

REGULAR MEETING OF CELINA CITY COUNCIL – August 25, 2025

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

Start Time: President King called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 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 Clausen made a motion to accept the Agenda, seconded by CM Baltzell. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

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

- Minutes Approval:
 - Previous Meeting: August 11, 2025
- Outcome: CM Buxton made a motion to pass the minutes, seconded by CM Clausen. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye; 1 abstain CM Gray.

4. Committee Reports:

- None

5. Communications:

- Mayor Hazel discussed:
 - The Fire Department Feasibility Study updates will be discussed at the next Committee Meeting. -Mull & Weithman Architects are working on a finalized design that will be at the current location and cost estimates to present to Council.
 - Also noted that he has heard some talk about the City of Wapak new addition to their Fire Department and wanted to note they have been working on their addition for 5 years.

6. Audience Communication:

- Resident Mike Jaeger, 666 N. Walnut Street, discussed his concerns with electric bikes and electric scooters. Shared 3 incidents he has witnessed recently. Discussed that he feels the age for kids to ride these electric bikes/scooters is wide open. When he was 14, he had to pass a test to have a moped. Feels something needs done before a child is injured/killed.
- Police Chief Wale:
 - discussed increased ticketing and warnings for e-bike misuse
 - 3 Classes of e-bikes set by Ohio Revised Code
 - *Class 1- pedal assist only, with the motor ceasing to provide assistance at 20 mph; all ages
 - *Class 2- pedal assist and/or throttle powered, with the motor ceasing to provide assistance at 20 mph; all ages

*Class 3- pedal assist only, with motor ceasing to provide assistance at 28 mph; must be 16+; helmet required

- Hard to visually distinguish class unless rider is stopped
- To have a moped you have to have a license an e-bike you do not
- Scooters and skateboards are toys to be used on private property (with property owners' permission) not meant for the roadways or sidewalks
- E-bikes can only be rode on sidewalks if the motor is completely disengaged.
- Resident Rich McNaughton, 503 E. Market Street, (was in the crowd for Ordinance 33-25-O) owns bicycle shop in town. Discussed e-bikes:
 - Discussed the 3 different classes that Police Chief Wale shared.
 - He doesn't sell many e-bikes at his shop that go 28 mph (maybe sold 1 to an adult); mostly sells the class 1 and class 2 that only go 20 mph
 - He stated that most bike shops in the area like his, Coldwater, and St. Marys very seldom sell an e-bike that goes 28 mph. Most are purchasing those online along with ones that access higher rates of speed.
 - Parents are choosing e-bikes for children due to cost and availability verse mopeds.
 - Doesn't sell any scooters or skateboards at his shop.
 - E-bikes are allowed on the roads.
 - Won't know the difference between Class 1, 2 or 3 unless you stop the rider. On every e-bike it should be labeled somewhere on the bike which class it is.
- CM Gray asked if the e-bikes have to follow all the laws on the roads? Rich McNaughton answered that most of the e-bikes have a built-in head light and tail light. Some do have a built-in brake light. When turning they will have to use hand signals. CM Gray stated he has seen e-bikes blow through stop signs. Rich McNaughton stated that would be an illegal way if seen by the Police Department to stop an e-bike. CM Gray asked if there are any regulations on e-bikes having a trailer behind them? Police Chief Wale stated he has not seen any regulation allowing it or prohibiting it. CM Gray also stated that he has seen e-bikes riding around the track at the school. Police Chief Wale stated his department has not received any concerns from the school about this.
- CM Fleck stated there is probably some way just like golf carts and mopeds to modify the speed to make them go faster. Rich McNaughton stated once the controller of the e-bike is opened and messed with the e-bike would no longer have warranty. But he agrees the speed could be manipulated.
- CM Sanford thanked Mike for bringing his concerns and Rich for clarifying. Also discussed concerns about riding bikes/e-bikes while on cellphones or with earbuds in. Suggested the importance for parents and schools to educate.
- Police Chief Wale stated his officers have picked up enforcement mainly in warnings but if there is not an improvement tickets and seizing their equipment will be the next step.
- Rich McNaughton also stated he does educate the parents/children when buying from his shop the importance of following the laws and wearing a helmet while operating an e-bike.
- Law Director Moore asked from the manufacturer, are there any labels on the e-bike to distinguish the class? Rich McNaughton stated yes, each e-bike should be labeled. Police Chief Wale stated ORC requires them to be labeled but some kids may peel them off.
- Law Director Moore pointed out that a first violation of riding an e-bike is a minor misdemeanor, but there are increases.

7. New Business:

- a. **33-25-O:** An Ordinance authorizing a Lease Agreement between the City of Celina and the Veterans Forever, Inc. for the lease of the Bryson Park District.
Discussion:

- Craig Obringer and Committee members were present to discuss and answer questions. Criag Obringer explained this event was just put on in 2025 and we had some concerns with the map and the RVs that bring the boats here. Just wanted to get things approved to move forward for planning for 2026 event. The 2026 event will be bigger since we are holding the Eastern Championships in June. In 2026 we are extending some areas in the park. The goal is to keep everything west of Ash Street. This past year caution tape was used and people just ripped through that so snow fencing will be put up to keep people out of certain areas where the cranes are for safety. We would like to move the RVs to the parking lot to the west. Basically, just trying to clear up the map and move forward for planning in 2026.
- CM Wolfe asked if the campers park over at the Water Treatment Plant area will the boats have to be trailered across 127 in the morning? Criag Obringer answered the boats will be parked/lined up down Ash Street and in that area. Only campers will be over in that area. We are expecting 60-70 boats for 2026 since it is the Championship. We have to stage the boats so our tractor drivers can keep the show flowing. This is why we are trying to separate the campers to the boats. Everything inside the hot pit areas is our guys, the boats, and the drivers getting in and out of the boats.
- Mayor Hazel stated Craig and his crew have done a phenomenal job. The City loves having the Governor's Cup Regatta back and he has heard a lot of positive feedback from the community.
- Craig Obringer thanked Wes Harris and his crew for all their help in 2025 and helping prepare for 2026 to make it better.
- CM Buxton asked about corporate tents and the locations. Craig Obringer stated we do not do corporate tents. We staged the food vendors up in the front on Lake Shore Drive so the whole road was open for people wanting to watch. The VIP tent was located out on the pier, and then that entire road to the hot water hole allowed people to stand there and observe the races. CM Buxton stated east of the judges stand in that curve area is a great area for corporate tents if you want to do one. Craig Obringer stated we are trying to put on a car show for 2026 and in the grass areas behind the red tent we would like to put the craft vendors. We are just trying to raise money. The Eastern Championship is going to cost almost \$90,000 and we want to figure out how we can sustain this race for years to come.
- Outcome: CM Clausen made a motion to pass to second reading, seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

b. 34-25-O: An Ordinance to amend Ordinance 53-24-O to add a fourth Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators I, II, III or Trainee, to remove one (1) Battalion Chief/Paramedic, to add four (4) Firefighters/Firefighter Trainees, and declaring an emergency.

Discussion:

- CM Fleck stated this is a good way with it because we brought most of our new people, especially for Police and Fire, in from the bottom up. As far as Wastewater Treatment Plant if you get hired in as a Trainee you have an option to get all your certificates.
- SSD Hitchcock stated it also gives us the flexibility to have an assistant later on if we end up having 3 operators. This just gives us more flexibility because we have advertised 4 times now for an assistant and we have not been able to get a qualified applicant. We have been short now for 10 months and we hate to keep shorting them.
- Mayor Hazel clarified the EMS Levy allowed the City the additional 3 for the fire department we just need to get the strength ordinance up to date.
- CM Wolfe stated this additional operator will also help them have a little less weekend work. Sometimes it is harder to fill this position because of working weekends.

- CM Buxton asked if we do not fill the assistant for the Wastewater Treatment Plant and the Superintendent had to be off for a long period of time who would cover? SSD Hitchcock stated we do have qualified operators with the licenses. We could appoint them or they could apply for the Superintendent position if it were to come available.
 - CM Gray asked about the 3 for the fire department from the EMS Levy if they are paramedics? Mayor Hazel stated we are a fire department not an EMS department. The one we just hired has his EMT but will need to get his Firefighter 1 and 2. To be an employee with us you must be a firefighter. We don't just hire paramedics we are a fire department and we have job descriptions for that. Mayor Hazel stated we have great staff at our fire department. CM Gray agreed.
 - Outcome: CM Baltzell made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by CM Wolfe. Motion passed with a roll call 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. **35-25-O:** An Ordinance authorizing the Municipal Court Judge to hire an additional Bailiff for training and declaring an emergency.
- Discussion:
- Mayor Hazel pointed out that this is a retirement not a resignation so he would recommend changing that in the second WHEREAS. The retirement is December 19th and this would allow for cross training. We have done this throughout the years for certain positions to allow for the overlap in training. The Judge/Court would like to get this position posted to allow for applications to be accepted and get through the interviews by October 1st to hire someone. This would only allow for the additional Bailiff until December 19th for training purposes.
 - Outcome: CM Baltzell made a motion to Amend the second WHEREAS to change the word "resignation" to "retirement", seconded by CM Fleck. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye. CM Clausen made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye. CM Buxton made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Fleck. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.
- d. **36-25-O:** An Ordinance supplemental appropriations for expenditures in the City of Celina for the Legal Department to upgrade its technology, and information technology (I.T.) management and support; and declaring an emergency.
- Discussion:
- Law Director Moore recommended a motion be made to amend SECTION TWO to remove "and grant obligations" and add a comma to \$(3,200.00).
 - Law Director Moore explained he has struggled greatly with his office technology and it has been an ongoing frustration. He has finally found a company that he believes can address all of their needs now and well into the future. He really likes the options they have. The ongoing services is covered by a monthly fee. This is equipment he is purchasing through them so they are familiar with it, they are setting it up, they are doing all the integration with it, and all the virus protection. I am sure the Police Chief could tell you that the lead's regulations are always getting tighter. We did receive something from the Municipal Attorneys Association about new things that are likely coming from the State of Ohio to make sure that basically the public's data, personal sensitive information is securely maintained. Basically, every criminal case has a computerized criminal history with it and that includes your Social Security number and pretty much everything about you, including tattoos, markings, nicknames, etc. and it would be really bad if that were to fall into the wrong hands. This is no new funds I am just asking to transfer from one pocket to another basically.
 - CM Sanford asked if this IT has all the qualifications and certifications for City protocol for security data? Law Director Moore answered yes.

- CM Wolfe asked how many assistants he has working for him? Law Director Moore stated 2. CM Wolfe asked how many work stations he was getting. Law Director Moore stated the intent would be to get one for each of them and have a backup one at his house. CM Wolfe asked if he would have security for all of them since his office is no longer on City property to protect all the private information? Law Director Moore stated yes.
- Police Chief Wale stated the Leads is continually increasing the security requirements. We recently had to go to a new two factor authentication, which I assume George will probably have too as well. Even if they have your computer and your password unless you have that second factor, which is either an app on a device or you carry a dongle you can't get in. You would have to have all that and I'm sure George having Leads information on his computer will probably be required to do the same.
- CM Clausen asked the Law Director if he would be replacing printers and scanners as well as it is stated? Law Director Moore answered the ones he purchased back in 2022 would be integrated into the new work stations.
- CM Baltzell asked if within this cost are there monthly service fees like a support you can call if you need anything and is that built into this cost? Law Director Moore answered that is correct there is a button on the desktop that says help that is manned 24 hours a day.
- Outcome: CM Baltzell made a motion to Amend SECTION TWO to remove "and grant obligations" and add a comma to \$(3.200.00), seconded by CM Wolfe. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye. CM Fleck made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by CM Wolfe. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye. CM Buxton made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Baltzell. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

8. Old Business (2nd Reading):

- 32-25-O:** An Ordinance accepting a donation from Celina Sharks Swim and Dive Team to the City of Celina Recreation Department for the donation of 8 lane lines, 16 lane lines extenders, and 1 used lane line reel, to appropriate funds to memo post this donation and declaring an emergency.

Discussion:

- Outcome: CM Clausen made a motion to suspend the rules, seconded by CM Buxton. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye; 1 abstain; CM Sanford abstain due to family involvement. CM Baltzell made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Buxton. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye; 1 abstain; CM Sanford abstain due to family involvement.

9. Old Business (3rd Reading):

- 30-25-O:** An Ordinance authorizing a lease agreement between the City of Celina and Fizzy Sips for lease of the Bryson Park District.

Discussion:

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

10. Administrative Reports:

A. Mayor Hazel Discussed:

- Pool Slide Project:
 - Received permit from State Health Department
 - Working on grounding wires and concrete to proceed this week
 - Pool is closed down; no swimming is allowed; slide will need tested for final approval
- New Public Works Building:
 - New building on North Street progressing: roofing, flooring, and storm lines underway
- Lights for the Basketball Courts at Bryson Park:
 - Poles expected to be in sometime late November (14 week lead time)

- Concrete foundations will be poured soon
- Fencing for air balls/geese under review of a broader park fencing plan
- Mill Street Project:
 - Sidewalks being installed, main line work finishing
 - Paving after all utility work complete
 - Substantial completion is expected by the end of November
 - Final seeding to occur in the Spring

11. For the Good of the Order:

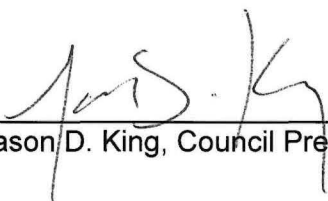
- A. CM Buxton asked about the replacement valve quotes for the pool if that is a budget item already or is it coming out of the Bryson Fund? Mayor Hazel stated we do not know yet. Those valves do have to be replaced and we are looking at the cost elements.
- B. CM Buxton asked about the waterline that was placed on Magnolia Street if that will be paved before Winter? SSD Hitchcock answered the guys will do a paving project throughout the town before Winter once all the repairs are made.
- C. CM Buxton asked about the traffic green arrow signs. SSD Hitchcock stated he knows they ordered them he will have to check to see if they have received them to install.
- D. Mayor Hazel shared that the curve coming off 29 the State has approved for the chevron signs to be put up to help visitors coming to town see the curve at night time better.
- E. CM Clausen asked about a site plan review for a new gas station on 29 east of Market Street. Mayor Hazel explained this is the southeast corner where there is a currently a Chinese restaurant.
- F. CM Sanford stated he just wanted to remind everyone again to be careful on bikes, motorized bikes, and scooters. Parents talk to your kids and help spread the message.
- G. Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for 6:00 PM on September 8, 2025 to discuss the lagoons and the Fire Department Feasibility Study.

12. Adjournment:

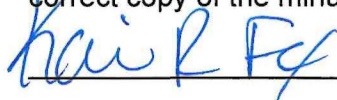
- Time: 8:08 PM



Kari R. Fox, Council Clerk


 Jason D. King, Council President

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 8/25/2025, and were approved by Council 9/8/2025.



Council Clerk