



**Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting**  
 Held January 5, 2026  
 7:00 PM.

A regular meeting of the Oberlin City Council was held on January 5, 2026, in the Council Chambers of the Oberlin City Hall, located at 85 S. Main Street, Oberlin, Ohio. President Pro Tem Belinda Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM. Roll Call was taken as follows:

**1. COUNCIL BUSINESS**

- (a) Call Regular City Council Meeting to Order and Roll Call – 7:00 PM.

<b>Council Members:</b>	Present	Absent
Joseph Waltzer	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Jessa D. New	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Michael McFarlin, Vice President	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eboni A. Johnson< President	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sondra Miller	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Libni Lopez	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kristin Peterson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Appointees:**

- Greg Holcomb, City Manager
- Jon Clark, Law Director
- Marin Fowler, Finance Director
- Belinda Anderson, Clerk of Council

- (b) Administration of the Oath of Office by the Honorable Judge Farah Emeka

Members of Council were administered the oath of office by the Honorable Judge Farah Emeka.

- (c) Election of Officers – Council President and Council Vice President

The President Pro Tem Belinda Anderson announced that, in accordance with the Council Rules of Order, an election for President and Vice President was required. She read the relevant section outlining the procedure and the duties and responsibilities of the Council President. The election was held and by unanimous vote, Eboni A. Johnson was elected President and Michael McFarlin was elected Vice President for the 2026-2027 Council term.

- (d) Approval of Minutes – City Council Work Session – December 2, 2025; City Council Emergency Meeting – December 4, 2025; Regular City Council Meeting (December 15, 2025; Special City Council Meeting – December 23, 2025

The minutes were approved as submitted.

- (e) Appointments of City Council Members to Boards and Commissions

Anderson reviewed the appointments of Council members to boards and commissions.

New, seconded by McFarlin, moved to approve the slate of nominations as presented.

<b>Roll Call:</b>	7 Ayes	0 Nays	Motion Carried
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- (f) Designation of Council Liaisons to City Boards and Commissions

New went over the slate for Council Liaisons to boards and commissions.

Peterson, seconded by Lopez, moved to approve the slate of nominations as presented.

<b>Roll Call:</b>	7 Ayes	0 Nays	Motion Carried
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- (g) Appointments to Boards and Commission

New stated that two appointments are being made. One appointment is to the Library Board of Trustees and that will be Sarah Reimer Dawson. Anderson clarified that Sue Hiesser’s term for Civil Service Commission is now effective until December 31, 2028, rather than December 31, 2026, as previously stated.

After a brief discussion, Waltzer, seconded by Lopez, moved to approve the slate appointing Sarah Reimer Dawson to the Library Board of Trustees and Sue Hiesser to the Civil Service Commission, with term endng dates of December 31, 2026 amd December 31, 2028, respectively.

<b>Roll Call:</b>	7 Ayes	0 Nays	Motion Carried
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- (h) Proclamation – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Councilmember New read the proclamation for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

**2. ANY CONCERNS NOT ON THE AGENDA MAY BE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL AT THIS TIME**

N/A

**3. OPPORTUNITY FOR A REPORT FROM A CITY BOARD OR COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVE**

N/A





The Clerk read the resolution by number, title, and substantive portions only.

Lopez, seconded by New, moved for passage on the first reading of the Resolution.

Clark stated Council is appointing two representatives, with one serving as the primary and the other as an alternate. Council would be appointing Peterson as the primary and McFarlin as the alternate.

Peterson, seconded by McFarlin, moved to waive the rule requiring three readings for Resolution R26-02 CMS.

<b>Roll Call:</b>	7 Ayes	0 Nays	Motion Carried
(Suspension of Rules)			

Peterson, seconded by McFarlin, moved to that Resolution R26-02 CMS go into immediate effect to ensure the designation of a primary and secondary representative for the City Council on the Board of Trustees of Central Lorain County Joint Ambulance District by the January 15, 2026 deadline.

<b>Roll Call:</b>	7 Ayes	0 Nays	Motion Carried
(Effective Immediately)			

C. RESOLUTION No. R26-03 CMS: A Resolution Designating Sondra Miller as an Alternate Representative to the Ohio Municipal Electric Association.

The Clerk read the resolution by number, title, and substantive portions only.

Peterson, seconded by Lopez, moved for passage on the first reading of the Resolution.

Clark stated Peterson was appointed as the primary designee for the City by a prior resolution. That piece of legislation left it open for a future appointment for an alternate which is what Council is doing today. Like the previous resolution, we can appoint up to two alternates, and this piece of legislation appoints Miller as the alternate to the primary, which is Peterson.

Lopez, seconded by Peterson, moved to waive the rule requiring three readings for Resolution R26-03 CMS.

<b>Roll Call:</b>	7 Ayes	0 Nays	Motion Carried
(Suspension of Rules)			

Lopez, seconded by Peterson, moved that Resolution R26-03 CMS go into immediate effect to ensure continuity of city representation on the OMEA Board of Directors.

<b>Roll Call:</b>	7 Ayes	0 Nays	Motion Carried
(Effective Immediately)			

**5. COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS:  
(A). Referrals**

**(B). Advocacy****(C). Correspondence****(D). Reports**

Council members provided updates on board and commission meetings, initiatives, community events, and announced upcoming meeting dates.

**6. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT:**

City Manager Greg Holcomb reported on the following:

- Noted that the boards and commission training that will be happening soon will have an ethics training portion, and we're inviting all department heads and superintendents to the training as well as long as their schedules are available.
- Provided an update on the Ohio Department of Development for a grant for the design and construction of a sewer to the Innovation Park.
- Noted, he is still working on the legislative calendar and work schedule with department heads. He hoped to have the first iteration done soon and ready for Council's first retreat.
- Noted that the Vine Street bridge project will be estimated to be completed by mid-April.

**7. OPPORTUNITY FOR OTHER APPOINTEES TO REPORT:**

Marin Fowler, Finance Director

- Noted the finance department will be busy preparing their financial statements and audit for 2025..
- Noted that the first review of applications to fulfill the vacancy for a full-time finance assistant happened today, and should be filled soon.

Jon Clark, Law Director

- Noted that he has hired an assistant law director and prosecutor by the name of Carl Felice. He works for a firm in Lorain County, but has significant trial experience in the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas as a prosecutor. He briefly served as an assistant law director in other Cleveland – area communities.

Belinda Anderson, Clerk of Council

- Encouraged council members to contact any of the appointees if they have questions concerning the upcoming boards and commissions orientation.

**8. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:**

N/A

**9. ADJOURNMENT:**

Being that there was no additional business before Council, the regular meeting adjourned at 8:05 pm.

**Prepared by:**

  
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Briana Reynolds  
Clerk of Council's Assistant

**Attest:**



BELINDA B. ANDERSON, MMC  
CLERK OF COUNCIL

APPROVED: 01/20/2026



EBONI A. JOHNSON  
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

POSTED: 01/21/2026