

MINUTES OF COUNCIL

A regular session of Troy Council was held on Monday, April 21, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall.

Members Attending: Marshall, Phillips, Pierce, Schilling, Severt, Snee, Twiss, and Whidden.

Upon motion of Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mrs. Snee, Mrs. Westfall was excused from this meeting by unanimous roll call vote.

Presiding Officer:	William G. Rozell	President of Council
Others Present:	Robin I. Oda	Mayor
	Patrick E. J. Titterington	Director of Public Service and Safety
	Grant D. Kerber	Director of Law

INVOCATION & PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE: An invocation was given by Council Member Pierce followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES: The Clerk gave a summary of the minutes of the April 7, 2025, meeting of Troy City Council. There were no corrections or additions to these minutes. Upon motion of Mr. Whidden, seconded by Mr. Pierce, the minutes were approved by unanimous roll call vote.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Community Partnerships Committee: Mrs. Marshall, Chairman, reported that Committee recommends legislation be prepared expressing the intent of the City of Troy to negotiate jointly with other cities in the region on one price schedule under which street lighting services shall be provided. The current ten-year street lighting contract expires at year end. The Miami Valley Communications Council (MVCC) negotiated the expiring contract and is willing to negotiate the next contract on behalf of the participating communities.

Report submitted by Severt, Twiss and Marshall.

Discussion. Mr. Schilling asked if the new contract could lead to a reduced cost for the new metal poles that will be installed along part of the West Main Street Improvement Project. Mr. Titterington indicated that the cost of those poles was based on the pricing in the current expiring ten-year contract and that pricing under a new contract would likely be more costly based on inflation over the past ten years.

Recreation & Parks Committee: Mr. Whidden reported that Committee recommends legislation be prepared authorizing the Board of Park Commissioners to advertise for bids and enter into a contract for a replacement bucket truck for the Park Department in an amount not to exceed \$185,000.

Report submitted by Marshall, Whidden and Westfall.

Citizen Comments on Committee Reports or Agenda Items: None.

RESOLUTION NO. R-20-2025

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS OF THE CITY OF TROY, OHIO TO ADVERTISE FOR BIDS AND ENTER INTO A CONTRACT FOR A REPLACEMENT BUCKET TRUCK FOR THE PARK DEPARTMENT

This Resolution was given first title reading.

Mr. Twiss moved for suspension of rules requiring three readings. Motion seconded by Mr. Phillips.

Yes: Pierce, Schilling, Phillips, Severt, Twiss, Snee, Whidden and Marshall.

No: None.

Mr. Twiss moved for adoption. Motion seconded by Mr. Severt.

Yes: Schilling, Phillips, Severt, Twiss, Snee, Whidden, Marshall and Pierce.

No: None.

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NO. O-6-2025

ORDINANCE ACCEPTING STORM SEWER, SANITARY SEWER, AND BIKE PATH EASEMENTS AS SHOWN ON THE BOARD OF EDUCATION REPLAT AND AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY OF THE CITY OF TROY, OHIO TO EXECUTE ANY RELATED DOCUMENTS

This Ordinance was given first title reading on April 7, 2025.

Given second title reading.

ORDINANCE NO. O-14-2025

AN ORDINANCE EXPRESSING THE CITY OF TROY'S INTENT TO NEGOTIATE JOINTLY WITH OTHER CITIES IN THE REGION ON A ONE PRICE SCHEDULE UNDER WHICH ELECTRIC LIGHT SERVICES SHALL BE FURNISHED TO THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF STREET LIGHTING

This Ordinance was given first title reading.

Mr. Pierce moved for suspension of rules requiring three readings. Motion seconded by Mr. Twiss.

Yes: Phillips, Severt, Twiss, Snee, Whidden, Marshall, Pierce and Schilling.

No: None.

Mr. Twiss moved for adoption. Motion seconded by Mr. Schilling.

Yes: Severt, Twiss, Snee, Whidden, Marshall, Pierce, Schilling and Phillips.

No: None.

ORDINANCE ADOPTED

ORDINANCE NO. O-15-2025

AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING OF PARCEL ID. NO. D08-105472 IN THE CITY OF TROY, OHIO FROM R-4, SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT, AND OC-1, OFFICE-COMMERCIAL DISTRICT, TO M-2, LIGHT INDUSTRIAL DISTRICT

This Ordinance was given first title reading.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR:

Mayor Oda commented that she was glad to see the pavement grinding on W. Main Street as that is an indication that the West Main Street Improvement Project is nearing completion.

COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY: Mr. Titterington noted:

-There had been a number of social media posts regarding the annual Spring Cleanup at Riverside and Rosehill Cemeteries with some citizens expressing displeasure regarding how this was handled, including statements that the City had not strictly enforced the cleanup in the past and that items were taken from grave sites that had been left in prior years. Mr. Titterington commented that for at least 20 years the City has scheduled a spring cleanup (3-15 through 4-14) and a fall cleanup (10-1 through 10-31) when Cemetery Department employees remove items from the gravesites to allow for maintenance and advance notice is provided that citizens should remove items from the gravesite prior to the start of the cleanup period and that citizens may return permitted items to gravesite after the cleanup; this notice is provided well ahead of the cleanup to citizens by permanent posted signage, news releases, social media postings, and the cleanup period is stated within the rules and regulations available at Riverside Cemetery and which are given to persons when lots are purchased; the rules and regulations are specific as to what can and cannot be placed at 20,400 gravesites to show respect for the gravesites and to discourage vandalism, graffiti and theft and to allow for the maintenance of cemetery grounds; the rules and regulations allow for approved landscaped areas for the placement of allowed items; the removal of items is not disrespectful; some years weather and workloads for burial preparations may not allow for staff to be as diligent in enforcing the rules and regulations as they have been this year; and the enforcement does follow the rules and regulations and timeframe that has been in place for several years.

-Effective 6-2-2025, City Hall hours are changing to be open Monday – Thursday 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. and Friday 7:30 a.m. noon. The change is intended to provide citizens with additional access to City Hall offices and services during the additional open hours.

-Council authorized accepting the donation of a new ambulance from the UVMC Foundation and contracting to provide primary EMS services to the UVMC Campus. The ambulance has been received and is scheduled to be placed in service May 1 provided all additional equipment is received.

COMMENTS OF MEMBERS OF COUNCIL:

-Councilmembers noted that the past week included some fires, including one where some firefighters suffered minor injuries, and first responders responding to a death tragedy. Councilmembers stated they are thankful for the response to these items and that there were not more severe injuries. It was also noted that donations are being accepted for the fire victims.

-Mrs. Snee commented that the change in City Hall hours may be helpful to some citizens.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

-Branden Meyer, 249 Chapel Court, presented a petition to stop the connection of New Castle Drive in the Reserve at Washington development to New Castle Drive in the Fox Harbor Subdivision. The petition noted concerns of increased traffic and safety hazards, preservation of the neighborhood character, potential decline in property values, and lack of current community support. Mr. Meyer also commented that non-residents may use the connection as a cut-through to do vandalism in the neighborhood. Mr. Titterington noted that the connection is a part of the approved developments, and stated staff will review the petition.

-Several citizens spoke regarding the Cemetery Spring Cleanup, commenting that rules have not been evenly enforced; that they have photos of gravesites where items were left that are similar to items removed from their gravesites; that items that have been allowed to remain at gravesites for several years were thrown away; that the cleanup went beyond general maintenance and was more of a disregard for those buried and their families; childrens' toys were removed from the stone of a child; that flags were disrespectfully thrown in a dumpster; that the City Administration was not listening to the residents' concerns; and had questions regarding having solar lights, landscaped areas, and who is permitted to work on a gravesite. Those who spoke were: Brad Boehringer, 105 Crestwood Drive; Chad Morgan, 1114 Long Street; Ken Miller, 510 Michigan Avenue; Laura Schide, 1142 Bunker Hill Drive; and Julie Anderson, 74 Tamworth Drive. Mr. Morgan stated that he had contacted the Ohio State office in charge of cemeteries.

In response, it was noted that the rules and regulations are always in place and items placed that do not follow those regulations may be removed at any time; it is during the two annual cleanups that there is a concerted effort to remove non-permitted items. It was suggested that citizens always consult with the Cemetery Foreman/Department prior to placing items in the cemeteries. Regarding the flags, it was stated that those in the dumpster were not placed there by City employees, but care was taken that the flags did not touch the ground. It was also commented that items may be placed on a gravestone base that is larger than the stone or a landscaped area defined in the rules and regulations. There was discussion that the City does not place the small flags in the veteran flag stands and is it usually youth groups that remove and replace those flags. It was noted that the City does not have records on the heirs for many of the gravesites as there are over 20,000 gravesites, many dating back years, so it is not possible to individually reach out to the current person responsible for the sites. It was also noted that only the owner of a gravesite is to maintain it. Mr. Twiss commented that he was sorry items were removed from gravesites that citizens may have wanted to keep, and indicated he did not believe items were intentionally removed and that the best effort is being made to maintain the cemeteries.

There being no further business, Council adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Clerk of Council

President of Council

Ken Miller 510 Michigan ave

Am flags in the dumpster – why not get rid of properly, does it matter value of the flag,

PT- did not hit ground all 1142 Bunker Hill Dr dis of as should

1142 Bunker Hill Drive.

Lary or Laura Schide

Rozell in landscape area or on stone.

PT – we can find out if know about it.

They do get taken,

was against stone and taken and we took pix of others like that,

was there for 5 years a

nd then thrown away

Rozel - foundation you requested allowed.

But

spec example

leave address and ck

twiss visual aid of what acceptable

PT so many kind of decorations

Rozell – office billboard signs and say see office

severt – R&R enforced 365 days and cleanup during . certain time.

PT if impediment – yes

Severt should check before cleanup

before put something out

flags-

Charlotte – some pulled that were ever tattered, put in trailer, not flag change over

where we pull and new one replaced

Julie Anderson 74 Tamworth, apprec listen to residents, Rozel and Severt

asked

Regarding the Cemetery Dept clean up between 3-15 and 4-14; same process and runs over 20 years

very specific as to what can be there,

respect for the dec

stewart v

andal and graffiti and the like

publish the NR a;;4

NR

Unfortunate to keep a memorial ark, maintain as park

BP – How long has new manager been out - staff sev promoted 2023

possib of lax enforcement in past that led to false sense of security and now more strict enforce.

PT - not condemn prev; always some it and mis with whether or have to start mow. var of possible reasons, some?

serer who pro - cem rec and PT not council, way to have dimensions.

Mon-Thurs 7:30-5:30 Fri 7:30 – noon; will post extensively

Council accepted by UVMC Foundation of new ambulance and sign contract to provide service to UVMC campus, ambulance and awaiting some equipment and go in service May 1, now serving the campus

Twissnoff

OZ

Pierce fire could have been worse

Whidden couple for families that experience some tragedy, glad to see community response, and glad

Westfield

Marshfield

Sherrill hours may be helpful

S

Rozell – appeared first responded and people who suffered tragedy

new castle to wash and gap

all cut, little traffic,

Brandon 249 Chapel Ct.

Reserve of Washington neighbor chairman of HOA

do not support connection on new castle, speed limit for collection to be stopped ending, danger to childger, advertised as small neighborhood

non resident cut thru the path and do vandalism in the neighborhood, p

Boehringer – shy to family (fire) Walmart taking

Comments raise more questions, said hit or miss enforcement, better to post notice of strict enforcement, went beyond cleanup, removed heavy concrete urns, should have investigation, issues with moveable dec, throw away heavy monuments, if I want to do some landscaping I was told I cannot because I am not the owner of the grave. Is there

Rozell – they give you regs when you buy a lot.

Boeh – if not enforced and hit or miss should have been warning that strictly enforce is wrong and there should be

PT – hit or miss as far as weather did not say before lax, could be a variety of

became an issue because one person had something removed

we have enforced same policy rules for several years.

Chad Morgan 1114 Long, guy on social media that wrote post

when 7 years old small statue there, always there, Foreman said sorry thrown it away. A member of Council offered to replace

on family plot marker 46,

someone threw little toys off a child's grave

Called state Cem -- this morning said it should have been given notice.

got on

want to landscape,

got email today that said need letter to landscape my mom's grave.

Rozell- it goes to next generation

have 100 pictures of violations for what I had thrown away,

just walked

saw stones knocked off by mowers.

PT – need to have permission from the custodian of the grave

20,400 grave stones.

Re notification – did advert month or more before, social media, website, med, announce at council, signed.

Pix of viol have been investigated and if violate treat all the same way, it did take some longer with whether or burials, gravestones are knocked over, see better when cleanup, also vandalism happens besides from mowers.

public needs to remove or be sure allowable before clean up date

Whidden – what need signed, no body can just go in pour foundation,

Severt – contact for every sight – no maybe not current
PT year round the rules are in effect,

Ken Miller 510 Michigan ave
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1142 Bunker Hill Drive.
Rozell in landscape area or on stone.

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and then thrown away
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charlotte – some pulled that were ever tattered, put in trailer, not flag change over
where we pull and new one replaced

Julie Anderson 74 Tamworth, apprec listen to residents, Rozel and Severt
asked

Want to know paper and dates.

Council has tried to figure out.
Business said was held room

West Milton tear apart.
said Maor and Serv Dir
Oda more involved with community
Not Foreman fault, did you know for 20 years not thrown stuff away

Rozell pls check

Twiss – sorry that things were removed and not what want
I don't always get a ticket when speed
not perfect
no intentionality

Brandon 249 Cchapel Ct.

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COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY:

Mr. Titterington commented:

-Staff is in the midst of Cemetery Spring Cleanup when decorations are to be removed.

-The City-wide Spring Cleanup will be April 7-11. This is when the toter limit can be exceeded and unbundled brush will be collected.

-Regarding the West Main Street Phase 2 Project, asphalt plants will open next week, the contractor has been working on the boulevard near McDonald's, the roadway will have the chip and seal process applied and then the final course of asphalt. Regarding the street light poles in the project area, most of the poles will be black aluminum, but the completion will be delayed due to the delivery time.

-The storm event the past weekend included over 2" of rain on April 5, with 5-7" of rain prior to that. The Miami Conservancy District reported the storm as the 12th largest event in 103 years of data collected. He commended staff working extra hours on April 5 to respond to calls. The Westbrook area was hit harder than other areas in the community with water in some basements related to sanitary sewers surging and not the storm water system. He stated this is still being investigated. There was some flooding in the area of the Somerset Development with a stormwater pipe that had not yet been anchored, but the contractor quickly cleared the pipe.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

-Mr. Severt stated his appreciation for the City determining to use the black metal street light poles on West Main Street; noted that several Leadership Troy class members were at this meeting; and thanked the City and Troy Development Council for working on retention and expansion of local businesses and the resultant low unemployment.

-Mrs. Snee and Mrs. Westfall thanked those who attended the March 22 quarterly meeting hosted by the At-Large Council members.

-Mrs. Westfall noted some subjects that came up at the March 22 quarter meeting, including some dirty sidewalks in the downtown; that a walking police presence downtown from 3:30 – 5 pm may be good; the annexation process; communications with citizens in an emergency; how property complaints can be made; information on City expenses; and the reason for pink flags on Archer Park.

In response Mr. Titterington commented that the Park Department will monitor downtown trash containers daily; there is a police presence in the downtown as staffing allows; the City follows the Type 2 annexation process; the 911 Board is recommending an update to the emergency communications system for situations such as a City-wide boil advisory; complaints can be submitted by calling in, in person, or through the website, with the City not making the complainant name public; information regarding expenses over \$75,000 is part of the posted Council packet; and the pink flags on Archer Park have to do with the transfer of all the parcels into one name.

-Mrs. Marshall congratulated the first responders who were recognized at a program last week.

-Mr. Whidden asked about the repaving of a large road area where there was a water main break near the Water Plant, and was advised this work will be scheduled with the asphalt plants opening.

-Mr. Pierce thanked the At-Large Council members for holding a meeting.

-Mr. Phillips stated the response to the flooding at the Somerset Development was excellent.

-Mr. Twiss stated that he is very supportive of the Strawberry Festival and the Truck Yard Events; his "no" votes were because he does not support the sale of alcohol on public property.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

-Richard Pittenger, 940 Dartmouth Road, stated that he and at least five neighbors experienced sewage backup in their basements on April 5 due to the storm. He asked that the City check to see what caused this. Mr. Titterington stated the City is looking into what caused the basement floodings.

There being no further business, Council adjourned at p.m.

Clerk of Council

President of Council
