

Regular Council

December 8

25

The regular meeting of the Waterville Council was called to order by Mayor Tim Pedro at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Waterville Municipal Building.

The prayer was offered by Mayor Pedro. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited and led by veterans Matt Harrell and Doug Meyer.

Present at roll call were Mary Duncan, Wayne Wagner, Tim Pedro, Rod Frey, Anthony Bruno, Todd Borowski and John Rozic.

Also present this evening was Jon Gochenour, Municipal Administrator; Austin Klapp, Assistant Law Director; Steve Schult, Treasurer and Jeni Malaczewski, Recording Secretary.

Staff Present:

Tiffany Bachman – Finance Director
Joe Valvano – Police Chief
Doug Meyer – Fire Chief
Rob Binkley – Public Works Director

Citizens Present:

Please see Citizens' Sign-In Sheet, Exhibit A, Page 1 for a list of people present.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Bruno moved to approve the minutes of the November 24, 2025 Regular Council meeting. Mr. Rozic seconded the motion, which passed by a unanimous voice vote

Citizens Comments

Lisa Webber, 7522 Wellsbury Dr., discussed concerns regarding possible data centers.

Scott Jahns, 1207 Applegate St., discussed concerns regarding possible data centers. Also, thanked Mr. Bruno and Mr. Rozic for their service on City Council.

Paul Miller, 860 Continental Dr., discussed a full ban on data centers opposed to a moratorium.

Terri Massucci, 1101 Waterville-Monclova Rd., thanked all who donated to the toy drive "competition" between the City of Waterville and the Village of Whitehouse. The toy drive ends on December 10.

Lisa Haberstock, 222 N 5th St., discussed concerns regarding possible data centers. She urged Council to take a leadership role with a moratorium on data centers.

Staff Reports

Administrator: Jon Gochenour

- Applied for a "Brownfield Redevelopment" grant totaling \$428,000 for the property located at 300 Farnsworth Rd. This grant will cover 100% of the remediation costs for the property.
- Attended the Parks and Recreation Committee meeting. The Committee is developing a master plan for all City parks.

Austin Klapp: Assistant Law Director

- No Report

Finance Director: Tiffany Bachman

- No Report

Treasurer: Steve Schult

- No Report

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Police Chief: Joe Valvano

- Discussed the upcoming holiday season and reminded residents to drink responsibly and request a ride if necessary to get home safely to your family.
- Thanked all who donated to the toy drive “competition” between the City of Waterville and the Village of Whitehouse. The toy drive ends December 10.

Fire Chief: Doug Meyer

- Attended the Public Safety Committee Meeting where firefighter Bryan Cox proposed a possible fire cadet program.

Public Works Director: Rob Binkley

- Stated that leaf pick up will be extended through this week weather permitting.

Communications from Council Members/Committees

A list of appointments proposed by the Mayor for Council’s consideration and approval was included in the Council packet. Mr. Bruno moved to approve the appointment of the following individuals:

Board of Zoning Appeals: Mike Roetter (4-year term, term expires 12-31-2029); Tree Commission: Andrew Sherman (3-year term, term expires 12-31-2028); Tree Commission: Charles Monus (3-year term, term expires 12-31-2028); Tree Commission: Mary Beth DeMatteo (Ex-Officio) (3-year term, term expires 12-31-2028); Tree Commission: Nancy Bucher (Ex-Officio) (3-year term, term expires 12-31-2028); Finance Committee: Landon Drewes (3-year term, term expires 12-31-2028); Riverbend Industrial Park Committee: Scott Jahns (3-year term, term expires 12-31-2028); Historic District Commission: Terry Rousseau (3-year term, term expires 12-31-2028); Historic District Commission: James Stoma (3-year term, term expires 12-31-2028); Planning Commission: Doug Parrish (4-year term, new term expires 12-31-2029); Civil Service Commission: Jeff Marty (3-year term, term expires 12-31-2028); Public Safety Committee: Nicholas Sargent (2-year term, expires 12-31-2027); Public Safety Committee: Tim Guzman (2-year term, term expires 12-31-2027); Public Safety Committee: Mike Metzger (2-year term, term expires 12-31-2027); Public Safety Committee: Stephanie Gabel (2-year term, term expires 12-31-2027); Public Safety Committee: Frederick Greive (2-year term, term expires 12-31-2027); Public Safety Committee: John Morse (2-year term, term expires 12-31-2027); Public Works Committee: Brad Fox (2-year term, term expires 12-31-2027); Public Works Committee: Cindy Schultz (2-year term, term expires 12-31-2027); Public Works Committee: Greg Aubell (2-year term, term expires 12-31-2027); Public Works Committee: Scott Jahns (2-year term, term expires 12-31-2027); Parks and Recreation Committee: Robert Kennedy (2-year term, term expires 12-31-2027); Parks and Recreation Committee: Rose Kandik (2-year term, term expires 12-31-2027); Parks and Recreation Committee: Elaine Parrish (2-year term, term expires 12-31-2027) and TARA Board Representative: Megan Vahey Casiere (unexpired term ends 12-31-2027).

Mr. Rozic seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Mrs. Duncan

- Asked why does the City of Waterville have to be the first to set a moratorium for data centers?

Mr. Bruno

- Thanked Wendy Gray and the rest of the “Light up Waterville” Committee for their hard work decorating the City for the holidays.

Mr. Frey

- Thanked Mr. Rozic and Mr. Bruno for their service as members of Council.

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Mr. Wagner

- No Report

Mr. Borowski

- Thanked Mr. Rozic and Mr. Bruno for their service as Council members.

Mr. Rozic

- No Report

Mayor Pedro

- Thanked Wendy Gray and the “Light up Waterville” Committee for their hard work decorating the City.
- Thanked all who donated to the toy drive “competition” between the City of Waterville and the Village of Whitehouse.
- Stated the Waterville Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a wine auction in late March at Nazareth Hall. Details are coming soon.
- Attended a TMACOG meeting as well as a meeting of the Inclusive Park Committee.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. RESOLUTION 34-25 A RESOLUTION IMPOSING A MORATORIUM ON THE ISSUANCE OR GRANTING OF APPLICATIONS OR PERMITS FOR DATA CENTERS AND ANCILLARY FACILITIES IN THE CITY OF WATERVILLE OHIO FOR A PERIOD OF TWELVE MONTHS (365 DAYS)

This Resolution would authorize a moratorium on the issuance or granting of new permits for data centers and ancillary facilities for a period of twelve months (365 days) in the City of Waterville. Currently, there are no applications on file for a data center in the City. Moreover, there are no vacant parcels large enough in the City to accommodate the construction of a data center.

Mr. Rozic made a motion to amend Resolution 34-25 from a period of twelve months (365 days) to a period of six months (182 days). Mr. Bruno seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Mr. Wagner – yes, Mr. Frey – yes, Mr. Rozic – yes, Mr. Borowski – yes, Mr. Bruno – yes, Mrs. Duncan – yes and Mayor Pedro – yes. The motion passed unanimously

Mr. Wagner moved to adopt Resolution 34-25 as amended. Mr. Borowski seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Mr. Wagner – yes, Mr. Frey – yes, Mr. Rozic – yes, Mr. Borowski – yes, Mr. Bruno – yes, Mrs. Duncan – yes and Mayor Pedro – yes. The motion passed unanimously

NEW BUSINESS:

Executive Session

Mr. Borowski made a motion to move into Executive Session for Consideration of a Matter per ORC 121.22(G)(4): Reviewing Negotiations with Public Employees Concerning Compensation and Other Terms and Conditions of their Employment at 9:48 p.m. Mr. Wagner seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Mayor Pedro – yes, Mr. Frey – yes, Mr. Bruno – yes, Mrs. Duncan – yes, Mr. Borowski – yes, Mr. Wagner – yes and Mr. Rozic – yes. The motion passed unanimously.

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Return to Regular Session

Mr. Frey made a motion to come out of Executive Session and resume the regular Council meeting at 9:59 p.m. Mr. Borowski seconded the motion which carried by unanimous voice vote.

B. ORDINANCE 11-25 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF WATERVILLE FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2026, AND REPEALING ORDINANCE 12-25 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

First Reading Scheduled for December 8, 2025; Second Reading and Public Hearing Scheduled for January 12, 2026; Third Reading and Legislative Action scheduled for January 26, 2026

A copy of the proposed FY 2026 Appropriations is included in your packet. The Finance Committee reviewed and recommended approval of the budget at their November 21, 2025 public meeting. A public hearing on the appropriations is scheduled for the January 12, 2026 Council meeting.

C. ORDINANCE 12-25 AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE MUNICIPALITY OF WATERVILLE FOR THE MONTHS OF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2026 AND REPEALING ORDINANCE 13-25 AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

According to the Municipal Charter, the permanent appropriations are not required to be adopted until March 1. The passage of temporary appropriations to allow the City to meet its financial obligations during the months of January and February is therefore necessary. This Ordinance would adopt the temporary appropriations to cover these months.

Mayor Pedro made a motion to suspend the rules to allow for the passage of Ordinance 12-25 as an emergency measure. Mr. Borowski seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Mayor Pedro - yes, Mrs. Duncan – yes, Mr. Borowski – yes, Mr. Frey – yes, Mr. Wagner – yes, Mr. Rozic – yes and Mr. Bruno – yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pedro made a motion to move for the passage of Ordinance 12-25 as an emergency measure. Mr. Borowski seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Mr. Wagner – yes, Mr. Frey – yes, Mr. Borowski – yes, Mr. Bruno – yes, Mrs. Duncan – yes, Mayor Pedro – yes and Mr. Rozic - yes. The motion passed unanimously

D. ORDINANCE 13-25 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 09-25 THE AMENDED FY 2025 ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS ORDINANCE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

This budget amendment is the annual end-of-year "clean-up" legislation, which will adjust all department line items budgets to conform to approved appropriations and allow any appropriation adjustments as needed. Significant items included in this amendment are: additional income tax revenue (\$305,000); additional TIF Service Payment Revenue (\$75,000); increases for income tax refunds (\$45,000); increases for Waterville Township Property Tax Sharing Payments (\$34,400); increase for refuse and recycling costs (\$30,000); expense adjustments to various line items to cover anticipated expenses for the remainder of the year and other routine items. Detailed information on this amendment is enclosed with this Ordinance.

Mayor Pedro made a motion to suspend the rules to allow for the passage of Ordinance

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13-25 as an emergency measure. Mr. Wagner seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Mayor Pedro - yes, Mrs. Duncan – yes, Mr. Borowski – yes, Mr. Frey – yes, Mr. Wagner – yes, Mr. Rozic – yes and Mr. Bruno – yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Mayor Pedro made a motion to move for the passage of Ordinance 13-25 as an emergency measure. Mr. Wagner seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Mr. Wagner – yes, Mr. Frey – yes, Mr. Borowski – yes, Mr. Bruno – yes, Mrs. Duncan – yes, Mayor Pedro – yes and Mr. Rozic - yes. The motion passed unanimously

E. RESOLUTION 35-25 A RESOLUTION ADOPTING A CYBERSECURITY PROGRAM FOR THE CITY OF WATERVILLE

This Resolution authorizes the adoption of a cybersecurity program for the City of Waterville in compliance with Ohio Revised Code (ORC) Section 9.64 which was recently enacted through the passage of House Bill 96 by the Ohio Legislature. Local governments in Ohio have been targeted by cybercriminals in recent years due to limited budgets, outdated IT systems and having access to a wide range of personal information. ORC 9.64 requires the adoption of minimum cybersecurity standards by all counties and cities in Ohio by January 1, 2026.

Mrs. Duncan moved to adopt Resolution 35-25. Mr. Borowski seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

F. RESOLUTION 36-25 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO PATROLMEN'S BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION SERGEANTS UNIT AND AUTHORIZING THE MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO THE PROPOSED COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT

G. RESOLUTION 37-25 A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT WITH THE OHIO PATROLMEN'S BENEVOLENT ASSOCIATION PATROL UNIT AND AUTHORIZING THE MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO THE PROPOSED COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT

These Resolutions authorize the approval of the proposed renewal of collective bargaining agreements with the Sergeants Unit and the Patrol Unit in the Police Department who are represented by the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association. The respective agreements are attached to these Resolutions for your review and consideration. These tentative agreements have been ratified by each bargaining unit. The 36-month agreements contain wage increases for both bargaining units in an effort to increase starting pay and to ensure that the City's pay scale remains competitive with other area police departments.

Mr. Rozic moved to adopt Resolution 36-25. Mr. Bruno seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Mr. Bruno moved to adopt Resolution 37-25. Mr. Rozic seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Executive Session

Mr. Borowski made a motion to move into Executive Session for Consideration of a Matter per ORC 121.22(G)(1): To Consider the Appointment, Employment or Compensation of a Public Employee at 10:34 p.m. Mr. Wagner seconded the motion.

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Roll Call: Mayor Pedro – yes, Mr. Frey – yes, Mr. Bruno – yes, Mrs. Duncan – yes, Mr. Borowski – yes, Mr. Wagner – yes and Mr. Rozic – yes. The motion passed unanimously.

Return to Regular Session

Mr. Wagner made a motion to come out of Executive Session and resume the regular Council meeting at 11:10 p.m. Mr. Frey seconded the motion which passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Other Business - none

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before Council, Mr. Wagner made a motion to close the meeting at 11:14 p.m. Mr. Frey seconded the motion, which passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Jon D. Gochenour, Clerk of Council

Timothy G. Pedro, Mayor