

CITY OF AMHERST, OHIO

OFFICE OF THE
CLERK OF COUNCIL
(440) 988-2420
(440) 988-2570 fax

OLGA SIVINSKI
206 SOUTH MAIN STREET
AMHERST, OH 44001
council@amherstohio.org

Minutes of the Executive Committee Meeting held January 20, 2026, at 7:15 P.M. Present in Council Chambers were Chairman Nahorn Mr. Wachholz, Mr. Dembinski, Mr. Mowcomber, Mr. Janik, Mr. Winiarski, Ms. Harmych, Council President Wasilk, Mayor Costilow, Auditor Phillips, Treasurer Miller, Law Director Pecora. Mr. Jeffreys was absent and was excused earlier.

A-26-07 An Ordinance establishing the positions and compensation for the employees of the Mayor's Court for the City of Amherst; emergency

Mayor Costilow spoke to the necessity for the Ordinance. This Ordinance sets the salary for the Magistrate and Clerk. Wages were discussed. The remodeling of the downstairs of city hall are ongoing. Mr. Janik asked about the magistrate salary. Mayor Costilow replied that it's a part time position. Mr. Janik asked to reiterate that in Section 1 making it clear that the magistrate position is part time and the Clerk is full time. He wants that to be clear. Mayor agreed and will get proper language. Mr. Mowcomber asked if this authorization is forever or can it end? Mayor Costilow stated that Council could cancel at anytime. He is confident this can work.

Mr. Pecora reviewed a brief history of the Mayor's Court. He suggested not to ever terminate the court. Off the books, Ohio law states it couldn't be activated. Mayor Costilow stated that the ordinance allows the Mayor to make judgements but couldn't have a say on the money. The Magistrate separates the Mayor in the cases. Mr. Pecora further explained. Mr. Mowcomber asked about the defendant's rights. Mr. Pecora explained that they have options and can opt for a municipal court. Mayor Costilow said there are more options. Mr. Mowcomber asked about magistrates vs. Mayor. Mr. Pecora states the Ohio law states the mayor has those rights. Council couldn't make a magistrate be the only one in that position. Mayor is in favor of hiring a magistrate. Mr. Janik asked about a job description. The Mayor has yet to create one. Mr. Pecora stated one in mind (magistrate) has good ideas on this. Mr. Janik wants data year end to understand amount collected vs. hours. That

should be in the job description. Mr. Janik mentioned having court in the evening? Mayor Costilow said that was the plan. This is about convenience for residents and City. Mr. Pecora noted about our officers having to go to Oberlin now.

Mayor Costilow said he's impressed that building code violations, for example, could be worked out vs. just making someone pay a fine. It will be good for the city.

Mr. Wachholz motioned to take this to the floor of Council. Seconded by Mr. Winiarski. Voice vote 7-0 to take to the floor of Council.

Mr. Wachholz motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Dembinski. Vote 7-0 to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Matt Nahorn, Chairman
Executive Committee