



Minutes of the Regular City Council Meeting
 Held January 20, 2026
 7:00 PM.

A regular meeting of the Oberlin City Council was held on January 20, 2026, in the Council Chambers of the Oberlin City Hall, located at 85 S. Main Street, Oberlin, Ohio. Council President Eboni A. Johnson called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Roll Call was taken as follows:

1. COUNCIL BUSINESS

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

Council Members:	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"/>
Sondra Miller	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Libni Lopez	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Kristin Peterson	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eboni A. Johnson, President	<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) Approval of Minutes –Regular City Council Meeting – January 5, 2026

The minutes were approved as submitted.

- (c) Discuss Proposed Changes to the Community Organization Grant Program

Members of Council heard from Greg Holcomb, City Manager, as he outlined proposed changes to Oberlin’s community organization grant program, which currently allocates \$100,000 annually. The program, now managed by the City Manager rather than Council, aims to fund organizations serving Oberlin residents, regardless of their physical location, with reporting requirements to track the number of residents served. Past recipients include Oberlin Community Services (OCS), Oberlin

New, seconded by Peterson, moved for passage on the first reading of the Ordinance.

Members of Council heard from Randall Roberts, City Engineer, as he explained the ordinance. There is a plan to replace the Pleasant Street bridge through the Municipal Bridge Replacement program, which provides additional state and federal funding, as well as Ohio Turnpike revenue. To facilitate the replacement, some utility changes need to be made. One, there are two gas mains that are attached to the east side of the bridge and run along the bridge itself. The purchase of these easements will allow Columbia Gas to reroute those gas lines on those private properties through those easements.

McFarlin sought clarification on the ordinances. With 26-01, this is for the west side and the rights-of-way, and wondered about what Ordinance 26-02 entailed. Roberts commented that the first ordinance is to acquire the easements. With Council’s approval, we’ll be able to cut checks and get those in the hands of the property owners, but that has to go through someone that has followed the certification of all the real estate issues that the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT) has in place to protect property owners and the public interest to make sure that they’re appropriately compensated. The second ordinance will be for the right-of-way for the city-owned property that will become a public right-of-way.

New, seconded by Lopez, moved to waive the rule requiring three readings on Ordinance 26-01 AC CMS.

Roll Call: 7 Ayes 0 Nays Motion Carried
(Suspension of Rules)

New, seconded by McFarlin, moved to that Ordinance 26-01 AC CMS, goes into immediate effect to provide for the acquisition of easements necessary to construct, operate, and maintain the South Pleasant Street bridge.

Roll Call: 7 Ayes 0 Nays Motion Carried
(Effective Immediately)

B. ORDINANCE No. 26-02 AC CMS: An Ordinance Dedicating 0.0404 Acres of Land as Right-of-Way Necessary for the Replacement of the Pleasant Street Bridge to Go into Immediate Effect.

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

Peterson, seconded by Waltzer, moved for passage on the first reading of the Ordinance.

Roberts stated the City got the parcel for the right-of-way on the west side, and that would be for the extension of that gas service, and then the right-of-way on the east side would be for sanitary. He noted that the easements with the gas company, rather than issue easements to Columbia Gas, we chose to issue the easements to the City, and then the City can use that and allow Columbia Gas to put their utility in.

Waltzer, seconded by New, moved to waive the rule requiring three readings for Ordinance 26-02 AC CMS.

Roll Call: 7 Ayes 0 Nays Motion Carried
(Suspension of Rules)

Waltzer, seconded by Lopez, moved to that Ordinance 26-02 AC CMS goes into immediate effect to provide the necessary public right-of-way to construct, operate, and maintain the South Pleasant Street bridge.

Roll Call: 7 Ayes 0 Nays Motion Carried
(Effective Immediately)

- C. RESOLUTION No. R26-04 CMS: A Resolution Submitting the Question of a Renewal Tax Levy for the Purpose of Current Expenses of the Oberlin Public Library to the Electors of the Territory Served by the Library, Pursuant to 5705.23 of the Revised Code, to Go into Immediate Effect.

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

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

Members of Council heard from Marin Fowler, Finance Director, as she explained the resolution. The Oberlin Public Library has requested by the library board of trustees for a renewal of their tax levy. The proposed renewal amount is \$723,019.

McFarlin sought clarification because when reading the resolution, the cost of putting this on the ballot is coming from the library board funds to reimburse the City. From his understanding, this was a mistake back in November, and so the county is not covering the cost for reimbursement. David Fausnaugh, Oberlin Public Library Director, addressed Council by stating that, from his understanding, the library will not be charged for the election that took place last November, in which there was an error at the Board of Elections, as the issue wasn't placed on all the correct ballots. The resolution is just for this issue; the tax money will come from what we received from the county auditor's office.

Clark noted there was a minor amendment in section 8, which says "*wherefore, and in accordance with Section 5705.23 of the revised code*", that should be deleted. That sentence comes from an earlier ordinance when it used to be in there. It should read, "*...and provided that at least five (5) members of Council, determined by motion, this resolution shall go into full force and effect immediately after its passage.*"

Lopez, seconded by McFarlin, moved to remove the language under section 8, *wherefore, and in accordance with Section 5705.23 of the revised code*.

Roll Call: 7 Ayes 0 Nays Motion Carried
(Amendment)

Lopez, seconded by Peterson, moved to waive the rule requiring three readings for Resolution R26-04 CMS.

Roll Call: 7 Ayes 0 Nays Motion Carried
(Suspension of Rules)

Lopez, seconded by New, moved to that Resolution R26-04 CMS goes into immediate effect to ensure the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety of the City of Oberlin, and for the further reason that its immediate effectiveness is necessary to meeting the filing deadlines for the May 5, 2026, election.

7. OPPORTUNITY FOR OTHER APPOINTEES TO REPORT:

Marin Fowler, Finance Director

- Noted that the finance department is still busy preparing its year-end filings together.
- Noted that a proposal has been received from the insurance company that will be on the agenda at the next council meeting.
- Wanted clarification from Council on what is expected for a review of the 2025 budget. There will be a slideshow that is being put together, and that will be presented at the first meeting in March. Council commented that they would like context for the adjustments and be able to ask department heads questions.
- Noted, W-2's are done and have been sent through the mail.

Belinda Anderson, Clerk of Council

- Expressed gratitude to everyone involved in organizing the Boards and Commissions Orientation.
- Noted that Council will need to complete their financial disclosure forms before the May 15th, 2026, deadline.

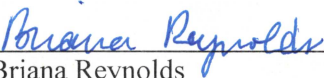
8. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

N/A

9. ADJOURNMENT:

Being that there was no additional business before Council, the regular meeting adjourned at 8:47 pm.

Prepared by:



 Briana Reynolds
 Clerk of Council's Assistant

Attest:



 BELINDA B. ANDERSON, MMC
 CLERK OF COUNCIL



 EBONI A. JOHNSON
 PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

APPROVED: 02/02/2026

POSTED: 02/03/2026



Oberlin Police Dept

Chief Warfield

Police Pictures 5th annual First Responders Trunk Or Treat

- Detective Wiley, R.C. Podrosky and Sgt. Beyer participated in the First Responders & Community Trunk-or-Treat
- Police Pictures is ran by our former Aux Officer, Josh Kelly
 - Located at the Crushers Stadium
- Estimated attendance of over 5,000 people



**FIRST RESPONDERS & COMMUNITY
TRUNK OR TREAT**

October 18, 2025
4:00PM - 7:00PM

2009 Baseball Blvd.
Avon, OH 44011

Join us for the 5th Annual event in partnership with the Avon Police Department.
Bring your best dressed kids to join Ohio First Responders.

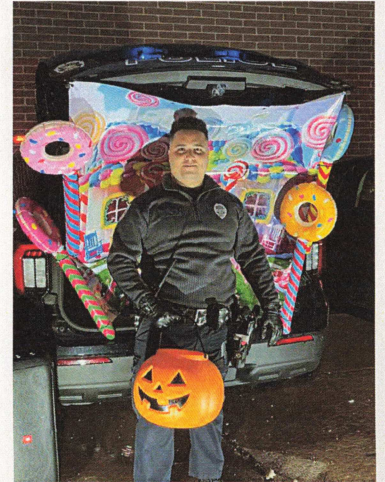
FREE TO THE PUBLIC policepictures.org/trunkortreat

The poster features a grid of 30 various police and fire department logos from different Ohio jurisdictions, including Avon, Columbus, and others. It also includes logos for LCCS and the Crushers stadium.



Walmart Trunk or Treat

- SRO Robinson & Ptl. Kubicki participated in the Walmart Trunk or Treat
- Joined with Oberlin Fire Department & Central Lorain County Ambulance District



Billie Neadham Walk & Roll to School Event

- Approx. 100 students participated in the Billie Neadham Walk & Roll to School.
- Joined by Oberlin Police and Billie's wife, Cherice.



THE BILLIE NEADHAM WALK & ROLL to SCHOOL

Thursday, October 23, 2025

Meet at Park Street Park at 7:30 am // Depart at 7:45 am

This event is in honor of our beloved SRO, Billie Neadham, who was a huge part of Oberlin and Oberlin City Schools. He is dearly missed, and we are proud to celebrate his life and legacy with this event.



Halloween

- Officers attended the City Halloween Parade to assist with traffic and pass out candy
- Officers also handed out candy from their cruisers during Trick-or-Treat



2025 City of Oberlin

Halloween Parade & Spooktacular!

Saturday, October 25th
10:00am-12:00pm

Grab Your Costume & Join In the Parade!
Line up begins at 9:30am in the Mudd Library Parking Lot
(Near 140 West College Street)
The parade will travel on West College Street to Tappan Square.

Join Us on Tappan Square After the Parade for More Spooktacular Fun!

- + Bouncy House + Trick-or-Treat with City Departments
- + Cider & Donuts + Magician + Balloon Animals + Games
- + Photo Booth + Caricature Artist + CLE Cotton Candy
- + Pumpkin Decorating Sponsored by Oberlinkids + XXX Oberlinkids

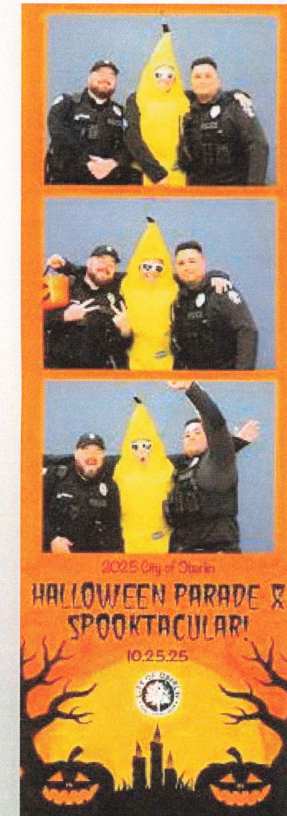
Rain Location: Oberlin Enrichment & Activity Center (36 South Prospect St.)

FREE & OPEN TO ALL AGES

Trick-or-Treat

Friday, October 31st + 6:00pm-7:30pm

For more information, contact the Oberlin Recreation Department: (440) 775-7224 | Recreation@CityofOberlin.com



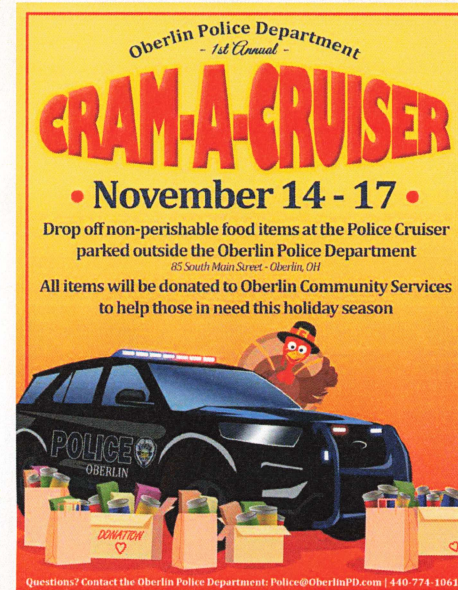
Drug Take Back Event

- Sgt Crossan Participated in the DEA National drug take back event
- Hosted Saturday, October 25 at the OPD lobby
- An opportunity to safely dispose of your unneeded or expired prescription meds



Cram-A-Cruiser

- OPD hosted a Cram A Cruiser Food Drive
 - November 14-17
- Drop off non-perishable food items at the Oberlin Police Department
 - All items will be donated to Oberlin Community Services to help those in need this holiday season



Cram-A- Cruiser
was a huge success.

- 1,132 pounds of food was collected in the OPD's Cram-A-Cruiser event



Holidays with Hometown Heroes

- Participated in the "Holidays with Hometown Heroes" event hosted by Avon PD
- 5 Oberlin City School Students were selected to attend
- Included breakfast, a special gift from Santa, and shopping trip to Meijer.



Shop with a Cop

- 25 Students from Oberlin City Schools were selected to participate in our annual "Shop with a Cop" Program.
- This event was organized by SRO Robinson & Oberlin City Schools
- Mickey Mart & McDonalds also donated to the event and gift cards were raffled off to the families.



Promotion

- Jacob Crossan was recently promoted to sergeant
- Sgt. Crossan previously served as a field training officer and K-9 officer



New Hire

- Gage was sworn-in this morning as our newest full-time patrol officer
 - He is attending the Lorain County Community College Police Training Academy
- His field training will begin immediately upon completion.



New Hire

- We hired two new Dispatchers
- Tenzella Shadid started in November & has been training with DTO Mullins and DTO White.
- Selena Mobley just finished her background and will begin Dispatch training soon.



SRO Robinson

- Completed a 40-hour training course administered by the Ohio School Resource Officers Association
- He is a 2018 Oberlin High School graduate.



Training

- Chief Warfield attended the Mental Health and Wellness Conference
- Focusing on Physical Wellness, Mental Health Wellness, Spiritual Wellness, & Financial Health

1ST RESPONDER
MENTAL HEALTH & WELLNESS CONFERENCE
 Presented by 1st Responder Conferences

November 3-4, 2025
8 AM - 4 PM

Co-hosted by:
 Cuyahoga County Police Chiefs Association,
 Cuyahoga County Fire Chiefs Association,
 Chargin Valley Dispatch

Endorsed by:
 Cleveland Dept of Health, Cleveland Division
 of Police, Cleveland Hopkins Airport Fire,
 Cleveland EMS, Independence Police Department,
 Lorain County Fire Chief's Association,
 University Hospital's Critical Care Transport
 Team, Moreland Hills Police Department,
 Cleveland Metroparks Police Department



Early Bird: \$360
After Oct 12th: \$400
 (plus reg platform fees)

Registration is Required

Our two-day multifaceted training and networking events are for all 1st Responders, Police, Fire, EMS, Dispatchers, Military/Veterans, Corrections, Coroners, Chaplains, Retired First Responders, Spouses, Professional staff, Clinicians, and all those who work in or around the Public Safety field.

- Certificate of Attendance will be offered upon completion
 - 11 hours of OPOTA approved CPT
- Includes: Breakfast, Lunch, Networking Social, SWAG bag, and Raffles
- Location: Embassy Suites Cleveland Rockside, 5800 Rockside Woods Blvd N, Independence, OH 44131

Partners and Sponsors:

