

## CITY OF AMHERST, OHIO

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Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held November 17, 2025, at 7:00 P.M. Present in Council Chambers were Chairman Dembinski, Mr. Nahorn, Mr. Wachholz, Mr. Heberling, Mr. Janik, Mr. Winiarski, Council President Wasilk, Mayor Costilow, Auditor Phillips, Treasurer Lawrence, Law Director Pecora, Assistant Law Director Ward, Safety/Service Director Jeffreys. Ms. Harmych, was absent and had a letter on file. Mr. Heberling motioned to excuse Ms. Harmych as she had a letter on file. Seconded by Mr. Nahorn. Voice vote 6-0 to excuse Ms. Harmych.

A-25-47 An ordinance approving and accepting a collective bargaining agreement with the City of Amherst's American Federation of State, Municipal and County Employees (AFSCME) for the years 2026, 2027 and 2028; emergency

Mayor Costilow explained the changes in the contract. The probationary period was extended from 90 days to a full year so we may better evaluate new hires but they'll still receive the benefits after 90 days. There were some verbiage changes to bring this ordinance in line with the other proposed ordinances. The tax secretary was removed but an additional position was added so the total number of union employees is the same. Mr. Winiarski motioned to take this to the floor of council with emergency. Seconded by Mr. Nahorn. Voice vote 6-0 to send to the floor of council.

A-25-48 An ordinance establishing the salary, terms, and other conditions of employment for the Fire Department of the City of Amherst and repealing all ordinances in conflict herewith; emergency.

Mayor Costilow explained the changes in the contract. There were changes to the callout hours, stipends for certifications and equipment certifications, the clothing allowance, and meal reimbursement. Mr. Winiarski asked who negotiated for the fire department and the mayor said one member from the fire department. Mr. Winiarski said he was under the understanding the fire department didn't see this until 11:00 A. M. this morning and the mayor responded that he thought it was finalized except for a few typos since the last committee meeting. The Chair asked about the equipment certifications and the mayor

explained how people are not required to operate all equipment but we've never had a situation where nobody responded to a call who was qualified to run the equipment. Mr. Nahorn motioned to take this to the floor of council with emergency. Seconded by Mr. Wachholz. Voice vote 6-0 to take to the floor of council with emergency.

- A-25-49 An ordinance approving and accepting a collective bargaining agreement with the City of Amherst's Full Time Patrols and Sergeants unit of the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association for the years 2026, 2027 and 2028; emergency

The mayor explained some wording changes to make the ordinance gender neutral. There were some other changes to be more consistent with the other contracts submitted this year. There was a clarification for court appearances and the pay associated with that. Standby pay is for an extra hour if the standby time is during a holiday. There were other changes regarding holiday pay. Salaries were increased consistent with the other ordinances but there was a shifting of the pay rates by year. Seniority is carried forward when hired from other departments. There was a lot of clean up based on the uniforms currently used and what was formerly used. Mr. Winiarski motioned to take this to the floor of council with emergency. Seconded by Mr. Janik. Voice vote 6-0 to take to the floor with emergency.

- A-25-50 An ordinance approving and accepting a collective bargaining agreement with the City of Amherst's Part-time Dispatchers unit of the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association for the years 2026, 2027 and 2028; emergency.

Mayor Costilow explained we don't have any part time dispatchers at this time but he wanted this to be discussed showing that it had not been updated. If we hire any part time dispatchers in the future we'll need to revisit this ordinance. The mayor then asked to kill this ordinance. Mr. Heberling motioned to kill this Agenda Request. Seconded by Mr. Nahorn. Voice vote 6-0 to kill this item.

A-25-51 An ordinance approving and accepting a collective bargaining agreement with the City of Amherst's Full-time Dispatchers unit of the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association for the years 2026, 2027 and 2028; emergency.

The mayor explained this was updated to be consistent with the other ordinances. There was a small update to include travel time in certain situations. There were a few small changes to clean up the verbiage in the ordinance. Mr. Winiarski motioned to take this to the floor of council with emergency. Seconded by Mr. Nahorn. Voice vote 6-0 to send to the floor of council with emergency.

A-25-52 Duplicate number so voided

Chair Dembinski mentioned this was a duplicate number and was pulled from consideration.

A-25-53 Was killed in 11/3/25 committee

Chairman Dembinski mentioned this item was killed in the previous committee meeting.

A-25-54 An ordinance approving and accepting a collective bargaining agreement with the City of Amherst's Part-time Patrol Unit of the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association for the years 2026, 2027 and 2028; emergency.

Mayor Costilow explained there was some verbiage cleanup and to make this ordinance consistent with the other ordinances. There were some state laws that were updated that also are now reflected in this ordinance. We were following the laws anyway but now they're also in the contract. Sick time payout had not been updated in a long time so that section was updated. There was a change so that our part time officers will now make the same as the starting rate as our full-time officers. There were multiple part time officers who were making less than a full-time new hire. The chair pointed out that the ordinance has the emergency clause attached even though it's not on the agenda request title. Mr. Winiarski motioned to take this to the floor of Council with the emergency. Seconded by Mr. Janik. Voice

A-25-55 An Ordinance for the 2026 Interim Budget

Mayor Costilow gave credit to the auditor's office for putting together the budget. The budget is pretty consistent year-to-year. This budget does have the additional accounts for the new mayor's court. The city is in good financial shape and this budget covers everything conformably. Mr. Winiarski echoed the mayor's comments and that this is essentially being done to make a deadline but the full budget, which will be voted on next year, is where all of the details are located. Mr. Winiarski motioned to take this to the floor of council with the emergency. Seconded by Mr. Wachholz. Voice vote 6-0 to send to the floor of council with emergency.

Mr. Wachholz motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Heberling. Vote 6-0 to adjourn.

The meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.

Brian Dembinski, Chairman  
Finance Committee