

REGULAR MEETING OF CELINA CITY COUNCIL – June 23, 2025

Attendees: Council President King; Council Members Baltzell, Buxton, Clausen, Fleck, Gray, Sanford, and Wolfe; Mayor Hazel; Safety Service Director Hitchcock; Law Director Moore

Start Time: President King called the regular meeting to order at 7:01 PM

1. Call to Order and Roll Call:

- Council President King
- Council Members Present:
 - Baltzell
 - Buxton
 - Clausen
 - Fleck
 - Gray
 - Sanford
 - Wolfe
- Absent: Auditor Shinn

2. Acceptance of Agenda:

- Agenda Approval: CM Baltzell made a motion to amend the Agenda to add 26-25-O and 27-25-O, seconded by CM Buxton. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye. CM Clausen made a motion to approve the amended Agenda, seconded by CM Fleck. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

3. Corrections and acceptance of the Regular Council Meeting Minutes:

- Minutes Approval:
 - Previous Meeting: June 9, 2025
 - Corrections Noted: CM Sanford corrected a typo: #9 letter E “fired chief” should be “fire chief”.
- Outcome: CM Baltzell made a motion to pass the minutes, seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

4. Committee Reports:

- CM Baltzell spoke about the Utilities Committee Meeting that took place on June 9, 2025.

5. Communications:

- Liquor License Transfer: Plaza Bowling Lanes Inc. DBA Plaza Lanes to Grand Entertainment LLC DBA Plaza Lanes Celina

6. Audience Communication:

- Craig Obringer, 912 E. Livingston, was here with the Committee to thank the City of Celina, the workers (Wes Harris and Garrett Lutz), and everyone for helping bring the Regatta back to Celina and the amazing weekend they had with all the help.
- Sophia Rodriguez, 1125 West Bank Road, was present to ask Council Members questions in regards to the WWTP project. Who will be writing the grants? Mayor Hazel answered that grants will be wrote by the Consultants. The Consultants will be able to identity which ones the City qualifies for. Sophia also asked what the time frame of the project would be from start to finish? Sophia asked how much of the expense of the new project would filter down to the consumers of Celina? Will the Citizens see an increase in their utility bills? Mayor Hazel answered that as far as the consumers cost the City needs to get more information to know this is. Obviously what is offsetting is if there are any grants out there and if we have loans that we do get we can get low interest loans through the government. We do not know these questions yet but are working on them. Mayor Hazel thanked Sophia for her great questions. CM Baltzell answered that based off the report he has the revised project schedule shows construction starting April

1st 2027 and the 2-year construction finishing April 1st 2029. He also stated the cost and how all that will work is still being evaluated.

7. New Business:

- a. **4-25-R:** A Resolution authorizing the City of Celina to submit an application to the Office of Criminal Justice Services for Grant Funding for Flock LPR Camera Project for use by Celina Police Department and declaring an emergency.

Discussion:

- Police Chief Wale explained that about a year ago the Sheriff's Department put in several Flock LPR Cameras throughout the county to help solve crime and/or help with identifying suspects. They do not run license plate numbers. They take a picture of the vehicle and the back of the vehicle that goes by. So they get a picture of the license plate. If we don't have the license plate number but know a description of the vehicle we can search based on a description such as a color or vehicle type can help narrow the search down. Police Chief Wale explained cases that have been solved having connections to the Sheriff's Department Flock Cameras. The Celina Police Department would like to add 4 cameras to the 10 that are already being used in Mercer County. Police Chief Wale also discussed the concerns with the Flock Cameras being misused/used for personal use. The department will have a policy in place and the system will be monitored.
- CM Wolfe asked if there would be an annual fee for the software program? Police Chief Wale stated the initial cost is \$15,000 plus \$5,000 for the installation. The \$15,000 is an annual recurring fee. They offer contracts for 1-5 years, but doing a multi-year contract does not offer any discount. Mayor Hazel explained these are leased elements the City will not own the equipment or the software.
- CM Baltzell asked how many cameras and if the coverage is full city coverage? Police Chief Wale answered he plans to add 4 cameras to what the County has and those 4 will be within the City limits. The County has 10 cameras and the Police Department knows the locations of those 10 cameras but doesn't believe the location of the cameras should be discussed.
- CM Gray asked if the cameras are currently only in the County leaving the City a blind spot? Police Chief Wale explained there are some in the City vicinity but doesn't want to discuss those locations. Adding the 4 cameras to the City directly in conjunction with the ones in the County will be a big help.
- CM Gray asked Police Chief Wale why he only wanted the basics and did he see a need for the add ons later? Police Chief Wale said there are some add ons that could be helpful, like the live view, traffic count on how many vehicles come to town, they also can give detail on how many out of state plates travel here and from each state. The add ons would increase the price and he believes that it is something that could be added later on if needed and we see a benefit to add more.
- CM Sanford thanked Police Chief Wale for applying for the grant. He asked if there was any training that would be needed? Police Chief Wale said there will be training and he hasn't decided if everybody will be trained or just him, Detectives, and Sergeants.
- CM Clausen asked if this was only good for 1 year? Police Chief Wale stated yes but if we decide we are committed they do have up to a 5-year contract. We can sign a multi-year contract but there is no discount.
- CM Clausen also asked about if an accident happened in front of a camera. Police Chief Wale explained it is not recording it only takes pictures. If there was an accident and someone left the scene they could search for that vehicle with the system. CM Clausen also asked about Amber Alerts. Police Chief Wale said he believes they are entered automatically.
- Outcome: CM Baltzell made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by CM Sanford. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye. CM Gray made a motion to pass the Resolution, seconded by

CM Buxton. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

- b. **26-25-O:** An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to sign a letter of commitment and intent to sell city owned property to the Mercer County Commissioners.

- Mayor Hazel explained that several years ago the Snyder family donated a piece of property called Miller Woods which is located at Westview Park. 15.69 acres that is a wooded area and it has a deed restriction on it that we couldn't do anything to. It was a nice addition from a sense that it's all trees, it has wildlife, and plants, but we couldn't do anything with it. The Mercer County Commissioners and Fair Board have looked at what could we do with that woods that would kind of augment and complement the Fairgrounds. They looked at figuring out how to build a nature path to do something to give different tours in there. That's really kind of an outlay of the AG side of the Fair Board and what they do at the Fair. They want to incorporate that in the Fairgrounds. They have reached out to the Snyder family because of the deed restrictions to work that out. They also want to apply for a Clean Ohio Grant to take care of some of the invasive species in there that they will be allowed and permitted to do, but they want to buy the property from the City, which is part of the Grant. The City of Celina will be able to see a beneficial use for that property, and the county would fence that off to be part of the Fairgrounds. We would look to de-annex the Miller Woods so that it would become a full part of the County Fairgrounds. We really think this is great and would love to be able to see something in there that allows kids to have nature walks and a learning center.
- CM Baltzell commented that he thinks this is a great option to make this property usable to the community to allow people to actually walk through it and maybe some educational use.
- CM Clausen also agrees that this property has been sitting untouched and if the family who donated is ok with the County doing something educational for the community this would be great use of the property.
- CM Buxton asked how soon the County needs this and if an emergency should be added. Mayor Hazel and Council discussed it would be best to add an emergency to keep the process moving.
- Outcome: CM Buxton made a motion to add an emergency clause, seconded by CM Wolfe. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye. CM Baltzell made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by CM Clausen. Motion passed with a roll vote 7-0 Aye. CM Fleck made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Buxton. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

- c. **27-25-O:** An Ordinance amending 59-24-O to adjust certain salary schedules for exempt personnel positions and declaring an emergency.

- Mayor Hazel explained that the WWTP has been without an assistant for several months. We have posted the position several times but have not received any qualified candidates that fit the position. We need to be competitive so we went through a larger point factor analysis with Clemans Nelson. The point factor analysis is based on the jobs qualifications, the education, the experience, license/certification requirements and the weight of each essential function or duty of the position. We did an analysis of all the exempt non-union positions. There are going to be some more coming but as of today we feel this is probably the immediate need.
- CM Fleck pointed out the limited number of qualified people. Mayor Hazel stated that is correct it is not about the qualified candidates in Celina or Mercer County. This is about the State of Ohio, there is only so many Class III and Class IV in the State of Ohio. We have 4 Class III's right here in Celina out of the 1,200 across the State.
- CM Gray asked if there is currently only 1 non-exempt position to fill in the WWTP? And if by chance something happens to Kerry what would happen? Mayor Hazel stated we would have to use a Class III operator. We can't use a union member to be in the authority element, they would

have to be promoted up. The Safety Service Director would have to sign off on any legislation. You have to be a non-union member to have authority and that is just the law.

- CM Clausen asked with the changes that are being discussed to make to the WWTP will that change the qualifications required to the new plant to a Class IV? Mayor Hazel stated he understands it will remain a Class III, but we don't have our PTI (Permit to Install).
- Mayor Hazel and Council Members discussed amending to change the 4th WHEREAS "is" to "are" and changing the 5th WHEREAS and SECTION ONE "Assistant Water Treatment & Distribution Superintendent to "Assistant Water Treatment & Distribution Superintendents".
- Outcome: CM Baltzell made a motion to amend, seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye. CM Baltzell made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by CM Fleck. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye. CM Buxton made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Wolfe. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

8. Old Business (2nd Reading):

- a. **23-25-O:** An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to sign a Partnership Agreement with Mercer County to enter into a PY 2025 Community Housing Impact and Preservation Program (CHIP) and declaring an emergency.

Discussion:

- Outcome: CM Clausen made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by CM Baltzell. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye. CM Wolfe made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

- b. **24-25-O:** An Ordinance approving a final plat for Wheatland Acres VII and declaring an emergency.

Discussion:

- Outcome: CM Baltzell made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by CM Fleck. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye. CM Clausen made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Sanford. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

- c. **25-25-O:** An Ordinance authorizing a lease agreement between the City of Celina and the Greater Celina Area Soccer Boosters (GCASB) for the lease of the Westview Park.

Discussion:

- Outcome: CM Clausen made a motion to pass to third reading, seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

- d. **2-25-R:** A Resolution to adopt the Solid Waste Management Plan for the Mercer County Solid Waste Management District and declaring an emergency. **(Amended 6/9/2025)**

Discussion:

- Outcome: CM Baltzell made a motion to pass to third reading, seconded by CM Fleck. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

- e. **3-25-R:** A Resolution approving and recommending Kari R. Fox be employed as the Clerk of Council of the City of Celina and declaring an emergency.

Discussion:

- Outcome: CM Wolfe made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by CM Buxton. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye. CM Baltzell made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Clausen. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

9. Administrative Reports:

- A. Mayor Hazel reported this past weekend the Governor's Cup Regatta returned Saturday and Sunday. The high winds on Saturday cancelled the races but they were able to have them on Sunday. The event went well and even with the extreme heat the attendance was good. Next year they plan to return with an even bigger event. With 4th of July coming up look at the freedom and the things we have and to salute all the Veterans who are out there. Also before our next Council Meeting we have Small Town Pride and War on

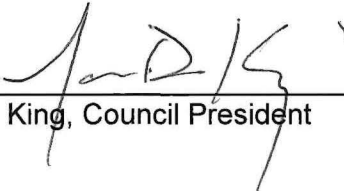
the Shore II going on this weekend at the Bryson Park District. The New Public Works Building they have started site work and are working on the foundation. The swimming pool is fully open, but the slide we are still waiting on the State to give the final permits for the footers for the concrete.

10. For the Good of the Order:

- A. CM Buxton stated he was able to walk through Lakeshore Park and talk to a lot of the racers on Sunday and they are happy it's back. They love this site because it's so close to the crowd and they are looking forward to returning next year.
- B. CM Sanford reported that rec baseball and softball are finishing their seasons with tournament games right now. Reminder to get our kids signed up for rec soccer. Also it's really hot outside stay hydrated.
- C. CM Gray would like to welcome Firefighter Buschur and Firefighter Goubeaux. Also welcome back Firefighter Alec Schoenleben. CM Gray asked how staffing levels are at the Fire Department? Mayor Hazel stated the Fire Department is currently fully staffed. Not all of them are fully on shift some are still in training. The only change coming up is the Fire Chief Exam this Friday then some things will be switched around. CM Gray asked since only 1 Firefighter Paramedic signed up for the exam does it have to be competitive. Mayor Hazel explained that under law we were able to determine that we can do with only one. They still have to pass the exam with the minimum passing score to be appointed. If they do not meet the minimum passing score, then it would be offered to the outside. CM Gray asked how the Police Department staffing is? Police Chief Wale stated we have the 2 Officers in field training that are about completed. They will both be eligible to help with summer events. In fact, they are eligible to sign up for the IC Festival and Boardwalk Festival. The sign-up sheet was just posted with both of them eligible to sign-up. We still have 2 in the Academy. One will finish July 3rd and the other will be done mid-August. Both of them will be fully functional this Fall. We have one going through the process to start the Academy the second week of August. We are potentially looking at 2 more. It's possible to be fully staffed here within the next several months. CM Gray asked if there are any lateral transfers? Police Chief Wale stated there are no laterals. We are testing for an Assistant Police Chief in August. With that promotion some things will be shifted around. CM Gray reported he received some pictures on Monday or Tuesday of last week of the restrooms at Eastview Park in pretty bad shape. Not sure which restroom but will share the pictures after the meeting. CM Gray asked if there have been any issues with the swim teams? SSD Hitchcock stated there has been no issues he is aware of.
- D. Council President King asked if any of the alleys will be dura patched? He has noticed a lot of holes in the alleys. SSD Hitchcock said they have a list they have been working on as a filler job as time allows.
- E. Committee of the Whole scheduled for 6:00 PM on July 14th to discuss the WWTP

11. Adjournment:

- Time: 8:16 PM




Jason D. King, Council President



Kari R. Fox, Council Clerk

I, Kari R. Fox, Clerk of Council of the City of Celina, Ohio, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of 6/23/2025, and were approved by Council 7/14/2025.



Council Clerk