

# STATE OF THE CITY 2025

Mayor Jeffrey Hazel

As we reflect on 2025, I am proud of the continued dedication and resilience of the City of Celina—its residents, businesses, employees, and elected officials. Together, we remain committed to making Celina a great place to live, work, and enjoy all that our community has to offer. This past year, we celebrated the opening of new businesses and welcomed investment into our community, while also acknowledging the challenges faced by increasing costs and housing shortages.

Through both progress and change, our focus has remained on strengthening our infrastructure, improving quality of life, and planning responsibly for the future.

## FISCAL MANAGEMENT & STABILITY

I am pleased to report that in December 2024, City Council unanimously approved a balanced operating budget of approximately \$47.5 million, with projected revenues of \$50.4 million for 2025. Final revenues for the year totaled \$56.3 million, reflecting the strength and stability of our local economy.

Through intentional planning and transparent fiscal management, we were able to reserve funds for capital projects without the need for additional borrowing. Major capital investments completed in 2025 included the reconstruction of Mill Street and underground utilities; construction of a new Public Works facility; and new restroom facilities at West View Park. These projects represent meaningful, long-term investments in our infrastructure and our community spaces.

Of special note is that Celina's debt has continued to decrease. Beginning outstanding Municipal debt in 2025 was \$3.48M with a final balance at year-end of \$2.82M. This intentional reduction of debt is a critical step to meet future challenges of a new Fire Station and other significant improvement projects.

## ESSENTIAL UTILITIES

Celina's Utility Departments continue to be the backbone of everyday services, accounting for nearly 68 percent of the City's operating budget. Our Wastewater Treatment plant exceeded all Ohio EPA requirements, treating more than 664 million gallons of wastewater with exceptional efficiency. Our Water Treatment Plant treated and sold over 289 million gallons of water and maintained around the clock service, also replacing over 6,000 feet of water main. Celina's Electric Distribution personnel improve and maintain over 700 miles of electric lines that provide service to over 7,500 residences, farms, and businesses. Staff installed several hundred radio-read meters to improve efficiency, accuracy, and customer service.

## PUBLIC SAFETY & COMMUNITY SERVICES

Public safety remains a top priority. Our Police Department ended the year being fully staffed with a Chief, Assistant Chief, 3 Sergeants, 8 Officers, and 3 full-time officers-in-training. Our Fire Department is comprised of a Fire Chief and 18 Firefighters – 11 also being Paramedics, and 1 Trainee, and 12 part-time Firefighters. Personnel answered more than 2,400 calls for Fire and Emergency Medical services. As a result of our full-time department status, we are proud to maintain an ISO rating of 4, which helps keep insurance costs lower for our residents and businesses.

Our Public Works Department supported major community events, such as Governor's Cup Regatta, Lake Festival, and Taste of Celina, among several others. Public Works maintains over 65 miles of streets and almost 586,000 feet of sanitary and storm lines.

Celina's Parks and Recreation Department continued to provide youth programs to foster youth skills develop teamwork to over 850 youths participating in City-sponsored sports programs this year.

## ECONOMIC GROWTH

Celina's Income Tax Department collected more than \$8.7 million in 2025— an increase of over 6 percent from the previous year. We also saw continued progress in residential construction and commercial improvements, with facilities designed to serve our residents for decades to come.

While we are proud of what has been accomplished, we recognize that challenges remain. Through innovation, collaboration, and responsible stewardship of time and resources, we are well positioned to meet those challenges head-on.

I appreciate and want to thank our City employees and management for your dedication, to City Council for your leadership, and especially to our residents and businesses for your continued trust and engagement.

It is an honor to serve as your Mayor. I look forward to continuing our work together as we move into 2026 and beyond—always striving to make Celina an even better place to live, work, and play.

Thank you and may God continue to bless the City of Celina.

Mayor Jeffrey Hazel

## 2025 STATE OF THE CITY Departmental Compilation

### **FINANCIAL HEALTH**

In December of 2025, Council members unanimously passed a Balanced Budget request for City operations of approximately \$47.5M for all funds with total projected revenue of \$50.4M for 2025. Funds remaining from 2025 and General Fund collections exceeding projections throughout the year were reserved by transfer into designated “set aside” fund accounts for capital projects of Fire and Police Departments, and the Street Fund.

The final combined expenses for 2025 were \$58.03M, which included the projected expenses from carry-over funds set aside and designated for capital projects without the need for outside borrowing. Major capital projects include the Mill Street Reconstruction Project (app. \$4.065M), a new Public Works Building \$2.186M), and new Restroom Facilities at West View Park (\$327,750). Final actual revenue for all funds received in 2025 was \$56.3M, or approximately \$500K less than 2024’s total of 56.8M.

Administration, City Council, and the City Auditor continued to responsibly manage expenses and strive to reduce overall City indebtedness for our community’s current and long-term financial stability and to position us for future capital projects.

The beginning outstanding debt of 2025 was approximately \$3.48M. The remaining outstanding debt at year-end was \$2.82M. Inclusive in the City’s debt reduction was \$394,261 expended from the 9 TIF Districts.

The City’s Investment Accounts are comprised of current Fund balances originating from all revenue sources, including General, Enterprise, and TIF Funds. Investment Accounts are managed by Meeder Investment Management through the City Auditor. The average monthly balance of funds invested were approximately \$38.77M, or an approximate 18% decrease from 2024. Interest earned on the Meeder Investments ranged from 2.23% - 4.011%. Total net interest earned for the City by Meeder in 2025 was deposited back into the associated funds.

### **UTILITIES**

The City’s Utility Departments continue to provide the essential basics of everyday services for our residents and businesses. Although operating in the background, Celina’s municipal Utilities of Electric, Water Treatment, and Wastewater Treatment account for nearly 68% of the City’s total initial budget of \$47.56M,

## **Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP)**

Initially constructed in 1939 and upgraded in 1993, the City's 3MGD Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) continues to operate under the direction of Superintendent Kerry Duncan and 4 wastewater treatment operators ensuring compliance with its NPDES permit requirements delineated by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA). Final 2025 expenses for Wastewater operations, collection system maintenance, and capital were \$2.59M, which included 1.82M. Of particular note:

- In 2025, the WWTP treated a total of 664,296 million gallons (MG) of wastewater.
- The plant achieved outstanding pollutant removal efficiencies, with 98.58% CBOD5 removal and 99.32% TSS removal, far exceeding the NPDES Permit requirements.
- The WWTP land-applied 1,008 wet tons (177 dry tons) of biosolids across 145 acres approved by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency (OEPA).
- The WWTP served an average of 511 Customers outside the corporation limits and 4,227 customers within, resulting in a total average of 4,738 customers monthly.
- Total treatment sales for the year amounted to \$ 2,495,054, which is inclusive of \$406,911 generated from Outside Customers and \$2,088,143 from Inside Customers.
- Jones & Henry Consulting engineers completed a "Non-Feasibility Analysis of the Wastewater Treatment Plant processes and facilities as directed by the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency with the ultimate objective to eliminate bi-passes into local bodies of water. This study was submitted and initial designs for improvements began in accordance with OEPA's issued mandatory compliance directives for the City.

## **Water Treatment Plant (WTP) and Water Distribution**

The City of Celina Water Treatment Department staff is under the direction of Superintendent Mike Sudman, Assistant Water Treatment Superintendent, 6 water treatment plant operators, Assistant Superintendent of Water Distribution, and 3 Distribution staff with final total 2025 expenses of \$3.46M. These staff continue to address critical infrastructure needs, maintaining high-quality service and treatment standards with 24-hour response, and ensuring the reliability of the water system for all residents and businesses. The following is a summary of the year's notable in-house projects:

- The Plant sold 289,26M gallons
- Land-applied 1.32M gallons of wet sludge at a cost of \$79,200 (\$0.60 per gallon)
- Completed reconstruction of Sand Filter #3 at a cost of \$77,500
- Completed elevator repairs at a cost of \$144,000
- Exchanged 320,000 pounds of granular activated carbon (GAC) across all eight filters at a cost of \$339,200
- Approximately 6,200 feet of water main was replaced

## **Electric Department**

The Electric Distribution Department maintains the City's electric distribution lines and 4 substations. Superintendent Aaron Siefring works alongside a Crew Leader and seven Linemen with multiple skill levels to ensure reliable and efficient electrical service for our residents and

businesses. The Electric Distribution Department had 2025 expenses of \$28.2M, representing an approximate 10% increase over 2025. Their budget, inclusive of power purchases, represented nearly 48% of the City's overall budget. Staff maintains the following services:

- Residential Services: 5,248 customers inside city limits and 2,000 outside
- Commercial Services: 953 customers inside city limits and 300 outside
- 685 miles of distribution lines
- 10 miles of transmission lines
- 12 miles of fiber optic lines
- 4 distribution substations and one 69KVA substation
- 24 traffic light intersections
- 1,020 street lights

Maintenance of existing infrastructure is an essential objective; however, the department upgrades services and distribution lines to accommodate growth, expansion, and load demands.

- Replaced 175 poles and overhead primary lines, including 38,000 feet of overhead primary lines on Feeder 14, with a total investment of \$495,675
- Single-phase extensions serving residents and businesses amounted to \$107,026
- Installed additional lighting in Bryson Park (\$91,196), and various smaller projects totaling \$141,383
- Installed 924 new radio-read meters, improving meter accuracy and efficiency (\$153,384)

## **Customer Accounts**

Customer Accounts is comprised of Director Julie Nedderman, 3 Account Clerks, and 3 Meter Readers with final 2025 expenses of \$1.34M that is funded by Electric (50%), Water (25%) and Wastewater (25%) revenues. These staff assist customers with utility services in addition to billing and collecting service fees. Below is a summary of key statistics 2025:

- **Electric Customers**
  - Inside city limits: 6,201
  - Outside city limits: 2,300
- **Water Customers**
  - Inside city limits: 4,783
  - Outside city limits: 587
- **Solar Customers**
  - Residential: 11
  - Commercial: 3
  - REC Program (Renewable Energy Credits) Participants: 1
- **ACH Customers (payment through direct bank transfer): 2,328**
- **Customer Billings: 91,152**
  - Delinquent accounts collected: \$36,353.69
  - Total delinquent billings: 9,252
- **Miscellaneous Billings**
  - Electric: 38
  - Water: 664



- Sewer: 21
  - Engineer (permits/new construction): 18
- **Revenue Highlights**
  - KWH tax collected: \$613,830
- **Payment Transactions**
  - PSN Payments Processed (Credit Card): 26,691
  - Returned checks: 46
- **Additional Services**
  - Trash tags sold: 2,439, or a 29% increase from 2024
  - Shelter house rentals: 103
  - Amphitheater rentals: 4
  - Red tent rentals: 4
  - General Park Lease Agreements: 11

## **Recreation Department**

Celina Parks and Recreation programs offer introductory, skills, and team-building experiences for youth, ages K-6<sup>th</sup> grade, through the City's Recreation programs. Parks and Recreation had 2025 expenses of \$578,792, which includes the Bryson Pool. Below is an overview of the department's accomplishments and contributions to the community:

- **Baseball and Softball:**
  - **Baseball:** 159 participants
  - **Pony League Baseball:** 13
  - **Softball:** 148
  - **Co-ed Kindergarten T-Ball:** 48 participants.
    - **Total Enrollment:** 368 players
- **Soccer:**
  - **Girls' Soccer:** 187 participants
  - **Boys' Soccer:** 148 participants
  - **Kindergarten Soccer** (new in 2025): 45 participants.
    - **Total Enrollment:** 380 players
- **Football:** 81 participants
  - **Tennis Camp:** Two sessions held in June saw a combined enrollment of 25 in its second year.
- **Total Recreation Sports Enrollment:** 854 youth athletes (9% decrease from 2024)

## **Sponsorships and Volunteer Support**

The community's strong support for youth sports programs is reflected in the annual sponsorship and volunteers:

- **Sponsorships:** 55
- **Coaches and Volunteers:** Over 137 individuals dedicated their time and expertise to youth sports.
- **Officials:** 18 umpires for baseball and softball games and 30 referees for soccer matches.

## Income Tax Department

The Celina Income Tax Department is managed by an Administrator Roxann Shaffer and a Tax Clerk. The Department plays a crucial role in the General Fund through collections of Celina's Income Tax for essential services, such as Safety Services. In 2025, the department continued to make strides in improving collections, addressing delinquencies, and managing accounts effectively. Below is an overview of the department's performance and key metrics:

**Total Collections 2025:** \$8,733, 986 (*up 6.46% from 2024's collection of \$8,203,654*)

The department maintained **8,419 active tax accounts** in 2025, distributed as follows:

- **Resident Individuals:** 5,665
- **Non-Resident Individuals:** 536
- **Resident Businesses:** 412 (including 832 withholding accounts)
- **Non-Resident Businesses:** 753 (including 221 withholding accounts)

Efforts to reduce delinquent tax filers yielded progress:

- **2024:** 1,623 delinquent filers
- **2023:** 862 delinquent filers
- **2022:** 1,117 delinquent filers

## Outstanding Tax Balances

The total tax balance due from prior years stands at \$260,517 with an additional \$65,623 in penalties and interest.

## Police Department

Celina's Police Department, under the direction of a Police Chief, an Assistant Chief, 3 Sergeants, and 12 Patrolmen. This Department is tasked with the responsibility of protecting our community and enforcing laws. Activities included patrol, responding to calls for service, traffic control during accidents and events, business security checks, surveillance, criminal investigations, serving warrants, arrests, and partnering with other law enforcement agencies for criminal investigations including drugs, car thefts, etc. The final 2025 expenses for the Department were \$2.07M, an increase of 22% from 2024

## Public Works Department

The Public Works Department had combined expenses approximately \$1.88M, which includes North Grove Cemetery expenses. An additional \$2.5M was appropriated for Mill Street Reconstruction and other paving projects. The Department has a Superintendent, six Maintenance personnel, two Sewer Collections staff, one Parks maintenance employee, one Cemetery employee, and nine seasonal workers.

## 2025 Projects:

- Over 140 yards of concrete street repairs, costing approximately \$40,000
- Pavement markings throughout city at a cost of \$76,271 (Griffin Pavement Striping).
- A total of 311 tons of asphalt were purchased from the Shelly Company at \$93.00 per ton, costing \$28,935 for patching and general road maintenance.
- Dura-patcher system kept costs low, with 3,025 gallons of emulsion used (\$7,015) and 110 tons of stone (\$1,622).
- New tree plantings at multiple parks.
- Nine properties were maintained by crews as a result of neglect or abandonment.
- Staff supported City-wide festivals, such as Lakefest (200 regular and 30 overtime hours in-kind provided) and Taste of Celina (50 regular and 12 overtime hours in-kind provided) with manpower, signage, and cleanup with internal costs exceeding \$20,000.

## Spring Trash Collection

Spring trash collection was completed in April 2025 by Maharg's Trash Service, totaling 575.45 tons at a cost of \$33,494, which is funded by a \$.10 per bag surcharge. Maharg's Trash and Recycle bags are sold at designated area stores. Statistics in 2025 are as follows:

- Trash bags sold: 346,750
- Recycle bags: 39,850
- Yard bags: 17,750

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

The Celina Fire Department had final expenses of \$1.56M, or a 9.8% increase from 2024. Personnel include a Fire Chief, 3 Lieutenants, 15 full-time Firefighter Positions, and 12 auxiliary members. Celina continues to have an ISO rating of 4 in the city and 4Y in rural areas, which results in insurance premium savings to area residents and businesses within the Celina Fire District.

- **Calls for Service:**
  - Fire: 352 – a slight decrease from 2024
  - EMS: 2,061 – an approximate increase of 4.8% over 2024
  - **Total:** 2,324
- **Training Achievements:**
  - Driver: 232 hours
  - EMS: 234 hours
  - Fire Officer: 240 hours
  - Fire Pump Operations: 68 hours
  - Firefighter Training: 729 hours
  - Fire Inspector: 26 hours
  - Special Operations: 94 hours
    - **Total Training Hours:** 1,623, an increase of 64% in training hours
- **Capital Purchases:**
  - Refurbishment of Engine 907 at \$129,460



## **ENGINEERING - DEVELOPMENT**

The Celina Engineering Department has two key engineering positions that process applications of residential, commercial, and industrial developments while facilitating the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals. Staff works with developers and all departments to insure compliance with construction standards in addition to Floodplain management. Staff monitors, responds, and notifies property owners of high grass, junk, zoning violations, and unsafe buildings for compliance to local codes.

The following Zoning permits were issued in 2025:

- 7 Single Family dwellings
- 25 Residential Additions or Accessory Structures
- 2 non-residential additions

The following City projects were under construction or completed in 2025:

- Grand Lake Builders completed construction of Restroom facilities in West View Park at a cost of \$327,750
- The new 17,000 square foot Public Works facility on North Street was completed at a cost of \$2.18M by Miller Contracting Group.
- Approximately 5,000' of Mill Street was reconstructed by Shinn Bros. at a cost of \$3.69M, which included replacement and or upgrades of underground utilities.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Daylight Donuts opened on West Logan Street

## **MUNICIPAL COURT**

Celina's Municipal Court is under the direction of Judge Kathy Speelman with a Municipal Court Clerk, two Bailiffs, and four Deputy Clerks. Judge Speelman maintains annual reports with her Court Clerk.

## **CELINA AUDITOR**

Celina Auditor Brooke Shinn with a Chief Deputy Auditor and Deputy Auditor maintain all financial records, processes purchase orders, invoices, payroll, investments, annual budget, and coordinates with the City Treasurer for financial transactions. The Auditor maintains strict guidelines to assure compliance with accounting standards and appropriate expenditures of governmental funds for all departments. The Auditor maintains their annual records.

## **LAW DIRECTOR**

Celina's Law Director George Moore maintains all mandatory legal records, including cases, lawsuits, and related matters in his office, both annual and long-term.

## **SUMMARY**

This 2025 State of the City chronicles the summary of Celina's financial health and the transparency of which Council and Administration strive to provide in accountability to our residents, visitors, and the public at large. Individual Elected Officials and City Department End-of-Year Reports are available to view at Celina's Administration Building.

Serving Others for the Betterment of our Community, I am

Jeffrey Hazel  
Mayor