

REGULAR MEETING OF CELINA CITY COUNCIL – May 11, 2026

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

3. Acceptance of Agenda:

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

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

- Minutes Approval:
 - Previous Meeting: April 27, 2026
- Outcome: CM Wolfe made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by CM Schulte. Motion passed with a roll call vote 5-0 Aye; CM Gray and CM Uhlenhake abstained.

5. Committee Reports:

- None

6. Communications:

- Mayor Hazel Discussed:
 - Loss of Police K9 Peng
 - Retired K9 Peng was put down May 7, 2026 after reaching the end of service, recognized as a valued member/officer of the Police Department. Condolences extended to Sergeant Gabe Bartlett and the department.
 - K9 Peng retired December 2024; replacement efforts underway.
 - Fire Department Achievements
 - Zach Metzger completed Medic School; pending certification.
 - Dylan Feister completed EMT School and passed certification.
 - Maharg Spring Trash Pickup
 - Over 161 tons of trash collected during the 2-week spring cleanup.
 - Costs: slightly over \$32,000 covered by local trash bag surcharge.

7. Audience Communication:

- None

8. New Business:

- a. **18-26-O:** An Ordinance authorizing a lease agreement between the City of Celina and Little Locals for the lease of the Bryson Park District and declaring an emergency.
Discussion:

- Brandi Wagner & Betty DuBry Representative Discussed:
 - Handouts provided to CM
 - “Kindness Festival” including games, music, face painting, petting zoo, bounce house, and more.
 - No selling, no alcohol; free for children (voluntary donations to benefit MAV; kids get stickers for donating)
 - Family Friendly, connecting businesses (including those without tangible goods) and community, fostering kindness
 - CM very supportive of the event and thankful for their time putting this event together for the community.
 - Outcome: CM Clausen made a motion to suspend, seconded by CM Sanford. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye. CM Doseck made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Uhlenhake. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.
- b. 19-26-O:** An Ordinance accepting and appropriating funds related to a donation received by the Celina Police Department for the purchase and training of a K-9 Unit, and declaring an emergency.

Discussion:

- Mayor Hazel Discussed:
 - Following retirement and death of K9 Peng, need identified for new unit.
 - Formal acceptance of \$16,000 anonymous donation via Mercer County Civic Foundation for purchase and training of new K9.
 - Immediate appropriation to Police Capital Fund to facilitate selections, purchase, and training ahead of August 2026 training period.
- Police Chief Wale Shared:
 - K9 dogs sourced from Germany, typically 18 months old.
 - Celina Police Department reliant on Sheriff’s K9 since Peng’s retirement.
 - Vital uses of K9- drug interdiction, search and rescue, notably saving a dementia patient’s life.
- CM Gray asked with the new cannabis laws if training would be changed? Police Chief Wale stated potential changes to drug detection training (especially cannabis) in line with recent state law; consultation with prosecutors.
- CM Gray asked if a new handler has been selected? Police Chief Wale stated 2 strong internal candidates have shown interest; possible external involvement for fair selection.
- CM Wolfe asked if the current K9 vehicle will be used/transferred to new handler? Police Chief Wale stated existing 2016 K9 vehicle (19,000-20,000 engine hours) to be used remainder of year; replacement to be addressed in next budget.
- CM Clausen asked about training and how many years a K9 dog works? Police Chief Wale stated that Sheriff’s and Celina K9 are to be similarly trained and typically work 7-9 years. K9 Peng worked 9 years.
- CM extended condolences and gratitude to donor.
- Outcome: CM Gray made a motion to suspend, seconded by CM Sanford. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye. CM Doseck made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Clausen. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

9. Old Business (2nd Reading):

- 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:

- Outcome: CM Clausen made a motion to pass to third reading, seconded by CM Wolfe. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 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.
 - Outcome: CM Wolfe made a motion to suspend, seconded by CM Sanford. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye. CM Clausen made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Doseck. Motion passed with a roll call vote 7-0 Aye.

10. Administrative Reports:

A. None

11. For the Good of the Order:

- A. CM Wolfe shared that the annual Lions Club chicken dinner sale is Thursday, May 14th at the Bryson Park District, drive up via Ash Street for pickup.
- B. CM Gray shared concerns/complaints:
 - Engine Brake Complaints
 - i. Resident near Logan Street/KFC concerned about loud semi engine brakes despite posted bans.
 - ii. Chief Wale responded enforcement requires officer observation; best if residents note time/repeat offenders; most drivers complaint, but sometimes driver error or lack of awareness plays a role.
 - Semi-Trailer Issues at Main & Market
 - i. Traffic backups when semis turn; potential for signage improvements.
 - ii. Issue often due to cars stopping ahead of stop bar; trucks should manage with proper approach; both are state highways, with design/markings managed by state.
 - No Turn On Red Signage
 - i. Resident inquired about the rationale and locations.
 - ii. CM confirmed prior discussions and their status.
 - Flock Cameras and Data Misuse Precautions
 - i. Reference to recent Dayton incident where Flock camera use was abused, leading to city's program suspension.
 - ii. Police Chief Wale stated he was not aware of Dayton details, but stressed department's zero tolerance for LEADS violations; swift terminations enforced for any misuse; policies to be highly restrictive and transparent if Flock system adopted; historic precedent for accountability within department.
 - iii. Council requests continued research into best practices and disclosure of safeguards.

12. Adjournment: Time: 7:33 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 5/11/2026, and were approved by Council 6/8/2026.


 _____ Council Clerk