

CITY COUNCIL

February 17, 2026

The February 17, 2026 City Council meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers by Julia Lemire, 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: Ethan Korte, Administrative Assistant; Ben Buckland, Law Director; Mike MaGinn, Fire Chief Brian Hemminger, Daily Chief Union; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The minutes of the February 2, 2026 City Council meeting, having been mailed to each City Council member, were approved as received.

The minutes of the February 2, 2026 Safety Committee meeting, having been mailed to each City Council member, were reviewed.

The minutes of the February 2, 2026 Service Committee meeting, having been mailed to each City Council member, were reviewed.

The minutes of the February 2, 2026 Planning Commission meeting, having been mailed to each City Council member, were reviewed.

The minutes of the February 9, 2026 Park Board meeting, having been mailed to each City Council member, were reviewed.

The minutes of the February 9, 2026 Downtown Committee meeting, having been mailed to each City Council member, were reviewed.

Mr. Ethan Korte, Administrative Assistant, provided an update on Google Maps showing projects within the City and information relating to those projects. Mr. Ethan Korte also showed that this information can be accessed through Google Earth. Links to access this information can be found on the City's website and on the City's Facebook page.

Mrs. Niederkohr requested Mr. Buckland explain the process for hiring an engineer for the swimming pool project. Mr. Buckland explained Ohio's Qualifications-Based Selection (QBS) law as addressed under Ohio Revised Code and noted that if the anticipated engineering/architectural fees for a project is \$50,000 or more, the City must follow the full QBS process which includes publicly soliciting statements of qualifications, evaluating and ranking firms based on qualifications (not price), and then negotiating scope and fees with the top ranked firm.

A motion was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mrs. Niederkohr, to place Ordinance No. 54-14 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 3.", 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. 54-14 for the second time by title only.

A motion was made by Mr. Korte, seconded by Mr. Karcher, for the adoption of Ordinance No. 54-14. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The President declared the motion carried and Ordinance No. 54-14 was duly adopted.

A motion was made by Mr. Karcher, seconded by Mrs. Niederkohr, to place Ordinance No. 55-14 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 SANDUSKY RIVER WATERLINE CROSSING, PHASE 1.”, 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. 55-14 for the second time by title only.

A motion was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mrs. Niederkohr, for the adoption of Ordinance No. 55-14. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The President declared the motion carried and Ordinance No. 55-14 was duly adopted.

A motion was made by Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Korte, to place Ordinance No. 56-14 entitled, “AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF ULTRAFILTRATION MEMBRANES FOR THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT.”, 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. 56-14 for the second time by title only.

A motion was made by Mr. Korte, seconded by Mrs. Niederkohr, for the adoption of Ordinance No. 56-14. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The President declared the motion carried and Ordinance No. 56-14 was duly adopted.

A motion was made by Mrs. Niederkohr, seconded by Mr. Karcher, to place Ordinance No. 58-14 entitled, “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION TO KEVIN BURLEW FOR HOURS WORKED AS AN OPERATOR-IN-TRAINING DURING OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, AND DECEMBER OF 2025, 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. 58-14 for the first time by title only.

Fire Chief Mike MaGinn addressed City Council requesting Ordinance No. 59-14 be amended to approve the hiring of six (6) full-time firefighters. Considerable discussion was held regarding the hiring of three (3) full-time firefighters as addressed in Ordinance No. 59-14.

A motion was made by Mr. Korte, seconded by Mrs. Niederkohr, to place Ordinance No. 59-14 entitled, “AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE HIRING OF THREE (3) FULL-TIME FIREFIGHTERS AND ONE (1) FULL-TIME FIRE CHIEF FOR THE CITY OF UPPER SANDUSKY, OHIO.”, on its first reading by title only. Upon Roll Call, all members voted as follows:

Mr. Moore	-	Yes
Mrs. Niederkohr	-	Yes
Mr. Walker	-	Yes
Mr. Wessler	-	Yes
Mr. Karcher	-	No
Mr. Korte	-	Yes
Mrs. Lemire	-	Yes

The President declared the motion carried by a 6-1 vote. The Clerk read Ordinance No. 59-14 for the first time by title only.

A motion was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mrs. Niederkohr, to place Ordinance No. 60-14 entitled, “AN ORDINANCE TO MAKE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS TO THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE NO. 44-14, 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, 2026, 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. 60-14 for the first time by title only.

A motion was made by Mrs. Niederkahr, seconded by Mr. Moore, to place Ordinance No. 61-14 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF UPPER SANDUSKY, OHIO TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA AGREEMENT WITH UNI-GRIP, INC.", 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. 61-14 for the first time by title only.

A motion was made by Mr. Karcher, seconded by Mrs. Niederkahr, to place Resolution No. 62-14 entitled, "A RESOLUTION DECLARING THE OFFICIAL INTENT AND REASONABLE EXPECTATION OF THE CITY OF UPPER SANDUSKY ON BEHALF OF THE STATE OF OHIO (THE BORROWER) TO REIMBURSE ITS WATER FUND FOR THE CP30AC, WESTSIDE WATERLINE EXTENSION WITH THE PROCEEDS OF TAX EXEMPT DEBT OF THE STATE OF OHIO.", on its first reading by title only. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes; the President declared the motion carried. The Clerk read Resolution No. 62-14 for the first time by title only.

It was again noted that Ms. Roxy Karg's term on the Civil Service Commission expires on March 1, 2026. Ms. Karg will be contacted regarding a possible reappointment to the Civil Service Commission.

It was noted that City Council members received the Finance Report for January 2026.

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

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

Julia Lemire, President