

MINUTES
WADSWORTH CITY COUNCIL MEETING
Tuesday January 6, 2026 at 6:30 PM

The meeting of Wadsworth City Council, Tuesday January 6, 2026 at 6:30 p.m., was held in-person in City Council Chambers.

PRESIDING: President of Council Dan Rospert

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Stugmyer, Jon Yurchiak, Jeanne Hines, Mike Reese, Chris Maxwell, Angela May, Zach Berger

OFFICIALS PRESENT: Mayor Robin Laubaugh, Public Service Director Matt Hiscock, Public Safety Director Dan Chafin, Law Director Bradley Proudfoot, Asst. Public Service Director Mike Testa, Asst. Public Service Director Jon Bellack, Clerk of Council Julie Darlington

VISITORS: None

PRESS REPRESENTATIVES: Patrick Rhonemus, Medina Gazette

President Rospert called the meeting to order at approximately 6:35 p.m. He asked everyone to stand as he led the Pledge of Allegiance and remain standing for the Invocation. He asked that phones please be silenced. The Clerk of Council called the roll.

MINUTES: Council Member Berger made a motion, which was second by Council Member Hines to adopt the minutes for the **Regular City Council December 16, 2025**. An all-in-favor vote was taken. The Council members present voted in favor of the motion. **THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING DECEMBER 16, 2025 WERE APPROVED.**

PROCLAMATION:

Mayor Laubaugh stepped to the podium and said it was her distinct honor to be able to give a Proclamation to their Football Team as well as their coaches and Athletic Department. She did not often give a fun proclamation. She said a good portion of them had the opportunity, herself included, to watch the last season. It was just really a great opportunity, fun season and what an awesome and tremendous job. The proclamation had a lot to say, so she was going to save her messages. Mayor Laubaugh presented the Proclamation.

The Wadsworth Grizzlies football team completed a truly extraordinary season marked by determination, discipline, and teamwork; and

Whereas: The Grizzlies achieved a perfect regular-season record, winning every game by 18 points or more, an accomplishment that reflects both exceptional preparation and dominant on-field performance; and

Whereas: Through unwavering effort and competitive excellence, the team secured the conference title with a hard-fought 35–17 victory over Hudson, demonstrating resilience and championship character; and

Whereas: In the closing game of the season, the Grizzlies' delivered a commanding 50–21 win over Solon, a victory that played a pivotal role in earning the team a well-deserved first-round playoff spot; and

Whereas: The Grizzlies' advanced to the regional semifinal, where their thrilling postseason journey concluded with a 42–21 battle against Avon, a game that marked the end of their historic undefeated streak but not the end of their pride, team spirit, or legacy; and

Whereas: The achievements of this team stand as a testament to the dedication of the players, the leadership of the coaching staff, and the unwavering support of families, fans, and the entire community; and

Now, Therefore, I, Robin Laubaugh, Mayor of the City of Wadsworth, deem it a privilege to proclaim

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to be set aside in the City of Wadsworth in recognition of the

Wadsworth Grizzlies Football Team

in recognition and celebration of an outstanding season filled with victory, heart, and unforgettable memories. Their accomplishments will be remembered as an enduring source of inspiration and pride for all who support them.

Signed and Sealed this January 6, 2026

Robin L. Laubaugh

Mayor of Wadsworth, Ohio

Mayor Laubaugh asked Coach Todd to say a few words and mentioned that he received an award and would let President Rospert speak about that as well as a team as a whole received an award.

Coach Todd thanked them very much and was honored on behalf of the Wadsworth City School District, Athletic Department, and their Football Team. They had four of their captains there that evening. They were second graders his first year at Wadsworth. He said what was tremendous, obviously, were that their wins had been well documented. They were an elite group of athletes. He said set that aside, there were a lot of really good athletes out there. What set those guys apart from many other groups were their work ethic, their character, and their commitment to excellence, not just on the football field, but also in everything that they did.

Coach Todd said Mayor Laubaugh mentioned that they were named the number one academic football team in the State of Ohio that year, which was something that they apply for every year. They submit their top 20 players' academic scores and put those up against other teams. He said when they thought about some of the great districts around the State of Ohio, that Wadsworth could proudly say that their football team was the number one district in the State of Ohio. This was remarkable when they were talking about over 700 public schools that applied for that position. It just goes to show the excellence that those guys go well beyond the field.

He said the community service projects that they did and were called upon a lot in the community. He reminded their guys all the time how special of a community that this was, and that every Friday night, they represented their community to all the neighboring people that they played against. They take great pride in that, of representing the great City of Wadsworth.

Coach Todd could not be more thrilled and proud to have received a special award for their program. Those guys were what made it work. They give them an opportunity, but they take full advantage of it, and that was really a testament to their upbringing. It really was a testament to the City and what they want to build their program around. He thanked them very much.

President Rospert said that Coach Todd was a very, very humble man. He thought those four gentlemen there would agree with him, they would not be at the level that they were without the heart and dedication of that man right there, and their academics, because of what he and Council Member Campbell pushed them to do.

President Rospert said that Coach Todd also needed to be recognized for the Cleveland Browns Coach of the Year award. He said it was just great to see all the accolades that they got. He asked them to share where they were going next year, because that was exciting too, especially Council Member Madigan.

Gavin Madigan said he would be attending the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Gabe Ludtke said he was planning on going to trade school.

Jacob Earnest said he was planning on attending the University of Pennsylvania.

Calex Lemp said he was attending the United States Air Force Academy.

President Rospert said they had made their City proud and they thanked them for that. They brought them together as a community when things were a little treacherous at times for all of them. They gave them something to look forward to on Friday nights and all throughout the week. President Rospert thought on behalf of everybody there, the administration, and all the citizens of Wadsworth thanked them, and said they were amazing. (Everyone stood and clapped.)

President Rospert said what a way to start their first meeting.

ELECTION OF CLERK OF COUNCIL & DEPUTY CLERK OF COUNCIL

President Rospert said the first meeting of January marks the new 2026-27 term for Council, which came with a number of assignments and appointments.

Council Member Reese made a motion which was seconded by Council Member Hines to elect Julie Darlington as Clerk of Council for the new term of 2026-2027. An all in favor vote was taken. All members voted in favor of the motion. **MOTION PASSED.**

Council Member Maxwell made a motion, which was seconded by **Council Member Stugmyer** to elect Rachel Wallace as Deputy Clerk of Council for the new term of 2026-2027. An all in favor vote was taken. All members voted in favor of the motion. **MOTION PASSED**

APPROVAL OF COMMITTEE AND COMMISSION ASSIGNMENTS

Council Member May made a motion seconded by **Council Member Berger** to accept the Committee and Commission Assignments for the 2026-2027 term. An all in favor vote was taken. All members voted in favor of the motion. **MOTION PASSED**

ELECTION OF PRESIDENT PRO-TEM

President Rospert opened the floor for nominations for President Pro Tem.

Council Member May made a motion seconded by Council Member Yurchiak to nominate Tom Stugmyer as President Pro Tem for the 2026-2027 term. An all in favor vote was taken. All members voted in favor of the motion. **MOTION PASSED**

ELECTION OF VICE PRO-TEM

Council Member Stugmyer made a motion which was seconded by Council Member Hines to nominate Jon Yurchiak as Vice President Pro Tem. An all in favor vote was taken. All members voted in favor of the motion. **MOTION PASSED**

APPROVAL: THE RULES OF COUNCIL 2026-2027

Council Member Berger made a motion which was seconded by Council Member Maxwell to approve the Rules of Council for 2026-2027. An all in favor vote was taken. All members voted in favor of the motion. **MOTION PASSED.**

MINUTES:

Council Member Hines made a motion, which was second by Council Member Stugmyer to adopt the minutes for the **Regular City Council December 16, 2025**. An all-in-favor vote was taken. The Council members present voted in favor of the motion. **THE MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING DECEMBER 16, 2025 WERE APPROVED.**

VISITORS: President Rospert invited any individuals who wished to address Council to come to the podium to state their name and address for the record and keep comments brief, approximately 2 – 3 minutes. He reminded them they do not deliberate or discuss it and would listen to anything they had to say at that time. There was none.

CORRESPONDENCE: The Clerk reported no correspondence.

COMMITTEE & COMMISSION UPDATES: President Rospert asked for updates from the Committees and Commissions.

Committee of The Whole - President Rospert reported they had met that evening.

Public Service Committee – Council Member Stugmyer reported they would next on Tuesday January 13th at 5:30 PM in Council Chambers.

Public Safety Committee – Council Member Yurchiak reported their next meeting was tentatively scheduled for Wednesday January 14th at 4:30 PM in Council Chambers but it could move to 5:00 PM.

Public Ways Committee – Council Member Maxwell reported their next meeting would be Monday January 12th at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers.

Economic Development & Planning Committee - Council Member Hines reported they would be meeting Monday January 12th at 5:00 PM.in Council Chambers.

Committee Of The Whole- President Rospert reported they met that evening at 6:00 PM in Council Chambers and discussed that evening’s legislation.

Airport Commission – Council Member Reese reported the next meeting would be Thursday April 16th at 4:00 PM in Council Chambers.

Stormwater Commission– Council Member May reported their next meeting was to be determined.

Shade Tree Commission – Council Member Hines reported their next meeting would be the fourth Tuesday of the month, but there was not a date or month scheduled at that time.

Planning Commission- President Rospert reported they would next meet on Monday January 12th at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers.

Cemetery Board – Council Member Maxwell reported they would next meet Wednesday January 21st at 5:30 PM in Council Chambers.

Cable TV Commission – Council Member Berger reported they would meet Thursday February 5th at 4:00 PM in Council Chambers.

Senior Citizens Commission – Council Member Stugmyer reported the Senior Citizens Commission would meet on Monday February 2, 2026 at 3:30 PM at the Soprema Center Senior.

Board of Zoning - President Rospert reported they would meet January 19th at 4:30 PM in Council Chambers.

Architectural Design Committee - President Rospert reported they would meet January 12th at 4:30 PM in Council Chambers.

Audit Committee - President Rospert reported they would meet January 14th at 4:30 PM in the Administrative Conference Room.

Council Member May apologized and reported the Stormwater Commission would next meet on Tuesday January 13th at 5:00 PM in Council Chambers.

LEGISLATION: President Rospert asked the Clerk to please read the legislation.

The following legislation was read for the first time and acted upon as follows

ORDINANCE NO. 26-001: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH NATIONAL CABLE TELEVISION COOPERATIVE, INC. (NCTC) FOR VIDEO SERVICES REQUIRED TO SUPPORT CITYLINK OPERATIONS AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

- Sponsored by Council Member Tom Stugmyer
- Discussed at Committee of The Whole January 6, 2026

Council Member Stugmyer made a motion which was seconded by Council Member Hines to suspend the three reading rule on Ordinance No. 26-001. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: Berger, Yurchiak, Reese, Hines, Stugmyer, May, Maxwell Nays: None. Council Member Stugmyer called the question. President Rospert called for a vote. Ayes: Reese, Stugmyer, Maxwell, May, Hines, Berger, Yurchiak. Nays: None. **Ordinance No. 26-001 declared to have been adopted January 6, 2026.**

RESOLUTION NO. 25-20: A RESOLUTION REQUESTING ADVANCE PAYMENTS OF MONEY THAT MAY BE IN THE MEDINA COUNTY TREASURY TO THE ACCOUNT OF THE CITY OF WADSWORTH AS PROVIDED FOR IN SECTION 321.34 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

- Sponsored by Council Member Zach Berger
- Discussed at Committee of The Whole Dec. 16, 2025

Council Member Berger made a motion which was seconded by Council Member Stugmyer to suspend the three reading rule on Resolution No. 25-20. A roll call vote was taken. Ayes: May, Maxwell, Berger, Yurchiak, Hines, Stugmyer, Reese. Nays: None. Council Member Berger called the question. President Rospert called for a vote. Ayes: May, Yurchiak, Hines, Reese, Stugmyer, Maxwell, Berger. Nays: None. **Resolution No. 25-20 declared to have been adopted January 6, 2026.**

ORDINANCE NO. 25-218: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 52.01 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WADSWORTH WITH REGARD TO ELECTRIC SERVICE RATES AND TO DECLARE AN EMERGENCY

- Sponsored by Council Member Tom Stugmyer
- Discussed at Public Service December 9, 2025

Council Member Stugmyer made a motion which was seconded by Council Member Hines to move Ordinance No. 25-218 to third reading. An all in favor vote was taken. All members present voted in favor of the motion **Ordinance No. 25-218 was advanced to third reading.**

ORDINANCE NO. 25-219: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 54.23 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WADSWORTH WITH REGARD TO WATER SERVICE RATES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

- Sponsored by Council Member Tom Stugmyer
- Discussed at Public Service December 9, 2025

Council Member Stugmyer made a motion which was seconded by Council Member Yurchiak to move Ordinance No. 25-219 to third reading. An all in favor vote was taken. All members present voted in favor of the motion **Ordinance No. 25-219 was advanced to third reading.**

ORDINANCE NO. 25-220: AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTIONS 53.35, 53.37 AND 53.38 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF WADSWORTH TO INCREASE SEWER RATES AND DECLARE AN EMERGENCY

- Sponsored by Council Member Tom Stugmyer
- Discussed at Public Service December 9, 2025

Council Member Stugmyer made a motion which was seconded by Council Member Hines to move Ordinance No. 25-220 to third reading. An all in favor vote was taken. All members present voted in favor of the motion **Ordinance No. 25-220 was advanced to third reading.**

OTHER BUSINESS:

President Rospert deferred to the Law Director, Brad Proudfoot to give his report as required.

Law Director Proudfoot said, pursuant to Ohio revised code section 733.62, and he quoted, the City Director of Law shall make a report to the legislative authority of the City at its first regular meeting in January, the business of his office, the monies by him collected during the year preceding and such other matters as he deemed proper to promote the good government and welfare of the City. He was thankful for the opportunity to address them all.

He said first, as the monies collected by his office that was not exactly how the Law Department worked. Any kind of prosecutions that they have, et cetera, those monies were collected by the court. They honestly probably had one of the smallest budgets of any department in the City. There was nothing for him to really report on in that area.

Law Director Proudfoot said it would probably be best for him to begin by describing his office, especially to the new members of council, to provide them with a better basic understanding of what they do in the makeup of the Wadsworth Law Department. Statutorily, the duties of the Director of Law includes serving as general legal counsel for all city officials, and then prosecuting misdemeanor cases in the Wadsworth Municipal Court. As general counsel to city officials, he was involved in preparing the ordinances that they see in front of them and the resolutions.

Paralegal Jessica Chamberlain does a great deal of that work for him. They review and prepare a wide variety of legal documents for the City, contracts, they represent the City of Wadsworth in lawsuits, and he gave legal advice on questions posed by any city officials and anyone sitting up there as well as themselves.

As the prosecutor in the Wadsworth Municipal Court, the Director of Law prosecutes misdemeanor cases against adults that were alleged to have occurred in either the City of Wadsworth or the surrounding townships. The prosecutions were actually handled by his appointed Assistant Law Director, Jared Roberts. He thought a lot of the Council Members had met him already.

He continued to say they handled all appellate cases that come through the City. He would note that they were a small but fairly efficient Law Department and only consists of four people, himself, Assistant Law Director Jared Roberts, and then two paralegals, Jessica Chamberlain and Melanie Sontag. He and Mr. Roberts were both licensed attorneys in the State of Ohio with jurist doctorates from accredited universities. They both spent multiple years in private practice before they joined the Wadsworth Law Department. As for him, he was starting his seventh year with the City, having previously served four years as the Assistant Law Director.

Ms. Chamberlain, their paralegal, was a certified paralegal from an accredited program and she had actually been with the City 29, almost 30 years. She had a wealth of knowledge if they ever had questions for her. Unfortunately, last year they lost Brenda Fisher to retirement. After 35 years of dedicated and quality service to the City, and for those of them that knew Brenda, she was an incredible, incredible public servant.

Law Director Proudfoot said they had been lucky enough to hire Ms. Melanie Sontag. She had a number of ties to Wadsworth and public service in general. She had family members that worked for the City in various capacities. When they hired her, she was not a paralegal at the time. She had her bachelor's degree in business, a master's degree in business, but she seemed like the perfect fit. So they hired her in, but one of the requirements that they had for her was that she had to become a certified paralegal within the next couple of years. She actually started that already and thought she had one class left and she would be done. She did not waste any time, she got right to it and was fairly efficient about it.

He said as to the business of the Wadsworth Law Department that he would provide them with some statistical information as it pertained to the prosecutions of the Wadsworth Municipal Court. He did not have exact numbers, but those were fairly close. In 2025, they had over 4,000 plus traffic cases, including over 100 OBI's.

They had over 500 criminal cases, five appeals were filed through the Wadsworth Municipal Court, and lastly, they had five jury trials in 2025. They currently had five pending lawsuits against the City. In 2025, their department was able to conduct two educational training seminars for local law enforcement.

In the law department itself, it was more for the newer individuals on Council; he believed that they had a culture and a history of dedication and service to the City of Wadsworth and kind of coupled that with a respect for each other and a sense of duty, not just to the law but to the City. He thought they saw that

with former Law Director Norman Brag, who was there for 46 years, former prosecutor Paige Schrock was there for 35 years, and as he just said, Brenda, when she retired, she had 35 years in as well as Jessica, 29, 30 years now.

He said the very last portion of the ORC states that the Law Director should address all other matters, as he deemed proper to promote the good government and welfare of the City. In furtherance of that last clause, he wanted to say to each member of the Council that was a carryover, Council Member Hines, Yurchiak, Stugmyer, President Rospert, he sincerely wanted to thank them for making his first two years as the Law Director successful, productive, enjoyable and enjoyed working with all of them. He thanked them for their questions. He thanked them for the great working relationship that they provided, and for working and pushing things through every day. They were always successful and easy to get to, so he thanked them very much.

He then addressed the new members, he just wanted to offer some, he was going to go off a little bit and offer some simple yet effective advice for a person who was in a new role not too long ago. First, as a councilperson, be inquisitive, but be cordial while they were doing it. Be open and receptive to differing opinions, but at the same time, do not stand back idly if they truly believed in something. Do not be afraid to ask questions because none of us had all the answers. Remember when they serve on City Council, they serve the citizens of Wadsworth, and the whole goal was just to constantly move the City forward, and it took all of them. He said no one in the City thrives without each little branch of government, from the Auditor's Office to the Law Department to Administration to themselves. He thought every elected official sitting next to him and every appointed official sitting next to him, they have knowledge and expertise in areas that they did not.

Law Director Proudfoot said to not be afraid to ask them to share their knowledge with them. Even though they had separate duties that are owed to the City, and those might not always line up with each other, it did not mean they still could not work together. He thought one of the best assets they had there were all these varied officials, and in fact, he thought most of them would freely share their time, talent and knowledge with them. Law Director Proudfoot could not tell them how many times he had walked down the hallway to get advice or input from Director Hiscock, Director Testa, Mayor Laubaugh, Auditor Fix, and not one time had any of them ever told him they did not have time to talk to him, or they were not willing to talk to him, or they weren't willing to help in some way, shape, or form. He said take advantage of that, honestly, take advantage of it if they could.

There were people up there with a wealth of knowledge that would help fill in those gaps and make sure they do well for the City. He just wanted to say he was looking forward to working with the new Council, especially President Rospert. He hoped they had a productive year for the City of Wadsworth.

Law Director Proudfoot thanked President Rospert for letting him address Council.

President Rospert asked if there was anything else from Administration or from Council.

Council Member Reese had something real quick. He had some citizens express concern that evening noticing the use of the emergency clause on pretty much every piece of legislation, and he just wanted to let his feelings be known going forward that he thought they should give the citizens their 30-day review of things that did not need to be passed immediately. He just wanted to say his piece on that because there was a lot of concern. This was not the first time he had heard of that. There were clauses for everything, but they should be giving a 30-day review when they can. That was all he wanted to say.

President Rospert said that was why they tend to go two and three readings. He said that once they pass the emergency clause, it goes into effect immediately. That was why it was done that way, just like the rate increase, that was why they wanted to go a minimum of three readings to give them the time to

discuss and come back in. The emergency clause is just so they can put it into effect immediately. It has nothing to do with trying to bulldoze and pass something over.

Council Member Reese realized that was not what it was for otherwise, there would not be a 30-day. President Rospert said correct and acknowledged Service Director Hiscock.

Service Director Hiscock said it was important to note that the statutes which require the reading of legislation and require an emergency clause if they're going to enact legislation quickly were designed for review for both the legislative purpose and the public purpose. A suspension of the rules clause, which often times were attached to much of their legislation, talked to the suspension of that 30-day period or longer, really, in terms of legislation. The emergency clause is a little bit of a misnomer. He said as an attorney himself, he told them it was not an "emergency" in the sense of Webster's Dictionary of emergency". That was not what it was designed for.

He said the emergency language comes right from the statute, which basically said they wanted this law that was duly passed by the legislative body to take effect immediately. Where that comes about is an age-old issue that he thought many folks have with government, and that was they move at a snail's pace in terms of when they compare it to the private sector. That was because they had legislative requirements and statutory requirements to abide by. The emergency clause, when attached to legislation, allows them to act dynamically. By that, it means it allowed them to pick up the pace to enact legislation immediately upon passage by the legislative body. It was two very different things.

It talked about the 30-day process, the 60-day process, the 90-day process of legislation review, open to the public inspection and discussion purposes. The emergency clause is really more about enacting it then so they could move more dynamically as a government entity and not be bogged down by the legislative process.

Council Member Reese thought it was good to be clear for the people that did not understand the clause. He knew that it did enact it immediately, but there was some concern there and he just wanted to make them aware of that.

Service Director Hiscock said it was a good thing for them to revisit every year because there was a common concern. Council Member Reese thanked him.

President Rospert asked if there was anything else from the members of Council. There was none.

ADJOURNMENT: President Rospert entertained a motion to adjourn. Council Member Stugmyer made the motion. **President Rospert adjourned the meeting at approximately 7:10 p.m.**

President of Council

Date

Clerk of Council