

Amherst City Council met in a Regular Session under full compliance of State Law with President Wasilk opening the meeting at 7:00 P. M. Roll call: Ms. Harmych, Mr. Wachholz, Mr. Nahorn, Mr. Janik, Mr. Heberling, Mr. Winiarski-absent, Mr. Dembinski. Also present were Mayor Costilow, Auditor Phillips, Law Director Pecora, Treasurer Ramsey, Safety/Service Director Jeffreys, Mr. Steve Kriston from Lumos, Mr. James Lawrence, new Deputy Treasurer Sheila Wood and two residents. Mr. Dembinski motioned to excuse Mr. Winiarski from this evening's meeting, as he has a letter on file. Seconded by Mr. Nahorn. Vote 6-0 to excuse Mr. Winiarski.

The Prayer was invoked by Chaplain Janik followed by the Pledge to the Flag led by Sergeant at Arms Dembinski.

Consent Agenda: The Clerk read the Consent Agenda. Mr. Heberling motioned to accept the Consent Agenda as read. Seconded by Mr. Dembinski. Roll call vote 6-0 to accept the Consent Agenda.

Acknowledgement of the Public pertaining to items on the Agenda There was no one speaking.

#### **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS FIRST READING: NONE**

#### **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS SECOND READING:**

- (a) An Ordinance authorizing the City of Amherst, Ohio to enter into a Right of Way Use Agreement and a Pole Attachment Agreement with Lumos. (A-25-20)

Mr. Dembinski motioned to pass this on to its third reading. Seconded by Mr. Heberling. Roll call vote 6-0 to pass on to third reading.

- (b) An Ordinance to remove the Secretary of the Income Tax Office position and other updates within the Income Tax Office. (A-25-19)

Mr. Heberling motioned to pass this on to its third reading. Seconded by Mr. Dembinski. Roll call vote 6-0 to pass to third reading.

#### **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS THIRD READING: NONE**

Miscellaneous and acknowledgement of the public: The Clerk read a letter from Treasurer Richard Ramsey to notify all of his resignation as Treasurer of the City of Amherst effective June 15, 2025. Letter on file. Mr. Nahorn motioned to accept the letter of resignation, seconded by Mr. Dembinski. Mr. Janik thanked Mr. Ramsey for his service and dedication. Voice vote 6-0 to accept the letter. Mrs. Wasilk also thanked Mr. Ramsey for his service.

Mrs. Wasilk noted that the Amherst Historical Society was holding a Taste of History event on Friday, June 13, and Saturday June 14, 2025 at the Sandstone Village. She described the event.

Mrs. Linda Turley of 111 Jackson Street spoke and said there has been no movement at the house at 167 Jackson Street. The broken down junk cars are still in the driveway. She spoke to the speeding in Amherst. She was walking her dog about 8:30 p.m. on Saturday, June 7 on Park Avenue when Mr. Derrick Hall drove by (flying), jumped the curb and splintered a pole. He reported he was going 45 mph but one of the officers said he had to be going 60-65 to break the pole like that. Had the driver not hit the pole, he may have hit someone walking, like her. She put this on FB and asked residents in several areas to speak to this and they talked about speeding on their streets. The gentleman reported he was not distracted, he was not tested for drugs or alcohol and was cited for failure to control. So just for going too fast on a city street. Ashley Bucker reached out to her and said she was here two years ago to complain about speeding and was told there were things in the works. Mr. Janik said he is aware of the clocks on some of the streets show the speeds. He wondered if there was some way to get the data on the speeds. Mayor Costilow said there is data, and the accident is being investigated. He does not think speed is the sole reason for the accident. There have been some data pulled on that street and they will pull more. Mr. Janik said knowing there are those speed signs on the streets mentioned by Mrs. Turley, it would be nice to get data off of them. Mayor Costilow said they are working on them. Mrs. Turley asked if they would be accessible to the public. Mayor said they would be.

Mr. Janik said that in the past, council has recessed for two meetings in August and also for the one in December. He motioned that Council recess the meetings on August 11 and August 25 as well as December 22, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Nahorn. Voice vote 5-1 with Mr. Dembinski voting no.

Agenda Requests and Committee Meeting schedules:

A-25-21 Ordinance An Ordinance amending Section 1181 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Amherst, Ohio regarding Mayor's Court.

A-25-22 Building and Lands - Chapter 1105.17 Ordinance

A-25-23 Building and Lands - Modification to various permit fees to remain in-line with other political subdivisions within Lorain County. The last wholesale adjustment to building permit fees was approved in March of 2013.

A-25-24 Foinane – Increase appropriations for the video streaming services per 0-25-10 for account 100-7011-52304

Building and Lands – June 16, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. A-25-22, A-25-23

Ordinance – June 16, 2025 at 7:05 p.m. A-25-21

Finance – June 16, 2025 at 7:15 p. m. A-25-24

The remaining Committee Meetings for June 16, 2025 have been cancelled

Reports of the Administration:

Treasurer Ramsey: The May reports have been distributed. He introduced Sheila Wood, their new Deputy Treasurer. This is his final report as Treasurer. This is his final year of his third term as Treasurer. He will be seeking the position of Judge at the Oberlin Municipal Court. It has been an honor to be chosen by the residents of Amherst three times. He thanks them for their faith and belief in him. He thanked the people that worked for him during his tenure: Karen Flynn, Laura Kemp, Craig Molnar, Terry Myosky, Tracie Stoll, and Sheila Wood. He is very proud of all the work they have done. It's their work that has kept their local tax collection in house. We have not had to farm this work out and pay someone money. It is their work that has helped the city to keep money in the bank and have it grow from \$15 million to \$30 million. He credits the staff for achieving those goals. He also thanked everyone in this room for their professionalism and dedication, for teaching him things and helping him to be the best person he could be in this position. He thanked everyone in the city, his hometown. He appreciates it.

Mayor Costilow thanked Mr. Ramsey for his service all these years.

Auditor Phillips: The May financial reports have been distributed and the state auditors have concluded their visit. So just awaiting results. .

Law Director Pecora: Wanted to echo the sentiment about Mr. Ramsey. He has done an excellent job as Treasurer and he has enjoyed working with him on a number of issues. He certainly will be missed. He wishes luck to the next Treasurer.

Safety/Service Director Jeffreys: Echoed the sentiments to Mr. Ramsey and wished him well.

Mayor Costilow: Reported they had the bid openings for the street program with OPWC. Mr. Wachholz actually was here and got to see how the bid openings work. We got three bids. The bids came in significantly higher than our estimates for OPWC. After doing some digging, we found out that state law does allow a percentage over the bid estimate. Both the engineers and himself feel it would be in the best interest to accept these bids even tho they are above the estimates. This will allow us to get started. He feels if we bid out again, it will only be higher next time. So we will be going through the process. They will be coming back to council to ask for a few more dollars. It might be 300,000 to \$400,000 to complete that project. It will ultimately be up to council get us that money. On the other hand, the street program is significantly lower than the bid estimate. So if you look at the picture as a whole, it may not be as bad as it sounds. We had two bidders and they were very competitive. The OPWC bids were really far apart. There was maybe \$500,000 difference in the bids. Regarding the speeding, our police department is very proactive with the radars, with the signs, with the data that we try to collect. We do keep track of what accidents are caused by speeding. He will try to gather that data and get everyone some report. Again, that last accident is still under investigation and we still don't know all the facts.

Mr. Heberling motioned to accept the Reports of the Administration. Seconded by Mr. Nahorn. Voice vote 6-0 to accept the reports of the administration.

Acknowledgement of the receipt of the month of May Auditor and Treasurer reports:

Mr. Heberling motioned to acknowledge the receipt of the month of May Auditor and Treasurer reports. Seconded by Mr. Nahorn. Mr. Dembinski pointed out that he never received the May Auditor report. It appeared that others had not received it as well. Mr. Heberling amended his motion to acknowledge the receipt only of the May Treasurer report. Mr. Nahorn was agreeable to amend. Voice vote 6-0 to acknowledge the receipt of the Treasurer report.

Mr. Heberling motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Dembinski. Roll call vote 6-0 to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

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Olga Sivinski, Clerk of Council

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Jennifer Wasilk, President of Council