

Chairperson Nutt called the meeting to order at 5:03pm

Present – Nutt*, Dimacchia*, Carter*, DuVall*, Springowski*, Henley, Moon, Spellacy, Thornsberry, Kempton (*arrived 5:38pm*), Arroyo (*arrived 5:38pm*).

Absent- Arredondo.

*Denotes committee member

a) 2026 Temporary Budget Discussion.

CHAIRPERSON NUTT: I am going to hit the high points quickly, we will then go to the auditor and then to council, and then to anybody in the audience. As you received, and it is on the agenda too, is the 2026 temporary budget. We did receive the 2026 revenue estimates earlier today, I believe they were all emailed out to everybody for their review. In general, what we are looking at, the general fund with the amounts as attached for the revenue, which is marked at \$40,897,000 and the expenses at \$43,290,000 would be a \$2.39M deficit. For all other funds it would be a \$7.77M deficit, for a total of \$10.16M total for the proposed amounts. We will get into it and discuss.

AUDITOR KOZIURA: I am delighted to be here this evening with you, there is nothing here is I think surprising, actually and basically with the currently resources we estimated in the appropriations, when you look at an ending balance in a positive though, the city will be able to make it through 2026, I think without having to make any cuts ___ right now. The main thing will be revenue in the future, we will need money because expenses are going to be a thing that we have to deal with, no question about that. When you are talking about revenues, if you go to the revenue estimate I sent to you today, if you guys have it, the main changes, it can be pretty standard except for areas like the income tax, individual estimate by \$300,000. I raised filing penalty by \$100,000. Now, this year, we are going to be short in fines in the Clerk of Courts because of the shortage of policemen, but we hired 6 or 7 new officers, so hopefully that will go back to normal standards. The state, local government, I increased that by \$100,000 for next year. The JEDD, \$50,000, with our ___ for Elyria Township. The main problem we are going to have, the commissioners, as you know the commissioners, there is a state law that allows them to increase ___ state exemption and also the rollback. The people that were getting ___ than the average, like it will go from \$400 to \$800, but the end result of that is that we are going to lose, let's see... the City of Lorain is going to lose local government money that we would have had is \$392,000 that will cost us, and it will cost Lorain City Schools by the way _____ almost \$1.1M. That _____ does _____ reversible as it normally is by the state, normal homestead monies. With the budget itself, the _____ to have some input in their requests in the computer for that, but as far as salaries go, there is no salaries in this budget for any new hires. All these appropriations are for present employees, that are presently on the payroll. This is a realistic budget that _____, if the administration and other decide to hire people, they are going to have to get additional dollars and come to council to get those dollars appropriated. Which is, ___ going to pay it anyway, and that is the way it should be. There is no capital _____, _____, there is no grants in here, this is purely what we get in and what we get out ourselves. It may look like the budget is less appropriated from last year, but that was because _____ be appropriated and then you spend it. This is the realistic _____ for this budget year coming up. Now there are five of you _____, you are not going to be on this council next year, and with the new people coming in, so it is important that it is a temporary budget, you will have _____, have adequate time to go over this by the administration in the next three months. And Pat, _____ going to really _____ constrict on site and working together to really put in a balanced appropriation for the provided services that the city ___ to ___ for its people.

CHAIRPERSON NUTT: I appreciate you bringing that up, that is part of the reason why we are having this type of a meeting instead of what we had last year where we had every department head in, I thought that would be a little redundant assuming that that will then occur after the first of the year anyways. If I could ask just a couple quick questions of you sir? Do you know, or do you have... what is the current, unencumbered General Fund balance? Like the rainy-day balance going forward. If you take the current \$2.39M deficit...

AUDITOR KOZIURA: The rainy... next year... right now it is \$2.196M, it is from last year, \$2,196,833.

CHAIRPERSON NUTT: One more and then... maybe a few more. I don't see any lights from council yet, but we will go to council in a minute. I was looking over the revenue as that was sent over, and I think it is page 3, the one question I did have is, in there, there is about \$4M state shared revenue. Given the fluctuation with the state and with revenue distribution, how confident are you on that \$4M coming into revenue?

AUDITOR KOZIURA: Very confident.

CHAIRPERSON NUTT: Very? Okay. No real fluctuation there? We are pretty set on it?

AUDITOR KOZIURA: No, no. In fact, it has been increased this year, and so I am confident that unless we have some disastrous, detrimental situation, I don't see that ____.

CHAIRPERSON NUTT: I don't see any lights, so I would ask just one or two more questions. I will ask my questions after council.

COUNCILMEMBER SPRINGOWSKI: Once again, I am going to go on the record and I am going to ask that all of the department heads be brought in to do workshops with the administration when we are putting forward the new budget at the beginning of the year because this is going to directly affect them. I expect the unions and their leadership to be included in this, because we all have to be rowing in the same direction, it affects everybody in here. We have to make this strong commitment clearly based on what our auditor has said, that we are going to do a hiring freeze. We can't afford to have anybody coming in here, I don't know how we are going to get around this. The only way that we can surmount this is through aggressive economic development. Even that, before it would take place, is going to take some time. We are in the proverbial, between the rock and the hard place. Retail is not going to get it, we have to have meaningful economic development with meaningful wages coming in.

COUNCILMEMBER CARTER: To our Safety/Service Director, regarding the credit card and MasterCard fees, the visa or MasterCard fees, I think last year we had a discussion, kind of, about the fees; charging them, not charging them, and consistency across the board, because we received an email from a constituent, after being charged in one area and not being charged in other areas, so I don't know if you ever went back and looked over that, and if you came up with something? I get the reason why. It is different because I believe that Mr. Carbonaro said he was trying to help save money for the customers, which is fine, but in this environment that we are in now, you see everyone charging the fees. I am not saying I want to charge fees, I am just trying to figure out what do we want... what should it look like with the city? Should we have consistency or do we just keep it the same?

SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR CARRION: I think that is one of the topics that we can bring to this council and have a conversation. We have had extensive talks this year and there are pros and cons on both sides. We do believe that consistency is critical for the city to operate, but when you look at different conditions that play into the factors, like some other departments, or elected officials do things differently, I think that is really a conversation that we should all bring to you, because it can be a long conversation on the pros and cons. Again, we want consistency. From my point of view, we would like for all to be the

same. I think the experience for all of our residents and citizens should be seamless and not have one way of doing business in one department and a different way somewhere else, but I think we need to put all the cards on the table so we can really understand what each one means. We would be more than happy to bring that to you early in 2026.

CHAIRPERSON NUTT: I don't see any other lights. I will ask just a couple more questions real quick here. On the, I am not sure what to call this, the overview with all the totals, I noticed that the Capital Improvement Fund is significantly reduced from the previous year, is that just due to like project bids, obviously not being in, and/or accepted, ___ then have grant funds coming in for that? I think there is a difference of like \$6M. Would that be adjusted as the year goes depending on what comes in, projects, grants, what not?

AUDITOR KOZIURA: Yes, the reason that this year... don't forget we had \$4M in there for the Kart development out on Cromwell and \$1M for the Port, there are a couple past ___ in there that won't show next year, of course, because we spent it, pretty much all. It usually is... that is a critical thing too where it would consider... there are a lot of projects that the administration has on the books, big projects, Tower Boulevard, you've got a multitude of regular highway stuff that we do every year, street ___, and things that the Service Director has told me and the mayor. Those are the few that I remember where originally we would borrow money using notes and resell bonds, but later in the future those bonds come due, you have to pay the principal and interest as that comes along and that's always something people don't think of when they go, 'oh this is great, we are going to do this great project,' but that also ___ some resources that you have to put aside for future, so it is very important, this time, at this juncture, 2025 going into 2026, for this city, this administration, this council, to come really ready together and really work together to really solve the problems we need to solve. That is to make sure we don't ___ some kind of political ___, that we really sit at the table and we try to really work things out because it is so critical. We have been through these things so many times, the city has been on the watch, the city has been... it is critical. It is critical, but it's a ___ opportunity to address it from the start and we are, I think, a slight... that there's clear, an avenue that is out there, and I think that is very important.

COUNCILMEMBER SPRINGOWSKI: Any projects that we would do, that would require matching funds, we can't do them, can we? And I am saying this for the public because people, through social media and that, people will make comments about what they'd like to see done, Root Rd., Tower Blvd., etc. But anything requiring matching funds, we are going to be very limited in what we can do, aren't we?

AUDITOR KOZIURA: With matching funds, most of the time, yes, we will be. We would have to make some new... for example, anytime we do the street, every year we get \$800,000 from the state, then we usually ___ engineering has it, they ___ \$1M more, then we have to turn around and this year we borrowed \$600,000 for our share, and we did 611. Now, those notes, we renewed, we paid interest, those notes will be due to be paid early in April and that's going to be a \$2M bond sale. We are going to have to borrow the city's share of Tower Blvd., because the city doesn't have \$1M in cash to pay for... and we shouldn't because loans will last for 20 years, so we should and finance it for 20 years much like a house mortgage. It is realistic to do that but it will add more debt to the city's future payments that we will have to make.

COUNCILMEMBER SPRINGOWSKI: That debt then goes against our rating?

AUDITOR KOZIURA: Pardon?

COUNCILMEMBER SPRINGOWSKI: Then does that debt go against our rating? Our bond rating?

AUDITOR KOZIURA: As long we can show realistic, the means that we have the capabilities to pay our bonds without any problem, the rating will be fine. If you get into a crisis, ___ you Mary, because the bond rating will be affected, no question.

COUNCILMEMBER SPRINGOWSKI: I am just trying to clarify because there are people that are watching it and then there are people in the audience that may not be familiar with the process. A lot of us have been here for a while and we understand it, but just trying to clarify it for the residents so thank you for that explanation.

CHAIRPERSON NUTT: I don't mean to pile on, but I do have somewhat of a question as well. With income tax being roughly like 2/3 of the General Fund revenue, \$27.45M, is there perhaps a thought process or maybe a plan if those tax revenues decline? Unfortunately, I mean, there are national recession indicators out there. Just trying to get that thought out there just in case because those indicators are real.

AUDITOR KOZIURA: Mr. Chairman, the recession could happen at any time...

CHAIRPERSON NUTT: I know but there...

AUDITOR KOZIURA: I don't have a crystal ball, but...

CHAIRPERSON NUTT: ...there is very real...

AUDITOR KOZIURA: ...we have engaged _____ see it here, as I went back over the last years and looked, our income tax is _____ reasonable rate, but as Mary indicated there are certain things to really go up and very _____ and retail necessarily is not going to the high paying jobs, but there are _____ jobs there that pay income tax and that has really added a lot to the base, really _____ for me, I was just very surprised at how well that has done. The other side, I am concerned about, I will say Mr. Chairman, is when President Trump took office on January 20th we had a grant of about \$120,000 that we had spent the money up front and so it was to be reimbursed to us, and on January 20th they got rid of the program. We have to repay \$120,000. Other things, I am concerned about some of the _____ of federal grants under this president, under this administration, whether or not we should just almost accept a federal grant without really thinking about it. Is this program going to stay in... funded by the _____ or six months from now, they are going to decide to forget it. _____ the Safety/Service Director is going to have to really be concerned right now because it can happen, you never know what is going to happen.

CHAIRPERSON NUTT: I appreciate it. I don't mean for this to sound overwhelming; I think the city is well within its capabilities of coming to a solution on this budget for 2026, I don't think that is outside the bounds. Again, just as a quick reference to _____ government, Safety/Service Director, the reason why, again, we don't have the department heads here and what not, isn't to kick the can down the road, but we do have new members coming in, we do have a new auditor coming in, I thought it incumbent to allow those people to have their say on their full budget for 2026 and really go through the whole nine yards.

SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR CARRION: We... the administration, has looked at the budget, really through our... probably a different lens when others are looking at it. We understand the trends over the last five years, the revenues have gone up, but the expenses have gone with it. We have seen is that the growth in housing and the number of houses that we have built in Lorain, has had a lot to do with the revenues that we are seeing, those are incomes that are moving into the city. What we have seen, especially in parts of the west side, is that a large portion of those folks that are moving into those neighborhoods, are from outside Lorain. These are new folks that are moving into the city, and that has added to the increase. I just wanted to point out, in terms of what we are seeing, we have been receiving publications from the National League of Cities, and they have conducted surveys with over 3,000 municipalities in the region,

in the states, but also comparable to Lorain, and what we are seeing now is for this coming year, for 2026, it is going to be a tighten your belt type of approach. We are seeing a drop, 12% of those municipalities that were surveyed, 12 less than last year, expressed concerns if they would be able to manage their needs as they were a year ago. What we are seeing is that what has happened in the last three or four years with ARPA and CARES Act, it was similar to what we saw back in 2007, 2008 and 2009 when we had the economy crash. There were... those ____ really dropped the number in terms of the confidence in municipalities to meet their demands. The fact that those federal dollars came in over the last four years, it really turned the tide, folks felt good and communities felt good that they can provide the needs. Now that that money is going away at the end of 2026, we are going to see really where the challenges are. One of the things that I wanted to note is that on all those municipalities that were surveyed, safety forces, police and fire constitute at least 50% of the budget, anywhere between 50-60%. Lorain's budget, as being proposed in this temporary budget, will bring us to about 59%. So, 59% of our budget is going to be safety forces. We are looking at those issues, but we are looking at additional housing development, as the auditor shared, there are three or four promising, large economic development projects that we hope to get moving forward because those are the ones that we are all counting on. We need those jobs that can provide the income tax for the city. We are going to keep things monitored, we do believe that the expenditure for the year will come in less than what was projected at the beginning of the year, and to that, we do credit a lot of our managers for keeping an eye on their budget and trying to spend less. We will feel more comfortable once the books are closed for the year, we see what the numbers truly reflect and what we see, really as our possible next steps moving forward and spend what we can spend, be very careful in accepting grants that we might not have matching dollars for, and as the auditor has stated earlier in the year, which we wholeheartedly agree, on any legislation that comes to council, it should have the description to only apply for the grant, but not necessarily accept it, let's apply and then make that decision later on when we see what financial state we are in.

CHAIRPERSON NUTT: Thank you, sir, I appreciate that, and I appreciate you bringing up the safety forces with the 59%. Obviously, maybe we can look at any grant opportunities or operational adjustments, whatever the city has to do, but obviously I believe and I have trust in the administration in working with future council to be able to balance the budget appropriately in a manner where you are not cutting vital services.

COUNCILMEMBER DUVALL: I am a lame duck, so I feel comfortable asking these questions. I am looking at page 8, under the...

CHAIRPERSON NUTT: Are you on the expense, temporary budget detail...

COUNCILMEMBER DUVALL: No, I am sorry. I am not on that; I was looking at the regular budget.

CHAIRPERSON NUTT: That's okay, we can look, what was the question? I just wanted to know which one you were on, the revenue one or the...

COUNCILMEMBER DUVALL: I am sorry, I thought you were telling me I had to...

CHAIRPERSON NUTT: No, no, no. Just making sure you are on the 2026 temporary budget detail page 8?

COUNCILMEMBER DUVALL: Yes. 6100.1160, this has to do with the college incentive, I am assuming that we have... there is like \$100,000... almost \$130,000 set aside for that between the police and the... this civilian, are there civilians that we are supporting getting their college degrees?

CHAIRPERSON NUTT: Those would be employees within the department.

COUNCILMEMBER DUVALL: Yes.

CHAIRPERSON NUTT: It is like... I believe, and I could be corrected by the Safety/Service Director, but that is like an upgrade pay incentive depending on your education level, right?

COUNCILMEMBER DUVALL: Is that... That is contract... labor...

CHAIRPERSON NUTT: I am pretty sure that is in their... yes, the Safety/Service Director nodded yes.

COUNCILMEMBER DUVALL: My concern is this, we are spending \$135,000 on portable assets. When these people go, they take their education with them. Is there anything the city can do to make sure that when these people get these upgrades in their service and whatever, they don't suddenly decide that Avon Lake is a better employer.

CHAIRPERSON NUTT: Sure. We will go to the Safety/Service Director. My understanding is that those are extra pay incentives if you have those degrees, I don't think the city is paying for you to get those degrees, but...

COUNCILMEMBER DUVALL: Is it? Tell me...

SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR CARRION: That is correct.

COUNCILMEMBER DUVALL: I had asked the question before, and I had gotten the impression that it was help that we gave people.

CHAIRPERSON NUTT: It is just like an extra add on, if you have a bachelor's you get a little bit of a pay bump.

COUNCILMEMBER DUVALL: You get a big pay bump.

CHAIRPERSON NUTT: Do you have another question?

COUNCILMEMBER DUVALL: Yes, on page 7, under the judges, their hospitalization is \$344,000 plus and the hospitalization under the Clerk of Courts is \$238,000 plus. Is there a big difference in the number of employees that they are covering?

AUDITOR KOZIURA: That is based on the employees in their department.

COUNCILMEMBER DUVALL: The judges employ more people than the Clerk of Courts, is what I am...

AUDITOR KOZIURA: The judges employ a lot of people.

PATRICK HORN, 1015 Highland Park Blvd.: I live in the city, going on nine years now. Coming from a bigger city, you guys sit there and you show us the budget every year, which every city does, but coming from a bigger city, the City of Cleveland, I have seen houses that sit burned down, boarded up, 10-20 years. When something happens in this city, if _____ calls, Dominic out with American Demotion, down, out with no problem. You have vacant land, you have anybody wants to buy these lands and these properties... every year, you guys struggle to figure out what is going to go where, but coming from a bigger city, I think you guys do a great job with everything that you guys do. It's a struggle, it is a hard thing to try and do, but you guys do good with it every year. Don't stress and keep up the good work because you guys do good for the city.

CHAIRPERSON NUTT: I appreciate those comments; I am sure BHP and Safety/Service Director certainly appreciate that as well.

AUDITOR KOZIURA: ____ going to have an ordinance down for this meetings, ____ council granted a raise for the auditor back in 2024, in 2025 there was a ____ made a mistake on the ordinance, it should have been each year a little stipend. For me, I didn't do it this year, but for the rest of the term for Anita, 2026 and 2027, I ____ difference, it was like council's 3% in each year, I am going to send that down for the 15th, just letting you know that so hopefully you will pass it before she takes a loss, so that you know that. Just a recommendation, Mr. Chairman, if I was king for a day, I would get rid of longevity that you passed, and you organize it a different way in terms of setting a standard, like a starting salary and then each year that goes up in increments and ultimately probably the same thing would be a lot better, a lot cleaner, because longevity is for longevity, so if Rey Carrion has 20 years and is making \$300,000 and I am at 20 years and I am making \$50,000, why should he make more, if it is longevity, it should be the same to everybody like it used to be. It is a problem because it is... if anything is hurting us, is every year that percent is there, there is a raise going in without you even knowing about it.

COUNCILMEMBER SPRINGOWSKI: In terms of longevity, that was something that was negotiated between the unions and the administration, it is not something that we could, unilaterally or arbitrarily take away, it would be something that would have to be negotiated with the administration and the union heads, which is one of the reasons I said to bring them in, open up the books, let them see. It is my understanding, and I could be wrong because I am getting it second hand, that the longevity was initially proposed for police only and then it expanded to everybody else, and I can understand it because the police, they do have one of the most difficult jobs out there. However, I understand that it is not sustainable, but it is not something... we can only vote on what is brought to us, we cannot just arbitrarily take it away. That is something that needs to be addressed through the administration and the union heads. When the union heads and that, when they come to us with their proposals, then we have to make a decision after consulting with the auditor, who is a subject matter expert on the budget.

COUNCILMEMBER DIMACCHIA: Not to belabor the issue, but I do agree with the auditor, however, I will say this, that conceptually the longevity was implemented for recruitment and retaining of our employees across the city because it was very challenging to find good folks that wanted to stay here and continue to work here, namely our safety forces. Again, I think this body historically has shown that we support our employees, but I do agree that is something that we really should dive into and take a look at. That is something that you just don't throw on the table and expect it to go away, because that is a big incentive for folks in this city. I think, again, conceptually it makes sense, and it has worked to a degree, however, when we were discussing that longevity, I am not sure that it was... the way it was presented and the way it was finally calculated were two different things. I think that, me, for one, when I saw the impact that it was and is going to have, financially, on the city, I am not sure that that was presented that way when we were sitting there discussing it. I am not pointing blame on ____, it is what it is, but we, as a body, decided we wanted to take care of our employees and we wanted to make sure we set this city up to be successful and that was an incentive that I supported, I support longevity, however, I think there has to be a deeper discussion of how that is calculated. What are we calculating on? Is it base, is it all income, and I think what the difference was at the time was, it was presented this way, but then it was calculated on everything that way and that is what had the negative fiscal impact that we didn't anticipate. Again, not trying to point blame at anybody, I am as much to blame as anybody, I supported it, and I continue to support our employees, however, I do think that is definitely something that we should take a deep dive into and see if we can at least get the employees to the table to have a discussion and say, how do we do this in a way that makes sense, number one, financially for the city, and number two, setting up our departments for success with their employees. I think that has got to be a conversation because just going and snatching it away isn't going to work, that isn't going to happen. I think we do realize that, but I do agree that it needs to be a deeper discussion and when you look at our financial situation, not this year, you

have to look two, three, four, five years down the road, what are we faced with and what do we look like, how big is that deficit? That deficit is going to continue to grow, that is a reality of the world that we work in. The expenses just don't... just disappear like somebody is going to drop \$50M and say, you know what City of Lorain, we want to support you and we want to make sure every road is beautiful and every pothole is filled. The work still needs to happen and that costs an extensive amount of money. Again, having those conversations ahead of what this looks like in the future is something that we should really consider.

AUDITOR KOZIURA: Just to follow up, _____ same way, but whats... when you see some of the salary ranges and you look and say, okay, that person makes \$100,000 and that is what it says on the scale, but then _____ it took _____ 20 year person, so you are getting \$20,000 extra, so that job should define that that job is worth \$120,000, that is the kind of thing that is not clear in the proper showing of what we pay.

CHAIRPERSON NUTT: We do not need a motion to move this because it is on the agenda, if anybody does have any questions, comments or concerns, voice them before because we are just going to move on and take a vote.

Chairperson Nutt adjourned the meeting at 5:39pm.

Chaplain Sylvia DuVall led council in the prayer and President Pro-Tem Dimacchia led the Pledge of Allegiance and then called the regular meeting to order at 6:03pm.

ROLL CALL:

REMARKS: COUNCILMEMBER SPRINGOWSKI: I was wondering if we could take a moment of silence for former Mayor Krasienko.

PRESENT- 11 Messrs. Dimacchia, DuVall, Springowski, Henley, Kempton, Carter, Nutt, Moon, Arroyo, Spellacy, Thornsberry.

ABSENT - 1 President Arredondo
Moved by Mr. Springowski, supported by Mr. Thornsberry, to excuse the absent member. Motion carried unanimously.

DISPOSITION OF MINUTES:

a.) November 17, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes
Moved by Mrs. Springowski, supported by Ms. DuVall, to dispense with the reading of the minutes and accept them as written. The motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE AND/OR COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR:

a.) Mayor Bradley's request for Council to approve the reappointment of Joseph Smith to the Civil Service Commission effective January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2031.

REMARKS: PRESIDENT PRO-TEM DIMACCHIA: Thank you and I know Mr. Smith is in the room so I just want to thank him for his service on the Civil Service.

COUNCILMEMBER SPRINGOWSKI: I would make a motion to concur with that. Mr. Smith has serviced this city well for his time on the Civil Service Commission and he is definitely an asset and I for one, am very happy to see that continue.

Moved by Mrs. Springowski, supported by Mr. Thornsberry, to concur with the appointment.

COUNCILMEMBER DUVALL: Would Mr. Smith please stand up so I can see him?

JOSEPH SMITH: I think you would recognize me Ms. DuVall, we are practically neighbors.

Motion to concur with the appointment carries unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM DIRECTORS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS, ETC.: None.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM OTHER GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES:

a.) Correspondence received from the Ohio Division of Liquor Control advising of a New C1 permit application received for Nothing But Growth LLC, Green Store, located at 912 West 9th St., 44052 (2nd Ward). Moved by Ms. Kempton, supported by Mrs. Springowski, to request a 30-day extension.

REMARKS: COUNCILMEMBER MOON: I hope everybody, this is a young man who... he is very good and he works at the Ford Plant, I had him in school and even though it is a neighborhood store, and they have claimed some problems, the BP Gas Station on 28th Street had a shooting and they got licensed, Sunoco on Broadway had a killing and they got licensed, and this is an old pops neighborhood store, he gives the kids candy when their grades are good and he also, when the family needs, he gives out. This is a nice, African American young man, so I hope we pass this liquor license for him and try to keep our youth in the neighborhood because we just need small business and that is the big thing everybody talks about so hopefully this will pass.

PRESIDENT PRO-TEM DIMACCHIA: Ms. Moon, just for the conversation, we received a correspondence from Mr. Carrion that stated that this business has been closed for over a year and per our city ordinance, a business is required to submit a special inspection application and have an inspection done on the business, so I

think, I don't want to speak for Ms. Kempton, but I think that is one of the reasons for the delay in allowing this to go through, per Mr. Faciana, he would like us to hold off until the proper inspections are all taken care of for this business.

COUNCILMEMBER MOON: Thank you for the information.

Motion to request a 30-day extension carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE GENERAL PUBLIC: None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Clerk Dull announced that there are three members of the public signed up to speak this evening.

MIKE D'ANGELO, 4749 Oberlin Ave. Apt. 5: I go past the old South Lorain Hills mostly every other day and the old Hills is like an eyesore. I see kids going into the garage and that kind of concerns me. The other concern is the old St. Joes property because I see homeless people in the parking garage, I see flames going up, I know they are homeless and going in there, starting fires, and at that point in time my cell phone was dead so I couldn't call the cops. The gate is broken, you can walk in, in the back, and there are people in there spray painting and stuff because I see kids going through there with spray cans. That is my second concern. My other, congratulations to the Oakwood Park, _____ guys to thank them for the memorial fund, you guys did a great job and keep South Lorain, Oakwood Park, keep on going. You guys do a great job, thank you.

AARON KNAPP, 4220 Talbot, 6th Ward: Dear President Pro-Tem Dimacchia and members of council. I want to address the October 20th minutes and explain why this is not a personal issue, it is not political, it is a legal matter involving accuracy, transparency and the rights of a disabled resident under federal law. The audio from that night is clear, it captures my quiet comment to a person seated next to me, it captures the Safety/Service Director repeatedly yelling across the room, it captures Councilmember Springowski trying to stop the escalation, which I appreciate very much, thank you, and none of that appears in the minutes, only my replies appear, that creates a version of the events that is incomplete and misleading, and anyone who listens to the audio can hear the difference. I have asked twice now that the minutes be corrected, I provided the recordings. When the Clerk of Council was given an opportunity to correct the omissions, she has refused on video, at that point it ceased being a simple clerical oversight. Ohio law requires the minutes to be accurate. The Public Records Act prohibits creating a record that fails to include key facts that alter the meeting. Once the clerk refused to fix the minutes, the law required me to take the next steps because the official record does not match the actual recording, and because the city has refused to correct it, I issued a formal litigation hold. This requires the city preserve all versions of the minutes, all drafts, all emails about all edits, all audio backups and the video that shows the refusal of the correct record. This is a standard legal step when a government record is in dispute and protects both sides, ensuring nothing is changed or destroyed. I need the council to understand also that this situation affects me as a person with disabilities, when a meeting narrative is altered in a way that casts me as a source of the disruption, when an actual recording proves otherwise is in fact how I am treated by this government. It implies and impacts how officers respond to me, how my concerns are dismissed. Under Title 2 of the ADA, a government cannot create or maintain an inaccurate record that harms the participation or credibility of a disabled resident. That is why this issue matters. I am not here to argue with anyone, I am here because the record of the government must reflect the truth, the audio shows what happened, the minutes should match the audio.

AMBER BRONISH, 1235 Schaffer Dr.: Thank you for allowing me to speak before you today. I stand here as a daughter who is exhausted, exhausted from witnessing my innocent mother, Nancy Smith, be pulled through a level of pain that feels endless and exhausting, from watching her wake up every single morning with fear in her eyes as she quietly wonders what are they going to do to me now?

For more than 30 years, my siblings and I have watched our mother survive a nightmare she never deserved. We grew up in courtrooms, we grew up in the shadow of accusations that ultimately have proven false and we grew up carrying an unbearable weight of something she did not do. To the mayor who is not here today, I know it is recorded, I want to be completely clear, I did not come here to attack you, I do not carry any anger toward you anymore, I forgave you a long time ago and I truly believe in my heart that you ____ in the way of what happened, that you hold regrets and that you genuinely do not want to see my mother harmed again, but I am frustrated, I am tired, and I am standing here today begging you to help us. My mother is 68-years old now, she deserves peace, she deserves mornings where she can sip her Pepsi without wondering if someone, somewhere is preparing to come after her again. She deserves afternoons with her grandchildren where she can ____ instead of burying ____ behind her smile. As her children, we are left asking when do we finally get to enjoy our mother without pain in her face? The situation is not about politics, it is not about strategy, it is about human life, a woman who was cleared ____ endured injustice after injustice and a woman who is now threatened with another blow. Mayor, at the time you held influence over the decisions that profoundly shaped the course of my mothers life and by extension, the ____ I am extending of our entire family. I do not believe you intended harm, I do believe compassion still exists in your heart, which is actually why I am standing here today. I am asking you to help us, tell the public what is happening is wrong, help us stand together and say this is unethical, this is unnecessary, this is causing real and lasting human suffering and may not have real authority over the prosecutor, but your voice, your voice of a mayor carries weight, when a mayor speaks, a community listens, it can shift perspective, eliminates ____, move people toward empathy and give my mother something she has been denied for decades, a genuine chance to heal. I am asking you, as her daughter, begging my mother's peace, please help us, please speak up, please give us community permission to care again, we are exhausted, we are hurting and we are desperate asking for compassion from the leaders who represent us. Thank you for this and please, from the bottom of my heart, help us bring this injustice to an end so that my family can finally breathe again.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- a.) The Finance Committee met this evening to begin 2026 budget discussions, the committee recommended to consider the item this evening, as it is already on the agenda. Moved by Mrs. Springowski, supported by Mrs. Carter, to concur with the committee report. Motion carried unanimously.

LEGISLATION – FIRST READING:

Ordinance 181-25 a.) Introduced by Mr. Thornsberry, an ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service of the City of Lorain, Ohio, to enter into contract with the lowest & best bidder for all services & actions associated with the installation of a new fence at the Fulton Water Tower and declaring an emergency.

Moved by Mr. Thornsberry, supported by Mrs. Springowski, to suspend the statutory three reading rule.

AYES- 11 Messrs. Dimacchia, DuVall, Springowski, Henley, Kempton, Carter, Nutt, Moon, Arroyo, Spellacy, Thornsberry.

NAYS- 0 None. The rule was suspended.

REMARKS: COUNCILMEMBER DUVALL: I noticed in the information provided with this that the fence will be smaller than... it'll be a smaller area, what I am wondering is, has the Water Department already... are they going to be looking out for a fence that maybe will... I hate to say this, but childproof? There are a lot of children in that area, and I would hate to see us put a fence around there that, while it is aesthetically beautiful, really protects the children from themselves.

UTILITIES DIRECTOR CARBONARO: We are going to get rid of the chain link fence and we are not going to do barbed wire, especially with the chain link also, it can cut people with their hands. We are going to go with a black aluminum fence, it is a little smoother finish, it is not going to have any... I guess barbed wire that can be available to children should they touch it.

COUNCILMEMBER DUVALL: I wasn't so concerned about them hurting themselves, as maybe being able to get into that area, or decide that this is where they are going to practice their superman thing and climb to the top and jump off. Children are different than they used to be and I just want you to make sure that whatever fence we put in cannot potentially, in the future, have us in court again about somebody's wild child that did something they weren't supposed to. I am sure there are some safety things that can be put in place.

DIRECTOR CARBONARO: Yes, we can work with the Law Department on something that would cover the liability of the city around the fence.

Moved by Mr. Thornsberry, supported by Mrs. Springowski, to pass the ordinance.
AYES- 11 Messrs. Dimacchia, DuVall, Springowski, Henley, Kempton, Carter, Nutt, Moon, Arroyo, Spellacy, Thornsberry.

NAYS- 0 None. The ordinance passed unanimously.

Ordinance 182-25 b.) Introduced by Mr. Dimacchia, an ordinance authorizing the Mayor through the Lorain Law Director to accept the 2025/2026 Victims of Crime Act Grant (VOCA) as awarded by the Ohio Attorney General.

Moved by Mr. Dimacchia, supported by Mrs. Springowski, to suspend the statutory three reading rule.

AYES- 11 Messrs. Dimacchia, DuVall, Springowski, Henley, Kempton, Carter, Nutt, Moon, Arroyo, Spellacy, Thornsberry.

NAYS- 0 None. The rule was suspended.

REMARKS: COUNCILMEMBER DUVALL: I noticed in reading through this, that we are decreasing from two victim advocates to one; in reading that this grant would support one victim advocate? I wondered if maybe we could just let the public know what a victim advocate does.

LAW DIRECTOR RILEY: City Council decides through its appropriating authority the amount of dollars to be funded to the Prosecutor's Office, which includes the victim advocate. It is through the budget hearing process, the appropriations of monies that you decide are appropriate that allows us to function in the office, whatever it is that you appropriate for us, we will allocate it accordingly. As to the public's information about victim advocate, as you are aware, each October is dedicated to the domestic violence, unfortunate circumstance, that we find in our community. I do believe, ma'am, it has been properly publicized, but in the event that... I will talk with Mallory, who is my Chief Prosecutor downstairs, in the event that we decide it necessary to have additional information disseminated to the public, we would be happy to do that through a public service announcement. Moved by Mr. Dimacchia, supported by Mrs. Springowski, to pass the ordinance.

AYES- 11 Messrs. Dimacchia, DuVall, Springowski, Henley, Kempton, Carter, Nutt, Moon, Arroyo, Spellacy, Thornsberry.

NAYS- 0 None. The ordinance passed unanimously.

Ordinance 183-25 c.) Introduced by Mr. Dimacchia, an ordinance (1) adopting a cybersecurity program for the City of Lorain pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 9.64, (2) authorizing the Lorain Safety/Service Director to enter into an agreement with a vendor for the provision of cybersecurity services to comply with Ohio Revised Section 9.64, and declaring an emergency.

Moved by Mr. Dimacchia, supported by Mrs. Springowski, to suspend the statutory three reading rule.

AYES- 11 Messrs. Dimacchia, DuVall, Springowski, Henley, Kempton, Carter, Nutt, Moon, Arroyo, Spellacy, Thornsberry.

NAYS- 0 None. The rule was suspended.

- Moved by Mr. Dimacchia, supported by Mrs. Springowski, to pass the ordinance.
- AYES- 11 Messrs. Dimacchia, DuVall, Springowski, Henley, Kempton, Carter, Nutt, Moon, Arroyo, Spellacy, Thornsberry.
- NAYS- 0 None. The ordinance passed unanimously.
- Ordinance 184-25 d.) Introduced by Mr. Nutt, an ordinance appropriating funds for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Lorain, State of Ohio as passed by Ordinance #35-25 beginning January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2025 and declaring an emergency.
- Moved by Mr. Nutt, supported by Mrs. Springowski, to suspend the statutory three reading rule.
- AYES- 11 Messrs. Dimacchia, DuVall, Springowski, Henley, Kempton, Carter, Nutt, Moon, Arroyo, Spellacy, Thornsberry.
- NAYS- 0 None. The rule was suspended.
- Moved by Mr. Nutt, supported by Mrs. Springowski, to pass the ordinance.
- AYES- 11 Messrs. Dimacchia, DuVall, Springowski, Henley, Kempton, Carter, Nutt, Moon, Arroyo, Spellacy, Thornsberry.
- NAYS- 0 None. The ordinance passed unanimously.
- Ordinance 185-25 e.) Introduced by Mr. Nutt, an ordinance appropriating money for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Lorain, State of Ohio beginning January 1, 2026 and ending March 31, 2026 and declaring an emergency.
- Moved by Mr. Nutt, supported by Mrs. Springowski, to suspend the statutory three reading rule.
- AYES- 11 Messrs. Dimacchia, DuVall, Springowski, Henley, Kempton, Carter, Nutt, Moon, Arroyo, Spellacy, Thornsberry.
- NAYS- 0 None. The rule was suspended.
- REMARKS: COUNCILMEMBER NUTT: We did have our subcommittee finance meeting prior to this meeting, I appreciate everyone showing up and coming to that, we had some good conversations, and questions asked. There are or is, as we went over, projected budget deficits there, but I do believe that the administration in conjunction with the new council that is coming in, can go ahead without too much of a problem, and take care of those issues, fill those gaps if need be, and doing it in a way that allows us as a city to still function properly and still supply all the critical services that it does. I do appreciate the conversation earlier.
- PRESIDENT PRO-TEM DIMACCHIA: Just keep in mind that our budget, and this temporary, is a living, working document that we are all constantly working on, so we do need a budget in place.
- COUNCILMEMBER SPRINGOWSKI: I am going to support that, but I would also like to extend my thanks to Auditor Koziura because it has been his leadership, his experience and knowledge that has helped us with this budget and we really do owe him. He stepped up and he filled a tremendous need in the City Administration, and I do appreciate everything he has done.
- Moved by Mr. Nutt, supported by Mrs. Springowski, to pass the ordinance.
- AYES- 11 Messrs. Dimacchia, DuVall, Springowski, Henley, Kempton, Carter, Nutt, Moon, Arroyo, Spellacy, Thornsberry.
- NAYS- 0 None. The ordinance passed unanimously.

LEGISLATION – SECOND READING:

- Proposed Ordinance a.) Introduced by Mrs. Henley and Mr. Dimacchia, an ordinance authorizing the Safety/Service Director to enter into an agreement with Flock Group, Inc, for the provision of equipment, hardware, software services, and professional services for the deployment of unmanned drones and declaring an emergency.
- Moved by Mr. Dimacchia, supported by Mrs. Henley, to suspend the statutory three reading rule.
- AYES- 7 Messrs. Dimacchia, Springowski, Henley, Nutt, Moon, Arroyo, Thornsberry.

NAYS- 4 Ms. DuVall, Ms. Kempton, Mrs. Carter, Ms. Spellacy. The rule was not suspended, them item will move to a third reading.

LEGISLATION – THIRD READING: None.

COMMITTEE CALLS:

- December 4th, 8th, 9th Finance Committee will continue 2026 budget review discussions.

COUNCILMEMBER NUTT: Due to the passage, I don't think those are necessary. Those will be canceled.

PRESIDENT PRO-TEM DIMACCHIA: I will be holding, on December 8th, Monday December 8th at 5:30pm, a Legislation, Police and Fire Committee Meeting to deal with a couple agenda items. One of them is... I am trying to think of what we want to call it; curfew is one, Council Rules and Agenda... I thought there was one more...

COUNCILMEMBER DUVALL: What is the date for the discussion about the e-bike issue? Summer is going to roll around again. We had talked about this last summer. I think it would be good to have rules and regulations set in place so people will know what can they ride in the street and what can they ride on the sidewalk. Is there going to be some discussion of that?

PRESIDENT PRO-TEM DIMACCHIA: Not in this meeting, but I will say this, we do have rules and regulations in place currently, as I was researching it with Chief Failing and his department, we do have things in place already for those motorized vehicles that are classified in that bracket of the e-bikes. They are no different than a moped, and I don't want to misspeak, but legislation is currently existing in this city that prohibits them in certain places. That is what the delay was, because I don't know what more we could discuss, but the Police Department and the city does have legislation in place for those things.

COUNCILMEMBER DUVALL: Thank you, maybe we could discuss the enforcement of those laws then? I know we spread the auxiliary out into a way that is really helping the city, enforcement of those bicycles being licensed and being inappropriate places and ridden by inappropriate people. I think that it has been expressed on this council several times about almost hitting a child, and I would hate for that to be, as a result of the... of anything the city did or did not do.

COUNCILMEMBER CARTER: I was hoping that we could have some kind of discussion regarding the Flock Group. I would like to have a better understanding of this... if it goes to a third reading, we can't ask questions.

PRESIDENT PRO-TEM DIMACCHIA: Mrs. Carter, let me just say this, currently we are talking about committee calls. I would encourage you to bring that up in miscellaneous concerns because I do have a couple of comments about that as well. I will just hold you off until miscellaneous. Any other committee calls?

MISCELLANEOUS CONCERNS FROM COUNCIL:

COUNCILMEMBER CARTER: Can we have a committee and a conversation about the Flock, please? When it gets a third reading, we can't ask questions.

PRESIDENT PRO-TEM DIMACCHIA: We could, yes, and I can add that to my December 8th agenda if you would like. I do know that, unfortunately, pushing this to a third reading is going to put this particular... it might put this in jeopardy because it is on a timeline, which is unfortunate. I encourage folks, if you are not understanding what the Flock cameras do, or... they are not even cameras, I misspeak when I call them cameras, they are not cameras, they are reading devices that have assisted our Police Department a great deal in this city in pursuing vehicles that may have been stolen or committed violent crimes, assisted other communities, they are not cameras. They are not really recording anything, but I will say that unfortunately that has been pushed to a third reading, which I don't know what the... if we need to make a special call because of the timeline of that

contract, it is certainly something we can discuss. And yes, to help folks understand a little bit better what they do and what they are, and what a great asset they are to our city, I think it would be a good conversation. I know Chief Failing has been open to answering any questions and he has been pretty receptive to folks when we have questions. That would be a definitely a good conversation, but yes, I can add that to December 8th if a representative of the Police Department can be here to join us in that conversation and explain a little more in depth those devices and how they affect our community as a whole.

COUNCILMEMBER CARTER: Am I allowed to ask you a question?

PRESIDENT PRO-TEM DIMACCHIA: Sure.

COUNCILMEMBER CARTER: Are those the items that we see sitting on the side of the road that look like panels?

PRESIDENT PRO-TEM DIMACCHIA: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER CARTER: Okay, so these are things that we have passed before?

PRESIDENT PRO-TEM DIMACCHIA: Yes, we already...

COUNCILMEMBER CARTER: Is it the exact same thing? No?

PRESIDENT PRO-TEM DIMACCHIA: No, it is not.

COUNCILMEMBER CARTER: I think that is where the confusion is coming from; we need clarification.

PRESIDENT PRO-TEM DIMACCHIA: I am going to invite Chief Failing up here to have a discussion about them.

POLICE CHIEF FAILING: You are correct, the Flock system are those little ones that you see on the side of the road. That is not what we are purchasing this time. This is what we are purchasing on... this is a first responder drone, where if we get a call for shots fired, we get calls for a fight, we get calls for a fire, all the dispatcher does is hit a button, these drones will automatically deploy and be over site in seconds so that we can see what is going on before those officers get there. That is what this is. These drones will have a... they will be able to cover the city, and they will also be able to cover out into the lake about a mile, so that we can... for all of the drownings and people lost along the lakeside, we can deploy drones out there. They are simply a... if a serious crime is happening, we will deploy the drone first before the officers get there. In the Wagner case, Payne and Gale would not have been shot, the drone would have been up in the air telling them where that guy is, they would never have drove down there. It is a totally different system.

COUNCILMEMBER CARTER: I didn't have an opportunity to call you and talk to you about it, so now that I understand that, I don't know if anybody else has questions but those were my... I wanted to have clarification.

CHIEF FAILING: That is why it is a separate contract.

COUNCILMEMBER CARTER: I guess if anybody else has questions, they should be asking them right now. I mean, I don't know, is that proper...

PRESIDENT PRO-TEM DIMACCHIA: This body can certainly reconsider that piece of legislation if that is what...

COUNCILMEMBER CARTER: I would think for the safety of our community, it is probably worth having this conversation now instead of waiting, if you have questions, let's get them out, on the floor, so that we can move on.

PRESIDENT PRO-TEM DIMACCHIA: The only folks in this body that can make the motion to reconsider would be those that voted against the legislation and pushed it to a third reading.

Moved by Mrs. Carter to reconsider moving the item 11a to a third reading.

COUNCILMEMBER DUVALL: I am not going to second that because I think there is a lot more information that needs to be gathered.

PRESIDENT PRO-TEM DIMACCHIA: There is no second, so no motion. Mrs. Carter, your light is still on?

COUNCILMEMBER CARTER: _____ on the 8th, in committee.

PRESIDENT PRO-TEM DIMACCHIA: If it is even relevant at that time, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER CARTER: If?

PRESIDENT PRO-TEM DIMACCHIA: If we miss the timeline, we missed the timeline, I am not going to put it on the agenda to discuss something that is irrelevant at that time. I will talk to Chief Failing and see what the timeline of that contract currently is.

COUNCILMEMBER ARROYO: That was my question. What is the timeline, because if it is that important, it is good for us to know what the timeline is. Chief Failing, when is the timeline?

CHIEF FAILING: We have to have this done before the end of the year (*inaudible, not speaking in mic*).

PRESIDENT PRO-TEM DIMACCHIA: Yes, please.

CHIEF FAILING: One of the reasons we have to get this in before the end of the year is due to the tariffs. You will not be able to buy a Chinese drone. Flock is purchasing an American company to do their own American drones, but for right now, we would be buying a Chinese drone. However, once Flock gets their American drones up, they will replace our drone with an American drone, which is going to cost significantly more money; however they are going to do it for free. Also, they are cutting us a huge deal on this because we are already a customer, we are signing a contract with them... this is about \$170,000, we are getting it for \$100,000.

COUNCILMEMBER HENLEY: I may be out of order, or out of line, but we cannot reconsider this vote at this point?

PRESIDENT PRO-TEM DIMACCHIA: Only if I have a motion and a second from those that voted against it.

COUNCILMEMBER DUVALL: In terms of this timeline, if this goes to a third reading, it would be on December 15th that the decision is made so if we have a meeting on December 8th, it will answer all the questions that we have, and then we can move forward on the December 15th decision? Or it has to go back to a first reading?

LAW DIRECTOR RILEY: (*inaudible*) If it passes on the 15th, you have 30 days.

PRESIDENT PRO-TEM DIMACCHIA: It is an emergency.

AUDITOR KOZIURA: What if it is...

PRESIDENT PRO-TEM DIMACCHIA: It is an emergency.

LAW DIRECTOR RILEY: It is an emergency, okay, but if it is not passed with 8 votes, it would be 30 days. Through the Chair to council, if you wait until the 15th... the meeting on the 15th, and it doesn't pass with 8 votes or more, it will not become effective law until 30 days thereafter, which would place you beyond the effective date of the contract, as I understand it to be in place, to otherwise receive the benefits of these discounts and so forth. Just so that you know, passage on the 15th does not guarantee it to be in place by the end of the year, unless the number of votes is 8 in number or more, because it is an emergency legislation, otherwise it will simply not be in effect until after the 1st of the year, thereby, as I understand it from the Chief, not sufficiently pass to take advantage of these claim discounts.

PRESIDENT PRO-TEM DIMACCHIA: Ms. DuVall, your light is still on?

COUNCILMEMBER DUVALL: I am trying to make sure I understand the legalese that if we have the meeting on the 8th and we have our questions answered, then on the 15th, can we go ahead and vote this in and that would give him sufficient time to do whatever he needed to do.

PRESIDENT PRO-TEM DIMACCHIA: We just answered that.

COUNCILMEMBER DUVALL: I think if people's questions are answered, there is no doubt that we are going to support the Police Department. We just need our questions answered, especially about things that may affect the budget. There are some requirements in there that, for example, it said that the operator, if I understood this correctly, had to be FAA certified pilot. Do we provide that financing for that? If so, what does it cost? If we hire somebody with that, what does it cost? I think there are some questions in there that as I listen to the budget thing, I just want to make sure the city knows what they are getting into.

CHIEF FAILING: We have 11 FAA pilots. These drones do not have to have an FAA pilot. The dispatcher can hit the button to launch the drone, and this is all paid out of levy money, it does not affect the General Fund at all. It is paid out of this year's levy money.

COUNCILMEMBER DUVALL: These poles that need to be put up...

CHIEF FAILING: There are no poles.

COUNCILMEMBER DUVALL: It says in item, one-time fees, relocation fee, Flock pole and/or ac powered. So, we don't need any of that?

CHIEF FAILING: All of that, Flock is doing for free for us. And moving the current Flock cameras that we have, that has nothing to do with the drones that are going in the air.

COUNCILMEMBER DUVALL: The software that they have for 911 calls, is that syncing with everything else the city has?

CHIEF FAILING: Yes, that is so the dispatcher can push a button.

COUNCILMEMBER DUVALL: I am not supposed to be asking questions, so stop me, Tony. It says that the customer assumes and shall bear the entire risk of loss, damage to theft or destruction of all Flock hardware. Loss or damage to the Flock hardware or any part of it shall not relieve customer of any obligation under the agreement; so that is saying we pay for it whether we tear it up or not, right?

CHIEF FAILING: The drones in the air are insured.

COUNCILMEMBER DUVALL: They are insured by the city or by Flock?

CHIEF FAILING: The city. All of our drones are insured.

COUNCILMEMBER DUVALL: Does this add to the cost of insurance for those drones? Like...

CHIEF FAILING: No, we have an insurance policy already for all of the drones that we have.

COUNCILMEMBER DUVALL: You have drones already?

CHIEF FAILING: Yes, we have about 8 or 9 little ones.

COUNCILMEMBER DUVALL: Adding these Flock drones will not increase the insurance?

CHIEF FAILING: No.

COUNCILMEMBER DUVALL: They will assist the customer in acquiring any required FAA regulatory waivers, do you have any idea if there are any waivers that we need to...

CHIEF FAILING: The drones that we are purchasing, these two big ones, do not have to have FAA requirements. They are being flown under 200 feet, if we were to fly them up to 400 feet we would have to get a radar system, which would cost an extra \$200,000. We are not doing that.

COUNCILMEMBER DUVALL: When you put it all together, you don't foresee any extra cost to the city, outside of the purchase of these.

CHIEF FAILING: Correct.

COUNCILMEMBER DUVALL: Then I would like to move that we reconsider the vote on passing this.

Moved by Ms. DuVall, supported by Mrs. Carter, to reconsider item 11a.

AYES- 9 Messrs. Dimacchia, DuVall, Springowski, Henley, Carter, Nutt, Moon, Arroyo, Thornsberry.

NAYS- 2 Ms. Kempton, Ms. Spellacy. The item will be reconsidered.

LEGISLATION – SECOND READING:

Ordinance 186-25 a.) Introduced by Mrs. Henley and Mr. Dimacchia, an ordinance authorizing the Safety/Service Director to enter into an agreement with Flock Group, Inc, for the provision of equipment, hardware, software services, and professional services for the deployment of unmanned drones and declaring an emergency.
Moved by Mr. Dimacchia, supported by Mrs. Henley, to suspend the statutory three reading rule.

AYES- 9 Messrs. Dimacchia, DuVall, Springowski, Henley, Carter, Nutt, Moon, Arroyo, Thornsberry.

NAYS- 2 Ms. Kempton, Ms. Spellacy. The rule was suspended.

REMARKS: PRESIDENT PRO-TEM DIMACCHIA: I will ask since we have had an extensive conversation, but is there discussion?

COUNCILMEMBER NUTT: I think it was referenced, the funding amount required for this is \$500,000, with that discount, so it is \$100,000, is that a five-year contract? Then we will apply in another five-years, it will be the new rate of \$160,000 in five-years, if the city... or is it \$100,000?

CHIEF FAILING: No, we are locked in at \$100,000.

COUNCILMEMBER NUTT: For as long the city_____these devices...

CHIEF FAILING: We will get the \$100,000 rate.

COUNCILMEMBER NUTT: You said this is coming out of the police levy, on here it shows as ARPA funds?

CHIEF FAILING: ARPA funds for that first year, and then we are going police levy.

COUNCILMEMBER NUTT: ARPA funds for the first \$100,000 worth of fiscal year 2026?

CHIEF FAILING: Yes, because it runs out...

COUNCILMEMBER NUTT: That is what I was going to ask, if we had \$500,000 of...

CHIEF FAILING: We are using up the last of ARPA.

COUNCILMEMBER NUTT: Going forward with... assuming that we want to re-up the contract in five-years, the police levy... you don't see any concerns or issues with that funding, coming from that source?

CHIEF FAILING: No.

COUNCILMEMBER NUTT: In future years?

CHIEF FAILING: No.

COUNCILMEMBER SPELLACY: What is the difference between the five smaller ones than the two larger ones? What do they do differently?

CHIEF FAILING: The two larger ones are deployed by dispatch and will be hovering 200 feet over a call. The small ones are what they use... like SWAT uses them when they enter a call, officers can deploy those when they go on a call if they are searching for somebody in a neighborhood or something like that. The smaller ones they deploy when they get there. These are just a touch of a button and they deploy in seconds. These large ones will hit speeds of 50-some mph, that is why they will get there in seconds.

COUNCILMEMBER SPELLACY: If one gets damaged, who pays the cost to re...

CHIEF FAILING: It is insured.

COUNCILMEMBER SPRINGOWSKI: I would ask anyone who doubts the need for this, to listen to the calls that were on social media from dispatch, about them calling for the drones and about our police that were out there and desperately trying to save the life of their coworker, their fellow officer. If anybody has ever doubted the desperate need for our police officers to have this protection, that call would dissipate any doubts you would ever have. We just recently had a parasailer out on the lake; they could have dispatched that drone and that would have saved us sending the guys out in the boats in that water. This is absolutely necessary. We have a requirement to keep our residents safe, but we also have a requirement to keep our police officers safe, and this is how we do that.

COUNCILMEMBER ARROYO: The dispatchers will be in charge of these drones, so will they be certified by the FAA to also...

CHIEF FAILING: You don't need a FAA for this; they are just hitting a button. Basically, they are typing in coordinates and hitting a button, if they say this street or this address, this cross-section, hit the button, the drone goes there automatically. Now, we do have guys on the ground who can take over the operation of the drone, but that dispatcher, they will launch it, it just goes according to what the catcall has the address in.

COUNCILMEMBER ARROYO: That is because it stays under 200 feet you said?

CHIEF FAILING: Yes.

COUNCILMEMBER NUTT: I didn't do thorough research on this, I assumed it was going to a third reading so I do have a few more questions. I am assuming these drones are obviously equipped with cameras?

CHIEF FAILING: Yes, they have a camera on them.

COUNCILMEMBER NUTT: I don't know how to thoroughly ask this question. My concern, or general question would be then, with the cameras on them, what is the... I guess what is the liability to the city on this if those cameras are filming the entire way to a location; are they filming over private property? Is there an issue with that? Is there stored data or stored video that can then be requested of PD? Is it saved for a certain amount of time? Is it auto deleted? I just... privacy.

CHIEF FAILING: There is a records retention on what they are. There is no... the privacy clause, you don't use up the 200 feet on your house, so we can fly over your house, just like any type of helicopter could right now. We are not peering into your house with them.

COUNCILMEMBER NUTT: Like I said, I didn't dive into this because I just wasn't prepared for this conversation today, but my concern is, is the retention of those records, and then if they are requested as they flew over someone's random house...

CHIEF FAILING: With this particular drone, we have the ability to put flight paths on our website, and that is what we will do, so that you can see that the drone flew here and came back and flew here and came back. That is one of the features that we like about it is we can publish exactly where this drone flew.

COUNCILMEMBER KEMPTON: Just like the public can request bodycam footage, can they request the footage from the drone?

CHIEF FAILING: ___ type of call, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER KEMPTON: If somebody is... if the drone would be to deploy for a domestic violence situation, and then someone in the public requested that, then they could take that footage and put it on social media? Potentially?

CHIEF FAILING: Technically, yes.

COUNCILMEMBER DUVALL: Being a product of the 60s and 70s, at one time, pictures were taken of people gathered in certain places and in some cases, that resulted in young men being classified as drug members, as gang members, which severely limited their access to government money, the Pell Grants and stuff, what is the protection against using that in that way? If you are surveying a large crowd, is it a possibility through face recognition you might see the same guy at several different things, and if he is put on a list... I don't know whether you still keep lists or not, but there used to be lists of people in the department who were affiliated gangs and sometimes this was without substantial evidence, it's just somebody thought he was a gang member, and...

CHIEF FAILING: Then they are not an official gang member. I don't know how the government... in order to be declared an official gang member, there is a whole list of things you have to go through. Usually, to be declared an official gang member, it is coming out of the prison system, it is not coming out of a police department.

COUNCILMEMBER DUVALL: I just know that some people had some bad experiences with these...

CHIEF FAILING: There is a whole system in order to officially list somebody as a gang member.

COUNCILMEMBER DUVALL: Okay, and you are going to adhere to it?

CHIEF FAILING: Like I said, they classify in prison now.

Moved by Mr. Dimacchia, supported by Mrs. Henley, to pass the ordinance.

AYES- 11 Messrs. Dimacchia, DuVall, Springowski, Henley, Carter, Kempton, Nutt, Moon, Arroyo, Spellacy, Thornsberry.

NAYS- 0 None. The ordinance passed unanimously.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Moved by Mr. Thornsberry, supported by Ms. DuVall, in accordance with ORC Section 121.22: G (2) to discuss the purchase of property.

AYES- 11 Messrs. Dimacchia, DuVall, Springowski, Henley, Kempton, Carter, Nutt, Moon, Arroyo, Spellacy, Thornsberry.

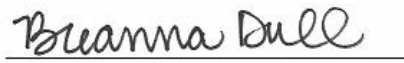
NAYS- 0 None. The motion carried unanimously, and the body recessed into Executive Session at 6:54pm.

President Pro-Tem Dimacchia reconvened the regular meeting at 7:28pm, nine members are present, absent are Mr. Arroyo and Mr. Thornsberry.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mrs. Springowski, supported by Mrs. Henley, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously, the meeting adjourned at 7:28pm.

PRESIDENT PRO-TEM OF COUNCIL



Clerk of Council

Accepted: December 15, 2025