

REGULAR MEETING OF CELINA CITY COUNCIL – April 27, 2026

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

Absent: Auditor Shinn; CM Gray; CM Uhlenhake

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 5-0 Aye.

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

- Minutes Approval:
 - Previous Meeting: April 13, 2026
 - Amendment: Garrett Lutz, Engineer Department, used his drone app not his actual drone to see how many bee hives are located inside the city limits. (Remove the word “and” between drone and app)
- Outcome: CM Wolfe made a motion to amend, seconded by CM Doseck. Motion passed with a roll call vote 5-0 Aye. CM Schulte made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by CM Sanford. Motion passed with a roll call vote 5-0 Aye.

5. Committee Reports:

- None

6. Communications:

- Mayor Hazel Discussed:
 - Power Outage (4/24/2026)
 - Tree trimmer dropped branch, taking out feeders 5 and 6.
 - Power out approximately 15-20 minutes.
 - Several businesses lost power briefly; plants on west side notified and power restored quickly.
 - Arbor Day Activities
 - Tree plantings occurred with the Division of Natural Resources
 - Courthouse Lawn: Heritage (swamp oak) tree planted by the state- one of 88 such oaks sent to each county.
 - Sister City 30th Anniversary: Japanese maple planted in Bryson Park (corresponds with the one planted on the 20th Anniversary). Area soon to be upgraded with pavers.
 - Bryson Park: Previously a Redwood tree planted- chosen for its suitability to local climate.

- K9 Police Donation
 - Anonymous Donor: Donating funds for a new K9 police dog and associated training.
 - Legislation to formally accept and recognize the donation will be brought to the next meeting.
 - Police Department is now fully staffed:
 - PJ Wyatt, Seth Heindel (sworn in April 16th), and David Richardson (sworn in April 21st) are in field training.
 - New officers will free up a spot for the K9 handler to attend training soon.
 - Old K9 Unit: Peng retired end of 2025 due to hip problems.
- Fire Department RFQ (Request for Qualifications)
 - Fire Construction Project:
 - RFQ for design firms has been issued; submission due end of May.
 - Selection to involve Fire Chief, City Council, and other stakeholders.
 - Site Selections:
 - Grand Lake Road chosen after 18+ months of evaluation (downtown site too small per fire codes and lacking expansion room).
 - Decision delayed due to non-disclosure agreement with Mercer Health.
 - Funding will require voter approval.

7. Audience Communication:

- None

8. New Business:

- a. **16-26-O:** An Ordinance authorizing a lease agreement between the City of Celina and Pink Anchor Foundation for the lease of part of Eastview Park.

Discussion:

- Tonya Wagner Representative Discussed:
 - Mission: Supports breast cancer patients in Mercer, Darke, Auglaize, and Van Wert counties; funds stay local.
 - Pink utility flags, in the shape of breast cancer ribbon; on display for 30 days in October.
 - All volunteers, no cost to the city.
 - Focus on local impact, honoring those lost and promoting early detection.
- CM Wolfe has concerns about grass overgrowth and park mowing logistics during the 30-day display.
- Maintenance and mowing coordination will be ensured.
- Strong council support and personal endorsement from council members families affected by breast cancer.
- Outcome: CM Sanford made a motion to pass to second reading, seconded by CM Clausen. Motion passed with a roll call vote 5-0 Aye.

- b. **17-26-O:** An Ordinance authorizing a lease agreement between the City of Celina and Mercer County Support Squad for the lease of part of Eastview Park and declaring an emergency.

Discussion:

- Taylor Schoonover Representative Discussed:
 - Civic Foundation fundraiser with Crumbl Cookie food truck June 4, 2026 2pm-6pm at Eastview Park.
 - Ribbon cutting for new kindness rock garden at Eastview Park.
 - Youth Involvement: 22 children painting rocks for the kindness garden.
- Council praised for positive youth and community engagement.

- Outcome: CM Doseck made a motion to pass to second reading, seconded by CM Sanford. Motion passed with a roll call vote 5-0 Aye.

9. Old Business (3rd Reading):

- a. **14-26-O:** An Ordinance authorizing and regulating beekeeping within the City of Celina, and declaring an effective date.

Discussion:

- Outcome: CM Clausen made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Sanford. Motion passed with a roll call vote 5-0 Aye.

10. Administrative Reports:

- A. Mayor Hazel Shared:

- a. Wawa Construction Delay
- Did not start in March/April as expected due to closing issues.
 - Anticipated start now May or June 2026.

11. For the Good of the Order:

- A. CM Wolfe brought up concerns about ongoing issues with minors riding e-bikes recklessly in parks and on private property.

- Police Chief Wale Discussed:
 - School Resource Officer and Police Chief have spoken with students and are encouraging enforcement.
 - Policy: E-bikes of repeat offenders may be impounded; parents responsible for recovery fees.
 - Recommendation to Public: Call police dispatch immediately if incidents are observed for quicker response. Security cameras in parks may assist identification.
 - Education: Upcoming e-bike safety "Bicycle Rodeo" in Wapak May 5th & 6th.
 - Legislative Suggestion: E-bikes may require more regulation (license/helmet), similar to mopeds.
 - Safety concerns voiced for both riders and park goers.

- B. CM Sanford:


- Welcomed the 3 new police officers; congrats on department currently fully staffed.
- Congrats to Mason Ayers and Dylan Feister on completing their courses and best wishes to Cade Schoenleben.

- C. CM Clausen:

- Asked if the 703 project has any impact on the Wawa development timeline? Mayor Hazel answered it has no impact.
- Asked how much a K9 cost? Police Chief Tom Wale shared \$16,000 covers dog, training, and equipment.
- Asked when the Sugar Street Waterline Project would begin? SSD Hitchcock answered this is not a project for this year. The project is scheduled for Spring 2027 (bidding end of this year). Reconstruction is planned for 2028.

- D. CM Schulte stated he had some citizens contact him in regards to some fire hydrants possibly settling on Ash Street.

12. Adjournment: Time: 7:32 PM



 Jason D. King, Council President

Kari R. Fox

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 4/27/2026, and were approved by Council 5/11/2026.

Kari R. Fox

Council Clerk