

REGULAR MEETING OF CELINA CITY COUNCIL – April 13, 2026

Attendees: Council President King; Council Members Clausen, Doseck, Gray, Sanford, Schulte, Uhlenhake and Wolfe; 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:
 - Clausen
 - Doseck
 - Gray
 - Sanford
 - Schulte
 - Uhlenhake
 - Wolfe

Absent: Mayor Hazel and Auditor Shinn

3. Acceptance of Agenda:

- Agenda Approval: CM Wolfe made a motion to accept the Agenda, seconded by CM Clausen. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

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

- Minutes Approval:
 - Previous Meeting: March 23, 2026
- Outcome: CM Schulte made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye; CM Doseck abstained.

5. Committee Reports:

- Committee of the Whole March 9, 2026 to discuss proposed bee Ordinance.

6. Communications:

- None

7. Audience Communication:

- Angela Nickell, 408 W. Fayette Street Celina, Ohio, discuss Children's Services Levy:
 - Renewal of the children's services property tax levy (on the books for 10 years; requesting renewal at 2016 rate).
 - Details:
 - Levy is \$9/year per \$100,000 of property valuation, based on 2018 values.
 - Levy crucial for proactive children's services and kinship programs, enabling family support that reduces foster placements (from 50 to 23 over levy's tenure).
 - Local funds allow flexibility not possible with state/federal funding (examples: helping special needs families with adaptive home equipment; rapid community response).
 - Noted high per-child costs for extreme cases: \$840/day (over \$310,000/year) for residential placement due to challenging behaviors.
 - Celina sees a greater impact due to population.
 - Encouraged council to refer concerned constituents to her for information/tours.
 - Q&A Highlights:
 - Assurance that renewal at current level is sufficient; funds are managed frugally.
 - Levy provides essential flexible funding where state/fed grants do not.

- If May levy fails, possibility of re-educating voters and placing on November ballot.
- Councilmembers expressed appreciation for her advocacy and transparent communication.

8. New Business:

- a. **15-26-O:** An Ordinance appropriating funds for the Japanese Sister City Anniversary travel expenses and for the advance procurement of an Electric Department bucket truck, and declaring an emergency.

Discussion:

- Council President King shared details in regards to the Japanese Sister City Travel Expenses:
 - \$20,000.00 appropriated from the general fund
 - Covers travel, lodging, and meals for the Mayor and 3 council members
 - Trip is time sensitive- requires booking of flights and hotels soon to avoid rising costs
 - Last trip to Japan was in 2018
 - Detailed cost breakdown was provided by Julie Fleck- \$3,994 per person
- SSD Hitchcock discussed Electric Bucket Truck:
 - \$363,963.00 appropriated from electric distribution capital fund
 - Advance order needed due to 2-year lead time (to have new truck available by 2028)
 - No funds expended yet; placing order to secure production slot
 - Normal rotation is every 12 years; department has 5 trucks, swapping out every 3 years
 - Trucks are resold after retirement, currently via Gov Deals
- Outcome: CM Clausen made a motion to suspend, seconded by CM Doseck. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye. CM Schulte made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Uhlenhake. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

9. Old Business (2nd Reading):

- a. **14-26-O:** An Ordinance authorizing and regulating beekeeping within the City of Celina, and declaring an effective date. (AMENDED 3/23/2026)

Discussion:

- CM Wolfe shared that Garrett Lutz, Engineer Department, used his drone app to see how many bee hives are located inside the city limits.
- SSD Hitchcock stated there is only one registered beehive within city limits, which would need to reduce from 3 to 2 hives to comply with Ordinance if passed; discussed with property owner who is cooperative.
- Discussion about beehive management issues:
 - Potential for “hot” or aggressive hives, which responsible beekeepers usually destroy.
 - Risks of poor beekeeping: disease, mites, and impact on hive health.
- CM Clausen asked if there are any hives not registered; SSD Hitchcock stated no identified unregistered hives inside city limits.
- SSD Hitchcock stated the one registered beehive property owner reviewed Ordinance and was very supportive of Ordinance. Only concern SSD has is if the Ordinance does not pass how to handle beehives.
- CM Wolfe/CM Clausen asked Law Director Moore for his input:
 - If Ordinance does not pass, city defaults to state oversight but with less local control.
 - Ordinance more restrictive than Ohio Revised Code (ORC section 909), but largely based on those regulations.
- Outcome: CM Clausen made a motion to pass the Ordinance to third reading, seconded by CM Sanford. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye; CM Sanford was skipped in the roll call vote.

10. Administrative Reports:

- A. SSD Hitchcock confirmed (via text message from Aaron Siefring, Electric Distribution Superintendent) that the city operates 5 bucket trucks.

11. For the Good of the Order:

- A. CM Gray
- Congratulated the 3 cadet graduates: PJ Wyatt, Seth Heindel, and David Richardson (Wright State Lake Campus Police Academy)
 - Commended police and dispatcher programs for effectiveness and recent successes.
- B. Police Chief Wale
- Police Cadet Program has helped address department staffing shortages.
 - Upon the 3 cadets completing testing and swearing in, the police department and dispatcher positions will be fully staffed.

12. Adjournment: Time: 7:29 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 4/13/2026, and were approved by Council 4/27/2026.



Council Clerk