

REGULAR MEETING OF CELINA CITY COUNCIL – December 15, 2025

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

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
 - Gray
 - Sanford
 - Wolfe

Absent: Law Director Moore and CM Fleck

2. Acceptance of Agenda:

- Agenda Approval: CM Baltzell made a motion to accept the Agenda, seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

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

- Minutes Approval:
 - Previous Meeting: November 24, 2025
- Outcome: CM Wolfe made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by CM Buxton. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

4. Committee Reports:

- CM Clausen gave a summary of the Personnel & Finance Committee Meeting that took place on November 24, 2025 to discuss the 2026 budget.

5. Communications:

- None

6. Audience Communication:

- Tim Homan, 7658 Celina Mendon Road, Flock Camera System Discussion:
 - Lack of Council research into flock camera system (license plate recognition cameras).
 - Requests further independent Council investigation; not just accepting Police Chief recommendation
 - Transparency about grant process: no decision until grant is awarded; delays due to federal government shutdown; notification possible January-May 2026
 - Data privacy: concerns over flock partnership with Ring, possible facial recognition/expansion; flock's business model and high valuation raise questions about data-centric business practices
 - Federal access concerns: fears access won't be limited to local law enforcement
 - Final decision contingent on grant award, further research, and input from incoming council members
 - Legislation will go through 3 public readings for transparency; not a single meeting decision
- Heather Schmidt, 417 Magnolia Street, Recognition of outgoing Council Members:
 - Short address thanking and honoring the 3 Council Members (Baltzell, Buxton, and Fleck) with long tenure who are stepping down at year end
- Daniel Applegate, 221 S. Mill Street, Traffic Flow & Safety-No Turn on Red Signs Discussion:
Issue Raised:

- Increased traffic congestion and safety concern at intersections with new “no turn on red” signs; Havemann Road/Grand Lake
- Concerns especially relevant in Summer and peak times; Crown Plant Traffic and Special Events
- Explore peak hour signals at Crown Plant intersection

Council/Admin Explanation:

- Signs installed in response to near-miss/accident complaints, especially with protected left turns and turn-right-on-red conflicts
- Consensus that some signs (Grand Lake/Havemann; Market/Ash) are justified due to traffic volume and accident history, but others may be reconsidered
- Will continue to monitor intersections for safety and effectiveness
- ODOT controls traffic signals, not local “no turn on red” signage
- Council/Admin. Open to modifying or removing signs causing new/unintended hazards

7. New Business:

- a. **44-25-O:** An Ordinance to adopt Cybersecurity Program and declaring an emergency.

Discussion:

- Mandated by ORC 9.64 (enacted by House Bill 96)
 - Adopts CIS Critical Security Controls as city’s foundational framework
 - City to implement at IG1 (essential cyber hygiene), progressing to IG2 (safeguards to strengthen its defenses), reviewed annually
 - Next Steps: RFP for external IT consultants/audit
- Outcome: CM Clausen made a motion to suspend the Ordinance, seconded by CM Wolfe. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye. CM Buxton made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Sanford. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

- b. **45-25-O:** An Ordinance authorizing the re-establishment of the Police Capital Fund, stating the purpose of the fund, the amount to be accumulated, the duration of the fund, and declaring an emergency.

Discussion:

- Auditor Shinn explained the fund exceeded statutory 10-year limit; must be re-established (not to exceed \$4 million; 10-year max, interest to Geneal Fund)
- Outcome: CM Baltzell made a motion to amend Section Two to change the word Fire to Police, seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye. CM Wolfe made a motion to suspend the Ordinance, seconded by CM Clausen. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye. CM Gray made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Buxton. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

- c. **46-25-O:** An Ordinance to approve, adopt and enact the 2025 replacement pages to the Codified Ordinances, and declaring an emergency.

Discussion:

- Auditor Shinn explained this is an annual Ordinance to adopt 2025 replacement pages (traffic/general offenses)
- Outcome: CM Clausen made a motion to amend Section Three to remove Fire Prevention (non-applicable this year), seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye. CM Sanford made a motion to suspend the Ordinance, seconded by CM Baltzell. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye. CM Buxton made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Wolfe. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

- d. **47-25-O:** An Ordinance appropriating funds and amending various categories within Ordinance 64-24-O for the 2025 annual appropriations, and declaring an emergency.

Discussion:

- Auditor Shinn explained the purpose of this Ordinance is to allow year end adjustments to various budget categories to be compliant with State Auditor, avoid negative (overdrawn) accounts.
- Key Highlights per Auditor Shinn:
 - Supplemental appropriations for police trainee/academy expenses, pool repairs, city tax refunds (unusual business filings), software and equipment updates, fire/EMS overtime, donation-funded fire equipment, electric fund supplement (wholesale cost spike in July), adjustments for cemetery/park funds, TIF administrative fee increases
- Outcome: CM Baltzell made a motion to suspend the Ordinance, seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye. CM Gray made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Wolfe. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.
- e. **48-25-O:** An Ordinance authorizing the Safety-Service Director to enter into an agreement with the Local Government Services Section of the Office of the Auditor of State (LGS), and declaring an emergency.
Discussion:
 - Auditor Shinn explained this is an annual one-year agreement, 488 hours @ \$80/hour (estimate \$39,040)
 - Standard annual contract, LGS provides audit and compliance oversight
 - Outcome: CM Wolfe made a motion to suspend the Ordinance, seconded by CM Baltzell. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye. CM Clausen made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

8. Old Business (3rd Reading):

- a. **41-25-O:** An Ordinance to make appropriations for expenses and other expenditures of the City of Celina, State of Ohio, during the calendar year ending December 31, 2026, and to declare an emergency. (Amended 12/15/2025)
Discussion:
 - Amended version accepted
 - Auditor Shinn explained the key changes:
 - Adjusted for public safety (dispatch/fire/police retirements), cemetery funding, corrections in payroll/pension funding
 - Language clarification on half percent income tax transfer (must be "reimbursement")
 - Increase in TIF funds for anticipated settlement/fees
 - Outcome: CM Wolfe made a motion to accept the amended Ordinance, seconded by CM Clausen. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye. CM Gray made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Wolfe. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.
- b. **42-25-O:** An Ordinance authorizing the Safety-Service Director to advertise for bids and to enter into contracts for City Projects and Capital Equipment for fiscal year 2026. (Amended 11/24/2025)
Discussion:
 - Outcome: CM Clausen made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Sanford. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.
- c. **43-25-O:** An Ordinance authorizing the Safety Service Director to advertise for bids and to enter into contracts for certain materials, services, supplies and equipment needed during 2026, and to declare an emergency.
Discussion:
 - Outcome: CM Wolfe made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Clausen. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

9. Administrative Reports:

- A. Mayor Hazel Discussed:
 - Marcos Pizza opened on N. Main Street, ribbon cutting December 15th (14th location for owner)

- Christmas tree pickup is January 5th-January 9th
 - Winter Update: No significant frozen water line issues reported; residents reminded to run taps in subzero temps; Public Works lauded for timely snow removal and CM Gray noted kudos for leaf pickup despite weather conflicts
 - Holiday Schedule: City Offices closed half days on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve, plus closed all day for both holidays; Police; Fire/EMS remain operational 24/7
- B. Auditor Shinn Discussed:
- Financial Reports: October and November financials to be emailed; physical copies to be distributed in January
- C. President King Discussed:
- Council Meeting Schedule for 2026: No meeting on Memorial Day (May 25th); single meeting in May. December meeting will be the 3rd Monday only (December 21st)
 - Committee Meeting Assignments & Contact Sheet: distributed to Council and incoming members; updates requested to made to President King or Kari
 - Acknowledgement: Recognition of outgoing Council Members: Eric Baltzell served 8 years; Mark Fleck served 12 years; Myron Buxton served 20 years

10. For the Good of the Order:

- A. CM Baltzell & CM Buxton: reflections, thanks from departing councilors appreciation for administration, fellow councilors, and the learning process
- B. CM King shared he received a phone call about pedestrian safety: concerns about crossings on Main Street at Logan and Market; issues with right on red into crosswalks, driver inattention, and recall of close calls; general discussion on driver and pedestrian awareness
- C. CM Sanford shared safety services recognition; appreciation given for high volume of safety runs (over 1,900 squad, 329 fire, 16,745 police incidents in 2025)

11. Adjournment:

- Time: 8:29 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 12/15/2025, and were approved by Council 1/12/2026.


 _____ Council Clerk