

**MONDAY, JUNE 23, 2025
REGULAR MINUTES/JOURNAL**

PLEDGE

ROLL CALL

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL	MR. REYNALD J. PAOLONE	PRESENT
FIRST WARD COUNCILMAN	MR. KEITH SCHUBERT	PRESENT
SECOND WARD COUNCILMAN	MR. MARK STANDOHAR	PRESENT
THIRD WARD COUNCILMAN	MR. JEFF KAY	PRESENT
FOURTH WARD COUNCILMAN	MR. THOMAS GRUMLEY	PRESENT
COUNCILMAN-AT-LARGE	MS. LILY MARTUCCIO	PRESENT
COUNCILMAN-AT-LARGE	MR. JOHN MOLITERNO	PRESENT
COUNCILMAN-AT-LARGE	MR. SAM ZIRAFI	PRESENT

COMMUNICATIONS

President of Council Paolone: We have one communication. It is a liquor transfer. I'm going to ask Mark Rags if we got an ok from the police chief not to contest? **Mr. Ragozine:** Yes. **Paolone:** I need a motion from council not to contest.

MOTION ZIRAFI SECOND SCHUBERT NOT TO CONTEST THE LICENSE TRNASFER FOR CSV ENTERPRISE.

SCHUBERT 2
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO
ZIRAFI 1
MOTION PASSED 7-0

ADDITIONS & DELETIONS

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

MOTION SCHUBERT SECOND MARTUCCIO TO ACCEPT THE AGENDA OF JUNE 23, 2025 AS WRITTEN.

SCHUBERT 1
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO 2
MOLITERNO
ZIRAFI
MOTION PASSED 7-0

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND SCHUBERT TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 9, 2025 AS WRITTEN.

SCHUBERT 2
STANDOHAR Abstain
KAY

GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO 1
MOTION PASSED 6-1

CITIZENS' COMMENTS

Patty Rounds, 331 Illinois Ave.: A lot of you know me. I've been here enough. I'm not saying this out of being mean or anything. I just have a couple of questions I'm kind of confused on concerning our safety service director. I love you. Please don't think I hate you because I don't. Since you are representing our city, I feel that anyone that is in your position you should actually, maybe live in the city, but then I did some digging and everything and I know according to Section 737.01 of the Ohio Revised Code a director of public safety service is appointed by the mayor and does not need to be a resident of the city at the time of appointment, however they are generally required to become a resident within six months after their appointment unless this is waived by the city through an ordinance. I would just like to know as you are representing our city if there is an emergency and how far away is Howland from here, I looked it up it is like 14.5 miles. Are you going to be able to respond right away? I mean I just you know the City of Girard basically is paying your salary because it is ultimately paid by the taxpayers as the salary comes from the city's general fund which is financed through taxes, fees and other revenue sources. So, I would just like to have your comment and how you feel. I mean I know this is the third reading, but I just feel if you are going to be a councilman or be a part of the city maybe I'm old school, I don't know, but like I said it is a not personal attack I would just like to have a response and let me know if you're going to be there if something happens, if you're going to take care of everything and that's all. Be nice. I was nice.

Mayor: I'm always nice to you Patty. First of all, no employees of the City of Girard have to live in the City of Girard. Did you know that? **Rounds:** No. I tried to find that and I couldn't. **Mayor:** Yea. The state passed that law a number of years ago. The only one that is required to live in the City of Girard is the safety service director. Now I have to, council has to, elected officials have to. I'm an elected official, Julie, etc. As far as him having to be here in an emergency, that's what we have emergency people for, the fire department, the police department. I'm sure he can be here within 10 minutes if he needed to be. Mark's goal is to end up in Girard. He just couldn't find a house in Girard. **Rounds:** I'll be watching.

Jeffrey Hutchins, 405 Plymouth: The one issue that we are discussing here tonight about residency of a high-level employee like Mr. Ragozine is unfortunately on books it's a loophole which I had no idea that it existed that if council agrees then the residency requirement is waived. So, that's problem number 1. That loophole shouldn't exist, and I just want to state to Mr. Ragozine as the way it makes me feel as a citizen and a property owner is that the money is good enough to receive as a salary, which I realize your salary is below the average of Ohio for this particular job, but it makes me feel like it's not participatory and I feel like that if we are good enough to contribute taxes for the salary why are the citizens not good enough to live here and I do have a home that I could sell you. I don't understand that. There's certainly many homes and many people in here have multiple homes that they could make available for sale so I don't think that's an issue. It shouldn't be because there's a variety of homes in every price range and neighborhood in Girard that I'm aware of. So, having said that, I'd like to welcome, I'm sure that if Mayor Zuppo chose you've got all the qualifications that are necessary, but I think that the residency loophole that exists and the council is going to vote on tonight is something you might want to revisit so that this situation doesn't happen again and there's no hard feelings between the citizens and high ranking city officials.

Judy Worley, 407 Idaho Ave.: I'm not going to talk about the residency is that ok? **Paolone:** That's fine. **Worley:** I just have two questions actually. On Indiana and Idaho there are not signs that say no outlet facing the bottoms of the streets. I have addressed this before before Mayor

Mark Zuppo. The problem is people turn into those streets realize they're dead-end streets and they back into N. Davis, cars are coming, there's going to be an accident. Every street in that neighborhood has no outlet signs except those two. I would like to see no outlet signs put up and see if that is a possibility. **Mayor:** We'll take care of that. **Paolone:** I think you'll see that. **Worley:** My second I guess this is a complaint. Last week I had to call the police department two times. I don't know who the daytime dispatcher is I have no idea, but I felt like I was being interrogated by him. Well who's calling? I'm like well does it really matter and then I told him my name was, well that's not what's on caller id. I said because the phone is in my husband's name and I did not like that. I don't know his name, but it was the same dispatcher twice. You're the chief correct? **Paolone:** No the chief's not here. He's the fire chief. **Worley:** He normally is here though. **Paolone:** No. **Worley:** I wanted to bring that up because I was a little upset about that. I do not want to be interrogated when I call the police department. **Paolone:** Nor should you be. **Worley:** I know it shows up on caller id. I know that because they have called back. Oh how'd they get my number. Oh they got caller id. **Mayor:** Judy, I was going to ask what time of day was it? **Whorley:** It was in the middle of the day. The first one. **Mayor:** They change shifts around quarter to 2. **Whorley:** It was the same guy. **Mayor:** I'm trying to figure out was it before quarter to 2 or after quarter to 2. **Whorley:** Before. He does not have a harsh voice, but I don't want to be interrogated. **Paolone:** I said nor should you be. **Mayor:** Do you know what days? **Whorley:** I'd like to say Tuesday and Wednesday or Wednesday and Thursday cuz I said I had to call you yesterday with the same complaint and same thing. Interrogation. End of story.

Annette Minnitti, 62 Stambaugh: Coming down for the same thing. I said I'd be here every week. So, the addresses that I'm complaining about nothing has been done, 101 Stambaugh, 103 Ella and 111 Stambaugh. Grass has been cut since the last time I was here. No activity. Nothing. I was just checking to see if anybody, I know our councilman has not been down, has anyone else been down? Has anything been done about these three vacant houses just doing a follow up on that one. You weren't here last week. **Paolone:** No. I'm sorry. **Mayor:** I gave them to zoning and I'll follow up on them. **Minnitti:** Like I said I mean it is a jungle next to my house. It's overgrown, there's trees, no grass cutting. I thought I'd come today from work and he'd have cut the grass or even yesterday. Nothing. Nothing has been cut. I'm not saying that the grass is extremely high either because he cut it I think three weeks ago, but a lot of the weeds are still overgrown all that other stuff. I'm also, regarding the cats again. Just checking. I read something online about an ordinance in Girard I'm not sure if it's the ordinance or not. Cats need to be within their area. If they spray or ruin furniture their people are supposed to replace it. If they poop in your yard they're supposed to replace it or come get it not replace it but come get it, but you know with the heat and everything cats are outside drinking water that's coming down the street. I don't think they're being fed or there is water out for them, especially in this heat, but my biggest concern of course is the three houses. I'm still looking for anybody to help me with this. Anybody? **Mr. Ragozine:** This comment is on the cats. I did talk to an Officer Pike at the Animal Welfare League after the meeting two weeks ago and he was going to check it out so I will follow up with him tomorrow because I haven't heard back from him. He was going to drive past I believe it's Money Motivation, whatever that building is where the cats are, so he was going to go down there. **Minnitti:** Well there's three new ones, but we haven't seen anybody, anybody even come down. We would like anybody from council to come down and walk with us, see what we see, sit on our patios, see what we see, be in our shoes for a couple of minutes. Cats and the surroundings of our house.

MOTION STANDOHAR SECOND ZIRAFI TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS HIRING PERSONNEL, ONLY THE SEVEN VOTING MEMBERS OF COUNCIL.

SCHUBERT

STANDOHAR 1

KAY

GRUMLEY

MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO
ZIRAFI 2
MOTION PASSED 7-0

MOTION SCHUBERT SECOND STANDOHAR TO COME BACK INTO REGULAR SESSION OF COUNCIL.

REPORTS OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE CITY

MAYOR **MARK ZUPPO** **PRESENT**

Mayor Zuppo: I think I told you last meeting, went to the Mayor's Association meeting in Dublin. A lot of conversation down there to get the word out about cannabis dispensary tax, money and property tax laws and so there's a lot of movement. The press conference that we had at Austintown Township a few Fridays ago I think proved to be fruitful and I got a call from Representative Thomas today, this afternoon saying that they are going to take a vote tomorrow and it looks good for us to get our money for the cannabis dispensary. With that said, I would to ask you guys to vote no on the moratorium for a dispensary because there is another company that has been paying rent over on the other side of town for 9 months hoping that there would be a change and there is talk of possibly changing it from one mile to a half mile. So that's all. I would say you should probably consider that. I will be leaving tomorrow for Washington DC. I am going down for the, it's the Chamber's fly in, they do this every year. I'm driving down though to to save us money. I told Julie I would do that. I'm driving down with Mayor Miller from Struthers and Kristen Olmi from KO Consulting on Struther's dime. There is going to be a lot of discussion on the way down about where we are at with KO. One other thing, I wanted to point out that the press release was put out on the firework ordinance. I was just talking to Pat outside that we ran it last week and I noticed it disappeared so I had Monica went and put a press release out again today and asked them to run it continually every day all the way through the 4th of July and that we are going to crack down in conjunction with the fire department and police department on making sure they follow the law this year. The Recreation Director asked me to point out that people in the department during the past month kudos to his crew. There are old steps going up to the old swimming pool in Liberty Park that they are fixing since there is a reason to keep them there. He said cross country uses them sometimes and other people are utilizing them so Dom Malito, Isaac Griffith and Cody Carpenter are to be commended for going above and beyond in the recreation department. They devised their own plan on a very limited budget and they are doing that repair as we speak so kudos to them. I just wanted to say our engineer is not here though, I want to congratulate Zach Teter on his new baby girl, little Nina Teter and congratulate Mr. Ragozine on his new bride. Pending your questions that concludes my report.

COMMENTS:

Schubert: I do have a question on the marijuana dispensary that you're referring to. Why haven't they done anything yet? **Mayor:** Why haven't they done anything yet? **Schubert:** They are paying rent but why haven't they moved? **Mayor:** They are paying rent based on waiting to change the law because the law said 1 mile and they are 9/10ths of a mile away. So, they have been lobbying. I have been talking to Dan Kessler who has a grow house in Youngstown. There is a lot of lobbying going on. We have seen a 180 over last few weeks from the State House so I'm hoping for good things tomorrow. **Schubert:** Are they building a new site on that property or are they utilizing what is there? **Mayor:** They will utilize what is there and they will and build off of it. They had a structural engineer come in and he said that it was structurally sound. I was kind of surprised. **Schubert:** One more question. The other part is the question here is the tax revenue and that's what you are referring to. Nothing has been passed yet? **Mayor:** The vote is coming tomorrow according to Representative Thomas and he feels very positive. Representative Thomas has changed gears. He was supportive of the State keeping all of the money and now he has seen the light and he is supporting us. He said he won't vote for it unless the host communities are given the 3.6% like they were promised in the original vote. **Martuccio:**

Is that 3.6% for the five years or. **Mayor:** No 3.6% in perpetuity. **Martuccio:** Then with the change in the mileage, is that part of that bill also? **Mayor:** No. That is something that is still being worked on. In the discussions two weeks ago when I was in Dublin, the Montrose Group was there speaking, a lobbyist group, and they are, they feel very confident that things are going to change within the next year on that proximity. **Moliterno:** Mayor, if I understood you correctly, you are asking us to vote down that issue? **Mayor:** Or table it. Whatever. **Moliterno:** I think I would be more comfortable if we just tabled it and then dealt with the issue when it comes along. **Grumley:** It's a simple moratorium. I believe, and not to be critical Mark, but when we had Dollar General looking to put in another building in this town we looked at every aspect of that building. We sent it back to them three different times. We haven't even asked for any of that. We haven't done any of that. Now we are taking an old, rough building and going to turn it into something. I'd like to see engineer's drawings, what they're going to do, prior to so forth before we just allow them to pass through. The moratorium just gives us the time to look at that and time to see what the state legislators are going to change everything and so forth. Moratorium can be changed simply in two readings or three readings. It could be changed very quickly. That's all I ask for. Continue to keep it on the books so we have to have the drawings brought forth to us as we did with Dollar General. Any member who was sitting here during that. We ran them through the ringer. We got what we wanted. That's all I'm asking for. **Mayor:** I think what we are dealing with here councilman is that the signal that will send won't be a good one. That's all I'm saying. There's all kind of options available to these companies right now and all kinds of people suddenly when they are seeing all of the money that is out there now everyone is coming and saying hey maybe we should reconsider one. I think tabling this cannot hurt. Passing the moratorium I gotta tell you I got a text from the company today asking if the moratorium is going to get passed tonight. It's a bad signal. That's all I'm saying. Thank you.

SAFETY/SERVICE DIRECTOR

MARK RAGOZINE

PRESENT

Mr. Ragozine: A couple things here. Earlier this evening we heard a presentation from Paving Management Group. Really good insights for us on how to maintain our roadway infrastructure in the city. They've graded all of the roads. They have given us really good data and analysis on how to make decisions moving forward, which roads need paved and when. The conditions of those roads. All of the different issues with them. They have provided us with a complete report. A full dashboard which we will make public for the public to be able to go on our website and take a look at all of the data information. There are videos. So really pleased with how that turned out and I think it is going to be a useful tool going forward for the city to make better decisions on which roads need done and when. Second, the Mosier Road waterline replacement. We are going to be opening those bids this Thursday morning at 10 am. Hope to have a contractor selected and then have that, ask for that legislation at the next council meeting with the price and a contractor. Second the Park Ave Street improvements. That is slated for bid opening July 10th at 10 am. Councilman Standohar you are more than welcome to attend if you'd like to. Anyone else from that committee. Third the broadband. Omni has been doing a terrific job over the last month knock on wood. Noone has hit anything. We've heard nothing but good things in the field from the residents. In fact, one resident called and said they're going too slow which means they're taking their time, they're not hitting any utilities, they're not causing any issues. So, very pleased with how that has turned out. We do have an approval for Loomis to come to town from the opposite side, the south end. They will be getting started I believe in July and so at some point those two companies are going to have to coordinate with each other so they are not on the same street or in the same neighborhood at the same time. Again, for any residential concerns, they do come back once they're done. They are supposed to restore everything the way it was. If there are any issues please call us. We will get right on them and have them come out, but as far as that project and how it's going I'm just very happy and because you know we were concerned in the beginning but it is turning out really well. I think pending your questions that concludes my report.

COMMENTS:

LAW DIRECTOR **BRIAN KREN** **ABSENT**

AUDITOR **JULIE COGGINS** **PRESENT**

Ms. Coggins: Nothing further from finance.

COMMENTS:

TREASURER **HENRY SFORZA** **PRESENT**

Mr. Sforza:

COMMENTS:

FIRE CHIEF **JAMES PETRUZZI** **PRESENT**

Chief Petruzzi: Year to date, 1100 calls. Two things. First I had a long extensive conversation with Michelle Davis from Med Account Management. She was able to break down all of our out of town runs. We have brought in roughly \$58,000 from our out of town runs in revenue. \$15,000 and some odd dollars is still outstanding. That is what would ultimately go to collections once you subtract Medicare and Medicaid. They cannot be sent to collections. The average return is 15-20% on collections. I just wasn't sure of those answers at the safety meeting so I just wanted to bring that forward now. The last thing we did have a house fire on E. Liberty Street today. It was pretty hot conditions. The crews worked hard. They were in sync. They were able to extinguish the fire quickly and just did an outstanding job. I would like to thank all of our automatic aid agencies that came out to help us.

COMMENTS:

POLICE CHIEF **JOHN NORMAN** **ABSENT**

COMMITTEE REPORTS

FINANCES-MOLITERNO-GRUMLEY-ZIRAFI

Councilman Moliterno: No report. We had a finance committee meeting prior to tonight's meeting and we appreciate all of the information we received from our auditor and treasurer and I think we are very comfortable with where the city is at right now.

COMMENTS:

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT-KAY-MARTUCCIO-MOLITERNO

Councilman Kay: No report.

COMMENTS:

BUILDING & GROUNDS-SCHUBERT-STANDOHAR-KAY

Councilman Schubert: No report tonight.

COMMENTS:

HEALTH & SAFETY-GRUMLEY-MOLITERNO-MARTUCCIO

Councilman Grumley: No report. Chief, when you give that in the future when you give the number of calls and responses could you give us how many are outside the city? **Chief Petruzzi:** Yea I should be able to break that down. **Grumley:** I appreciate it. And then as you know, I would just like to you know, sincerely thank the men and women that serve and protect us every day in this city during these extreme conditions and volatile situation they are working in every day. Needs to be recognized somehow.

COMMENTS:

STREETS SIDEWALKS & EMPLOYEE WELFARE-STANDOHAR-KAY-GRUMLEY

Councilman Standohar: No report Mr. Chairman.

COMMENTS:

UTILITIES-ZIRAFI-SCHUBERT-STANDOHAR

Councilman Zirafi: No report.

COMMENTS:

ZONING-MARTUCCIO-ZIRAFI-SCHUBERT

Councilwoman Martuccio: No report.

COMMENTS:

THEATER-MARTUCCIO-MOLITERNO-SCHUBERT

Councilwoman Martuccio: Trying to coordinate a meeting with the committee and administration and the engineer. **Paolone:** You'll get it. It will work out.

COMMENTS:

ORDINANCES

52-72

THIRD READING

AN ORDINANCE WAIVING THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT FOR THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE & SAFETY FOR THE CITY OF GIRARD, OHIO.

Moliterno: We have an amendment. **Zirafi:** I want to propose an amendment. Section 1.

Paolone: Brian is not here. **Moliterno:** Doesn't matter. We're ok. **Zirafi:** Section 1 We have an amendment. We want it to read as follows: The city council of the City of Girard hereby waives the residency requirement of the public director of service and safety pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 735.01 and 737.01 until June 1, 2026 and requires that the director of public services reside within the City of Girard.

Paolone: That date is changed to June 1, 2026 is that correct. **Zirafi:** That's correct. **Standohar:** Respectfully, the way it reads I think the only thing that needs to be changed is the date because really all that other language after the specific date is given, "and requires the director of public service and safety to reside within Trumbull County, Ohio" is saying that during this closed period that we are waiving the city residency requirement, we are requiring he director of public service and safety to reside with Trumbull County, Ohio at least.

Zirafi: That's fine. **Standohar:** I think if you change the date from January 1, 2028 to June 1, 2026 that would be the only change. **Paolone:** I understand. **Standohar:** Any council **Grumley:** The language is not residing in Trumbull County it is reside in the City of Girard.

Standohar: The way I read Section 1 is the law director was stating that the city council, the City of Girard waives the residency requirement in that code section that requires the safety service director to be a resident of the City of Girard until a specific date but then he was adding in that during this waiver period the safety service director is required to live within at least Trumbull County. That's the way I read it. (There was talk amongst the council people) **Standohar:** I view Section 1 as waiving the requirement that the safety service director live within the city limits of Girard until as we are amending June 1, 2026.

Paolone: Then after June 1st he must live within the city limits. **Grumley:** Just remove must reside within Trumbull County all together. **Standohar:** I think that is the second best option to just put a period after June 1, 2026, delete "and requires the director of public service and safety to reside within Trumbull County Ohio.

Paolone: Section 1 will read, bear with me here please "the city council of the City of Girard hereby waives the residency requirement for the director of public service and safety pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 735.01 and 737.01 until June 1, 2026.

MOTION ZIRAFI SECOND SCHUBERT TO AMEND SECTION 1 OF ORDINANCE 52-72 TO READ UNTIL JUNE 1, 2026.

Mayor: I think it is completely unfair and this is twice now you have gone into executive session to talk about personnel without inviting myself or the auditor in so shame on you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

SCHUBERT 2
STANDOHAR

KAY No

GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO
ZIRAFI 1
MOTION PASSES 6-1

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND SCHUBERT FOR PASSAGE OF ORDINANCE NO. 52-72.

SCHUBERT 2
STANDOHAR
KAY No
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO 1
ZIRAFI
MOTION PASSES 6-1

52-73

THIRD READING

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ARTICLE 8(7) OF THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GIRARD REGULATING THE PARKING, STORAGE, OR USE OF MAJOR RECREATIONAL EQUIPMENT.

MOTION MOLITERNO SECOND KAY FOR PASSAGE OF ORDINANCE NO. 52-73.

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR
KAY 2
GRUMLEY
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO 1
ZIRAFI
MOTION PASSES 7-0

52-74

THIRD READING

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING LIMITATIONS ON THE AMOUNT OF MARIJUANA/ADULT-USE CANNABIS DISPENSARY OPERATIONS WITHING THE CITY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

MOTION GRUMLEY SECOND ZIRAFI FOR PASSAGE OF ORDINANCE NO. 52-74.

SCHUBERT
STANDOHAR
KAY
GRUMLEY 1
MARTUCCIO
MOLITERNO
ZIRAFI 2
MOTION PASSES 7-0

52-75

FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF GIRARD ZONING MAP REZONING LOT #27, PARCEL 14-489645 ON CHERRY STREET FROM R2 TO B2 GENERAL BUSINESS DISTRICT.

52-76

FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE ADMINISTRATION TO PURSUE BILLING NONRESIDENTS FOR MUTUAL AID AMBULANCE SERVICES.

52-77

FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE VACATING AN PUBLICLY DEDICATED TWENTY FOOT WIDE UNNAMED ALLEY AS IDENTIFIED IN ABNER OSBORNE’S ADDITION PLAT IN THE CITY OF GIRARD RECORDED AT TRUMBULL PLAT VOLUME A PAGE 118.

52-78

FIRST READING

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING AN ALTERNATIVE TAX BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF GIRARD, OHIO FOR THE FISCAL YEAR COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2026, AND SUBMITTING COPIES OF SAME TO THE TRUMBULL COUNTY BUDGET COMMISSION.

NEW LEGISLATION

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION ZIRAFI SECOND KAY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF JUNE 23, 2025.

REYNALD PAOLONE, PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

MONICA URBANIC, CLERK OF COUNCIL