

## **REGULAR MEETING OF CELINA CITY COUNCIL – October 27, 2025**

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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: Council 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 Gray. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

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

- Minutes Approval:
  - Previous Meeting: October 13, 2025
- Outcome: CM Sanford made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by CM Baltzell. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

### **4. Committee Reports:**

- None

### **5. Communications:**

- Mayor Hazel Discussed:
  - The Lions Club hosted a Halloween Parade at the amphitheater on October 26<sup>th</sup>.
  - Aaron Beougher was promoted/sworn in as a new Lieutenant on October 20<sup>th</sup> at the Fire Department.
  - Final interviews ongoing for 1 firefighter position then both departments (police & fire) will have all positions filled. Training in progress for both departments.
  - AES (formerly DP&L) Interconnection Point plans for new major substation on the west side of Celina delayed from prior expectations. Project to begin February 2027 with a completion by December 2028.
- SSD Hitchcock Discussed:
  - The Fire Department Feasibility Study was received. The report is 150 pages and will be distributed by email to Council. Discussion to follow upon Council review.

### **6. Audience Communication:**

1. Sophia Rodriguez, 1125 West Bank Road; #101, asked questions about Ordinance 39-25-O.
  - Asked for explanation on “potential loss of liberty” clause- concerns about implications for individual rights and its necessity.
  - Requested clarity if this language is standard or specific to a recent incident.
- Law Director Moore Responded:
  - Term refers to any charge that might result in jail time.

- Standard phrasing used for indigent defense services agreements; required annually for municipalities with police departments.
- Not specific to Celina or response to a local incident.
- Sophia Rodriguez also thanked police for response to illegal dumping issues. Installed personal camera.

## **7. New Business:**

- a. **40-25-O:** An Ordinance establishing the annual salary of the Clerk of Council.

### **Discussion:**

- President King discussed the current salary established at \$4,500 per year since December 2012. Previous compensation updates for elected positions (Mayor, Law Director, Auditor, Treasurer, Council President, Council Members) were passed in March of 2023 and the Clerk of Council was omitted from that Ordinance. The Clerk of Council is not an elected position but is an employee appointed by Council. CM Baltzell stated this all makes sense and questioned what determines the increase? President King stated back in 2012 it was determined the Clerk of Council gets paid the same as Council Members. The language is similar to the Ordinance 6-23-O that was passed in March of 2023 with the effective increase of \$6,000 per year effective January 1, 2026 and an additional increase of 1.5% yearly thereafter. CM Sanford noted it has been 13 years since any increase and the 1.5% increase thereafter seems gradual rather than abrupt increases. CM Clausen stated he agrees to keeping all the salaries the same and appreciates the duties the Clerk of Council does.
- Outcome: CM Sanford made a motion to pass to second reading, seconded by CM Baltzell. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

## **8. Old Business (2<sup>nd</sup> Reading):**

- b. **39-25-O:** An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Mercer County Commissioners during calendar year 2026 for Indigent Defense Services in Municipal Court. (AMENDED 10/13/2025)

### **Discussion:**

- CM Buxton asked how often this service is used per year? Law Director Moore answered most city code violations are non-jailable. Jail-eligible offenses (entitling public defender) are rare under city code; more commonly prosecuted under state code. Vehicle trespass cited as atypical city-code jail-eligible offense. County receives reimbursement for state-relayed public defender wages.
- Outcome: CM Fleck made a motion to pass to third reading, seconded by CM Clausen. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

## **9. Administrative Reports:**

### **A. Mayor Hazel Discussed:**

- Public Works Building:
  - On schedule; minor delays for parts, but substantial completion expected by end of 2025.
  - Transition to enable school use of Portland Street facility for bus garage.
- Mill Street:
  - North-South stretch looks good; paving expected around the third week of November (weather dependent).
  - Project significant for community; has experienced seasonal delays.
- Future Projects:
  - Sugar Street reconstruction planned for 2027.

## **10. For the Good of the Order:**

- A. CM Wolfe asked what the plan is for the salt bin location will be following Public Works relocation? SSD Hitchcock answered the plan is to move the salt bin to Touvelle Street property after Public Works and Electrical equipment are relocated.

- B. CM Gray congratulated Aaron Beougher on his promotion. Also commended Keegan Carder, local youth, for frequent "Shop with a Cop" charity donations. Police Chief Wale stated Keegan donated approximately \$423. 00 this year and believes he has donated \$1,000.00 total from over the years from his lemonade stand efforts.
- C. CM Sanford expressed appreciation to the police department for ongoing compliance checks with local businesses regarding youth protection (sales checks, etc.). Encourages ongoing diligence. Also reported a possible collapsed drain in front of 712 Wayne Street across from the High School. SSD Hitchcock stated he will take care of.
- D. Personnel & Finance Committee meeting scheduled for November 3, 2025 at 5:00pm.

**11. Adjournment:**

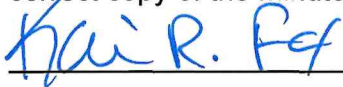
- Time: 7:23 PM



Kari R. Fox, Council Clerk

  
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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 10/27/2025, and were approved by Council 11/10/2025.



Council Clerk