MINUTES OF COUNCIL

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

Members Attending: Marshall, Phillips, Schilling, Severt, Snee, Twiss, Westfall and Whidden.
Upon motion of Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Severt, Mr. Pierce, 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 Whidden, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENTATION: Mayor Oda announced that Lori Barnett of Beekman Dr. is the recipient of the Rumpke "Look Who Is Recycling" quarterly reward program for the 2nd Quarter 2025.

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS:
Recreation & Parks Committee: Mrs. Westfall, Chairman, reported that Committee considered the recommendation of the Board of Park Commissioners that the deed restrictions for the sale of Brukner Park to the Troy-Miami County Public Library contained in Ordinance No. O-31-2024 be amended as requested by the Library. The request was to remove language that if the property ceased to be used or occupied for the use and purpose of promoting non-profit, library, educational, extra-curricular and interscholastic activities and other uses incidental and related thereto, the property will revert to and be vested in the City of Troy. Committee does not believe it is in the best interest of the City to amend the deed restriction as requested and does not recommend that Ordinance No. O-31-2024 be amended. Committee noted that this does not preclude the sale of Brukner Park to the Troy-Miami County Public Library based on the provisions of Ordinance No. O-31-2024.
Report submitted by Marshall, Whidden and Westfall.

Personnel Committee: Mrs. Snee, Chairman, gave an oral report that Committee recommends consent to the following appointments and reappointments of Mayor Oda to the City Beautification Committee for two-year terms commencing immediately and ending July 30, 2027:
-Reappointments: Barbara Redick, Barrie VanKirk, Mary Davis, Peggy Wolke and Lisa Bricker.
-Appointment: Kathy Whidden.
Motion seconded by Mr. Twiss.
Yes: Marshall, Snee, Schilling, Severt, Westfall, Twiss and Phillips.
No: None
Abstain: Whidden (abstained on the appointment of Kathy Whidden to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest as she is his mother; supports all the reappointments.) MOTION ADOPTED

Streets & Sidewalks Committee: Mr. Phillips, Chairman, provided a status report that Committee met July 14 to provide an opportunity for Council to ask questions and receive answers related to the design of Prouty Plaza being included in the Downtown Streetscape and Safety Renovation Project, as provided by Resolution No. R-40-2025. Staff provided a presentation outlining the three years of discussion, input and directions, including 10 public input sessions and design elements. Staff also clarified the various elements of the project. (No recommendation to be made.)
Submitted by Schilling, Westfall and Phillips.
<u>Discussion</u>. Mr. Rozell asked if Mr. Whidden or Mr. Twiss had any questions on the project as they were not able to attend the committee discussion, and both indicated they had no questions. Mr. Rozell asked if all of Council had received the estimate on the cost of the water feature. Mr. Titterington noted that as the legislation (R-40-2025) before Council is for the Prouty Plaza design, which will provide a cost estimate, the very preliminary estimate for the Prouty Plaza work is $1 - $1.5 Million and the very preliminary estimate is that the water feature would be about $100,000 of that amount. In response to Mr. Rozell, Mayor Oda stated she had no comments on the design.
-Mrs. Westfall stated that she is very supportive of the downtown and investing in the downtown and creating spaces that bring people to the downtown, but she cannot support the water feature as it lacks transparency, community input and financial responsibility; it was just proposed in February; proposal begins with $165,000 for design but no complete proposal for construction cost, water usage or long-term maintenance. Mrs. Westfall stated she conducted her own research information based on similar water features in Ohio and the Mid-West, which indicated installation

costs of $225,000-$375,000; prevailing wages would add another 20-35%; a non-recirculating system using 1.5-2 MG of water per summer would be $9,000-$12,000 in water usage, plus maintenance, operating costs and other items would add $21,000 - $30,000; none of this information has been provided by the consultant; and Council may not receive any of the costs before the project is bid; the City has been asked to fund baseball fields that would serve many youth and which is a more pressing need; the community wants money spent responsibly; she supports progress with a focus on real needs to see that taxpayer dollars are spent responsibly; and she suggests the legislation have three readings for public input.

-Mr. Schilling commented that he does not believe the water feature is necessary for the project; Prouty Plaza has not been a place to just stop and relax but is visited by those attending the many downtown events; the attraction of the downtown is not Prouty Plaza, but the businesses; business owners do not believe a water feature will have a positive impact on attracting persons to come downtown; cost is a factor; the feature will only operate three months a year; the City administration has not provided details or cost; an incoming Council Member posed a good question regarding why the need for two water features downtown; surveys have not supported a water feature; the quantity of water that will be used and the cost of the water is a concern; if Council wants a water feature for citizens, Council should consider a splash pad construction in a low traffic area park; other park improvements are to wait for the completion of the results of the Recreation & Park Master Plan, so he questions why this item is being moved forward; if the City wants to help the downtown businesses that should be by setting development funds aside to help business owners make improvements; and he plans to offer an amendment to remove the water feature from the Prouty Plaza design.

-Mr. Severt stated he favors a water feature to add to the downtown, and it was supported by a local survey. Noting that Mr. Schilling favors an expensive splash pad at another location and Mrs. Westfall supports funding baseball improvements, Mr. Severt stated that is indicative of issues that may separate Council and the community as Council as looks at possible park and recreation improvements.

-Mrs. Snee noted that the legislation before Council is the design of Prouty Plaza and that design is what will provide more definitive information about the cost of the water feature, how it works, and operational costs, and she would rather have Prouty Plaza designed to have the information and that would be the time to take another look at it if wished. She stated she could support a limited water feature.

-Mr. Whidden stated he had hoped citizens would reach out to him about the water feature, but that has not been the case. Persons he has reached out have been supportive.

-Mr. Phillips stated that he has not directly received any comments, and noted that people he has talked with have been positive about the water feature.

-Mrs. Marshall stated that no one has contacted her on the subject. Persons she talked with in her neighborhood and friends who live in communities that have water features have had positive comments. She stated it can be difficult to make decisions without receiving citizen comments.

-Mr. Twiss stated he has had one no and two yes comments. He commented that he could support the water feature, but agrees with Mrs. Snee that it is appropriate to have the design done to have a full understanding of project costs.

-Mr. Schilling stated that if the design is done then the argument will be to proceed with construction since the design was done. He suggested the question is when to stop and believes that is now, and Council can look at park related improvements after the completion of the Park and Recreation Survey and Master Plan work. He stated his concern of people treating the feature more of a splash pad.

-Mr. Twiss asked that what is under consideration not be called a splash pad because it is not that; that it is a water feature and should be so identified.

Citizen Comments on Committee Reports or Agenda Items:

Regarding Resolution No. R-40-2025:

-Brad Boehringer, 105 Crestwood Drive, questioned doing anything regarding Prouty Plaza if it is to be used as a staging are for the Downtown Safety & Streetscape Project; suggested that the water feature be called a splash pad as he believes that is what it is.

-Madison Hickman, (incoming Third Ward Council Member), 402 Lincoln Avenue, commented that while she had not personally supported the Prouty Plaza project but, after speaking to several persons in the third ward and hearing the positive comments, she supports the Prouty Plaza project including the water feature as long as it is small, safe and handicapped accessible. She also stated she does not believe citizens will support a tax levy for park and recreation improvements.

-Deb Pike, 412 Ellis Street, asked about the difference between a splash pad and water feature, questioned having a water feature in Prouty Plaza and suggested it would be better suited for a park.

-Steve Hendriksen, 975 Dickerson Drive, commented that there should be a way to have a water feature economically and he hopes the engineers do not design a $300,000 feature.

RESOLUTION NO. R-40-2025

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY OF THE CITY OF TROY, OHIO TO ENTER INTO AN AMENDMENT TO THE PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH LJB, INC. OF MIAMISBURG, OHIO FOR THE DESIGN OF THE DOWNTOWN SAFETY AND STREETSCAPE RENOVATION PROJECT TO INCLUDE THE PROUTY PLAZA DESIGN, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

This Resolution was given first title reading on July 7, 2025.
Given second title reading.

ORDINANCE NO. O-22-2025

AN ORDINANCE CHANGING THE ZONING OF PARCELS D08-107838, D08-107842, AND D08-107844, A TOTAL OF 86.88 ACRES IN THE CITY OF TROY, OHIO FROM THE MIAMI COUNTY ZONING OF A-2, GENERAL AGRICULTURE, TO A PLANNED DEVELOPMENT – RESIDENTIAL (PD-R) AND APPROVING THE GENERAL PLAN OF THE EAGLES LANDING SUBDIVISION PLANNED DEVELOPMENT – RESIDENTIAL (PD-R)

This Ordinance was given first title reading.

PRESENTATION: Scott Barr, Executive Director of Habitat for Humanity, Troy, provided an update regarding the recent Rock the Block (neighborhood cleanup initiative). He provided a power point to show before and after photos of some of the ten houses impacted by the project, and commented that with a $17,500 budget, the value of improvements is estimated at about $100,000. Mr. Barr thanked City staff for participating. He noted that there has also been a ripple effect of neighbors working on cleaning up their properties. Mr. Barr stated that this effort will be held in 2026 from May 4-8.

-Mr. Whidden suggested the City's annual spring cleanup be held at the same time or right after that week, based on Mr. Barr's comment that the work that happens during Rock the Block encourages others to work on their properties.

-Madison Hickman supported the suggestion of Mr. Whidden.

COMMENTS OF THE MAYOR:

Regarding the design related to Prouty Plaza, Mayor Oda commented that the prior discussions were general discussions of what could take place regarding Prouty Plaza; that the next step is to have improvements to Prouty Plaza designed so that there is a cost estimate for bidding purposes. She also commented that a delegation of students from Takahashi City, Japan will arrive August 4.

COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND SAFETY:

Mr. Titterington commented that responses to the Recreation & Parks Master Plan Survey will be accepted through July 23. Regarding the West Main Street Light Poles, Mr. Titterington stated they are on order and he has requested an update regarding delivery.

COMMENTS OF THE PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL:

Mr. Rozell thanked the City Engineer for the response to a road issue on Clarendon Road and thanked Mrs. Marshall for response to a citizen complaint. Mr. Rozell also encouraged citizens to reach out to Council Members on matters on which they have concerns.

CITIZEN COMMENTS:

-Chris Davis, 412 Ellis Street, suggested Council have town hall meetings or reach out to citizens if they want citizen comments.

-Brad Boehringer, 105 Crestwood Drive, stated that Council does not receive citizen comments as citizens do not believe they will be listened to.

-Deb Pike, 412 Ellis Street, asked about citizens being able to approve or disapprove all expenses and projects.

There being no further business, Council adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

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Clerk of Council President of Council