

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday, October 21st, 2025

The second monthly meeting of Mansfield City Council met on
Tuesday, October 21st, 2025 at 7:49pm in the
Council Chambers of the City Building.

Parks & Recreation Committee @ 6:50pm

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the audience.

Eleazer Akuchie led the audience in prayer.

ROLL CALL: The following answered were present at roll call: Burns, Meier, Akuchie, Daley, Diaz, Mount, Robertson, Falquette, and Scott.

There being no objections, the reading of the Journal and Correspondence was dispensed with.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: We do have a few folks signed up for public comments. Our first is Mr. John Fernyak. As always, we ask that you limit to three minutes and give your name and address, please.

JOHN FERNYAK: *{4 West Fourth Street, Mansfield Ohio}* What a difference two days or two weeks make. I'd like to thank...

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Excuse me Mr. Fernyak. Is that mic on?

JOHN FERNYAK: ...for pulling ... hello...thank you. I'd like to thank the mayor at the last council meeting, for pulling that legislation, which gave all the small businesses the ability to respond. And, I'd also like to thank the mayor for going into the Lion's den at the carousel when all the merchants had their monthly meeting, and they really gave you a work-out. And you handled it beautifully. Thank you and I appreciate it. I'd also like to thank all the members of council that have voted for a number of things that I think have really made a difference in the downtown. The first thing you voted for was moving one-way streets to two-way streets. Every city that's done that has increased the local merchant's business 10% to 25%. Thank you so much for doing that. Now, there are a few other things that will jump start the downtown. One of them is removing the parking meters, because then the downtown merchants are competitive with shopping centers and strip centers. I think you'll find, if you do that, the extra tax revenue will take care of the revenue you lose in the meters. So, I recommend that. I also recommend, the only way you can get more parking downtown, as far as I know, is if you build a parking garage. Unless you want to tear down some buildings and have more surface parking. But it's counterproductive. You'll lose the buildings from the people that can't go in. I know it is an expensive thing, I asked Dan Seckel what it would cost to put a parking garage in and he said about Fifteen to Twenty Thousand Dollars a space. But you've spent almost twenty-million dollars on Main Street and we're gonna have the best Main Street in Ohio. You found the funds; Bob Bianchi is a genius. He really, he's a super-talented engineer and he's also a heck of a good guy. And he's gotten Walnut, Fifth, Sixth, Diamond and Mulberry (Streets) all one-way to two-way. And we're gonna have Main Street two-way. It's gonna be a really great thing. We're gonna try to get all the merchants through this point. Thank you for supporting them earlier with your grant for \$2500.00. It saved a lot of them. And I really appreciate it. I'm done. Thank you.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Matthew Schuster.

MATTHEW SCHUSTER: *{40 Wolfe Avenue, Mansfield, Ohio}* Last time I was here, I was talking about a Safety-First initiative for our police officers. Number I came up with is one-hundred and twenty (120). I've conveyed that to you guys through email, talked to several of you on social media. I feel like I'm largely being ignored, because this is an important issue. In our neighborhood, in the last year, I probably called 911 three or four different times. I know that my wife has. Gunshots, I got kids out here destroying property. You know, the last response time that we had was twenty minutes. And, it took a group of us neighbors to run off the kids. You know, it's starting to get a little bit ridiculous if you ask me. One-hundred Twenty cops, that's what the budget needs to be, Ma'am. And, you know this because we've spoken, not just in person, but also on social media. And if you are willing to work that into the budget, because that was one of your campaign promises. You said you did want to fund our police force. And you also said that you were going to be good stewards of the tax payer money, but I'm not really seeing that either. The problem that I'm having is with all this stuff going downtown, the things that are happening in the city. The downtown, yeah, it's gonna look nice, but the behavior's not changing. Because we need a strong police presence. We need ore guys. We need bodies. No offense to you sir, we need bodies, we don't need drones. Drones are important, I get it. But we need bodies. We need vehicles on the street, we need patrols in our neighborhoods. Because, not only is it going to help our brave men and women combat the crime, but that presence is also going to detour the crime. That's it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: With that, call on Brian Moore. Nothing to say? Ok, thank you.

BRIAN MOORE: (chose not to speak)

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: With that, we'll call on Joetta Polk.

JOETTA POLK-MCCRUTER: *{563 N. Mulberry St, Mansfield Ohio}* Good Evening Everyone. Mayor Perry, just coming back to say thank you for your legislation concerning Providence Missionary Baptist Church, who will be celebrating, and all of city council. Thank you very much. They will be celebrating they're 71st Church Anniversary this Sunday, October 26th, 2025. Isn't that a blessing? Yes, amen. But I just wanted to reiterate that and to say please attend if you can this Sunday. October 26th, service starts at 10:30am. There will be the unveiling of Pastor, the former pastor, Reverend Larson's Street sign. So, Aurelio played a part in that, and then Mayor Perry and myself in getting that done. So, it truly was a community effort and if you can attend, please attend. Love to have you. Thank you.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

No Committee Reports

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Thank you. With that, go down the line. Mayor Perry?

MAYOR JODIE PERRY: I just will add. We did our city-wide drive around on Friday. Took a look at some of the projects and sense some of the folks from John Todd Park are here, we did take a look at some of the items that you reported to us. We're going to be putting those in for some concrete pad replacement. I do have a couple questions though. So, if you hang around through the whole thing, a couple of my notes were not super clear. So, I just want to make sure I am looking at the right areas. Because a couple things, I couldn't find. And then to Mr. Fernyak, I just wanted to add, we had conversation actually just today about meters and kind of how we are going to approach that post construction. So, more to come on that.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Director Andres.

DIRECTOR LOUIE ANDRES: Nothing further.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Director Blankenship.

DIRECTOR KELLY BLANKENSHIP: No thank you.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Director Porch.

DIRECTOR KEITH PORCH: No Sir.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Deputy Director Madden.

DEPUTY LAW DIRECTOR DAVID MADDEN: Nothing.

LATE BILLS
No Late Bills

SUSPEND RULES

ELEAZER AKUCHIE I would like to move with respect to all bills that come before council this evening that the rule requiring reading on three different days be suspended and that each Bill be read one time by title only. Seconded by Miss Robertson. A voice vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 8, Nays: 0

LEGISLATION

{Bill-156 was pulled}

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Mrs. Meier, Bill 25-160.

CHERYL MEIER: Thank you Mr. President I move with respect to Bill 25-160 that it be read and placed upon the floor for discussion.

SHARI ROBERTSON: Second.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded. The clerk will now read Bill 25-160.

DELAINE WEINER: Honoring Lori Donaldson upon her retirement from the City of Mansfield.

RETIREMENT – LORI DONALDSON

BY: MRS. MEIER

BILL #25-160

ORDINANCE: 25-159

Honoring Lori Donaldson upon her retirement from the City of Mansfield.

Upon motion by Mrs. Meier that Bill 25-160 be read and placed upon the floor for final consideration, seconded by Miss Robertson. The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 8 Nays: 0

The Bill was declared passed, signed by the President, approved by the Mayor and attested by the Clerk.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Is there any questions or discussion on Bill 25-160? I think we had plenty of that earlier, but in case anyone wants to add anything. Hearing none, Mrs. Meier.

CHERYL MEIER: Thank you Mr. President. I move Bill 25-160 be placed on the floor for final passage.

SHARI ROBERTSON: Second.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded. Please cast your vote for Bill 25-160. Bill Passes 8-0.

END OF DISCUSSION

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Mrs. Burns, Bill 25-161.

LAURA BURNS: Thank you Mr. President. I move that Bill 25-161 be read and placed on the floor for discussion.

SHARI ROBERTSON: Second.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded. The clerk will now read Bill 25-161.

DELAINE WEINER: Authorizing the Public Works Director to accept a donation from Alta Florist and Greenhouse in the form of a Dogwood Tree valued at One Hundred Fifty-six and 99/100 Dollars (\$156.99), to be planted at the front of the city building in honor of Kim Hildreth, and declaring an emergency.

DONATION – A TREE FROM ALTA FLORIST & GRRENHOUSE

BY: MRS. BURNS

BILL #25-161

ORDINANCE: 25-160

Authorizing the Public Works Director to accept a donation from Alta Florist and Greenhouse in the form of a Dogwood Tree valued at One Hundred Fifty-six and 99/100 Dollars (\$156.99), to be planted at the front of the city building in honor of Kim Hildreth, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mrs. Burns that Bill 25-161 be read and placed upon the floor for final consideration, seconded by Miss Robertson. The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 8 Nays: 0

The Bill was declared passed, signed by the President, approved by the Mayor and attested by the Clerk.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Is there any discussion on Bill 25-161? Hearing none, Mrs. Burns.

LAURA BURNS: Thank you Mr. President. I move that Bill 25-161 be placed on the floor for final consideration.

SHARI ROBERTSON: Second.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded. Please cast your vote for Bill 25-161. Bill Passes 8-0.

END OF DISCUSSION

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Next is Bill 25-162, Mrs. Meier.

CHERYL MEIER: Thank you Mr. President. I move that Bill 25-162 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion.

SHARI ROBERTSON: Second.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded. The clerk will now read Bill 25-162.

DELAINE WEINER: Appropriating the sum of Three Hundred Forty-five Thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$345,000.00) from the unappropriated Safety Services Fund (#214) for the purpose of transferring funds to the Fire Capital Equipment Fund (#420), based on actual and anticipated EMS revenue through December 31, 2025, and declaring an emergency.

ADOPTING PERSONNEL POSITIONS, PAY GRADES, SALARIES - CITY OF MANSFIELD

BY: MRS. MEIER

BILL #25-162

ORDINANCE: 25-161

Appropriating the sum of Three Hundred Forty-five Thousand and 00/100 dollars (\$345,000.00) from the unappropriated Safety Services Fund (#214) for the purpose of transferring funds to the Fire Capital Equipment Fund (#420), based on actual and anticipated EMS revenue through December 31, 2025, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mrs. Meier, that Bill 25-162 be read and placed upon the floor for final passage, seconded by Miss Robertson. The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes:8 Nays:0

The Bill was declared passed, signed by the President, approved by the Mayor and attested by the Clerk.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Any discussion on Bill 25-162? Mr. Falquette.

DAVID FALQUETTE: Thank you Mr. President. I just wondered if anybody had an idea or if there was a idea how this money might be spent in the next few months. I'm sure there will be a spending bill later.

DISCUSSION:

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Director Converse?

DIRECTOR KELLY CONVERSE: Councilman Falquette, this isn't to make an appropriation. This is simply to move the money that's coming in. It's coming in higher than estimated and the legislation requires us to send a percentage of those funds to the capital equipment fund. So, as it comes in above the estimate, we have to have this appropriation in place in order to properly classify it where it needs to go. So, this isn't because they want to spend. There is no particular expense related to this. It's just a mechanism for us to appropriately account for the higher than estimated revenue.

DAVID FALQUETTE: It's good for me. Thank you.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Any other questions, discussion on Bill 25-162? With that, I will call on Mrs. Meier.

CHERYL MEIER: Thanks Sir. I move that Bill 25-162 be placed upon the floor for final passage.

SHARI ROBERTSON: Second.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded. Please cast your vote for Bill 25-162. Bill Passes 8-0.

END OF DISCUSSION

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Alright, Mrs. Burns, Bill 25-163.

LAURA BURNS: Thank you Mr. President I move that Bill 25-163 be read for the first time and placed upon the floor for discussion.

SHARI ROBERTSON: Second.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded. The clerk will now read Bill 25-163.

DELAINE WEINER: Granting a conservation easement to The North Central Ohio Land Conservancy, Inc., an Ohio not for profit corporation, of 693 Coleman Road, Mansfield, Ohio 44903, from the City of Mansfield for conservation of Old Growth Trees at John Todd Park, Mansfield, Ohio.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT – JOHN TODD PARK

BY: MRS. BURNS

BILL #25-163

ORDINANCE: 25-162

Granting a conservation easement to The North Central Ohio Land Conservancy, Inc., an Ohio not for profit corporation, of 693 Coleman Road, Mansfield, Ohio 44903, from the City of Mansfield for conservation of Old Growth Trees at John Todd Park, Mansfield, Ohio.

Upon motion by Mrs. Burns that Bill 25-163 be read and placed upon the floor for final consideration, seconded by Miss Robertson. The vote was taken and resulted as follows: 1st Motion: Ayes:7 Nays: 1 {Akuchie – No}, 2nd Motion: Ayes:8 Nays: 0, 3rd Motion: Ayes: 7 Nays 1 {Daley-Abstain}

{The Bill was declared 1st read.}

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Hearing no discussion, that shall be considered its 1st read.

1st Motion: Ayes:7 Nays: 1 *{Akuchie – No}*, 2nd Motion: Ayes:8 Nays: 0, 3rd Motion: Ayes: 7 Nays 1 *{Daley-Abstain}*

END OF DISCUSSION

CLOSING COMMENTS:

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Is there anything else to come before council this evening?

DAVID FALQUETTE: Move to close.

SHARI ROBERTSON: Second

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded to close. All those in favor say aye.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: We are adjourned. At 8:07pm, council is closed.

END OF DISCUSSION

ADJOURN: Upon motion by Mr. Falquette, seconded by Miss Robertson, and passed by voice vote, the meeting was adjourned.

Delaine Weiner
Clerk of Council

Phil Scott
President