

**NORTH RIDGEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 4, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER:

President Jacobs called the Council meeting on Monday, August 4, 2025, to order at 7:00 p.m.

INVOCATION:

Led by President Jacobs.

President Jacobs led a moment of silence in honor of life and the sacrifice of Police Officer Phillip Wagner.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Led by President Jacobs.

ROLL CALL:

Present were Council members President Jason Jacobs, Holly A. Swenk, Eric Shaffer, Bruce Abens, Clifford Winkel, Georgia Awig, and Martin DeVries.

Mayor Kevin Corcoran, Finance Director April Wilkerson, City Engineer Christina Eavenson, Law Director Brian Moriarty, Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani, and Assistant Clerk of Council Fijabi Gallam were also present.

MINUTES - Corrections (if any) and approval:

President Jacobs asked if there were any corrections to the Regular City Council meeting minutes dated July 21, 2025. No discussion was offered. The meeting minutes stand approved as submitted.

President Jacobs noted the following minutes:

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes dated July 16, 2025.

Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes dated July 21, 2025.

Board of Zoning and Building Appeals Meeting Minutes dated July 24, 2025.

Civil Service Commission Meeting Minutes dated July 28, 2025.

LOBBY:

President Jacobs opened the lobby session. He reminded everyone that the lobby session was not meant to be an interactive question-and-answer session. However, it was an opportunity for the public to address City Council and its administration. He asked anyone who would like to speak to come to the podium and state their name and address. He further added that each person was allowed three minutes to speak.

Tax Increase

Shellie Kearsey of 37886 Stoney Lake Drive began by correcting a statement she had made during the July 21, 2025 Council meeting, in which she had mistakenly reported Mayor Corcoran's salary as \$136,843. Ms. Kearsey clarified that, according to public records, Mayor Corcoran earned \$149,619 in 2024, reflecting a 9.84% increase from 2023. She stated that his salary was 136% higher than the average and 185% higher than the median mayoral salary in 2024. Ms. Kearsey also noted that Finance Director April Wilkerson's salary had increased from \$86,270 in 2019 to \$140,726 in 2024. Additionally, she reported that Dana Hoffman was paid \$17,500 annually to manage social media posts. She expressed concern over what she described as an alarming rate of salary increases, while the Mayor claimed financial hardship.

She referenced comments made by Mayor Corcoran and Director Wilkerson regarding guaranteed revenue sources to support additional services and staffing. Ms. Kearsey criticized the administration for continuing to approve developments without adequate planning for safety services and questioned the justification for such decisions.

Ms. Kearsey addressed Resolution Number 2025-113, which proposed placing a measure on the ballot to amend sections 878.01, 878.03, 878.04, and 878.06 of the Codified Ordinances to allow for an additional 0.75% income tax beginning January 1, 2026. She expressed concern over the vague language of the ordinance. She requested restricted use clauses to ensure the revenue would be allocated to essential services such as police, fire, and EMS. She emphasized the need for experienced and fully trained officers, improvements to public works and roads, and full transparency regarding the use of funds.

Moved by Shaffer and seconded by Winkel to give Ms. Kearsey up to an additional 3 minutes.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion was carried.

Yes – 7

No – 0

Ms. Kearsey resumed her comments, stating that changes needed to begin immediately with each member of Council. She expressed a lack of trust in the administration and Council, with the exception of Councilwoman Swenk, whom she credited as the only member to have reached out to her. She remarked that the citizens would be closely observing the Council's actions and that she would be watching for transparency leading up to the November election.

Lorain County and Events

Lorain County Commissioner Marty Gallagher, 226 Middle Avenue, Elyria, provided an update from the Lorain County Commissioners. He reported that the County had recently received \$67.8 million in grant funding for sewer improvements. He credited Representative Gayle Manning of North Ridgeville and former North Ridgeville Mayor Jeff Armbruster for their efforts in securing the funding.

He reminded everyone of the upcoming Lorain County Fair, scheduled for August 17–24, 2025. A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the fairground's addition would take place on August 15, 2025. He also mentioned the agricultural tire collection event scheduled for September 25, 2025.

Commissioner Gallagher shared information about a housing initiative for the county. He stated that the County had applied for a \$3 million “Welcome Home” grant, which would subsidize the cost of new homes built on vacant lots within communities. The program would allow for up to \$100,000 off a \$250,000 home, provided the buyer agreed to live in the home for a specified number of years. He noted that approximately 30 homes could be built under this program. Additionally, he informed City Council that the Board of Commissioners had unanimously voted to place a quarter-percent sales tax increase on the ballot. The proposed tax would fund the Sheriff’s Office, removing its budget from the County’s general budget and allowing for more financial flexibility.

Tax Increase

Greg Fanning of 6025 Haven Crest Court addressed City Council about the proposed income tax increase from 1% to 1.75%. He said he understood the city is facing financial challenges, but didn’t believe raising taxes on residents was the right solution. He urged the City to review its spending, highlighting that funds were being spent on non-essential projects like hiring an arborist and building gateway signs. Mr. Fanning argued that the City should follow household and business principles—delaying projects until funding is available. He expressed concern about the financial strain on residents facing inflation and higher living costs. He questioned the change in the City’s financial story, noting that previously the City was said to be financially stable, and asked why residents were not informed sooner.

Mr. Fanning discussed comparisons between North Ridgeville and cities like Dublin, Avon, Lakewood, and North Olmsted. He highlighted North Ridgeville’s uniqueness, made up of families, farms, neighborhoods, and local businesses, and warned against comparing it to other municipalities. Mr. Fanning stated he would not support any tax increases, and the City should reduce the budget instead of raising taxes on residents.

Tax Increase

John Vrtachnik of 5553 Main Avenue stated that he had been a resident of North Ridgeville since 1972. Mr. Vrtachnik shared that he researched the history of the city’s income tax and found that the original 1% income tax was enacted in December 1982. He recalled that when the tax was first implemented, residents who worked outside the city were given a credit of approximately 0.5%. However, within a few years, City Council rescinded most of that credit. Mr. Vrtachnik expressed concern that the current proposal to increase the income tax from 1% to 1.75%, which included a credit for those working outside the city, might follow the same pattern. He feared that if voters approved the increase, Council might later reduce or eliminate the credit. Mr. Vrtachnik questioned whether any measures have been taken to prevent City Council from taking away the credit in the future. He noted that, to his understanding, Council had the authority to remove the credit without a public vote, a fact he believed many residents were unaware of. He cautioned against repeating that history.

Bridge Replacement, Safety Services, and Tax Increase

Bob Meeker at 32415 Center Ridge Road apologized for becoming emotional in the previous meeting. He explained that, despite feeling shy, he cared deeply about city issues, especially property and safety. Mr. Meeker raised concerns about the bridge replacement near his property on the east side of Center Ridge Road. The posted speed limit was 45 mph with no signage or enforcement, leading to dangerous speeds of around 55 mph. With increased foot traffic, including

children on scooters, he feared accidents. Mr. Meeker asked the City to consider lowering the speed limit to 35 mph, even though it may not fall under their jurisdiction. He also reiterated his concern about the lack of sidewalks and believed slower traffic could improve safety.

Mr. Meeker praised the emergency response teams. He shared a personal experience from the previous week when paramedics responded to his home during a medical emergency, stating that their care had saved his life. He expressed frustration with ongoing criticism of city services and urged residents to recognize and appreciate the work being done.

Regarding the proposed income tax increase, Mr. Meeker stated that while he did not want to pay more, he believed a tax increase was necessary if implemented properly. He encouraged City Council to educate the public on the need for additional revenue.

Moved by Swenk and seconded by Shaffer to give Mr. Meeker up to an additional 3 minutes.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion was carried.

Yes – 7

No – 0

Mr. Meeker declined the additional time.

Solicitor and Peddler Permit Application and Community Opportunities in the City

Bernard Garcia of 7324 Root Road requested clarification regarding the solicitor and peddler permit application, which is on the City's website. He asked if the permit is for LLCs or individuals like himself selling yard produce. He suggested streamlining the process because it is difficult for some residents, especially his 84-year-old grandmother.

He proposed establishing a temporary farmers' market in the city next year. He thought such a market would attract diverse residents and, if successful, expand to include items like a flea market. Mr. Garcia emphasized it would showcase North Ridgeville residents' talents and products.

Mr. Garcia also spoke in support of the city's annual Corn Festival, describing it as one of the best events in the city. He praised the hard work of those involved and expressed a desire to preserve the festival in its current form and location by legislation.

Mr. Garcia cautioned the City about funding for industrial sites and avoiding attracting companies like Amazon warehouses or data centers. He mentioned there are risks of unintended consequences and powerful corporations outbidding local interests.

Council Member Comments

Councilman Shaffer reported that during the last lobbying session, a constituent had asked about the large mound of dirt located next to the BP station across from McDonald's. Upon investigation, Mr. Shaffer learned that the mound was landfill material from the construction site of the new high school. He noted that the land was expected to be returned to its original state, although he expressed uncertainty about that outcome due to the planned construction of a luxury swimming pool at the high school.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORTS:

1. Mayor:

Mayor Corcoran remarked as follows.:

- Legislation - During the readings, a request has been made for emergency passage regarding legislation: Ordinance Number 2025-116, 2025-117, 2025-114, and Resolution Number 2025-113.
- Police Officer Phillip Wagner – The Mayor took the opportunity to thank the community for their overwhelming support of fallen officer Phillip Wagner. Residents lined the streets of the entire procession route to remember him as a devoted father, husband, police officer, and US Marine Corps veteran. He lived to serve, and he made the ultimate sacrifice to protect others. Rest in peace, Officer Wagner.
- Street Milling/Paving – The Public Works Department, Streets Division, milled Bagley Road from Lorain to the Turnpike overpass last week. They are finishing up repairs in preparation to pave the roadway this week. For the safety of City's employees, Bagley Road will be closed during working hours, local access only. As with any road project, this schedule is always subject to change based on weather conditions.
- Corn Festival and Closures – It is beginning to look a lot like Corn Festival! The 50th annual kicks off this Friday, August 8, 2025, through Sunday, August 10, 2025. Attendees will find a weekend filled with family-friendly activities. Highlights include:
 - Friday night drone show
 - Saturday morning classic car show at Old Town Hall
 - Saturday afternoon corn eating contest
 - Sunday afternoon Grande Parade

For more information and a complete list of Corn Festival activities, visit their website at nrcornfest.org. The Corn Festival is a nonprofit organization, and the City does not run it.

- With the Corn Festival comes road and splash pad closures:
 - Bainbridge Road will be closed between SR 83 and Root Road beginning Thursday, August 7, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. and will reopen on Monday, August 11, 2025, at 6:00 a.m. to allow ample time for set-up/tear-down.
 - The Grande Parade will be held on Sunday, August 10, 2025, at 1:30 p.m. Ranger Way will close at noon and will remain closed for the duration of the parade. The parade route will depart from Ranger Way, head north to Center Ridge Road, west on Center Ridge, south on Root Road, east on Bainbridge Road, and end on Ranger Way. These roads will be closed during the time of the parade.

- During the festival, the Splash Pad at South Central Park will be closed starting at 3:00 p.m. on Friday, August 8, 2025, and will reopen to the residents on Monday, August 11, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.
- Coffee & Conversation – The Mayor’s Coffee & Conversation is on Wednesday, August 13, 2025, from 8:30-9:30 a.m. in Council Chambers. This month’s special guest will be Roxann Ramsey-Caserio, Superintendent of North Ridgeville City Schools. She will share updates on school construction progress, upcoming plans, and what the community can expect as we head into the new school year.
- Dirt at the old middle school site – The dirt has been removed from the construction site. The dirt is needed again once the construction is finished with some of the underground infrastructure. So, they will return that dirt to the construction area, and then the middle school property will go back to its original state before the dirt was placed there.

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Winkel to go into an Executive Session to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official.

A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Adjourned into Executive Session at 7:30 p.m.

Reconvened into the Regular City Council meeting at 7:36 p.m.

Moved by President Jacobs and seconded by Swenk to adjourn from executive session and return to the regular City Council session.

A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Mayor Corcoran concluded his report.

2. Engineer:

City Engineer Christina Eavenson provided the following:

- The Engineering Division secretary, Lucy Rodriguez, retired last week after nearly 30 years of service. The Division extended its best wishes to her upon her retirement.
- As a result of the vacancy, the Division is temporarily without a secretary. An Administrative Coordinator position was posted on both the City’s website and Indeed. Council and the public were asked to share the opportunity with potential candidates and to be patient with any delays in service.

- Backflow tests were due by June 15, 2025. Residents whose tests were completed but whose plumbers had not yet registered with the City's outside consultant, BSI Online, were advised to remind their plumbers to do so to avoid receiving a violation.
- In response to Mr. Meeker's concerns regarding the US-20 bridge replacement, City Engineer Eavenson clarified that the project was under the jurisdiction of ODOT. However, she will speak with the project manager to explore possible solutions to the traffic issues in the construction zone.

City Engineer Eavenson concluded her report.

3. Director of Finance:

April Wilkerson, the Finance Director, had no report.

4. Other Reports:

There were none.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT(S):

There were none.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

Department of Commerce Notice to Legislative Authority - Objections to the renewal of all Class C and D retail liquor permits that sell alcoholic beverages in the City of North Ridgeville are due by September 2, 2025.

OLD BUSINESS:

There were none.

NEW BUSINESS:

There were none.

RECESS:

Moved by Winkel and seconded by Awig to dispense with recess.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion was carried.

Yes – 7

No – 0

Ordinance and Resolution submittal(s)
FIRST READINGS:

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

- O 2025-115 An Ordinance amending Chapter 628 Fair Housing of the North Ridgeville General Offenses Code.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Ordinance Number 2025-115 was referred to the Building and Lands Committee for further review and discussion.

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

- O 2025-116 An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 6025-2022 by authorizing the purchase (instead of entering into a 5-year lease/purchase agreement) of a single-axle dump truck with plow and accessories from the State Bid List or State Co-op, not to exceed \$250,000.00.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Abens to dispense with the second and third readings for 2025-116.

Mayor Corcoran noted that in 2022, City Council approved the purchase of two international single-axle dump trucks, with the first set for 2022 and the second for 2024. The 2022 truck was intended to be a lease purchase, while the 2024 truck was to be a full purchase. However, the 2022 truck was inadvertently paid in full. The legislation was intended to correct the wording to reflect what actually happened. At that time, there was some confusion regarding the 2022 and 2024 trucks due to delays in vehicle deliveries, which caused their arrival dates to be close together.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried.
Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Abens to add the emergency clause to correct the wording to reflect what actually happened.

A voice vote was taken on the emergency clause, and the motion was carried.
Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Abens to adopt 2025-116 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried for
Ordinance Number 2025-116.
Yes – 7 No – 0

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

O 2025-117 An Ordinance approving the sale of certain personal property owned by the City of North Ridgeville pursuant to O.R.C. Section 721.15(D).
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Awig to dispense with the second and third readings for 2025-117.

Mayor Corcoran stated that this sale is for a trailer and that now it is a better time to sell it than during September or October 2025. As with other property sales, the emergency clause is necessary to sell quickly and maximize the return.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried.
Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by Winkel and seconded by Awig to add the emergency clause to sell quickly and maximize the return.

A voice vote was taken on the emergency clause, and the motion was carried.
Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by Winkel and seconded by Awig to adopt 2025-117 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried for
Ordinance Number 2025-117.
Yes – 7 No – 0

SECOND READINGS:

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

O 2025-111 An Ordinance accepting certain streets/improvements located in Waterbury Subdivision No. 9 and dedicating them for public purposes.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Ordinance Number 2025-111 was moved to Third Reading.

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

R 2025-113 A Resolution declaring the necessity of an election on the question of approving the passage of an Ordinance to amend Sections 878.01, 878.03, 878.04 and 878.06 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of North Ridgeville, Ohio, in order to provide for the levy of an additional seventy-five one-hundredths percent (0.75%) income tax beginning January 1, 2026.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran; First Reading on 07-21-2025)

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Abens to dispense with the third reading for 2025-113.

Councilman Shaffer wanted clarification on why the legislation is needed.

Mayor Corcoran clarified that the proposed income tax change has to be submitted to the Lorain County Board of Elections by August 6, 2025, for the ballot to go to the voters. The legislation would need the emergency.

Councilwoman Awig remarked that the vote is to put the proposed income tax increase on the ballot for the November election. This would be for the residents to decide whether they want the increase.

Mayor Corcoran and President Jacobs agreed with Councilwoman Awig's statement.

Councilman Winkel acknowledged that the proposed income tax measure was a hot topic and shared his perspective on the importance of allowing residents to vote on the issue. He explained that as a council member representing over 9,000 constituents in his ward, he makes decisions with their interests in mind. He stated that when given the opportunity to allow residents to make their own decision through a ballot measure, he supports that approach. Councilman Winkel shared a personal statement, quoting a wise woman who once told him, "Always vote what's best for your family." He expressed respect for differing opinions and reiterated his support for placing the measure on the ballot, so that residents could decide for themselves.

Councilman Winkel noted that the term "emergency" could be misleading when an emergency clause is needed. He clarified that the emergency clause was a procedural tool used to expedite legislation in order to meet deadlines, and not necessarily of an actual emergency. He explained that City Council frequently used the clause to meet scheduling requirements and urged others not to be distracted by the terminology.

Councilwoman Swenk added that she believes it should be up to the voters to decide. She expressed concerns about the quick decision to implement an income tax increase. She suggested that there should be more discussions on this issue and exploration of ways to cut the budget instead. She noted that it will take time for residents to understand the need for the increase. She would not be supporting the legislation.

Councilman Shaffer quoted Ronald Reagan, stating, "No society ever taxed its way into prosperity," and agreed with the quote. He voiced his skepticism about any meaningful effort to reduce reckless or wasteful spending. He reiterated that a previous comment by a resident suggested that City officials were overpaid. Councilman Shaffer proposed that Officials take a pay cut. He compared the current situation to paying luxury prices for substandard service. He recommended eliminating funding for the Gateway CIC, describing it as speculative and a financial "rat hole." He argued that continued reckless spending would only deepen the City's financial problems and that taxpayers should not be responsible for resolving the consequences. Lastly, Councilman Shaffer criticized the inclusion of a swimming pool in the new high school, noting that it could cost between \$10 million and \$20 million. He believed eliminating the swimming pool would help the City's financial problems by reducing the millage.

President Jacobs clarified that the City does not fund the high school swimming pool.

Councilman Abens expressed his disagreement with Councilman Shaffer because the school budget is not connected to the City budget.

Mayor Corcoran called Councilman Shaffer out of order.

Councilman Abens continued to state that the City's budget had nothing to do with the school budget or its levies. Therefore, discussing the School District's funding is not a conversation appropriate for City Council. He reported that the Finance Director noted that the City's budget is good for 2025 and 2026. This request is proposed for future financial issues. Councilman Abens pointed out that he had constituents contact him by email and phone, wondering why the City is still in the dark ages with just a 1% income tax. The proposed legislation offers the residents a 1% rebate, which will benefit many of the residents. Currently, residents pay 0.9% in income tax, and under the proposed tax structure, they would pay 0.75%. He referenced new companies such as Dayton Freight and University Hospitals, both of which offer competitive wages.

Councilman Abens added that he intends to vote in favor of placing the measure on the ballot, and the decision should be made by the residents, not solely by City Council. While not personally in favor of raising taxes, he acknowledged that a careful review of the budget indicated the City would need additional funds in the years 2027, 2028, and 2030, and that the current 1% rate would not be sufficient to meet future needs.

Councilman DeVries expressed support for placing the measure on the ballot. He stated that although he did not want to pay more taxes, the rising cost of services requires additional revenue. He noted that population growth increases the cost of maintaining services and pointed out that even with the proposed increase to 1.75%, North Ridgeville would still have one of the lowest income tax rates among surrounding communities. He emphasized the importance of funding services that protect residents and maintain infrastructure. As a long-time member of the Finance Committee, he explained that the City regularly reviews and limits spending, and that the request for additional funds was reasonable. He criticized promises to hire more police and fire personnel without raising taxes, stating that such claims were unrealistic from a financial standpoint. Councilman DeVries expressed his commitment to the community and its residents.

Mayor Corcoran addressed the comment about wasteful spending, reminding City Council that the City budget is reviewed and approved annually by City Council. The City spends funds appropriated by City Council, and any concerns about wasteful spending should be directed inward.

No additional comments or questions were raised at that time.

A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Yes – 5

No – 2 (Swenk and Shaffer)

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Abens to add the emergency clause to meet the Lorain County Board of Elections deadline—Wednesday, August 6, 2025.

A roll call vote was taken on the emergency clause, and the motion was carried.

Yes – 5 No – 2 (Swenk and Shaffer)

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Abens to adopt 2025-113 with the emergency clause.

Councilman Shaffer stated that Councilman Abens had misunderstood the point he was trying to make. He clarified that it was not due to ignorance of the law. He added that he knew for a fact that Josh Mandel (former Ohio Treasurer and former Councilman of Lyndhurst) had cut millages on school levies three times during his tenure in Lyndhurst.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried for **Ordinance Number 2025-113.**

Yes – 5 No – 2 (Swenk and Shaffer)

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

O 2025-114 An Ordinance amending Sections 878.01, 878.03, 878.04 and 878.06 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of North Ridgeville, Ohio, to provide for the levy of an additional seventy-five one-hundredths percent (0.75%) income tax, beginning January 1, 2026, and to provide for a credit up to one percent (1.0%) for income paid to other municipalities.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Moved by President Jacobs and seconded by Abens to postpone 2025-114 until the December 1, 2025 Council Meeting, which is the first council meeting that will take place after the results of the November 4th, 2025 general election are certified.

Councilwoman Swenk asked whether the proposed income tax increase, including the credit, would appear on the ballot. She expressed confusion about the process and inquired whether the measure would be included in the primary election if passed.

Councilman Jacobs clarified that Resolution Number 2025-113 was the legislation to place the measure on the ballot, while Ordinance Number 2025-114 was the legislation that would enact the income tax increase. Ordinance Number 2025-114 would not move forward until after the election, pending the outcome of the vote by residents.

Mayor Corcoran explained that the ballot language did not include the 1% credit; the credit itself would be a separate legislative action to be considered only if voters approved the tax increase.

Councilman Shaffer asked whether this would be a one-time vote or if the measure would return to the ballot repeatedly until it passed during a low-turnout election.

Mayor Corcoran responded that the City's budget needs would dictate future income tax increases. The City had been discussing expected deficits for several years, particularly during annual budget reviews each November. He expressed that he was surprised that some believed the issue had come up suddenly.

Councilman Abens agreed with the Mayor's assessment, stating that as a member of the Finance Committee, he had seen the financial challenges developing over time. He noted that while he had previously resisted supporting a tax increase, the City was no longer working with distant projections, but rather facing near-term financial realities. He acknowledged that growth in the city was slowing, which contributed to the need for additional revenue. Mr. Abens thanked the Finance Director for providing the necessary information and for her due diligence.

Councilman Shaffer expressed confusion about the City's financial planning. He noted that the City should worry about its budget problems instead of supporting a property tax increase to build a school with a swimming pool. He suggested that such priorities seemed misaligned.

Mayor Corcoran reiterated that the city government and the city schools were two separate entities, and that the City had no control over the school levy or expenditures. The funding and decision-making processes for the school district were entirely independent from those of the city.

Councilman Shaffer continued by saying that he saw members of City Council promoting the school levy at the Corn Festival. He questioned why that effort was prioritized, given the City's financial issues. He argued that when facing budget problems, it is not right to pursue luxury items.

A roll call vote was taken, and the motion was carried.

Yes – 7

No – 0

THIRD READINGS:

There were none.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS:

President Jacobs noted the following:

1. A Building and Lands Committee Meeting will be on Monday, August 18, 2025, at 6:15 p.m. in Council Chambers to discuss Ordinance Number 2025-110.
2. The next Regular City Council meeting will be on Monday, August 18, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT:

Councilman Shaffer stated that with the Corn Festival approaching, all members would be present at the Republican booth and invited attendees to stop by and say hello.

President Jacobs adjourned the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

Approval of minutes on August 18, 2025:



Jason Jacobs
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL



Nicholas Ciofani
CLERK OF COUNCIL