

Regular Council

May 11

26

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 Mr. Borowski. The Pledge of Allegiance was then recited and led by Eagle Scout, Andrew Wiczynski.

Present at roll call were Mary Duncan, Wayne Wagner, Scott Jahns, Tim Pedro, Nicholas Sargent, Rod Frey and Todd Borowski.

Also present this evening was Jon Gochenour, Municipal Administrator; Austin Klapp, 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.

Presentation:

A. Andrew Wiczynski - Eagle Scout Project: Flag Retirement Box

Eagle Scout, Andrew Wiczynski, was in attendance to present his Eagle Scout Project, a "Flag Retirement Box" for use by the City in honor of the upcoming Memorial Day Holiday.

B. Julia Wiley- Waterville America 250th Committee

Julia Wiley, of the "Waterville America 250th Committee", was present to discuss the activities planned in the local community to help commemorate the 250th Anniversary of American Independence.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Sargent made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 27, 2026 Regular Council meeting and May 4, 2026 Special Council Meeting. Mr. Jahns seconded the motion, which passed by a voice vote with Mr. Frey abstaining from the May 4, 2026 Special Council Meeting Minutes.

Citizens Comments

Dave Weber, 4902 Rudgate Blvd., Toledo, Ohio, gave an update on the activities of his organization which seeks to delay the demolition of the Interurban Bridge by the Ohio Department of Transportation.

Leatra Harper, 729 Pine Valley Dr, Bowling Green, Ohio; discussed the negative impacts Data Centers will have on an area.

Staff Reports

Administrator: Jon Gochenour

- Reviewed the streets included in the 2026 City Sidewalk Improvement Program. A bid opening for the program is scheduled for May 5.
- The staff is working on an "updated" and "revised" newsletter format.
- The City of Waterville's main Facebook page is now up.

Law Director: Austin Klapp

- No Report

Regular Council

May 11

26

Finance Director: Tiffany Bachman

- Reviewed details from the March 2026 Month End Finance Report highlighting fund balances and income tax revenues.

Treasurer: Steve Schult

- Reviewed details from the March 2026 Month End Treasurer's Report.

Police Chief: Joe Valvano

- The Police Department hosted a safety seminar for seniors at the Browning Community on April 23. Officer Glover focused on current scams involving AI and how it is being used to target people.
- Stated registration is open for 2026 Safety City program, which will be held June 22 – 26, 2026.
- "National Drug Take Back Day" was April 25. The Police Department collected a record 40 pounds of prescription and over the counter drugs. Year to date, the Department collected 130 pounds of prescription and over the counter drugs.

Fire Chief: Doug Meyer

- Attended FDIC International Conference in Indianapolis.
- Assisted 180th Fighter Wing with their "Elephant Walk Mission".
- ISO Audit went well. A full report will not be available till November

Public Works Director: Rob Binkley

- Registration for the 2026 Fishing Derby is now open which is scheduled for August 29 at Waterworks Park.

Executive Session

Mr. Wagner made a motion to move into Executive Session for Consideration of a Matter per ORC 121.22(G)(1): Discussions Regarding a Regulated Public Licensee and ORC 121.22 (G)(2): Purchase or Sale of Property for Public Purposes at 7:52 p.m. Mrs. Duncan seconded the motion.

Roll Call: Mayor Pedro – yes, Mr. Frey – yes, Mrs. Duncan – yes, Mr. Borowski – yes, Mr. Sargent – yes, Mr. Jahns – yes and Mr. Wagner – 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 8:47 p.m. Mr. Borowski seconded the motion which passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Communications from Council Members/Committees

Mrs. Duncan

- No Report

Mr. Frey

- Mentioned that the annual joint meeting of the Fallen Timber Union Cemetery District is scheduled for May 11, 2026 at 6 p.m. in the City Council Room.

Mr. Wagner

- No Report

Mr. Borowski

- No Report

Mr. Sargent

- Discussed possible ways to ensure there is a quorum for the Safety Committee

Regular Council

May 11

26

Meetings. He suggested sending meeting notices earlier or having quarterly meetings.

Mr. Jahns

- Asked if the Dollar Tree was going to mow their lawn before their “Grand Opening”.

Mayor Pedro

- Mentioned the Waterville Library 100th Anniversary event on June 6.
- An Eagle Scout will give a presentation at the May 11 Council Meeting.
- Attended the Kroger Rededication on April 24.
- Dollar Tree ribbon cutting ceremony will be Thursday, April 30 at 9:30 a.m.
- The AW Auto Spa rededication ceremony will be held on May 8 at 4:30 p.m.
- Bob Miller Interiors is still working on their new space on Mechanic Street.

OLD BUSINESS:

- A. ORDINANCE 01-26 AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY FROM THE CITY OF WATERVILLE TO THE WATERVILLE COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION
Third Reading

This Ordinance would authorize the transfer of the City owned property located at 6730 and 6824 Anthony Wayne Trail to the Waterville Community Improvement Corporation (WCIC) for eventual sale for residential development. The transfer of ownership to the Waterville CIC will allow the property to be sold for its highest market value rather than through a public bidding process which historically has not met the appraised value of this property.

Mr. Frey made a motion to move for the passage of Ordinance 01-26. Mrs. Duncan seconded the motion.

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

- B. ORDINANCE 02-26 AN ORDINANCE GRANTING TO THE WATERVILLE GAS AND OIL COMPANY, AN OHIO CORPORATION, ITS SUCCESSORS AND ASSIGNS, THE RIGHT TO LAY, CONSTRUCT, MAINTAIN, OPERATE, REPAIR AND REMOVE MAINS, PIPES, REGULATORS AND ALL OTHER NECESSARY FIXTURES, APPLIANCES AND APPURTENANCES IN, OVER, THROUGH AND UNDER THE STREETS, ALLEYS AND PUBLIC GROUNDS OF THE CITY OF WATERVILLE, OHIO, FOR TRANSMISSION AND SUPPLY OF GAS OR THE MANUFACTURING OF GAS FOR LIGHT, FUEL OR POWER PURPOSES FOR SAID CITY AND ITS INHABITANTS FOR A PERIOD OF FIVE (5) YEARS
Second Reading

- C. ORDINANCE 03-26 AN ORDINANCE FIXING THE PRICE AT WHICH GAS SHALL BE FURNISHED TO THE CITY OF WATERVILLE, OHIO AND ITS INHABITANTS BY THE WATERVILLE GAS AND OIL COMPANY, AN OHIO CORPORATION, AFTER ACCEPTANCE HEREOF AND UNTIL FIVE YEARS THEREAFTER
Second Reading

Ordinances 02-26 and 03-26 involve the renewal of the Waterville Gas Company's

current five (5) year franchise and associated rate agreements with the City of Waterville. Under the City Charter, the franchise agreement between the City and Waterville Gas must be renewed every five years. The current franchise and rate agreements will expire on September 12, 2026. Ordinance 02-26, the proposed new franchise agreement, is the same as the current 2021 agreement with the exception of the planned renewal dates. The main changes found in the rate agreement, Ordinance 03-26, are a \$2.00 per month increase in the "customer charge" from \$12.50 to \$14.50. The "volumetric rate" charge of \$6.724 per Mcf (thousand cubic feet) is a decrease from the \$7.55 per Mcf charge in 2021. The volumetric rate indicated in the ordinance is the current market rate as of April 1, 2026 which increases or decreases quarterly based on gas costs charged by suppliers, Ohio use taxes and an "uncollectible accounts adjustment" fee which are indicated in Section 2 of the rate agreement ordinance. The fee charged for uncollectible accounts in the new rate ordinance is \$0.0086 per Mcf which is an increase of \$0.0076 from the rate charged in 2021. The current franchise and rate agreements from 2021 are also enclosed for your review with the changes highlighted in yellow. This is the second reading of these ordinances.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. ORDINANCE 04-26 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING PART THREE OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WATERVILLE – SCHEDULE II OF THE TRAFFIC SCHEDULES: SPEED LIMITS BY ADDING SHARDED USE PATHS

First Reading Scheduled for April 27, 2026; Second Reading Scheduled for May 11, 2026; Third Reading and Legislative Action scheduled for June 8, 2026

Due to the increasing concern in the community regarding the speed of motorized, electric "e-bikes" on shared use paths, it is the recommendation of the administration to establish a speed limit of 15 miles per hour on all of the shared use paths located throughout the City. E-bikes are classified in three different categories: Class 1, Class 2 and Class 3. Class 1 and 2 e-bikes can reach speeds of 20 miles per hour and are permitted on shared use paths under the Ohio Revised Code (ORC). Under the ORC, Class 3 e-bikes are prohibited on shared use paths, require the operator to be at least 16 years of age and wear a protective helmet. Due to the weight and the potential speed of an e-bike, a collision with a pedestrian has the potential to cause significant injury. Setting a standard speed limit will ensure the safety of all residents using the shared use path system which was originally designed for use by walkers, joggers and bicyclists, not motorized vehicles. The speed limit would apply to all shared use path users including conventional bicycles and scooters. All shared use paths would be marked with speed limit signs and the City would implement a public information campaign to raise awareness of the new requirements to protect overall public safety which would include outreach to the schools and informational brochures.

B. RESOLUTION 18-26 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH OHIO DRONE REPAIR FOR THE PURCHASE OF AERIAL DRONE EQUIPMENT

This Resolution authorizes the purchase of two (2) aerial drones and related equipment from Ohio Drone Repair of Akron, Ohio for a purchase price of \$44,000. The purchase of this equipment was made possible by a donation of \$40,000 from the Waterville Community Foundation. The purchase of this equipment was also recommended by the Public Safety Committee, which held both indoor and outdoor presentations of drone equipment. The aerial drone equipment is primarily intended for use by the Police and Fire Departments but can also be used by the Public Works Department for annual water tower inspections, tree maintenance and tracking street light outages. Both drones are portable and can be deployed quickly in emergency situations. The larger drone has a payload capacity of 13 pounds and can be used to quickly locate and drop floatation devices to individuals in the river, for example, during rescue situations.

Mrs. Duncan moved to adopt Resolution 18-26. Mr. Borowski seconded the motion, which passed by a unanimous voice vote.

C. RESOLUTION 19-26 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF

Regular Council

May 11

26

CASH FUNDS FROM THE GENERAL FUND (100) TO THE FIVE-YEAR CAPITAL FUND (325)

This Resolution authorizes the transfer of \$725,000 from the General Fund (100) to the Five-Year Capital Fund (325) to reimburse the capital improvement fund for the cost of the purchase of the former Sunoco gas station located at 300 Farnsworth Road. Since this purchase was not included in the original 2025 budget, the requested transfer is required in order to provide the necessary "cash flow" to finance the capital projects included in the 2026 Five-Year Capital Budget.

Mr. Jahns moved to adopt Resolution 19-26. Mr. Sargent seconded the motion, which passed by unanimous voice vote.

Other Business – Mr. Wagner discussed looking at the budget to possibly add funds to place orders for Downtown flowers in August for 2027. He also discussed the data center moratorium ending soon and the possibility of making some changes to zoning.

Adjournment

There being no further business to come before Council, Mrs. Duncan made a motion to close the meeting at 9:14 p.m. Mr. Wagner seconded the motion which passed by a unanimous voice vote.

Jon D. Gochenour, Clerk of Council

Timothy G. Pedro, Mayor