

REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
November 18th, 2025
Public Hearing @ 6:45pm

The second monthly meeting of Mansfield City Council met on
Tuesday, November 18th, 2025 at 7:36pm in the
Council Chambers of the City Building.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by the audience.

David Falquette led the audience in prayer.

ROLL CALL: The following answered were present at roll call: Burns, Meier, Daley, Diaz, Mount, Robertson, Falquette, and Scott. *{Excused Absence for Mr. Akuchie: Passed 7-0}*

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: We do have five people signed up for public comment. So, well, it looks like there's a couple with dual tandem. So anyway, first is Ad Swope. And once again, for those that are not familiar, you have a three-minute time limit. And when you come up to the microphone, please state your name and address.

ADD SWOOPE: *{86 Westgate, Mansfield, Ohio}* My name is Ad Swope, 86 Westgate Drive. I just want to comment on the bird, the chicken thing. I understood everything people said about the chicken coops and stuff. I live that life. I've been around that. But the thing I'm concerned about, how is that going to be policed? I heard your comments. And the reason I say that is because there's this other issue in this city have not been addressed. One, leaves being put in the street. Two, grass being blowed into the street. Three, people having two or three cars parking their driveway that is not running, haven't been running for years. Trash everywhere. And nothing has been done about it. Every time I call a codes and permit, they send somebody out a day or two later. But nothing happened. So that's just my concern with the chicken. Like I said, I live that life. I know what it can be. So, I do not want my property tax, my property going down, but my property tax keep going up. That's my concern about the chicken coop thing. Thank you.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Thank you. Next is Greg Mudd. Meade. OK, I couldn't. I'm sorry.

GREG MEADE: *{350 Park Avenue West, Mansfield, Ohio}*

My name is Greg Meade. I live at. I'm a resident property owner at 350 Park Avenue West here in Mansfield. I'm here for you tonight to urge each of you to approve the proposed ordinance and allow small flocks of hens at residential properties. I've had over eight years' experience raising up to 18 chickens at a time. I lived in Lancaster, Ohio, and was dismayed in 2018 when I moved up here and we were not allowed to have chickens. I can tell you that a small regulated flock is a positive asset to a neighborhood and to neighboring. One of the things about having chickens is a lot of people say it saves cost for those that have a backyard flock. There is no savings in cost. There's a lot of expense that goes into it. It costs typically more than a cat and a lot more than a dog to have chickens. You have to pay and buy a coop.

The feed is very expensive. Caring for them is very expensive, medical, all that kind of stuff. The folks that rely on having cost savings are typically your neighbors when you have way too many eggs. So typically, six hens, you're going to get at least five eggs a day when they're mature and nobody typically can eat five eggs a day. So, you share them with your friends and your relatives and your neighbors. It's time to allow Mansfield residents to join other progressive Ohio cities and allow the residents to take a positive choice to help promote local food security, health, and support sustainability and to reduce household food waste. That's the other big thing, especially for folks who throw a lot of things away. Food waste for folks that have chickens, it doesn't go down the garbage disposal. It doesn't go into your trash. It goes to the chickens. Everything goes to the chickens. If it can be consumed, the chickens will eat it. And not only that, the other big thing about having chickens, especially a small flock. I know the ordinance says you cannot free range them, but they love ticks. They love all kinds of bugs. We never had issues with bugs when we had chickens because they eat everything. If it's a movement, they're going to eat it. Snakes, caterpillars, grasshoppers, and they'll even go after mice. So, they're definitely a positive aspect. So, the stories you hear about them being dirty, that will happen occasionally. But that's typically the owner's fault, not the chicken's fault. So, I hope you approve it and it goes forward. I think it'd be a positive thing for Mansfield. Thank you.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Thank you. Next is Kelsey Cunning.

KELSEY CUNNING: {993 West Cook Road, Mansfield, Ohio} Hello, my name is Kelsey Cunning and I live on 993 West Cook Road. When we moved into my husband's childhood home, we dreamed of someday having, using the historic farmhouse, which was once the Cook family farm and for generations used by the Cunning family for farming, and three-story barn on what is now down to 2.98 acres to garden and keep chickens. When I discovered that there is no exceptions under the current three-acre law, I began pursuing to change the law. The petition I present to you today has 561 signatures and 77% of the signatures are within city limits. Keeping chickens is not only for selfish reasons, and it is not a new idea. Many cities have already allowed it for years. There are many reasons to consider hen keeping in Mansfield. However, two things you should consider today are building community and fighting food insecurity. The United States has a loneliness epidemic and backyard hens help build community. Building community is already a top priority of Mansfield as we invest in our parks and our downtown. These third places outside of homeschool and work are paramount in cultivating healthy communities. But these aren't the only ways. People connect with community when they want to learn how to keep animals, understand the work required, and or to address a problem with their chickens. Research shows that the more interwoven people are in their communities, the less petty crime there is. Hen keeping is one way to connect people in our community. Mansfield struggles with food insecurity and backyard hens are one solution to combat it. North side of town struggles with food deserts and people can grow their own food. It decentralizes food sources. Neighbors can share an overabundance of eggs. When commercial food systems are disrupted, such as during the height of COVID-19, or the most recent government shutdown reminds us of how fragile our food systems are, for the most vulnerable in our community, people are disconnected from food systems and this is a way to reconnect people to their food sources. Mansfield has a strong agricultural history and this would add a chapter in the right direction and honor the memory of Mansfield native, Louis Bromfield. I want to thank all of our supporters and those who disagreed with our stance and helped us consider more deeply the parts of the ordinance. Our city administration and council for working with us and for considering hen keeping legislation to address community building and food insecurity and all of you for just all the work you do for the city and on a daily basis. I do desire to leave you with one consideration. Should responsible citizens be prevented from supplying their own food because of an irresponsible minority? Thank you. And do you want the petition?

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Assistant clerk will take it. Next, Annalise Cunning?

ANNELIESE CUNNING: {993 West Cook Rd., Mansfield, Ohio} There we go. Yes. My name is Annalise Cunning and I live on 993 West Cook Road. I'm nine years old. This is my friend Presley.

PRESELEY NEWMAN: {104 Honey Creek, Bellville, Ohio} Hi everyone. My name is Presley Newman of Belleville and I'm nine years old. Hi everyone. Today I want to talk about why having backyard chickens is important. Taking care of chickens teaches responsibility because they depend on you each and every day. You have to feed them, give them fresh water, collect their eggs and make sure their coop is clean and safe. When you do all that, you learn how to follow a routine and take care of a living thing. Having chickens also helps build self-worth. It feels really good to know that your hard work keeps them healthy and happy. When you see their eggs they lay, you know that you helped make that happen and that makes you feel proud of what you can do. And finally, backyard chickens give you more fresh and nutritious eggs than commercial eggs found in large retail stores. They're full of protein and vitamins and you know exactly where they came from. It teaches you that healthy food doesn't just appear in a store. Sometimes you can grow or produce it right at home. I love to hold chickens a lot. This is why I think having backyard chickens is so special. Thank you.

ANNELIESE CUNNING: I would like chickens because it will be a great learning experience. I would also like chickens because its eggs will help me learn how to cook eggs better. And did you know that eggs are very healthy for you? Most people are afraid about getting chickens because they are worried the chickens will be too loud. But when you have only hens, it's not very loud. My absolute reason is because they're so cute.

ANNELIESE CUNNING & PRESLEY NEWMAN: Thank you for listening to us and please, please, please with cherries on top, vote for hen keeping. *(applause)*

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Okay, next we have Tammy McQuillan and Charles Butler. I don't know if you're on the same line or if you're coming up together. Okay, so Tammy.

TAMMY MCQUILLEN: {1680 Executive Ct., Mansfield, Ohio} Wow, that's kind of unfair that I have to follow that act. My name is Tammy McQuillan and I live at 1680 Executive Court, Apartment 118 in Mansfield. I just don't think that Mansfield is ready to expand backyard chickens because we don't have the resources to enforce these new proposed regulations. Last I knew, there were only two inspectors in the codes department. Mansfield can't even enforce the current regulations that we have on cleaning up after dogs, keeping them on leash or confined, and giving them proper care and training. Both the Richland County Humane Society and the Richland County Dog Pound are at overcapacity with abandoned and neglected dogs. A few years ago, I called the Mansfield police about an aggressive dog that was wandering loose and bothering me and my dogs who were on leash in my own backyard, and this is when I was living in the third ward. I had thought that Mansfield had a community police officer to respond to such calls, but I was told that, quote, we don't have the resources to answer such calls. Also called the dog warden, but never got a response. Mansfield also has a big problem with illegal dumping. Their disposal of chicken waste in residential areas will exasperate this problem if it's not handled correctly. If food insecurity is a concern, residents can learn to hunt and fish. My family used to have large fish fries with fish taken from local lakes and Lake Erie, and when the perch are running up in Lake Erie, all you have to do is fish from the dock and you bring them in two at a time. So, I would like to suggest the possible compromises. One, why not just tweak the current regulations to allow two acres instead of three? And two, why not allow small community chicken coops in some of the city parks or the existing urban farms like NECIC, if

they would be interested, that could be more closely monitored. Why not try that first, see how that goes? I urge the council to vote no on this backyard chickens' proposal. Thank you, and thank you guys for fixing the parking lot on Gray Street at Liberty Park. I was very pleased to see that finally happen. So, thank you.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Charles Butler.

CHARLES BUTLER: {653 West Cook Road, Mansfield, Ohio} My name is Charles Butler. I live at 653 West Cook Road. A couple weeks ago, council voted on to fining truckers \$1,000. So, congratulations. Next time you go to the store to buy groceries, thank a trucker. Next time you go get gas, thank a trucker. Next time you order something off Amazon, thank a trucker. Next time you order off supplies for your job, thank a trucker. Mansfield is nothing but earning money for things they make up to do and take away way too long to fix. And now the kick, they seem to be stuck on jaywalking backyard chickens. There's more important things like teenagers and young kids coming up missing more and more often, but let's not worry about that. Instead, let's complain about truckers not using the truck route. Apparently, there's a reason. Let's mess with the ones who risk their life every day, the ones who do not know when and if they'll make it home to their families. Are the signs up to date? Is the construction rerouting by sign or currently by GPS? Do you still want your deliveries in areas that aren't accessible? Do you realize how hard it is to turn a rig in areas that are rerouted? Find them green stamps elsewhere. Professional drivers make decisions based on things that nonprofessional drivers haven't had, haven't got a clue about. Forever engineers have built roads and parking lots, areas for trucks way too small, yet everyone wants their goods on time every time. Go ride in your rig. Go sleep in a slot. Go without everything you need. It's time to accommodate large trucks, the very heart of our country. If you got it, they brought it. Maybe finish up road projects before starting 900 others. Every day there's a new temporary closure detour. Nobody believes the road close signs anymore. I don't because I go around them. Because the city is out of road construction signs for an ever-ending cycle. The money grabbers just want to take money from truckers because they know it's easy theft. When the construction is going on downtown, I can't even tell which lane I'm supposed to use to be in, let alone truckers. How about a little grace during this disruption? So, when the truck route was closed or a driver has to go off route to make a delivery detour, they're going to be fine. Ridiculous. What is going on right now downtown with construction every turn you take? Really? That's like entrapment. You take this. That's like entrapment. You got this town all messed up. Laws by people who don't know. Laws by people with no clue. All truckers should boycott all deliveries within the city of Mansfield. America has no idea how impossible trucking has become. Drivers get 11 hours to run, then must park for 10. Yet nowhere to park truck stops. Truck stops packed. Rest areas closed. Shoulders illegal. Walmart lot blocked off. You're expected to disappear in thin air and magically restart your day like nothing happened. This is what we deal with daily. Yes, the city of Mansfield. But you can revote on that legislation. I've looked it up multiple times, but you guys made your decision.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: You're at 3:30, so warp it up real quick.

CHARLES BUTLER: Okay. I'm done.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

No Committee Reports

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: With that, let's see. Any committee reports? Any mayor, any directors have anything further?

MAYOR JODIE PERRY: Nothing further.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Director Andres.

DIRECTOR LOUIE ANDRES: Nothing further.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Director Blankenship.

DIRECTOR KELLY BLANKENSHIP: Nothing further.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Director Porch.

DIRECTOR KEITH PORCH: Nothing further.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Director Madden.

DEPUTY DIRECTOR DAVID MADDEN: Nothing further.

LATE BILLS

{No Late Bills}

SUSPEND RULES

ANTOINETTE DALEY: Mr. President, 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: 7, Nays: 0

LEGISLATION

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: First bill is Bill 25-176, Mr. Falquette.

DAVID FALQUETTE: Thank you Mr. President I move with respect to Bill 25-176 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 25-176.

DELAINE WEINER: Authorizing renewal of an Agreement with the Richland County Commissioners for Payment of Counsel Fees for Indigent Criminal Defendants, and declaring an emergency.

RICHLAND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS – PAYMENT OF COUNSEL FEES

BY: MR. FALQUETTE

BILL #25-176

ORDINANCE: #25-175

Authorizing renewal of an Agreement with the Richland County Commissioners for Payment of Counsel Fees for Indigent Criminal Defendants, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mr. Falquette that Bill 25-176 be read and placed upon the floor for final consideration, seconded by Miss Robertson. The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes: 7 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 25-176? Hearing none, Mr. Falquette.

DAVID FALQUETTE: Thank you Mr. President. I move that Bill 25-176 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 25-176. Bill Passes 7-0.

END OF DISCUSSION

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Bill 25-177, Mrs. Meier.

CHERYL MEIER: Thank you Mr. President. I move that Bill 25-177 be read and placed upon the floor for discussion.

SHARI ROBERTSON: Second.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: It's been moved and seconded. The clerk shall read Bill 25-177.

DELAINE WEINER: Authorizing the Safety Service Director to enter into a contract with J Star Equipment, 256 Twp. Rd 1381, Greenwich, Ohio 44837, Invoice # CO-0002349, to purchase a Bush Hog brand Rotary Cutter used for Land Management at Mansfield Lahm Regional Airport, and trade in the currently owned Rotary Cutter for purchase credit, and declaring an emergency.

PURCHASE – BUSH HOG BRAND ROTARY CUTTER

BY: MRS. MEIER

BILL #25-177

ORDINANCE: #25-176

Authorizing the Safety Service Director to enter into a contract with J Star Equipment, 256 Twp. Rd 1381, Greenwich, Ohio 44837, Invoice # CO-0002349, to purchase a Bush Hog brand Rotary Cutter used for Land Management at Mansfield Lahm Regional Airport, and trade in the currently owned Rotary Cutter for purchase credit, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Mrs. Meier, that Bill 25-177 be read and placed upon the floor for final passage, seconded by Miss Robertson. The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes:7 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 25-177? Mr. Falquette.

DAVID FALQUETTE: Thank you, Mr. President. Does anybody upstairs know when this is available? Is this fast, slow, and are you going to get it when you need it? They're going to get it when approved.

DIRECTOR KEITH PORCH: They're gonna get when approved.

DAVID FALQUETTE: Okay. Thank you.

DISCUSSION:

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Any other questions, discussion on Bill 25-177? Okay, hearing none. Mrs. Meier.

CHERYL MEIER: Thank you, sir. I move that Bill 25-177 be placed upon the floor for final passage.

SHARI ROBERTSON: Second.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Been regularly moved and seconded. Council shall cast their vote on Bill 25-177. Bill passes 7-0.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: And moving on to Bill 25-180, Miss Mount.

DEBORAH MOUNT: Thank you Mr. President I move that Bill 25-180 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 25-180.

DELAINE WEINER: Amending the Zoning Districts Map of the City of Mansfield, Ohio (Ordinance #04-208) to rezone one parcel located at and around Annadale Avenue, Mansfield, Ohio from Zoning Classification B-1 (Neighborhood Business District) to B-2 (General Business District) Classification, and declaring an emergency.

AMENDING ZONING DISTRICTS – REZONE #560

BY: MISS MOUNT

BILL #25-180

ORDINANCE: #25-177

Amending the Zoning Districts Map of the City of Mansfield, Ohio (Ordinance #04-208) to rezone one parcel located at and around Annadale Avenue, Mansfield, Ohio from Zoning Classification B-1

(Neighborhood Business District) to B-2 (General Business District) Classification, and declaring an emergency.

Upon motion by Miss Mount that Bill 25-180 be read and placed upon the floor for final consideration, seconded by Miss Robertson. The vote was taken and resulted as follows: Ayes:0 Nays: 7

The Bill was declared failed, signed by the President, approved by the mayor and attested by the Clerk.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Is there any discussion on Bill 25-180? Ms. Mount.

DEBORAH MOUNT: Just wanted to say thank you to the owners for explaining your vision and also the administration for helping us understand all the nuts and bolts of this. And thank you for your interest in revitalizing that area. And I'm hopeful that this will help clear the slate so that the variants will be the next best option to go with for that area.

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Any other questions, discussion, comments on Bill 25-180? Hearing none, Miss Mount.

DEBORAH MOUNT: Thank you Mr. President. I move that Bill 25-180 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 25-180. Bill fails 0-7 (*unanimous*).

END OF DISCUSSION

CLOSING COMMENTS:

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: That concludes legislation. Is there anything else to come before council this evening?

DAVID FALQUETTE: Move to close.

SHARI ROBERTSON: Second

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Been regularly moved and seconded we adjourn. All in favor signify by saying aye.

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Aye

PRESIDENT PHIL SCOTT: Opposed, same. We are adjourned.

At **8:02pm**, 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