for leasing and then $6,000,000.00 more, which seemed like an increase. City Manager Lewis clarified the $6,000,000.00 represents the initial payment on a 30-year land lease with a total value of $18,000,000.00. The land acquisition appropriation of $1,000,000.00 is being repurposed, with the balance being newly appropriated, for a fiscal year total of $6,000,000.00. He confirmed that no cost falls to the City, as this is 100 percent grant-funded. It was further explained that the City is entering into a sublease with West Creek Conservancy, who is leasing the entirety of the Shamrock Brownfield site from the Oxy Group. The grant, for which West Creek is the sub-recipient and the City is a sub-sub-recipient, earmarks approximately $16,000,000-plus for all work West Creek must perform, including soil stabilization, geotechnical analysis, geogrid installation, soil improvement, tree planting to reforest the site, pollinator plantings, bike paths, and ongoing property management throughout the 30-year lease. It was asked what would happen after 30 years. It was indicated that the sublease with West Creek will address renewal rights and that the City will be "in command of the site" going forward. It was noted the solar panel lifespan is approximately 25 years, so other technology considerations may arise well before the 30-year mark. The location was confirmed it is the entire Shamrock Brownfield site, running north across the river toward Fairport Nursery Road. It was inquired whether pruning had been considered as an alternative. City Manager Doug Lewis confirmed the trees had been trimmed in the past but that replacement is the standard practice for a downtown streetscape, typically every ten years, as the trees simply grow too large. He added that the City is working with the facilities department to identify slower-growing replacement species. He also noted that the planters, which function as stormwater basins, have had difficulty sustaining ground-level plantings due to road salt and debris contamination. The ordinance was held for second reading to allow for additional questions and public input.

This will go to second reading.

ITEM #3 RESOLUTION

2nd Reading* – A Resolution authorizing and directing the City Manager to advertise for bids and enter into a contract, including any and all ensuing change orders, with the lowest and best bidder for the 2026 Asphalt Resurfacing of Various Roads Project, and declaring an emergency. *(1st Reading 03.02.26)

City Engineer Leanne Exum spoke on this piece of legislation. She explained this is for the resurfacing of the various roads such as Richmond Street from Menor Avenue to Erie Street, Tiber Drive, Oak Street, and South Saint Clair Street from East Walnut to Washington Street. She requested suspension of the rules so the resolution could be passed that evening to allow the project to go to bid as soon as possible.

Mrs. DiNallo moved to suspend, seconded by Mrs. Shoop.

On roll call, Mrs. DiNallo, Mr. Rodriguez, Mrs. Shoop, Mr. Abney, Mr. Augustine, and Mr. Fodor answered "Yes". Motion carried.

Mrs. DiNallo moved to adopt, seconded by Mrs. Shoop.

On roll call, Mrs. DiNallo, Mr. Rodriguez, Mrs. Shoop, Mr. Abney, Mr. Augustine, and Mr. Fodor answered "Yes". Motion carried 6-0.

RESOLUTION 12-26 is ADOPTED.

ITEM #4 RESOLUTION

2nd Reading* – A Resolution authorizing and directing the City Manager to advertise for bids and enter into a contract, including any and all ensuing change orders, with the lowest and best bidder for the 2026 Rehabilitation of Various Sanitary and Storm Sewers, and declaring an emergency. *(1st Reading 03.02.26)

City Engineer Leanne Exum spoke on this piece of legislation. She explained that it was identified through televising of sanitary and storm sewers on South State Street and East Walnut Avenue. Specifically, the project includes the lining of 988 feet of sanitary sewer on South State Street, 488 feet of storm sewer on South State Street, 224 feet of sanitary sewer on East Walnut

Avenue, and 774 feet of storm sewer on East Walnut Avenue. Council President Mr. Fodor recognized Ray Sternot, who had previously requested to speak on this item. Mr. Sternot asked whether the city's process for televising and inspecting storm and sanitary systems would be expanded throughout the City, specifically referencing the stormwater concerns he had raised earlier regarding Heisley Park. Mrs. Exum explained the standard process: when a road project is planned, staff convenes to assess whether the water line needs replacement and Public Works goes out to televise the sanitary and storm sewers. Sewers that are broken or cracking to the point of collapse are identified for repair or lining. City Manager Mr. Lewis invited Public Works Superintendent Jarod McCrone to elaborate on routine maintenance. He explained that Public Works attempts to stay approximately two years ahead of the Engineering Department's road project schedule, providing footage for review and budgeting purposes. He noted that problem areas are tracked and inspected quarterly on both the storm and sanitary lists. He acknowledged that camera and jetting work is largely reactive, responding to reported problems and that while proactive daily maintenance would be ideal, the department does not have the staffing for that level of service. He described the emergency response protocol: upon receiving a resident's call about a sewer backup, crews check manhole lids before and after the property, and if main flow appears clear, they still deploy the camera to check for obstructions near the lateral and advise the resident accordingly. It was clarified that residents should contact Public Works directly with concerns.

Mrs. DiNallo moved to suspend, seconded by Mrs. Shoop.

On roll call, Mr. Rodriguez, Mrs. Shoop, Mr. Abney, Mr. Augustine, Mrs. DiNallo, and Mr. Fodor answered "Yes". Motion carried.

Mrs. Shoop moved to adopt, seconded by Mr. Augustine.

On roll call, Mr. Rodriguez, Mrs. Shoop, Mr. Abney, Mr. Augustine, Mrs. DiNallo, and Mr. Fodor answered "Yes". Motion carried 6-0.

RESOLUTION 13-26 is ADOPTED.

ITEM #5 RESOLUTION

2nd Reading* – A Resolution declaring the official intent and reasonable expectation of the City of Painesville on behalf of the State of Ohio (the Borrower) to reimburse its water fund for the CG54AB/CG55AB, West Eagle Street Waterline Replacement with the proceeds of tax exempt debt of the State of Ohio, and declaring an emergency. *(1st Reading 03.02.26)

City Engineer Leanne Exum spoke on this piece of legislation. She explained that the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) has enacted a new requirement for a resolution of intent, demonstrating the City's commitment to accept the grant and repay the associated loan. This resolution covers the waterline replacement component of the West Eagle Street project. She requested suspension of the rules for both Items 5 and 6 simultaneously, noting that without these resolutions in place, the City cannot seek reimbursement from OPWC.

Mrs. DiNallo moved to suspend, seconded by Mrs. Shoop.

On roll call, Mr. Rodriguez, Mrs. Shoop, Mr. Abney, Mr. Augustine, Mrs. DiNallo, and Mr. Fodor answered "Yes". Motion carried.

Mr. Augustine moved to adopt, seconded by Mrs. Shoop.

On roll call, Mr. Rodriguez, Mrs. Shoop, Mr. Abney, Mr. Augustine, Mrs. DiNallo, and Mr. Fodor answered "Yes". Motion carried 6-0.

RESOLUTION 14-26 is ADOPTED.

ITEM #6 RESOLUTION

2nd Reading* – A Resolution declaring the official intent and reasonable expectation of the City of Painesville on behalf of the State of Ohio (the Borrower) to reimburse its general fund and stormwater fund for the CG28AC/CG29AC, West Eagle Street Roadway Reconstruction with the proceeds of tax exempt debt of the State of Ohio, and declaring an emergency. *(1st Reading 03.02.26)

No additional discussion was required beyond that provided under Item 5.

Mrs. Shoop moved to suspend, seconded by Mrs. DiNallo.

On roll call, Mrs. Shoop, Mr. Abney, Mr. Augustine, Mrs. DiNallo, Mr. Rodriguez, and Mr. Fodor answered "Yes". Motion carried.

Mrs. Shoop moved to adopt, seconded by Mr. Augustine.

On roll call, Mrs. Shoop, Mr. Abney, Mr. Augustine, Mrs. DiNallo, Mr. Rodriguez, and Mr. Fodor answered "Yes". Motion carried 6-0.

RESOLUTION 15-26 is ADOPTED.

ITEM #7 RESOLUTION

2nd Reading* – A Resolution requesting the County Auditor to make advance payments of taxes, and declaring an emergency.** ***(1st Reading 03.02.26)

Finance Director Bill Parkinson spoke on this piece of legislation. He explained this as an annual item, describing it as a routine request to the Lake County Auditor's office to provide property tax advances.

Mrs. DiNallo moved to suspend, seconded by Mrs. Shoop.

On roll call, Mr. Abney, Mr. Augustine, Mrs. DiNallo, Mr. Rodriguez, Mrs. Shoop, and Mr. Fodor answered "Yes". Motion carried.

Mrs. Shoop moved to adopt, seconded by Mr. Augustine.

On roll call, Mr. Abney, Mr. Augustine, Mrs. DiNallo, Mr. Rodriguez, Mrs. Shoop, and Mr. Fodor answered "Yes". Motion carried 6-0.

RESOLUTION 16-26 is ADOPTED.

ITEM #8 RESOLUTION

***1st Reading* – A Resolution authorizing the payment of specific invoices with "Then and Now" Certificates, and declaring an emergency.**

Finance Director Bill Parkinson spoke on this piece of legislation. He explained this item concerns an invoice for website services and management that was received without a purchase order during the transition between the outgoing and incoming Communications Directors. Because the invoice exceeds $3,000, ORC Section 5705.41 requires that it be brought to the legislative body for consideration, the Finance Director's has authority for "Then and Now" certificates extending only to amounts up to $3,000. He confirmed that funds exist in the budget to cover the invoice. He confirmed that a training session had recently been held with department heads to reinforce proper purchase order procedures. He also noted that a "Then and Now" situation that crosses fiscal years, such as a purchase made December 31 without a PO, with the invoice arriving after January, must come to Council regardless of dollar amount.

Mrs. Shoop moved to suspend, seconded by Mr. Abney.

On roll call, Mr. Augustine, Mrs. DiNallo, Mr. Rodriguez, Mrs. Shoop, Mr. Abney, and Mr. Fodor answered "Yes". Motion carried.

Mrs. Shoop moved to adopt, seconded by Mr. Rodriguez.

On roll call, Mr. Augustine, Mrs. DiNallo, Mr. Rodriguez, Mrs. Shoop, Mr. Abney, and Mr. Fodor answered "Yes". Motion carried 6-0.

RESOLUTION 17-26 is ADOPTED.

ITEM #9 RESOLUTION

***1st Reading* – A Resolution authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into a contract with the Ohio Department of Transportation for the purchase of sodium chloride, and declaring an emergency.**

Public Service Director Jarod McCrone spoke on this piece of legislation. He explained this annual legislation, which authorizes the City to enter into a contract with ODOT for the purchase of road salt. He explained that the ODOT contract provides pricing advantages and places the City on a priority fulfillment list. He noted the particular importance of the contract this year, as the City's salt supply had dropped critically low, to approximately 300–400 tons at one point. About a week and a half, a delivery of 1,200 tons was received, and the City is currently sitting at approximately 1,400 tons. The request is for the same contract quantity as the prior year, with authorization to enter the contract by the end of May.

Mr. DiNallo moved to suspend, seconded by Mrs. Shoop.

On roll call, Mrs. DiNallo, Mr. Rodriguez, Mrs. Shoop, Mr. Abney, Mr. Augustine, and Mr. Fodor answered "Yes". Motion carried.

Mr. Rodriguez moved to adopt, seconded by Mr. Augustine.

On roll call, Mrs. DiNallo, Mr. Rodriguez, Mrs. Shoop, Mr. Abney, Mr. Augustine, and Mr. Fodor answered "Yes". Motion carried 6-0.

RESOLUTION 18-26 is ADOPTED.

ITEM #10 RESOLUTION

***1st Reading* – A Resolution authorizing and directing the City Manager to advertise for bids and enter into a contract, including any and all ensuing change orders, with the lowest and best bidder for the reconstruction of Latimore Street and Mill Street, and declaring an emergency.**

City Engineer Leanne Exum spoke on this piece of legislation. She described the scope of this project: reconstruction of Latimore Street from State Street to Mill Street, and reconstruction of Mill Street from Latimore Street to Main Street. Funding for the project totals approximately $2,157,000.00, comprised of an OPWC grant of $862,800.00, an OPWC loan of $150,000.00, $500,000.00 from the Level 2 Stormwater fund from the county, and $644,200 from the City's general fund. She noted the design is still being finalized and that bidding cannot occur until May or June, as the contract cannot be awarded until after July 1. She proposed phasing the work: Mill Street would be completed first, with construction anticipated to begin in August, as it is shorter and less complex. Latimore Street involves replacement of a 54-inch storm sewer running to the river, which is relatively deep and technically demanding. City Manager Mr. Lewis noted that Mill Street's closure would affect the summer concert series. Mrs. Exum confirmed this but said Latimore Street would remain open so that access to the park and amphitheater is maintained at all times. The two streets will not be closed simultaneously.

Mrs. DiNallo moved to suspend, seconded by Mrs. Shoop.

On roll call, Mr. Rodriguez, Mrs. Shoop, Mr. Abney, Mr. Augustine, Mrs. DiNallo, and Mr. Fodor answered "Yes". Motion carried.

Mrs. DiNallo moved to adopt, seconded by Mr. Augustine.

On roll call, Mr. Rodriguez, Mrs. Shoop, Mr. Abney, Mr. Augustine, Mrs. DiNallo, and Mr. Fodor answered "Yes". Motion carried 6-0.

RESOLUTION 19-26 is ADOPTED.

ITEM #11 RESOLUTION

***1st Reading* – A Resolution authorizing and directing the City Manager to advertise for bids and enter into a contract, including any and all ensuing change orders, with the lowest and best bidder for the repairs to Colonial Bridge, and declaring an emergency.**

City Engineer Leanne Exum spoke on this piece of legislation. She described Colonial Bridge as a timber bridge in the Heisley Park subdivision spanning the Lake Metro Parks Greenway Trail. It was inspected by ODOT in 2023, and the report identified repairs needed to maintain the bridge in good condition. Additionally, vandalism to the upper timber elements will be addressed as part of the project. The estimated cost is $350,000.00, covering both substructure repairs and surface timber replacement. She noted that the replacement timber will be sourced from a vendor in Norwalk.

Mrs. Shoop moved to suspend, seconded by Mrs. Shoop.

On roll call, Mr. Rodriguez, Mrs. Shoop, Mr. Abney, Mr. Augustine, Mrs. DiNallo, and Mr. Fodor answered "Yes". Motion carried.

Mr. Augustien moved to adopt, seconded by Mrs. Shoop.

On roll call, Mr. Rodriguez, Mrs. Shoop, Mr. Abney, Mr. Augustine, Mrs. DiNallo, and Mr. Fodor answered "Yes". Motion carried 6-0.

RESOLUTION 20-26 is ADOPTED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Hometown Hero Update

President Mr. Fodor provided an update on the Hometown Heroes Banner Program. In 2025, 61 banners were installed. As of the meeting date, 19 new banner applications have been received for 2026. The application deadline is April 17. Mr. Fodor noted that the current edition of the community newsletter features an article about the program, including information on application submission and a contact phone number. The program is also accessible through the City's website.

NEW BUSINESS: Update on Comprehensive Plan Schedule/Progress

Director of Planning Sarah Sitterle presented in place of consultant Philip Roth of American Structurepoint, who had been scheduled to attend but was unable to due to a family

emergency. He will be present at the Steering Committee meeting the following day. Ms. Sitterle provided a "30,000-foot view" of the process, which launched in June 2025 with a kickoff meeting. The process is now in month nine. Community engagement events to date include a Cinco de Mayo event, a rain-rescheduled "Party in the Park" in September, and the City's 225th Birthday celebration. The consultant also conducted stakeholder interviews with business owners and community representatives. Three Steering Committee meetings have been held—in August 2025, November 2025, and January 2026—with the fourth meeting scheduled for the following day at 3:00 PM in the YMCA Community room. To date, the consultant has prepared a draft of goals and objectives, an updated document, and a draft growth policy map including corridor areas, growth areas, districts, redevelopment areas, revitalization areas, and stabilization areas. An implementation exercise was conducted at the most recent Steering Committee meeting, covering objectives related to identity and place-making, housing, neighborhoods, mixed use, economic development, the downtown, and infrastructure mobility and parks, with rankings assigned for cost, feasibility, and time frame. Tomorrow's meeting will focus on a critical path strategies exercise and next steps. A formal presentation to the Planning Commission and City Council is planned for the near future. It was asked how residential input had been gathered. It was confirmed that a survey was conducted in English and Spanish and that community events provided opportunities for resident participation via written feedback. She acknowledged the survey generated a decent amount of responses, though more would have been welcome. The Steering Committee meeting is not open to the public, and the composition of the Steering Committee that one Council member serves on the Steering Committee.

DEPARTMENTAL PRESENTATIONS: Human Resources

Human Resources Director Kris Young gave a presentation on the following items including 2025 Employment Statistics: 47 job postings, over 1,100 applications, 32 new hires, 10 seasonals, 11 internal promotions (4 civil service), 7 retirements, 33 other departures, and 8 civil service exams; The department launched an 18-member employee engagement committee focusing on interdepartmental visits, employee spotlights, and family activities. They implemented a service recognition program providing Painesville merchandise every five years, with 243 full-time employees averaging 11 years of tenure. Process improvement training began with Lean Six Sigma Training Program, with four departments completing phase one. The HR team consists of three staff members handling various duties including health fairs, employee events, and daily administrative functions. Mrs. Young mentioned that the team plans to begin visiting departments directly, both to better understand operations and to help newer HR staff gain that perspective. Mrs. Young expressed ongoing concern about application volumes, noting that getting applicants is a universal challenge across Northeast Ohio, not unique to Painesville. She noted that the hardest issues are getting candidates to show up for interviews and retaining employees who prefer remote work, something the city cannot offer in most positions. It was asked about the timeline for the next process improvement steps. It explained that the next group of four departments begins training on the 26th, while the first four departments still need to schedule their presentation to the Executive Committee. She added that HR's goals for the year include a comprehensive review and update of the employee handbook, implementation of a citywide performance evaluation program, and continued departmental visit outreach. See slide presentation.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: Law Director and City Manager

Law Director Jim Lyons had no report at this time.

City Manager Doug Lewis reported on the following items: A weekly city newsletter is set to launch Friday, with 1,000 subscribers already signed up. It is available for signup on the City's website; The summer concert series has been posted to the city's website and social media. The naming of the new amphitheater is also underway; the list will be narrowed to three to five names before a public contest is held for the community to make the final selection; The John F. Clair Award recipient will be announced and presented at the April 6th Council meeting, with Ms. Clair invited to attend; The fire department submitted an ODOT Safe Routes to School grant in the amount of $15,000.00 for Safety Town equipment. If awarded, the item will be brought to Council for authorization and acceptance; Two recent promotions in the police department: Sergeant Tycast was promoted to Lieutenant, and Officer McLeod was promoted to Sergeant; Engineering Department updates: Elm Street Sidewalks Phase 2 received four bids under the engineer's estimate; staff is recommending award to CA Agresta, the same contractor that performed the work last year. West Eagle Street reconstruction plans and specs have been finalized, and two bids were received on March 11, both under engineer's estimate; staff is recommending award to Tri-Mor Corp. The resurfacing of South State Street and East Walnut Street is being administered by ODOT; Geauga Highway was awarded the contract and work is anticipated to be completed this summer. The 2026 asphalt resurfacing and storm sewer rehabilitation projects, both approved at tonight's meeting, will be put out to bid within the next

week or two; Mike Dougherty has been hired as the new Assistant Electric Superintendent/ Sustainability Manager. He is an engineer, comes to the City from Cuyahoga Falls, and will oversee the solar and BESS project. The committee reviewing RFQs for the battery storage system has narrowed the field to three firms: Convergence Energy, Ecojiva Energy, and Wunderlich-Malec. Interviews will follow, and the award recommendation will be brought to City Council; Following high winds earlier in the week, Public Works crews will be out Monday through Wednesday collecting storm-damaged tree limbs and debris. Residents were asked to bundle and place limbs in their front yards and not to tie them up; The State of the City address was held on Thursday, March 12. City Manager Lewis thanked Arlene Beck for her kind words; Riverside High School tenth graders visited City Departments the previous week, touring six departments and learning about career opportunities in municipal government; Town Place Suites by Marriott is expected to open in late April or early May, after approximately a year and a half under construction; and the amphitheater project continues to advance despite uncooperative weather. City Manager Lewis spoke with the contractor that day and reported an expected completion date in mid-May, with punch list work to follow. The first concert of the summer concert series will be held on June 10th, featuring Rock the House.

CORRESPONDENCE: Clerk of Council

The next regular Council meeting will be held on Monday, March 16th at 7:00 PM, and Easter Egg Hunt will be Saturday, March 28th at 10:00 AM in the Square for kids 0-10 years old.

CLOSING COMMENTS: Members of Council

Mr. Rodriguez thanked everyone for attending and those watching at home and praised the State of the City event's organization and punctuality.

Mr. Abney had no comments at this time.

Mr. Augustine had no comments at this time.

Mrs. DiNallo congratulated the promoted police officers and welcomed Mike Cook, appreciating his visible impact. She expressed interest in the John F. Clair Award announcement. She expressed appreciation for the residents who came to speak that evening and said she looks forward to updates on the outstanding issues. She also promoted the new Lake County Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary organization, noting applications are available online and encouraged community members to consider volunteering locally.

Mrs. Shoop raised the unresolved issue of mailbox post replacement standards in Heisley Park, which she noted had been pending for several weeks without resolution. She stated her intent to bring the matter to a conclusion at the next meeting and proposed that the question before Council is straightforward: does the city repair the posts as it always has, or does it accept the Heisley Park HOA's offer to pay the difference to have vinyl cladding installed to match the community's approved design guidelines? She stated directly: "We need to land that plane." She thanked everyone for attending.

Mr. Fodor thanked everyone for attending as well.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Fodor asked for a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting.

Mrs. Shoop moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting, seconded by Mr. Augustine. All Council Members were in favor by answering "Aye". Motion carried to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 8:41 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 8:41 PM.

Samantha Danielson
Clerk of Council

Jim Fodor
President of Council

HUMAN RESOURCES – REVIEW

MARCH 16, 2026

2025 EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

47	1,112	32	10
Job Postings	Applications Received	New Hires	Seasonal Employees

11	40	8
Internal Promotions	Retirements/ Resignations	Civil Service Exams

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- 1st monthly meeting held in October 2025
- 18 members representing most City departments.
- Keep an eye out for future programs like an "Employee Spotlight," Family Friendly Activities and/or interdepartmental activities where points are earned.



"not picture Steve Hubbell and Tammy Baker

EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT COMMITTEE

- In January, 1:1 departmental visits started. This is a pilot program for departments to meet and get to know one another and learn each others responsibilities.





SERVICE RECOGNITION

SERVICE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

- Started in 2024, the recognition program recognizes employees reaching their 5, 10, 15, 20 & 25-year service anniversaries with the City. Employees receive City of Painesville merch based on their years of service.









PROCESS IMPROVEMENT

PROCESS IMPROVEMENT/LEAN SIX SIGMA TRAINING PROGRAM

- In October 2025, all departments began Process Improvement/Lean Six Sigma training. The 1st four departments completed Phase 1 of the training program on February 27th and 2nd group of four departments will start soon.







MEET TEAM HR

HUMAN RESOURCES

















Hiring process
Workers Comp Administration
Maintain Employee Self Service Portal
Service Recognition
Civil Service Exams
FMLA & COBRA
Employee Engagement
Continuing Ed
Union Contract Negotiations & Interpretation
Records Commission
Benefits Administration
HOLA Workforce Committee
Employee Conflict Resolution
Career Fairs
Retirements
Annual Health Fair
Volunteering at City Events
Payroll Support
Civil Service Commission Admin Support
Position Descriptions
Wellness Program

THANK YOU