

REGULAR

MARCH 23

2026

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. Nahorn, Mr. Winiarski, Mr. Dembinski, Mr. Wachholz, Mr. Mowcomber-absent, Mr. Jani. Also present were Mayor Costilow, Law Director Pecora, Auditor Phillips, Treasurer Miller, and Safety Service Director Jeffreys. Mr. Dembinski motioned to excuse Mr. Mowcomber. Seconded by Mr. Nahorn. Voice vote 6-0 to excuse Mr. Mowcomber. Also present were many police officers, and other city employees and family members to honor Patrolman Bob Lane for his 50 years of service to the city. When the meeting began, most everyone was lined up behind Council on the dais.

Prayer: The Prayer was invoked by Mr. Janik, who also prayed for Patrolman Lane: Heavenly Father – we gather today with gratitude and humility, mindful of the many blessings you have given our community. We thank You, especially for the life and service of Bob Lane, who has devoted 50 years to the Amherst Police Department. His commitment, courage, and steady presence have helped shape the safety and the spirit of our city. We are grateful for his sacrifices, his integrity and the countless lives he has touched through his service. Lord, we ask that you bless Bob in the next chapter of his life. Grant him peace, health and deep satisfaction that comes from a job faithfully done. May he always know how much he is appreciated and remembered. We also lift up all of our safety forces and emergency responders-our police officers, firefighters, paramedics and all who answer the call in times of need. Watch over them as they protect and serve. Give them wisdom in difficult moments, courage in the face of danger, and compassion for those they serve. Strengthen their families, who share in the burdens and sacrifices of this calling. May your hand of protection be upon our entire community. Help us to support one another, to act with kindness and responsibility and to work together for the common good. And now may the words from our mouths and meditations of our heart be acceptable in your sight, oh Lord our rock and redeemer. Amen.

The Prayer was followed by the Pledge to the Flag led by Sgt. At Arms Dembinski.

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

Mrs. Wasilk said it was her honor at this time to present Officer Bob Lane. The City has the privilege of honoring this long time public servant.

Mayor Costilow said to put this in perspective of these 50 years, he was 13 years old when Bob began as a police officer. What an incredible feat to stay and serve the city for that many years. It's just incredible what he's contributed to the city of Amherst. The amount of officers that have been here with him, the number of people that he has mentored in our city. He is looking at all these faces, and it's incredible what he has contributed to this city. He has worked under five different Mayors. He's worked under five different chiefs. And most of those Mayors were not just overnight, but were here for three terms or so. None of these Mayors will have the honor that he's had to see you, Bob Lane, retire with 50 years of service. He is so proud of him and so happy to have worked with him.

Chief Mark Cawthon spoke: **Honoring Fifty Years of Excellence: Officer Robert C. Lane**

Members of Council, Mayor Costilow, colleagues, and the citizens of Amherst:

It is a profound honor to stand before you today to recognize a milestone that few in any profession—and even fewer in law enforcement—ever reach. Tomorrow, Officer Robert C. Lane will officially retire after 50 years of dedicated law enforcement service. Yes folks, that is right, fifty years of service.

To truly understand the weight of this milestone, we have to look back at where it all began. When Bob first took his oath in March of 1976, the world was a vastly different place.

In 1976, the "patrol car" was likely a Plymouth Fury or a Ford LTD without a computer in sight.

Communication meant a heavy, two-way radio and a payphone if you needed to call the station.

Records were kept on paper ledgers and index cards, long before the digital databases and real-time crime centers we rely on today.

Think of the sheer volume of change Bob has navigated. He transitioned from revolvers to semi-automatics, from handwritten reports, to type-writers to computers and to mobile data terminals; and from a world before the internet to the high-tech era of body cameras and drones. Through every technological shift and every change in departmental leadership, Bob remained a constant.

But what hasn't changed in those 50 years is Bob's character.

Bob has been the steady hand in the storm. He has seen this city grow from what was a much smaller community into the Amherst we know today. He has mentored dozens of officers—myself included—teaching us that while the tools of the trade change, the heart of the job remains the same: Integrity, Compassion, and Service.

He has spent 50 years of answering the call in this fine community. 50 years of putting the safety of our neighbors above his own. There is no way to calculate the number of lives he has touched throughout his career.

Bob, you are a living legend in the halls of our agency. You represent the very best of the Amherst Police Department.

On behalf of the entire Amherst Police Department and a grateful community, we thank you for your 50 years of watch. We wish you a long, healthy, and incredibly well-deserved retirement.

As a small token of recognition and appreciation, I would like to present you with this plaque. A plaque was presented to Bob.

Congratulations, Bob.

There was much congratulatory clapping. Once the congratulations were over, Officer Lane shook hands with all and there was much congratulative hugging.

The group left except Chief Cawthon and two police officers in case there were questions about item (a) .

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

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS FIRST READING:

- (a) An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation for the City of Amherst to participate in the Drones for First Responders Program; and declaring an emergency (A-26-15)

Mayor Costilow asked Council to suspend rules on this and adopt it in the first reading. He asked Chief Cawthon to speak to this who stated that he was here last week to speak to this project and requested that Council suspend rules and adopt this in its first reading. Chief Cawthon said they want to get this program off the ground (no pun intended). In doing so to secure the funds, this will give them the opportunity to get training started with our newer folks that will work with this. Plus it will allow them to purchase the equipment to make this program successful. Mayor Costilow said that financially, they are set to go. The line item is in the budget and they are ready to spend the money and receive the grant back when we get reimbursed. Mr. Winiarski pointed out that since this was due with safety and the funds are in place, he motioned to suspend all Council rules so that this may be adopted in its first reading. Seconded by Mr. Janik. Roll call vote 6-0 to suspend rules. Mr. Nahorn motioned to adopt. Seconded by Mr. Janik. Roll call vote 6-0 to adopt. Becomes 0-26-11.

- (b) An Ordinance authorizing and directing the Safety Service Director to solicit bids for the 2026 OPWC State Issue 1 – Round 39 South Lake Street Rehabilitation Project and authorizing and directing the Safety Service Director to award the contract for such work to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder; and declaring an emergency. (A-26-16)

Mr. Dembinski motioned to suspend all council rules so that this may be passed in the first reading. Seconded by Ms. Harnych. Roll call vote 6-0 to suspend rules. Mr. Janik motioned to adopt. Seconded by Mr. Nahorn. Roll call vote 6-0 to adopt. Becomes 0-26-12.

- (c) An Ordinance authorizing and directing the Safety Service Director to solicit bids for the 2026 Road Rehabilitation Program and authorizing and directing the Safety Service Director to award the Contract for such work to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder; authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract for professional services with Bramhall Engineering & Surveying Company relating to such project; and declaring an emergency (A-26-17)

Mr. Dembinski motioned to suspend all council rules so that this may be passed in its first reading. Seconded by Mr. Wachholz. Roll call vote 6-0 to suspend rules. Mr. Nahorn motioned to adopt. Seconded by Mr. Dembinski. Roll call vote 6-0 to adopt. Becomes 0-26-13.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS SECOND READING: NONE

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS THIRD 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 adopt. Seconded by Mr. Wachholz. Roll call vote 6-0 to adopt. Becomes 0-25-14

- (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. Wachholz motioned to adopt. Seconded by Mr. Dembinski. Roll call vote 6-0 to adopt. Becomes 0-26-15.

Miscellaneous and acknowledgement of the public: There was no one speaking.

Agenda requests and committee meeting schedules: No Agenda requests were presented – so no committee meetings are scheduled at this time.

Reports from the Administration:

Treasurer Miller: No report.

Auditor Phillips: Reported that they are in the process of reviewing applications for the open position in their office. If anyone is aware of any candidates, let them know about this position. They can apply through Indeed, or send information and resumes to Gwen, the Deputy Auditor.

Law Director Pecora: No report

Safety/Service Director: No report

Mayor Costilow: Noted that the S. Main Street bridge is closed right now, although there may be some intermittent openings. It will be closed for one year. It's a big project. We will get the extra heights for that bridge. It will be a lot safer for when you walk under it without worrying about stuff falling on your head. There will also be intermittent closings on Church Street. He is thankful it's happening, even with the headaches that come with this year long project. He advised to plan accordingly and watch for the detour signs and be safe. We have been in talks with the Township about a JEDD project there at Cleveland Avenue and 58. This is the old Golden Acres property. A Public Hearing needs to be scheduled. The Township does have theirs scheduled. Once the notice has been in for 30 days, we will have the hearing. All the information, agreements, etc. will be publicly available. It will then come before council. But the first step is the public hearing. The information will be public and will be in the Council Clerk's office and he is also available to answer questions or make copies if they want them. This is something new and very promising. So he wanted all to be aware.

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

Mr. Janik motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Nahorn. Voice vote 7-0 to adjourn. The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

