

REGULAR MEETING OF CELINA CITY COUNCIL – July 27, 2026

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

Absent: CM Sanford

3. Acceptance of Agenda:

- Agenda Approval: CM Schulte 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: July 13, 2026
- Outcome: CM Schulte made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with a roll call vote 4-0 Aye; CM Clausen and CM Wolfe abstained.

5. Committee Reports:

- None

6. Communications:

- None

7. Audience Communication:

- Baseball and Softball Field Conditions
 1. David Weitzel, 2202 Eaglebrooke Circle, spoke in support of improving the city's baseball and softball diamonds.
 - Described deteriorating field conditions, including:
 - Grass growing in playing surfaces
 - Weeds in infields and outfields
 - Unsafe sliding conditions due to poor dirt/clay mix
 - Rotting dugout wood, chipped paint, splinters, and mud buildup
 - Fence sections pulling loose and creating injury risks
 - Tree limbs and debris falling on fields
 - He emphasized that fields should be maintained throughout the summer, not just occasionally, and suggested a long-term improvement plan over 5 to 8 years.
 - He also noted that surrounding communities reportedly maintain their diamonds better and that improved fields could support tournaments and bring more revenue into the city.
 2. Steve Moore, 1202 Yorkshire Court, also spoke in support of improving the city's baseball and softball diamonds.

- Echoed the concern, saying he has coached rec baseball for 4 years and has seen fields become unsafe, including one practice being stopped on Diamond 3 due to unsafe conditions.
 - He stressed that the issue should be addressed collaboratively through volunteers, city leaders, and funding sources over time.
- 3. Wes Harris, Public Works Superintendent, discussed budget limitations.
 - He stated there is \$100,000 in parks budget for general maintenance of all park items, but the amount covers broad operational needs such as mowing, trash bags, soap, and toilet paper.
 - He shared that the dirt works described by residents is not currently budgeted.
 - He estimated the dirt needed for one diamond at about \$3,500 to \$4,000 for a 20-ton load.
 - Council expressed interest in considering whether future budgets could include more dedicated field improvement funding.
 - There was discussion about whether a stronger volunteer network could help support maintenance.
- 4. Bryson Trust and Possible Capital Support for Baseball/Softball Facilities
 - David Weitzel asked whether the Bryson Trust could be used to help fund field improvements.
 - Mayor Hazel explained that the trust is a private foundation trust under the court and managed through First Financial; the city is only a recipient and does not control disbursements.
 - Mayor Hazel noted that the trustee controls what is distributed according to the will and the trust historically has been used for capital items, not routine maintenance.
 - Bill Montgomery, resident, added that the trust currently has a balance of about \$8 Million and discussed the historical involvement of local administration and the Attorney General's role in oversight.
 - Mayor Hazel stated that previous Bryson Trust support included:
 - A \$200,000 contribution tied to Montgomery Field facility work
 - Funding for a scoreboard and restroom at Eastview Park
 - Mayor Hazel noted that the current disbursement level is 5%, following the court order from the trust litigation concluded a couple of years ago.
 - Mayor Hazel indicated making a request to the trustee, but acknowledged the limits of the trust and the legal structure governing it.
- Tree Commission, Tree Replacement, and Street Tree Policy
 1. Charlene Guingrich, 316 N. Ash Street, spoke about concerns for the city's tree canopy and the under staffing of the Tree Commission.
 - She said the commission has been unable to meet a quorum for almost 2 years, preventing it from making recommendations to the city.
 - She also raised concerns that very few trees are being replanted after removals and asked whether there is a plan to replace trees this Fall.
 - She referred to the city as a tree city and argued that street trees should be prioritized where people live and work, not just in parks.
 2. Wes Harris, Public Works Superintendent, responded:
 - The Tree Commission has existed for only 2 years.
 - The city has replaced trees each year during that period.
 - Approximately 13 trees were replaced last year and 31 trees the year before, he noted those numbers were approximate.

- No trees had been planted yet this year, but more planting is planned for the Fall.
 - He explained that street tree planting is constrained by infrastructure, utility locations, corner setbacks, and tree lawn space.
 - He said residents are contacted, but only a limited number accept trees.
 - He also explained that homeowners are asked to sign when they do not want a tree.
 - Council discussed how utility placement affects tree planting and noted that many street tree opportunities are limited by existing sewer, water, gas, and telecommunications lines.
 - There was also mention that the city plans to plant more trees in parks this year.
- Flock Cameras and Jurisdictions Concerns
 1. Damon Smith, resident, raised concerns about cameras placed at the city's entrances and exits.
 - He argued that the cameras are intrusive, may track vehicles and people, and create privacy and constitutional concerns.
 - He asked who approved the cameras and who has access to the data.
 - SSD Hitchcock stated that the city council has already discussed the issue in prior meetings and that the city cannot remove cameras outside city limits.
 - Law Director Moore explained that the cameras are not city-owned and are instead associated with the Sheriff's Department, meaning they are outside the city's jurisdiction.
 - Police Chief Wale stated access is controlled through the Sheriff's Department and that only certain personnel, such as detectives or above, are allowed to request or use the system.
 - President King indicated that any challenge would need to go to the County Commissioner or the Sheriff's Department, not city council.
 - Council acknowledged the concerns as valid and said the issue should continue to be discussed, but reaffirmed that the city lacks legal authority over those cameras.

8. New Business:

- a. **26-26-O:** An Ordinance authorizing the City of Celina to enter into an agreement with Celina City Schools for Emergency Services.

Discussion:

- SSD Hitchcock stated this authorizes the city to enter into an annual agreement with Celina City Schools for emergency services, including on-site standby ambulance services for certain school events.
- Council/Administration discussed that the agreement is broad enough to include more than sports, such as performances or other school events, if both parties agree.
- Outcome: CM Clausen made a motion to suspend, seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye. CM Wolfe made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Doseck. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

- b. **27-26-O:** An Ordinance authorizing the City of Celina to enter into an agreement with Celina City Schools for Police Services.

Discussion:

- SSD Hitchcock stated this is similar to the first Ordinance but covers police services for school events.
- Law Director Moore explained why it was kept separate from the emergency services Ordinance; police and fire/emergency services are separate departments and were handled as separate pieces of legislation.
- Council/Administration discussed that the agreement covers more than just sports and can be used for other school events, such as soccer or graduation, if needed.

- Outcome: CM Wolfe made a motion to suspend, seconded by CM Uhlenhake. 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.
- c. **28-26-O:** An Ordinance authorizing the Chief of Police to enter into a contract with Sunny Communications for purchase of Motorola Radios for the Police Department.

Discussion:

- Police Chief Wale discussed:
 - The Ordinance authorizes him to enter into a contract with Sunny Communications to purchase a refurbished Motorola APX6000 radio for the police department.
 - The radio is MARCS- compliant and supports AES/DES encryption.
 - The department is trading in outdated radios that cannot be sold on Gov Deals because of programming/security issues.
 - Sunny Communications offered either \$1,420 cash or \$1,700 in trade, and the city can obtain the replacement radio for just under \$1,700.
 - The net arrangement effectively allows the city to replace a needed radio at little cost while also preserving some credit for future communications equipment purchases.
 - The offer expires August 14, 2026.
- AMENDMENT: Add an emergency clause to meet the August 14, 2026 deadline.
- Outcome: CM Gray made a motion to amend, seconded by CM Schulte. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye. CM Clausen made a motion to suspend, 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 Uhlenhake. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

9. Old Business (3rd Reading):

- a. **22-26-O:** An Ordinance amending Ordinance 69-01-O to change the zoning classification of properties owned by Hair to Please LLC % Lisa Euckert (110 N. Cherry Street) from B-1 General Business District to R-2 Medium Density District.

Discussion:

- Outcome: CM Clausen made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Doseck. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

- b. **23-26-O:** An Ordinance amending Ordinance 69-01-O to change the zoning classification of properties owned by Cooper Hatchery Inc. (1800 Industrial Drive) from M-2 Light Manufacturing District and B-3 Community/Shopping District to M-1 Manufacturing District.

Discussion:

- Outcome: CM Gray made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Wolfe. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

- c. **24-26-O:** An Ordinance to amend Ordinance 34-25-O to remove one (1) Battalion Chief/Paramedic and add one (1) Assistant Fire Chief.

Discussion:

- Outcome: CM Schulte made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

- d. **25-26-O:** An Ordinance amending Ordinance 27-25-O to establish a salary schedule for the Assistant Fire Chief position.

Discussion:

- Outcome: CM Wolfe made a motion to pass the Ordinance, seconded by CM Gray. Motion passed with a roll call vote 6-0 Aye.

10. Administrative Reports:

- A. Mayor Hazel Discussed:

- Lake Festival
 - Had gone very well.
 - Good weather.
 - Strong committee effort.
 - Very successful parade with about 190 units and a 2.5-mile course.
 - Some minor medical incidents, including exhaustion, a fall, and a diabetic issue, but overall, a safe event.
 - He praised the work of parade participants, first responders, military recognition, and community groups.
- He mentioned the recent trip to Japan with council members and related it to the city's 30th anniversary of sister city relations.
- He also noted that a sister-city tree had been planted earlier in the Spring at Bryson Park and that Fall is the best time to plant trees.

11. For the Good of the Order:

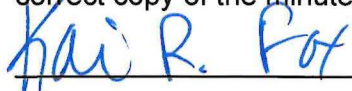
- A. CM Schulte thanked service organizations and volunteers for their work in supporting Lake Festival.
- B. CM Wolfe recognized Maharg's trash service and Public Works staff for handling cleanup during and after the festival at no cost to the city.
- C. CM Doseck noted the trip to Japan was a valuable cultural and governmental exchange and also thanked local police for keeping the community safe.

12. Adjournment: Time: 8:14 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 7/27/2026, and were approved by Council 8/10/2026.

 Council Clerk