

REGULAR MEETING OF CELINA CITY COUNCIL – January 12, 2026

Attendees: Council President King; Council Members Doseck, Gray, Sanford, Schulte, Uhlenhake, 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. Prayer & Pledge

2. Call to Order and Roll Call:

- Council President King
- Council Members Present:
 - Doseck
 - Gray
 - Sanford
 - Schulte
 - Uhlenhake
 - Wolfe

Absent: Auditor Shinn and CM Clausen

3. Acceptance of Agenda:

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

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

- Minutes Approval:
 - Previous Meeting: December 15, 2025
- Outcome: CM Wolfe made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

5. Committee Reports:

- None

6. Communications:

- Mayor Hazel Discussed:
 - Keys obtained for the new Public Works Building; transition process for moving staff begins in the coming weeks.
 - New restrooms at Westview nearing completion, with delayed items recently delivered; expected completion imminent.
 - Wrap up of 2025 projects in early 2026, indicating good progress for both City and Community.

7. Audience Communication:

- Chris Colvin, 1033 Justin Ridge Way Waynesville, Ohio, (resident & councilman) Supporter of “Convention of States” initiative:

Request:

- Support of Ohio State Resolution applying to Congress for a convention under Article 5 of the U.S. Constitution, seeking:
 - Fiscal restraints on the federal government
 - Limits on federal power/jurisdiction
 - Congressional term limits
- Request for Council to pass a non-binding local Resolution mirroring Waynesville’s, then send a letter of support to State Representative Angie King and State Senator Susan Manchester.
- Materials Provided: petitions, draft Resolutions, and a form letter for State authorities

Key Points Outlined:

- Two-thirds of states must pass identical Resolutions
- Congress' role limited to calling the convention; state control delegates
- Any amendments would require ratification by three-fourths of states; delegates legally bound not to change Bill of Rights provisions
- Over 20 Ohio municipalities have passed similar Resolutions

8. New Business:

- a. **1-26-O:** An Ordinance authorizing the Safety-Service Director to enter into a contractual agreement with Harold Minch for the purpose of caretaker duties at North Grove Cemetery, appropriating additional funds, and declaring an emergency.

Discussion:

- SSD Hitchcock explained this is the same Ordinance that was approved back in 2018. The only change is he has not had a salary increase and would like to go from \$400 monthly to \$500 monthly.
- CM Wolfe asked how many burials were in 2025. SSD Hitchcock answered the City averages about 3 per month; 36 per the year.
- Outcome: CM Schulte 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 Doseck. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

- b. **2-26-O:** An Ordinance authorizing the Safety Service Director to enter into an annual software service agreement with Vector Solutions for scheduling services for the Celina Fire Department and declaring an emergency.

Discussion:

- Mayor Hazel explained the funds were included in the 2026 budget; contract execution requires council approval.
- Fire Chief Brian Davis Discussion:
 - Transition from paper/whiteboard to cloud-based, all in one software.
 - Noted improved efficiency, continuity in training, and added benefits for staff.
 - Features/Benefits:
 - Tracks vacation, sick leave, trade time and scheduling via app and web
 - Notifies staff and manages approval electronically
 - Centralizes policies, operating guidelines, and training
 - Improves communication, reduces confusion, and boosts employee satisfaction
- Outcome: CM Gray made a motion to suspend the Ordinance, seconded by CM Sanford. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye. CM Sanford made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Doseck. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

- c. **1-26-R:** A Resolution authorizing the sale by internet auction during calendar year 2026 of municipally owned personal property which is not needed for public use, or which is obsolete or unfit for the use for which it was acquired, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 721.15(D).

Discussion:

- Mayor Hazel stated this is a Resolution done annually to allow the City to auction surplus/obsolete property online via Gov Deals.
- CM Gray cited Gov Deals has been successful with sales of city vehicles and equipment.
- CM Wolfe shared online auctions (Gov Deals) has been significantly more profitable and efficient than traditional live auctions. Prior local auctions had higher fees, lower returns.
- Outcome: CM Gray made a motion to pass to second reading, seconded by CM Wolfe. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

- d. **2-26-R:** A Resolution authorizing the Mayor as delegate to represent the City of Celina as a member of the Board of Directors of the Ohio Municipal Electric Association.

Discussion:

- Mayor Hazel explained OMEA acts as a legislative liaison for public owned electric utilities.
- CM Doseck asked how often they meet. Mayor Hazel answered the board meets 4 times yearly, alternating between Columbus and D.C.
- Mayor Hazel stated representatives receive no OMEA compensation, but is provided/reimbursed for related travel and lodging. *ASV*
- Outcome: CM *Gary* made a motion to amend the first WHEREAS to add "Celina" after the City of, seconded by CM Sanford. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye. CM Wolfe made a motion to pass to second reading, seconded by CM Sanford. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

9. Administrative Reports:

- A. SSD Hitchcock stated no new information beyond written report; open to suggestions regarding report format.
- B. Law Director Moore reminded all officials to complete required Ohio Ethics Commission report. (Due May 15th; online submission available)

10. For the Good of the Order:

- A. CM Wolfe discussed Mercer County EMS 2025 year in Review:
- Handout distributed: 2025 EMS call/run statistics for Celina, Coldwater, and Rockford
 - Celina- 2,090 EMS calls (not including fire)
 - Coldwater- 641
 - Rockford- 466
 - Results of Organizational Changes:
 - Implemented chase vehicles and paid on-call responders in other communities
 - Marked reduction in aid runs to Rockford; Celina now assists St. Mary's more frequently than Rockford
 - Change has reduced burnout among Celina Fire/EMS staff and improved morale
 - EMS levy success recognized for enabling hiring of additional staff; easing workload
- B. CM Sanford discussed Beekeeping Ordinance Update:
- Upcoming Event: Beekeeping school scheduled for February 28th in Celina
 - Pending Business: Council previously discussed (June 2024) legislation for a local bee Ordinance; request for update from Allen Heindel
 - Report: Law Director Moore is awaiting a complete copy (including missing pages) of the draft legislation for review before next steps
 - Actions: CM Sanford to email requestor for full copy; follow up pending upon receipt
- C. Utilities Committee Meeting scheduled for January 26th, 2026 at 6:30pm to discuss water rates

11. Adjournment:

- Time: 7:30 PM

Kari R. Fox

Kari R. Fox, Council Clerk

J.D. King

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 1/12/2026, and were approved by Council 1/26/2026.

Kari R. Fox

Council Clerk