REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, MAY 4, 2026 – 7:00 PM
EXECUTIVE SESSION IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING

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, Paul Hach, Jim Fodor, Mario Rodriguez and Christine Shoop were present.

Other City Staff in attendance: City Manager Doug Lewis, Assistant City Manager Tony Zampedro, Law Director Jim Lyons, Police Administrative Lieutenant Toby Burgett, Finance Director Bill Parkinson, Water Pollution Control Superintendent Kevin Aiken, Fire Chief Tom Hummel, Electric Superintendent Joe Price, Sustainability Project Manager/Assistant Electric Superintendent Mike Doughterty, and Clerk of Council Samantha Danielson.

APPROVE AGENDA AS SUBMITTED

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

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

INVOCATION was given by Councilperson Jim Fodor.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE was recited.

MINUTES: Regular Meeting 04.20.26

Mr. Fodor asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting on April 20, 2026.

Mrs. Shoop moved to approve the minutes from the Regular Meeting on April 20, 2026, seconded by Mr. Augustine. All Council members were in favor by answering "Aye". Motion carried. Minutes approved.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION: "Keep Painesville Beautiful" Poster Contest Winners

This was a special presentation for the Best in Show and 1st Place winners of the 2026 "Keep Painesville Beautiful" Poster Contest. Second and third graders throughout the City were asked to create artwork that promotes anti-littering and keeping the City beautiful. All the entries were fantastic examples of taking care of the community. The following 1st Place students were being presented tonight with a proclamation and an award, along with their poster. Congratulations to our 2026 "Keep Painesville Beautiful" Poster Contest Winners!

1st Place & Best in Show:
Natali Ximena Navarro – Chestnut Elementary

1st Place:
Lexy Ledezma-Lara – Maple Elementary
James Mata-Moreno – Elm Elementary
Maximiliano Reynoso – Our Shepherd Lutheran School

2nd Place:
Sebastien Degbesse – Chestnut Elementary
Juliette Mendez-Torres – Maple Elementary
Janelle Martinez-Murillo – Elm Elementary
Leslie Arredondo – Our Shepherd Lutheran School

3rd Place:
Rosalynn Llamas – Chestnut Elementary
Issa Willis – Maple Elementary
Luis Rodriguez Banales – Elm Elementary
Claire Hines – Our Shepherd Lutheran School

Honorable Mention:
Alexander Pacheco Hernandez – Chestnut Elementary
Giselle Bustos Vargas – Chestnut Elementary
Kai Workman – Maple Elementary
Genesis Alvarez – Elm Elementary

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ray Sternot, of Birchwood Lane and Heisley Park HOA Board Member, addressed Council to let Council know how pleased the HOA members were that a meeting was held on April 14, 2026 with the Heisley Park HOA to at least identify if not yet resolve the stormwater design and functionality concerns that they identified to the administration. Equally, they were pleased to know that the City would be engaging a consultant in the immediate future to address these concerns. Because of the limited meeting time, participants were unable to address all the maintenance concerns identified by the dredging company, Gradeworks. But they are confident that these maintenance concerns will be further clarified going forward. Nor was there time to clarify questions about some of the unknown maintenance responsibilities brought up by the City Engineer during the meeting. Given this fact, it will likely require a follow-up meeting with the administration. Finally, they look forward to the consultant being selected and his analysis to begin. They would request that as soon as the consultant is identified that his name and contact information be made available to the HOA and in addition to the Army Corp, the Ohio EPA, and the Land Conservancy of Ohio since these entities are critical to providing information and pertinent data in the collection and analysis process.

President Fodor thanked Mr. Sternot for his attendance and expressed appreciation for the ongoing working relationship.

COMMITTEE REPORT: None

LEGISLATION:

ITEM #1 ORDINANCE

***1st Reading* – An Ordinance to make amended appropriations and to authorize additional inter-fund transfers and advances for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Painesville, State of Ohio during the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025, and amending the original appropriations for the 2025 operating budget, and declaring an emergency.**

Finance Director Bill Parkinson spoke on this piece of legislation describing this ordinance as the final set of adjustments to various funds for fiscal year 2025. He explained that upon approval, a certificate would be filed with the County Auditor's Office reflecting final appropriations along with the certificate of estimated resources—annual legislation performed each year upon closing of the fiscal year. He noted this would allow him to formally close fiscal year 2025 and officially open fiscal year 2026.

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

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

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

On roll call, Mr. Hach, Mr. Rodriguez, Mrs. Shoop, Mr. Abney, Mr. Augustine, Mrs. DiNallo, and Mr. Fodor answered "Yes". Motion carried 7-0.

ORDINANCE 09-26 is ADOPTED.

ITEM #2 ORDINANCE

***1st Reading* – An Ordinance to authorize additional inter-fund transfers and cash advances of funds for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Painesville, State of Ohio during the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2025, and declaring an emergency.**

Finance Director Bill Parkinson spoke on this piece of legislation. He explained this addressed the final advances and transfers for fiscal year 2025. The details were outlined in the legislation's memo. He stated these were necessary to bring various funds to a zero balance, to advance grant funds, and to execute transfers customarily made by the City for purposes including capital improvements. As with the prior ordinance, he noted that passage would allow him to close fiscal year 2025 and open fiscal year 2026. The various certificates would be filed with the County Auditor's office.

Mr. Rodriguez moved to suspend, seconded by Mr. Hach.

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

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

On roll call, Mr. Rodriguez, Mrs. Shoop, Mr. Abney, Mr. Augustine, Mrs. DiNallo, Mr. Hach, and Mr. Fodor answered "Yes". Motion carried 7-0.

ORDINANCE 10-26 is ADOPTED.

ITEM #3 ORDINANCE
***1st Reading* – An Ordinance amending Section 937.10 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Painesville relating to Sanitary Sewer Connection Fees, and declaring an emergency.**

Water Pollution Control Superintendent Kevin Aiken spoke on this piece of legislation. He explained that the City's sanitary sewer tap-in fees had not been updated since 1967 and that it was well past time to bring them in line with current values. A comparison against other Lake County communities with sanitary sewer service had been conducted, and a consultant was engaged to assist with the research. The updated fees were calculated using the Consumer Price Index over the intervening period, resulting in an approximately 860% increase, which staff noted placed the City at the lower end of comparable fees among Lake County communities offering sanitary sewer service. This was presented twice to the Utility Committee and a presentation at a Council meeting. It was clarified that these fees apply only to new tap-ins—new construction or cases where a property owner abandons a septic system and connects to the sanitary sewer—and would not affect the average household's existing bills. The importance of establishing a regular review process was brought forth and the tap-in fee reviews should be conducted alongside the water and electric rate studies.

Mrs. Shoop moved to suspend, seconded by Mr. Hach.
On roll call, Mrs. Shoop, Mr. Abney, Mr. Augustine, Mrs. DiNallo, Mr. Hach, 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. Hach, Mr. Rodriguez, and Mr. Fodor answered "Yes". Motion carried 7-0.
ORDINANCE 11-26 is ADOPTED.

ITEM #4 ORDINANCE
***1st Reading* – An Ordinance amending Section 1337.13 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Painesville relating to Sanitary Sewer Connection Fees, and declaring an emergency.**

Water Pollution Control Superintendent Kevin Aiken spoke on this piece of legislation. He explained that this is a companion ordinance to Item 3 that provides the specific fees for each waterline size for connections both inside and outside the City. This amends the corresponding section of the Codified Ordinances with the full table of updated figures.

Mrs. Shoop moved to suspend, seconded by Mr. Augustine.
On roll call, Mr. Abney, Mr. Augustine, Mrs. DiNallo, Mr. Hach, 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. Hach, Mr. Rodriguez, Mrs. Shoop, and Mr. Fodor answered "Yes". Motion carried 7-0.
ORDINANCE 12-26 is ADOPTED.

ITEM #5 RESOLUTION
***1st Reading* – A Resolution authorizing and directing the City Manager to apply for and accept reimbursement funding from the Ohio Department of Public Safety EMS Equipment Grant, for the purpose of purchasing various EMS durable equipment items, and declaring an emergency.**

Fire Chief Tom Hummel spoke on this piece of legislation. He explained that the Ohio Department of Public Safety EMS Equipment Grant is funded through seat belt violation revenue collected statewide. The City typically receives approximately $2,500 to $3,000 annually through this program, which is applied toward EMS durable equipment that is worn out and in need of replacement. The grant is funded initially through fire levy revenues, and the City is reimbursed after purchases are made, with purchases eligible beginning July 1st of the current year.
Mrs. DiNallo inquired about the nature of seat belt funding, and Chief Hummel confirmed it is derived from fines for seat belt violations throughout the state.

Mrs. Shoop moved to suspend, seconded by Mr. Abney.
On roll call, Mr. Augustine, Mrs. DiNallo, Mr. Hach, Mr. Rodriguez, Mrs. Shoop, Mr. Abney, and Mr. Fodor answered "Yes". Motion carried.

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

On roll call, Mr. Augustine, Mrs. DiNallo, Mr. Hach, Mr. Rodriguez, Mrs. Shoop, Mr. Abney, and Mr. Fodor answered "Yes". Motion carried 7-0.

RESOLUTION 26-26 is ADOPTED.

ITEM #6 RESOLUTION

***1st Reading* – A Resolution authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into agreement with American Municipal Power for the Noteworthy AI licensed services providing AI Platform Utility Pole Inspection software and equipment in support of the 2026-2028 Painesville Distribution Utility Pole Inspection Program, and declaring an emergency.**

Electric Superintendent Joe Price spoke on this piece of legislation. He explained that the directive to plan a pole inspection program for 2026 had been issued in 2025, and that the City has a significant number of poles with conditional issues due to age, overloading stress, and storm damage. While a manual inspection had initially been considered as the primary approach, a new AI-based platform known as Noteworthy had come to the City's attention. The technology works by mounting a series of nine cameras atop a City vehicle, which is driven through City streets to capture imagery of approximately 85% of the City's 8,000 poles. The system is capable of identifying 80% to 90% of problematic issues, measuring the degree of lean in a pole, identifying third-party attachments to poles, and being redeployed after storm events to detect changes. The direct cost from Noteworthy for a City of Painesville's size would be approximately $90,000 per year. He noted that rather than purchasing the camera system outright at approximately $19,000, the agreement provides for a rental at $350 per week, with the cameras shipped to and from the City as needed. The estimated deployment duration is approximately four weeks per inspection cycle. AMP negotiated a significantly reduced rate of $32,500 compared to the direct cost of approximately $90,000, making this option roughly one-sixth the cost of a manual inspection, which had been budgeted at $150,000–$250,000. It was clarified the $350 would only be incurred during the periods the cameras are in the City's possession. It was asked whether poles accessible only through backyards or swampland might be missed. He confirmed that any pole the vehicle could physically reach would be captured, with the 15 percent gap attributable to inaccessible terrain. He noted that the GIS data the City already maintains for its pole inventory was indicated to be compatible with the AI platform's output data. The question regarding the agreement with the City was clarified. City Manager Mr. Lewis addressed this concern directly, stating that the original proposal had contemplated a three-year commitment, which had raised concerns for himself and others about the City's ability to exit the contract if performance did not meet expectations. He reported that he had specifically requested that AMP negotiate revised terms with Noteworthy, and that as of that same day, AMP had confirmed renegotiated language providing that the agreement would be for an initial term of one year, automatically renewing unless the City provided written notice of cancellation no later than 30 days prior to the end of each term. The City Manager expressed confidence in the technology but stated he wanted the ability to exit the contract if it proved not beneficial to the City. It was asked whether any other communities were already using the system and whether feedback was available. Mr. Price acknowledged that the program had only been finalized in April 2026 and that Painesville was the first AMP member community to bring forward legislation. He referenced one test community that had reported very favorable results. He confirmed that Painesville had been the first to express interest after AMP announced the program, noting the program had been unveiled at the AMP board meeting in April. Mr. Price confirmed there was no anticipated job loss associated with the technology, and it was noted it would likely create additional maintenance work by identifying deficiencies requiring physical follow-up.

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

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

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

On roll call, Mrs. DiNallo, Mr. Hach, Mr. Rodriguez, Mrs. Shoop, Mr. Abney, Mr. Augustine, and Mr. Fodor answered "Yes". Motion carried 7-0.

RESOLUTION 27-26 is ADOPTED.

ITEM #7 RESOLUTION

***1st Reading* – A Resolution authorizing and directing the City Manager to advertise for bids and to enter into a contract, including any and all change orders, with the lowest and best bidder for the sectional replacement of the H-6 Electric Distribution Circuit, and declaring an emergency.**

Electric Superintendent Joe Price spoke on this piece of legislation. He explained that the H-6 circuit had historically served the former hospital site and runs from the power plant down Richmond Street to the former site. The circuit has not been energized since 2019, when an underground fault caused it to trip. Testing subsequently identified at least one fault in the oldest section, between the plant and the intersection of Prospect and Richmond Streets. The prior year, wire was purchased using budgeted funds. This resolution would authorize going out to bid for a contractor to pull the wire from the plant through three or four manholes while the system remains live—work requiring a contractor experienced in high-voltage live-line operations similar to substation work. The estimated probable cost of the project, developed through Encompass Engineering, is approximately $80,000. It was also noted the reenergized circuit would provide load-balancing capacity for several currently near-capacity circuits and had been considered as a potential supply source for a new facility being constructed nearby.

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

On roll call, Mr. Hach, 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. Hach, Mr. Rodriguez, Mrs. Shoop, Mr. Abney, Mr. Augustine, Mrs. DiNallo, and Mr. Fodor answered "Yes". Motion carried 7-0.

RESOLUTION 28-26 is ADOPTED.

ITEM #8 RESOLUTION

***1st Reading* – A Resolution authorizing and directing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Convergence Energy for the engineering, procurement and construction of 20MWAC of Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS) in support of electric power supply delivery benefiting the Painesville Electric Distribution System and the City of Painesville, Ohio, and declaring an emergency.**

Electric Superintendent Joe Price spoke on this piece of legislation. Mr. Price provided an overview of the extensive procurement process undertaken: Cuyahoga County presented to the EPA to allow the City to increase the battery storage from 10 megawatts to 20, and reduce the solar from 35 to 25. A Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process that yielded five responses, from which a committee shortlisted three firms. An RFP was subsequently issued to those three shortlisted firms followed by post-RFP interviews with questions and answers. Two of the three firms proposed a Tesla-based system, while the third proposed a flow battery; proposals ranged from just under $39 million to $54 million. Convergence Energy was selected based on a comprehensive evaluation and noted that Convergence Energy is currently constructing a 15.4-megawatt system at University Hospitals as part of the MC Co power generation system. In July, a full financial presentation would be brought to Council. He provided a preliminary overview, stating that it had been calculated that the anticipated 40 percent Investment Tax Credit (ITC) under the Inflation Reduction Act could yield revenue to the City in excess of $15,500,000 on the battery project alone. He noted that even applying a more conservative 30 percent ITC figure the project ends up in a positive financial status. Mr. Price provided clarification on the scope of what was being approved, confirming that the agreement covers the full engineering, procurement, and construction package, including batteries, transformers, concrete pads, conduit, and all associated labor up to the substation interconnection point. Additionally, it was indicated that Convergence Energy is willing to carry a portion of the project cost until ITC credits are received—estimated to arrive within 4 to 14 months of project completion—which could reduce the City's upfront financing burden.

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

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

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

On roll call, Mr. Rodriguez, Mrs. Shoop, Mr. Abney, Mr. Augustine, Mrs. DiNallo, Mr. Hach, and Mr. Fodor answered "Yes". Motion carried 7-0.

RESOLUTION 29-26 is ADOPTED.

ITEM #9 RESOLUTION

***1st Reading* – A Resolution authorizing and directing the City Manager to advertise for bids and enter into a contract for the purchase of ten (10) transformers that are required for the electric generation solar development that will benefit the Painesville Electric Distribution System and the City of Painesville, Ohio including any and all ensuing change orders, with the lowest and best bidder, and declaring an emergency.**

Electric Superintendent Joe Price spoke on this piece of legislation. He explained that Cuyahoga County and the EPA have been encouraging the City to demonstrate activity on the solar project and to build on its previously established safe harbor status. Encompass and EITRI Foundry had been engaged to identify items that could be ordered to advance the project, and the ten transformers represent the first such items. The transformers are custom-specified for the solar site are budgeted as a line item in the capital plan submitted to both the finance department and to Cuyahoga County and the EPA. While the preliminary cost estimate for the ten transformers had exceeded $1,200,000, the competitive process was expected to produce bids approximately $400,000 under budget, with the lowest quote coming in at approximately $826,000. Current transformer manufacturing lead times are 22 to 28 weeks, down from the longer delays experienced previously, with suppliers having generally been delivering earlier than quoted. The transformers must be ordered and in production before July 3rd to maintain safe harbor eligibility for the solar project. The transformers will be stored at the CRE building upon delivery.

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

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

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

On roll call, Mrs. Shoop, Mr. Abney, Mr. Augustine, Mrs. DiNallo, Mr. Hach, Mr. Rodriguez, and Mr. Fodor answered "Yes". Motion carried 7-0.

RESOLUTION 30-26 is ADOPTED.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: Refuse Service

Assistant City Manager Tony Zampedro presented Council with an updated comparative chart of proposals from Republic Services and Major Waste Disposal, noting that Republic had submitted a revised proposal since the prior Council meeting. He explained that the chart had been further updated prior to this meeting to correct what Republic had described as clerical errors in their submission. The chart was displayed for Council and had been distributed to members that day.

Comparison Chart on most recent Waste Hauling Proposals as of 5/1/26 Updated due to Republic reporting clerical error and missing cart fee information 5/3/26		
Item	Republic	Major Waste Disposal
Price ALL Weekly: trash, bulk, yard waste & recycling Year 1 (2026-2027) All-In Cost	$ 23.43	$ 23.43
Price ALL Weekly: trash, bulk, yard waste & recycling Year 2 All-In Cost	$24.13	$24.13
Price ALL Weekly: trash, bulk, yard waste & recycling Year 3) All-In Cost	$24.86	$24.86
Price ALL Weekly: trash, bulk, yard waste & recycling Year 4 All-In Cost	$25.60	$25.60
Price ALL Weekly: trash, bulk, yard waste & recycling OPTION Year 1 All-In Cost	~~$26.37~~$25.60 (0%)	$25.60 (0%)
Price ALL Weekly: trash, bulk, yard waste & recycling OPTION Year 2 All-In Cost	~~$27.16~~$26.37	$26.37
Price ALL Weekly: trash, bulk, yard waste & recycling OPTION Year 3 All-In Cost	~~$27.98~~$27.16	$27.16
Price ALL Weekly: trash, bulk, yard waste & recycling OPTION Year 4 All-In Cost	~~$28.82~~$27.97	$27.97
Price ALL Weekly: trash, bulk, yard waste & recycling OPTION Year 5 All-In Cost	~~$29.68~~$27.97 (0%)	$27.97 (0%)
Annual Price Escalator (avg)	~~3%~~ 2.46%	2.46%
Term	4 years, then year to year up to 5 option years	4 years, then year to year up to 5 option years
Seasonal yard waste and recycling collection frequency	Every week	Every week
Senior Citizen Discount	~~Yes- Approximately $1.00 less per month years 1-4; Approx. $2.00 less per month years5-8; Approx. $3.00 year 9~~	Yes- Approximately $1.00 less per month
	Yes- Approximately $1.00 less per month	
City Facilities Collection	Free	Approx. $12,000 per year
Bags (30 gallon)	$4.12 + matching escalator	$4.12 + matching escalator
Bins	96 Gallon Trash & 64 Gallon Recyclables	96 Gallon Trash & 64 Gallon Recyclables
Additional Bins	~~$5.30/mos~~ $5.00/mos.	Not in Contract but have verbally indicated $5.00/mos.
Excessive Bulk Items (House Cleanout etc.....)	Must pay for dumpster, not curbside eligible	Must pay for service, curbside eligible depending
In-Term Price Adjustment Clause	Yes for Taxes, Environmental fees or landfill fee increases.	Yes for governmental fees and fuel surcharge depending on market.
Handicap Accessible Services	Yes in contract	Yes Customer Service Standard (Not in contract)
Cart Delivery, Removal and exchange Fee	$50.00 each cart	None

He explained that the two proposals are now largely comparable in pricing, with two remaining distinctions: Major Waste's contract with Willoughby Hills includes a fuel surcharge, while Republic's proposal includes a $50 drop-off, pick-up, and exchange fee for each refuse cart in the city. Mr. Zampedro concluded by stating that while the administration had understood Council's direction from the prior meeting, the receipt of a meaningfully revised proposal from Republic created what he described as a duty to bring the matter back before Council formally.

Mrs. Shoop expressed frustration with the process, stating that Council had already provided direction at the prior meeting to move toward the Major Waste/Willoughby Hills option, and that she felt the Administration should have communicated that direction to Republic rather than returning to Council with a revised offer.

Law Director Mr. Lyons responded and acknowledged that Mrs. Shoop's view was understandable but disagreed from a legal standpoint, explaining that what had occurred two weeks

prior was the expression of a preference or direction, not a formal vote or official action. He stated that until Council formally votes by a motion or by ordinance or resolution, no official action exists. He also noted that Republic had been surprised by the process at the prior meeting—having believed they were in ongoing negotiations with the City—and that Republic's representative Dan Given had subsequently offered a better proposal in an attempt to retain the contract. Law Director Lyons stated that once a materially better offer was received, the Administration had an obligation to present it to Council in a formal public meeting. Mr. Lyons emphasized that the process could have been smoother but no one tried to disadvantage either company or put Council in difficult position.

Mrs. Shoop inquired about Republic's decision to submit a Freedom of Information Act request the day after the prior Council meeting. Law Director Lyons speculated that Republic's representative likely believed the process was not being followed correctly—that improper out-of-meeting discussions had taken place—and that the FOIA request was intended to investigate that concern. He stated that to his knowledge all proper procedures had been followed and no such improper communications had occurred.

The question of whether the City should have gone out to formal competitive bid was brought forth. Mr. Zampedro explained the three ways that could have existed for pursuing the new contract: formal bid, direct negotiation with the incumbent under applicable Ohio case law, or the Willoughby Hills piggyback avenue. Mrs. DiNallo noted her discomfort with the process and her concern that the timeline, with the contract expiring at the end of June, was placing Council in a difficult position. It was asked whether Republic would consider a short extension if needed.

Residents have communicated to several Council Members that service had been poor. The City typically award lowest and best, and best takes into account those considerations, not just the costs.

Mr. Fodor sought consensus on whether to bring forward one or two pieces of legislation at the next meeting. Law Director Lyons recommended two pieces of legislation—one for Republic, one for Major Waste contingent on Willoughby Hills passage—so that the public would have a formal opportunity to weigh in before a final vote. He noted the public had not yet had an official opportunity to speak to this matter and that both companies could also make presentations at that meeting. This was supported by some of the council members but indicated a preference for three readings to maximize public input. The timeline constraints were acknowledged and suggested a single public meeting with two pieces of legislation would at minimum give residents one official opportunity.

When informally polled, in support of two pieces of legislation was Mr. Abney, Mr. Hach, Mr. Augustine, and Mr. Fodor, deferring to legal counsel's reasoning, supported two pieces. In support of one piece of legislation was Mrs. DiNallo, Mrs. Shoop, and Mr. Rodriguez. The consensus was to bring forward two pieces of legislation at the next Council meeting.

The upcoming vote on this matter will be publicized so that residents will be aware of the opportunity to attend and offer public comment. Council confirmed it was important that someone be picking up trash on July 1, regardless of which company prevails.

NEW BUSINESS: None

DEPARTMENTAL PRESENTATIONS: Electric – Solar and BESS Projects

Electric Superintendent Joe Price gave a comprehensive presentation on the status of the City's Solar and Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) Projects. Mr. Price opened by noting Painesville's unique history as the oldest public power system in Ohio, having generated power continuously since 1888. He described the selected project site, commonly known as OU7, as part of the 1,100-acre Occidental Chemical site, with the current mailing address at 1897 Fairport Nursery Road. The City will receive a sublease through West Creek Conservancy. He noted that a portion of the OU7 site has not yet received full EPA clearance, and that Occidental and West Creek Conservancy are working with the EPA to resolve this. An alternative site design exists but would increase costs and timelines. Mr. Price outlined the project chronology since August 2025. The solar panels have been received and stored. Regarding the BESS, Mr. Price outlined the BESS progress during 2026. He provided a picture of containers and the site location. The financial summary for the BESS portion showed a total project cost of $38,861,000, with anticipated federal incentives of approximately $15,544,675, resulting in a projected net City outlay that staff stated would be offset by first-year revenues and ongoing earnings, with an estimated payback period of 4.7 years. He confirmed that more details will be presented to Council in July. Mrs. DiNallo asked about solar panel layout considerations. He explained that optimal spacing is the overriding design priority to prevent row-to-row shading. It was also asked whether additional solar capacity could be developed at a separate site using the same battery infrastructure. He confirmed this is possible, but cost would be a factor. Mrs. Shoop asked about security and fencing around the battery containers, noting their white appearance and the potential for vandalism. He confirmed the entire BESS site would be enclosed within a secure fence with appropriate high-voltage signage. See slide presentation.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS: Law Director and City Manager

Law Director Jim Lyons noted that he looks forward to the refuse service discussion at the next meeting.

City Manager Doug Lewis reported on the following items: Mr. Lewis noted that updated logo design options had been distributed to Council members and requested their input or direction on any preferred changes so that revisions could be incorporated and brought back to Council; He recognized the Cinco de Mayo event held the prior weekend, noting coverage by WEWS News and Spectrum News and expressed thanks to HOLA for organizing the event. He acknowledged that weather did not fully cooperate but that the event was well-received throughout the day; Process Improvement Steering Committee: The committee met with three City departments to review ongoing projects and provide direction. The City Manager described this as an ongoing effort to identify opportunities for process improvements across departments; Budget Process: He announced the start of the 2027 budget process, noting that despite being only in May, departments would be asked to begin reviewing their budgets and providing revenue projections as the first step in the process; He reported that TownePlace Suites anticipates opening this month and intends to allow a few weeks of operation before holding a formal grand opening event. Council will be notified when the grand opening date is confirmed; Courtesy notices had been mailed to residents over the prior two to three weeks. Beginning May 1st, formal letters were being sent providing property owners seven days to mow before the City would order the grass mowed. The City Manager acknowledged the heavy rainfall had caused lawns to grow quickly but encouraged residents with questions to contact the Community Development Department; A story time event was scheduled for Wednesday, May 6th at 6:00 PM in the Square, organized by Public Works, and a community Cleanup Day has been scheduled for Saturday, May 16th; He reported that bids had been received for several road improvement projects and the City was preparing to award contracts. Streets to be addressed this year include Richmond Street from Mentor Avenue to East Erie Street, Tiber Drive, Oak Street, and South St. Clair Street from Washington to Walnut Street. In addition, ODOT will be milling Walnut Street and beginning work on St. Clair Street during the same period; and Mr. Lewis advised that a sewer repair is scheduled which will require a one-day closure of two street sections entering the City—State Street and the concurrent Walnut Street milling—between approximately 7:00 AM and 7:00 PM. He noted that the alternative would have been a three-day partial closure, and the one-day full closure was selected as the more efficient approach. Residents were encouraged to use Bank Street to access downtown. Information has been provided to the residents.

CORRESPONDENCE: Clerk of Council

The Clerk of Council gave no report.

CLOSING COMMENTS: Members of Council

Mr. Rodriguez thanked everyone for attending and those watching at home.

Mr. Abney had no comments at this time.

Mr. Augustine congratulated all the winners from the "Keep Painesville Beautiful" Poster Contest. He thanked the Administration for their work on the refuse service negotiation and acknowledged Law Director Lyons' perspective that, had all parties put their best foot forward from the outset, the process might have proceeded more smoothly. He hopes a decision will be made next week and residents have an opportunity to give their opinion.

Mr. Hach stated several residents have contacted him regarding garbage service and is sure of how he is going to vote, but will wait until the next meeting.

Mrs. Shoop apologized to the Administration, other Council Members, and to the public for what she described as being "snarky" during the refuse service discussion. She stated she has strong feelings on the matter and that she did not intend for anyone's feelings to be hurt. She also congratulated the poster contest winners.

Mrs. DiNallo clarified to Law Director Lyons that the exchange during the refuse discussion was not intended as argument, but as healthy public debate. She stated she is open to being influenced by the perspectives of others and expressed a firm belief in the value of open deliberation.

Mr. Fodor thanked the News-Herald for its ongoing coverage of Council meetings and for its coverage of the Cinco de Mayo event.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mr. Augustine made a motion to move into an Executive Session being held in accordance with Article II, Section 6(1) To consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion or compensation of an employee or official of the City; and in accordance with ORC. 121.22(8) To consider confidential information related to marketing plans, specific business strategy, production techniques, trade secrets, or personal financial statements of an applicant for economic development assistance, or to negotiations with other political subdivisions

respecting requests for economic development assistance in accordance with section 3735.67 of the Revised Code, seconded by Mrs. Shoop.

All Council Members were in favor by answering "Aye". Motion carried to move into the Executive Session at 9:00 PM.

Mr. Fodor asked for a motion to adjourn the Executive Session.

Mrs. Shoop moved to adjourn the Executive Session, seconded by Mr. Abney. All Council Members were in favor by answering "Aye". Motion carried to adjourn the Executive Session at 9:36 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Mrs. Shoop moved to adjourn the Regular Meeting, seconded by Mrs. DiNallo. All Council Members were in favor by answering "Aye". Motion carried to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:37 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 9:37 PM.

Samantha Danielson
Clerk of Council

Jim Fodor
President of Council

PAINESVILLE ELECTRIC

PRESERVING a legacy delivering electric power to customers & commerce
PIONEERING a new dawn of sustainable renewable energy
PUBLIC POWER reliable – sustainable – affordable

May 4, 2026

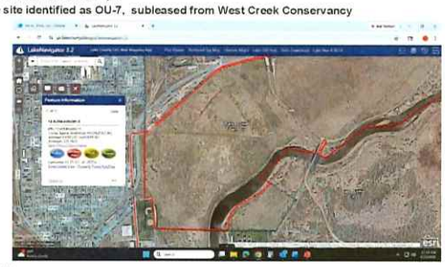
FUTURE OF PAINESVILLE POWER GENERATION
25MWDC SOLAR ARRAY



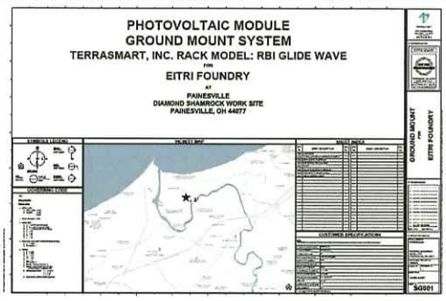


May 2026 Solar and BESS Update

- The SITE: 1897 Fairport Nursery Rd
- Occidental retains ownership.
- 135-acre site identified as OU-7, subleased from West Creek Conservancy



OU-7 MAPING OF SITE AND GEOTECHNICAL EVALUATION IN PROCESS



OU-7 PRELIMINARY DESIGN UNDERWAY – AWAITING NEXT STEPS

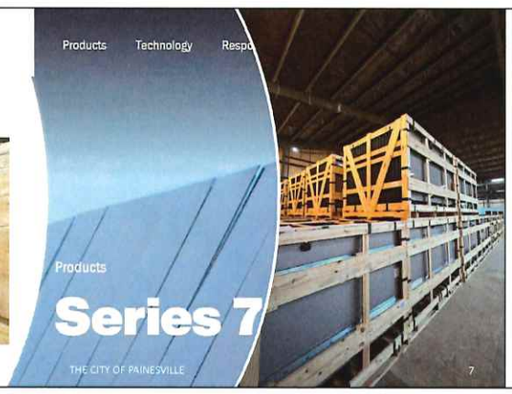


SOLAR CONSTRUCTION BEGINS AS FIRST SOLAR MANUFACTURES

- Passage of Federal "One Big Beautiful Bill" changes project qualifiers and impacts Solar and BESS project timelines.
- August 2025 – City Council acts fast and approves the order of First Solar Series 7 solar panels that qualify as BABA certified & Painesville fulfills the ***federally mandated Safe Harbor requirements*** by September 2, 2026.
- December 2025, Painesville Electric takes delivery of nearly 50000 Solar panel, each rated at 535w, collectively capable of producing 25MWDC.
- October 2025, Council approves EITRI Foundry & Encompass Engineering as Owners representative for Solar Design and Engineering services.

Solar Panels received and stored





PAINESVILLE ELECTRIC 2026 BESS PROGRESS

- January 2026 Encompass Engineering begins interconnection design for BESS. Encompass qualifies the Richmond Rd substation site as ideal for BESS location and electric system interconnection.
- February 2026 BESS RFQ Published – 5 qualified EPC responses were received.
- March 2026 – RFQ responses were scored by committee, 3 chosen as "Short Listed".
- March 24, 2026, EPA APPROVES Painesville request to increase BESS to 20MWAC and DECREASE Solar Array to 25MWDC.
- APRIL 2026 – RFP was published to all 3 Short Listed EPC's w/deadline April 10, 2026.
- Week of April 20th, all 3 Short Listed EPC's were given post RFP interviews, w/ Q&A.
- Week of April 27th the BESS recommendation prepared for City Council consideration.

BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEM (BESS) DEVELOPMENT





Executive Summary

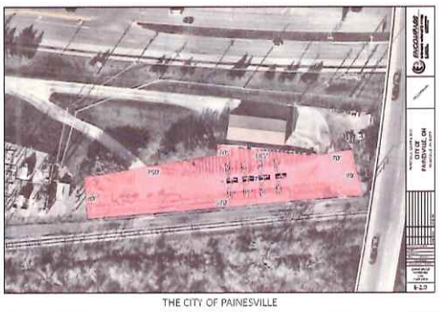
Convergence Energy (CE), together with Ullman Electric and NEI, is pleased to propose a unique "Intelligent Storage" project that integrates the up-front capital investment in battery energy storage with long-term operation to drive truly outstanding financial returns.

The project maximizes federal incentives and uses industry-leading storage management technology to provide capacity and transmission reduction as well as frequency regulation revenue for the life of the project.

CONVERGENCE ENERGY

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BESS AREA IDENTIFIED by ENGINEERING to support in RFP presentations



Financial Results
Battery Energy Storage System

Additional Value-Added BESS Operation

Option 1

Owner Financial Results	
Project Cost	($36,861,667)
Federal Incentive	$ 15,544,675
Year 1 FR Revenue*	$2,584,825
Year 1 CP Savings*	$3,689,626
Year 1 Cash	($17,042,541)
FR Revenue 15 yrs	$49,875,967
CP Savings 15 yrs	$64,313,091
Internal Rate of Return	31.99%
Payback in Years	4.27

*First full year

Option 2

Owner Financial Results	
Project Cost	($42,901,449)
Federal Incentive	$ 17,160,580
Year 1 FR Revenue*	$2,584,825
Year 1 CP Savings*	$3,689,626
Year 1 Cash	($19,466,418)
FR Revenue 15 yrs	$49,875,967
CP Savings 15 yrs	$64,313,091
Internal Rate of Return	28.57%
Payback in Years	4.63

*First full year

JOE B PRICE
CITY OF PAINESVILLE
ELECTRIC SUPERINTENDENT
440-392-5954
jprice@painesville.com

THANK YOU