

CITY COUNCIL

April 21, 2025

The April 21, 2025 City Council meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers by Kate Niederkohr, President. A moment of silence was observed followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. City Council members present were Scott Moore, Kate Niederkohr, John Walker, Kenneth Wessler, Tom Karcher, Aaron Korte, and Julia Lemire.

Others present included: Kyle McColly, Mayor; Ben Buckland, Law Director; Rhonda Rosebrough, SARN Advocate and Outreach Coordinator; Christina Jones, SARN Director; Sharon Huffman; Brian Hemminger, Daily Chief Union; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The minutes of the April 7, 2025 City Council meeting, having been mailed to each City Council member, were approved as received.

The minutes of the April 7, 2025 Safety Committee meeting, having been mailed to each City Council member, were reviewed.

The minutes of the April 7, 2025 Service Committee meeting, having been mailed to each City Council member, were reviewed.

The minutes of the April 14, 2025 Park Board meeting, having been mailed to each City Council member, were reviewed.

The minutes of the April 14, 2025 Downtown Committee meeting, having been mailed to each City Council member, were reviewed.

Rhonda Rosebrough and Christina Jones, representing the Sexual Assault Response Network (SARN) serving Delaware, Morrow, Crawford, Wyandot and Union counties, addressed City Council and noted that April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Ms. Jones indicated that 77% of sexual assaults are not reported and Wyandot County had six or seven reports of assault last year so the number of assaults in Wyandot County could have been as high as 27 if the county follows other trends. SARN has an office on Houpt Drive and an advocate is available to survivors, and there is also a helpline available 24 hours per day/7 days per week. Anyone interested in getting involved can sign up for volunteer training.

Ms. Sharon Huffman addressed City Council indicating that there is a lot of confusion about what is going on with the proposed ½% income tax increase measure to be voted on at the May 6, 2025 primary election. Ms. Huffman stated that the biggest confusion is the post card that was sent out and she inquired about the group “Invest in Upper” that has been promoting the income tax measure, and she was informed that it is a group of private citizens because the City is not allowed to spend money promoting ballot measures. Ms. Huffman indicated that she questions the validity of some of the choices made by the City administration and she feels more attention needs to be paid to purchases. Mrs. Lemire stated that the City looked at different ways to fund the projects the city needs, including a property tax, a levy, and an income tax increase, and the income tax increase has the least amount of impact on the citizens of the city while addressing the needs of the city. Ms. Huffman stated that she is not against adding more firefighters but she thinks including a new pool is crazy. Mrs. Niederkohr stated that the pool became part of the issue due to its age and state of repair, and the new proposed pool design caters to many groups of people including seniors, youth, and people with disabilities. Ms. Huffman inquired about the cost of the proposed new pool. Mayor McColly indicated that the proposed cost of a new pool is \$6,500,000.00 and increases to \$8,000,000.00 with additional contingency costs. Mr. Korte stated that the new pool is not about the swim team, but something that is more important is swim lessons. Mr. Korte noted that thousands of people in Upper Sandusky have participated in either free or inexpensive swim lessons. Ms. Huffman also questioned the current smell and taste of the City’s water. It was noted that a statement from the Water Treatment Plant Supervisor regarding the City’s water will be reviewed during the new business portion of this meeting.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lemire, seconded by Mr. Moore, to place Ordinance No. 10-14 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH CONNECTIONS RECOVERY SERVICES FOR OFFICE SPACE LOCATED IN THE CITY BUILDING.", on its second reading by title only, as amended. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes; the President declared the motion carried. The Clerk read Ordinance No. 10-14 for the second time as amended.

A motion was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Karcher, for the adoption of Ordinance No. 10-14, as amended. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The President declared the motion carried and Ordinance No. 10-14 was duly adopted as amended.

A motion was made by Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Karcher, to place Ordinance No. 11-14 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A SEWER LINE EXTENSION AND WASTEWATER AGREEMENT WITH LOUIS DREYFUS COMPANY UPPER SANDUSKY, LLC.", on its second reading by title only, as amended. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes; the President declared the motion carried. The Clerk read Ordinance No. 11-14 for the second time as amended.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lemire, seconded by Mr. Moore, for the adoption of Ordinance No. 11-14, as amended. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The President declared the motion carried and Ordinance No. 11-14 was duly adopted as amended.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lemire, seconded by Mr. Karcher, to place Ordinance No. 12-14 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP FROM A HIGHWAY BUSINESS (HB) DISTRICT TO A LIMITED BUSINESS (LB) DISTRICT, PERTAINING TO A PROPERTY LOCATED ALONG THE SOUTH SIDE OF EAST WYANDOT AVENUE.", on its second reading by title only. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes; the President declared the motion carried. The Clerk read Ordinance No. 12-14 for the second time by title only.

A motion was made by Mr. Karcher, seconded by Mrs. Lemire, for the adoption of Ordinance No. 12-14. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The President declared the motion carried and Ordinance No. 12-14 was duly adopted.

A motion was made by Mr. Korte, seconded by Mr. Karcher, to place Ordinance No. 13-14 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP FROM A LIMITED MANUFACTURING (LM) DISTRICT TO A GENERAL MANUFACTURING (GM) DISTRICT, PERTAINING TO A PROPERTY LOCATED ALONG THE EAST SIDE OF BROADVIEW STREET.", on its second reading by title only. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes; the President declared the motion carried. The Clerk read Ordinance No. 13-14 for the second time by title only.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lemire, seconded by Mr. Karcher, for the adoption of Ordinance No. 13-14. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The President declared the motion carried and Ordinance No. 13-14 was duly adopted.

A motion was made by Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Wessler, to place Ordinance No. 14-14 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS TO THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE NO. 2-14, TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENSES AND OTHER EXPENDITURES OF THE CITY OF UPPER SANDUSKY, STATE OF OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025.", on its second reading by title only. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes; the President declared the motion carried. The Clerk read Ordinance No. 14-14 for the second time by title only.

A motion was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Karcher, for the adoption of Ordinance No. 14-14. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The President declared the motion carried and Ordinance No. 14-14 was duly adopted.

A motion was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Karcher, to place Ordinance No. 15-14 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A POTABLE WATER LINE EXTENSION WITH LOUIS DREYFUS COMPANY UPPER SANDUSKY, LLC.", on its first reading by title only. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes; the President declared the motion carried. The Clerk read Ordinance No. 15-14 for the first time by title only.

A motion was made by Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Karcher, to place Ordinance No. 16-14 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE A BID SUBMITTED FOR THE TARHE LIFT STATION NORTH PROJECT.", on its first reading by title only. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes; the President declared the motion carried. The Clerk read Ordinance No. 16-14 for the first time by title only.

A motion was made by Mr. Karcher, seconded by Mrs. Lemire, to place Ordinance No. 17-14 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF UPPER SANDUSKY, OHIO TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH BRANDSTETTER CARROLL, INC. TO PROVIDE ENGINEERING SERVICES FOR THE EAST WYANDOT AVENUE, ODOT SMALL CITIES PROJECT, PHASE 2.", on its first reading by title only. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes; the President declared the motion carried. The Clerk read Ordinance No. 17-14 for the first time by title only.

A motion was made by Mr. Korte, seconded by Mrs. Lemire, to place Ordinance No. 18-14 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE ANNUAL WAGE AND SALARY ORDINANCE NO. 1-14 (AN ORDINANCE FIXING SALARIES, WAGES AND THE RATES OF PAY FOR THE EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY OF UPPER SANDUSKY, OHIO, FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025 AND DESIGNATING THE POSITIONS FOR VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS OF THE CITY OF UPPER SANDUSKY), AND DECLARING THIS ACT AN EMERGENCY.", on its first reading by title only. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes; the President declared the motion carried. The Clerk read Ordinance No. 18-14 for the first time by title only.

A motion was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mrs. Lemire, to suspend the rules of the Municipal Charter calling for separate readings on different days. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The President declared the motion carried.

A motion was made by Mrs. Lemire, seconded by Mr. Karcher, to place Ordinance No. 18-14 on its second reading by title only. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes; the President declared the motion carried. The Clerk read Ordinance No. 18-14 for the second time by title only.

A motion was made by Mr. Korte, seconded by Mr. Karcher, for the adoption of Ordinance No. 18-14. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The President declared the motion carried and Ordinance No. 18-14 was duly adopted.

Mayor McColly shared a statement from Mr. Aaron Schoenberger, Water Treatment Plant Supervisor, addressing complaints about the City's water and what the Water Department is doing to address the taste and odor issues being experienced by businesses and residents. The treatment technique has been optimized by starting the carbon feed system and sending more water through the nanofiltration membranes, pretreatment and sedimentation tanks were drained and cleaned, water mains were flushed, the reservoir has been treated twice, and the next step is to clean the sediment out of the water towers and the clearwell. Samples of customers' water have been taken and tested by an independent lab and all samples revealed the water is safe for consumption. The City has been in contact with the Ohio EPA during the process and the EPA is satisfied with the steps taken to solve the taste and odor issues. The City is and has been in compliance with the standards set forth by the Ohio EPA for drinking water.

Mayor McColly addressed community concerns about this year’s fireworks and noted that Pyrotechnico was already booked for July 4 and July 5 and in coordinating with the Wyandot County Chamber of Commerce to coincide with their First Thursday event on July 3 the closest place to move the fireworks to in the downtown area is Harrison Smith Park. Mayor McColly met with a representative from Pyrotechnico on Thursday, April 17 and it was determined that there is enough space in Harrison Smith Park for the fireworks to be discharged at the east end of the park. Mayor McColly indicated that the fireworks would not be permanently moved to the park, this is just something different for one year. Mayor McColly noted that there is more information and discussions to come on this issue.

Mr. Walker reported that the City’s annual Arbor Day Program will take place on Monday, April 28, 2025 beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Dog Park, 240 Orchard Lane.

City Council members received copies of the City Auditor’s Finance Report for March 2025.

Mayor McColly reported that today was the first day of work for his new Administrative Assistant Ethan Korte.

There being no further business, the President declared the meeting adjourned.

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

Kate Niederkohr, President