

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: Mr. Mowcomber, Mr. Janik, Mr. Nahorn, Mr. Dembinski, Ms. Harmych, Mr. Winiarski, Mr. Wachholz - absent. Also present were Mayor Costilow, Law Director Pecora, Auditor Phillips, Treasurer Miller, and Safety Service Director Jeffreys. Mr. Wachholz was absent and had a letter on file. Mr. Dembinski motioned to excuse Mr. Wachholz as he had a letter on file. Seconded by Mr. Nahorn. Voice vote 6-0 to excuse Mr. Wachholz. Also present were four visitors.

The Prayer was invoked by Chaplain Janik, which was followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag led by Sgt. At Arms Dembinski.

Consent Agenda: The Clerk read the Consent Agenda. Mr. Dembinski motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as read. Seconded by Mr. Janik. Voice vote 6-0 to approve the Consent Agenda as read.

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

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS FIRST READING:**

- (a) An Ordinance approving the form of, and authorizing the Mayor to execute, the Potomac Energy Center Schedule with American Municipal Power, Inc. and further authorizing the taking of other actions in connection therewith (A-26-10)

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

- (b) An Ordinance approving the form of, and authorizing the Mayor to execute, the Bright Mountain Solar Schedule with American Municipal Power, Inc. and further authorizing the taking of other actions in connection therewith. (A-26-11)

Mr. Dembinski motioned to pass this on to its second reading. Seconded by Mr. Winiarski. Mr. Winiarski asked about the bonds in Section 2? Mr. Pecora said his reading of it is that AMP-Ohio will provide all the bonds and the city is not obligated to do so. Mr. Winiarski said even being partners with them we are not on the hook then? If something goes wrong? Mr. Pecora explained further but said he does not see us as being responsible for the bonds. Roll call vote 6-0 to pass to second reading.

- (c) An Ordinance to make appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of Amherst, State of Ohio, during the fiscal year ending December 31, 2026, and repealing all Ordinances in conflict herewith. (A-26-12)

Mr. Dembinski motioned to add the emergency clause to the ordinance. Seconded by Mr. Nahorn. Roll call vote 6-0 to add the emergency clause. Mr. Dembinski motioned to accept the amended budget as provided by the Auditor's Office. Seconded by Mr. Winiarski. Roll call vote 6-0 to accept the amended budget. Mr. Dembinski motioned to pass this on to its second reading. Seconded by Mr. Janik. Roll call vote 6-0 to pass to second reading.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS SECOND READING: NONE**

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS THIRD READING:**

- (a) An Ordinance establishing and implementing a program to charge mitigation rates for the Deployment of emergency and non-emergency services by the Fire Department for services provided/rendered by/for the City of Amherst Fire Department. (A-26-05)

Mr. Winiarski motioned to adopt. Seconded by Mr. Nahorn. Roll call vote 5-1 with Mr. Janik voting no to adopt. Becomes 0-26-06.

- (b) A Resolution recognizing the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the U.S. Postal Service and its invaluable service to the Public. (A-26-06)

Mr. Nahorn motioned to adopt. Seconded by Mr. Dembinski. Roll call vote 6-0 to adopt. Becomes R-26-02.

- (c) An Ordinance establishing the salary of the Mayor's Court Magistrate and the salary and benefits of the Mayor's Clerk of Court; and declaring an emergency. (A-26-07)

Mr. Janik motioned to adopt. Seconded by Mr. Dembinski. Mr. Winiarski asked if he was correct on the status of the Magistrate that this is a part time position and the Clerk is a full time position? Mayor Costilow said that was correct. Mr. Winiarski asked if the Clerk would be only involved in that job description or helping in other areas. Mayor Costilow said there is no job description but that is the plan. Mr. Pecora said they will be there to collect fines and fees and do scheduling and that type of work. Roll call vote 6-0 to adopt. Becomes 0-26-07.

Miscellaneous and acknowledgement of the public: Mr. Nahorn thanked the audience members for coming in today. He informed them that if they want to watch this meeting or any other meetings of council, or other meetings such as Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals they can be viewed on line at Amherstohio.org.

Agenda requests and committee meeting schedules:

A-26-13 Executive Create a full time position called Payroll, Accounts Payable, Budget Assistant in the Auditor's Office. This position should be added to non-bargaining ordinance; emergency.

A-26-14 Finance – Authorizing bid and award the Annual Tree Trimming Project for the year 2026

Executive – March 2, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. A-26-13

Finance – March 2, 2026 at 7:05 p.m. A-26-14

The remainder of the Committee Meetings for March 2, 2026 are cancelled.

Reports from the Administration:

Auditor Phillips: Explained that with the departure of the previous Deputy Auditor, she did appoint Gwen Melbar as Deputy Auditor. Mrs. Melbar has taken over that role. This leaves her previous position open. This will be discussed further as to how to fill that position with the Agenda Request she has submitted.

Treasurer Miller: No reports

Safety/Service Director Jeffreys: No report

Law Director Pecora: No report

Mayor Costilow: Spoke to the salt supply and that we were delivered several supplies and are good. Future supplies are coming. Regarding the Mayor's Court, we are continuing on the basement construction We have met with our Magistrate and he is working on filling his staff. We have met with the Building Inspector, the Safety/Service Director, IT personnel and working on software. We are shooting for mid summer. We will be working on a soft transition where we still send some of the violations to Oberlin and some here and transition over to the full time at some point. He thanked Council for passing the salary ordinance for that.

Mr. Dembinski motioned to approve the Reports of the Administration. Seconded by Ms. Harmych. Voice vote 6-0 to approve the Reports of the Administration.

Mr. Dembinski motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Heberling. Voice vote 6-0 to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:19 p.m.