

**NORTH RIDGEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
NOVEMBER 3, 2025**

CALL TO ORDER:

President Jacobs called the Council meeting on Monday, November 3, 2025, to order at 7:00 p.m.

INVOCATION:

Led by President Jacobs.

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.

Others Present: Mayor Kevin Corcoran, Finance Director April Wilkerson, City Engineer Christina Eavenson, Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani, and Assistant Clerk of Council Fijabi Gallam.

MINUTES - Corrections (if any) and approval:

President Jacobs asked if there were any corrections to the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes dated October 20, 2025. No discussion was offered. The meeting minutes stand approved as submitted.

President Jacobs noted the following.:

Finance Committee Meeting Minutes dated November 21 and 22, 2024.

Board of Zoning and Building Appeals Meeting Minutes dated October 23, 2025.

Civil Service Commission Meeting Minutes dated October 27, 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.

City of North Ridgeville Concerns

Robert Baumgardner at 6327 Stoney Ridge Road began his remarks by quoting Abraham Lincoln. He expressed concern about the Mayor's behavior during the previous meeting. He requested transparency, integrity, and accountability, and urged the Council to initiate an independent audit of the City's finances. He raised concerns about City contracts being awarded to campaign donors, questioned the City's financial management, and emphasized the need to support first responders.

City of North Ridgeville Concerns

Shellie Kearsey at 37886 Stoney Lake Drive expressed concerns about receiving mail promoting a levy with vague wording. She criticized the City Council for passing a non-binding resolution offering 1% credit to residents working outside the city, noting that the ballot language did not include this guarantee. She compared the situation to Avon, which included such language for transparency. Ms. Kearsey alleged a lack of honesty and transparency from City Council and concerns regarding the "rule of three" and recent resignations. Ms. Kearsey called for honesty, transparency, and accountability, stating that the city deserves better leadership.

City of North Ridgeville Concerns

Greg Fanning of 6025 Haven Crest Court addressed accountability and integrity in government, noting that such principles should be the gold standard. He clarified that while he sometimes disagreed with Council President Jason Jacobs and Councilwoman Georgia Awig, he believed both were good people who cared deeply about the city, emphasizing that disagreement should not lead to questioning character. Mr. Fanning then addressed infrastructure concerns on Sugar Ridge Road, two aging bridges, and the need for local action to improve safety. He supported a proposed resolution to increase fines for overweight trucks and urged swift passage to prevent accidents. He also clarified misinformation regarding Councilman Eric Schaefer. He concluded by encouraging residents to vote in the upcoming election.

ADMINISTRATORS REPORTS:

1. Mayor:

Mayor Corcoran remarked the following.:

- Public Works Department, Streets Division, finished paving the streets on the 2025 list. In total, they resurfaced 6.5 lane miles of roadway. They will continue to do patchwork on Sugar Ridge Road and other areas of need as long as the weather allows and the asphalt plant remains open. Public Works staff are doing an outstanding job keeping the roads safe.
- Election Day – November 4, 2025 - Polls are open from 6:30 a.m. until 7:30 p.m. The Board of Elections made changes to polling locations in the city. Residents could visit the Lorain County Board of Elections website at voteloraincountyohio.gov to look up a polling location.
- Issue #8 – Proposed Income Tax Levy. As a reminder, Issue #8 Income Tax Increase for North Ridgeville will appear on the November 2025 ballot. The City is asking voters to approve a 0.75% income tax increase. The City's current income tax rate is 1%. This proposal would bring the income tax rate to 1.75%. The proposal would also raise the income tax credit for those working outside the city from 0.1% to 1.0%. The new revenue would primarily support public safety but would also help maintain other essential city operations. Residents will also find an Income Tax Calculator on the website that you can plug in the numbers to see how this will impact them specifically. For more information, visit the City's website at nridgeville.org/IncomeTaxLevy. If residents missed attending the Town Hall meeting last week, the presentation can also be found on the website.
- Veterans Day - City Hall offices will be closed Tuesday, November 11, 2025, in observance of Veterans Day. Residents are also invited to attend a Veterans Memorial Service, sponsored by North Ridgeville Veterans Memorial on Veterans Day at 10:30 a.m. at the Veterans Memorial at South Central Park. Parking is available at the Senior Center and City Hall.

Mayor Corcoran concluded his report.

2. Engineer:

City Engineer Christina Eavenson provided the following:

- Reported full depth and pavement striping projects nearing completion.

- Announced reopening of State Route 83 bridge over State Route 10, with sporadic lane closures for finishing work.
- Noted Center Ridge Road bridge over Mills Creek nearing completion.
- Frontier Park pedestrian bridge scheduled for installation of prefabricated structure, weather permitting.
- Bids opened for Peanut Roundabout landscaping and signage package, selection forthcoming.

City Engineer Eavenson concluded her report.

3. Director of Finance:

April Wilkerson, the Finance Director, reported the following:

A memorandum was provided to City Council addressing the following pieces of legislation. The request was to consider adopting the legislation with an emergency clause to allow the Department of Finance the necessary resources to meet its financial obligations.

- Presented Ordinance No. 2025-150 amending annual appropriations. Included additional budget for vehicle and equipment repairs, payment of 2024 bond anticipation notes, OWDA loan payment for French Creek CM tank blower project, and deposit refunds.

Finance Director Wilkerson concluded her report.

4. Other Reports:

President Jacobs noted the following.:

September 2025 Police Department Report

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT(S):

There were none.

CORRESPONDENCE:

There were none.

OLD BUSINESS:

There were none.

NEW BUSINESS:

President Jacobs and seconded by Swenk to appoint Councilman Clifford Winkel to the Community Improvement Corporation (CIC) under City Council Standing Committees.

RECESS:

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

A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Ordinance and Resolution submittal(s)

FIRST READINGS:

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

O 2025-145 An Ordinance providing for the renaming of Thibo Trail to Orchard Park Drive.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Ordinance Number 2025-145 was referred to the Planning Commission for review and recommendation.

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

O 2025-146 An Ordinance adopting the City of North Ridgeville Cybersecurity Program in accordance with Ohio Revised Code Section 9.64(C).
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Ordinance Number 2025-146 moved to second reading.

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

O 2025-147 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a new ground lease agreement with TowerCo VI, LLC for the installation of a wireless communications facility at the Shady Drive Complex.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Ordinance Number 2025-147 referred to the Utilities Committee for review and discussion.

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

- O 2025-148 An Ordinance extending the moratorium on the granting of permits and on the acceptance of Planning Commission or New Business Applications for smoke shops in the City of North Ridgeville for an additional period not to exceed 180 days from the expiration of Ordinance 2025-84, in order to allow the Planning Commission and Council to consider possible changes to use regulations in the North Ridgeville Zoning Code.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Awig to dispense with the second and third readings for 2025-148.

Mayor Corcoran remarked that the existing moratorium on smoke shops and the updates to the zoning code were in progress, with completion planned for the first quarter of 2026. To allow time for these changes to be incorporated, he proposed extending the moratorium.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Awig to add the emergency clause to extend the moratorium before the existing moratorium expires.

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 Awig to adopt 2025-148 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried for
Ordinance Number 2025-148.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

- O 2025-149 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of North Ridgeville to enter into a contract for the purchase of a new ambulance (medic unit) from the state bid list, or to advertise for bids and enter into a contract(s) with outside vendors, according to law and in a manner prescribed by law.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Swenk to dispense with the second and third readings for 2025-149.

Mayor Corcoran noted the extended lead times for ambulances and large equipment, and that delivery now takes 18 months to two years. To plan, he proposed ordering a new ambulance and confirmed that appropriations had been amended to provide the necessary budget.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Swenk to add the emergency clause to expedite the purchase of an ambulance for the health and safety of the community.

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 2025-149 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried for
Ordinance Number 2025-149.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

O 2025-150 An Ordinance amending Ordinance Number 2024-139 of the City of North Ridgeville, Ohio, providing appropriations for the period commencing January 1, 2025, and ending December 31, 2025.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Moved by Winkel and seconded by Awig to dispense with the second and third readings for 2025-150.

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 provide the Finance Department the resources necessary to meet its financial obligations.

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 2025-150 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried for
Ordinance Number 2025-150.

Yes – 7 No – 0

SECOND READINGS:

There were none.

THIRD READINGS:

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

O 2025-131 An Ordinance accepting up to two hundred (200) hours of sick time when an employee transfers from one public employer to the City of North Ridgeville, Ohio.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran; First Reading on 10-06-2025; Second Reading on 10-20-2025)

Moved by Winkel and seconded by Awig to add the emergency clause to provide the Finance Department the resources necessary to meet its financial obligations.

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 2025-150 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried for
Ordinance Number 2025-150.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

O 2025-133 An Ordinance Authorizing the Mayor to purchase two influent screening units from Or-Tec Inc. according to law and in a manner prescribed by law.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran; First Reading on 10-06-2025; Second Reading on 10-20-2025)

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Swenk to strike 2025-133 from the agenda.

Mayor Corcoran noted that the Administration obtained some additional information and would like to make some changes to this ordinance.

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

Yes – 7 No – 0

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

O 2025-134 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to negotiate and enter into a contract according to law and in a manner prescribed by law with the lowest and best bidder for the installation of two new influent screening systems at the French Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran; First Reading on 10-06-2025; Second Reading on 10-20-2025)

Moved by Swenk and seconded by Winkel to add the emergency clause to install the screens as soon as possible to help with the flow of the project.

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

Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by Swenk and seconded by Abens to adopt 2025-134 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried for
Ordinance Number 2025-134.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

O 2025-135 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to contract for the Launder Covers purchase and installation according to law and in a manner prescribed by law, and to authorize the installation of alternative bid 3 as part of the replacement and upgrade of the complete mix tank aeration and mixing systems at the French Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.

(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran; First Reading on 10-06-2025; Second Reading 10-20-2025)

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Abens to add the emergency clause to upgrade the complete mix tank aeration and mixing system as soon as possible to help with the flow of the project.

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

Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by Swenk and seconded by Abens to adopt 2025-135 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried for **Ordinance Number 2025-135.**

Yes – 7 No – 0

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

O 2025-136 An Ordinance amending Ordinance 5679-2019 which authorized the inclusion of non-written assessments for the positions of Police Chief and Police Captain.

(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran; First Reading on 10-06-2025; Second Reading on 10-20-2025)

Moved by Swenk and seconded by Abens to adopt 2025-136.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, and the motion carried for **Ordinance Number 2025-136.**

Yes – 7 No – 0

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

O 2025-137 An Ordinance amending Ordinance 5681-2019 which authorized the inclusion of non-written assessments for the positions of Fire Chief and Assistant Fire Chief.

(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran; First Reading on 10-06-2025; Second Reading on 10-20-2025)

Moved by Swenk and seconded by Abens to adopt 2025-137.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, and the motion carried for **Ordinance Number 2025-137.**

Yes – 7 No – 0

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

O 2025-139 An Ordinance providing for the issuance and sale of note to exceed \$4,025,000 of notes, in anticipation of the issuance of bonds, to provide funds to pay costs of acquiring and installing ultrasonic water meter equipment, together with all necessary appurtenances thereto.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran; First Reading on 10-06-2025; Second Reading on 10-20-2025)

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Abens to add the emergency clause for a timely note sale.

Director Wilkerson explained that an emergency clause was necessary to allow for a timely note sale. This process would begin that week to sell notes and secure financing to pay the current notes.

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

Yes – 7 No – 0

Moved by Swenk and seconded by Abens to adopt 2025-139 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried for
Ordinance Number 2025-139.

Yes – 7 No – 0

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS:

President Jacobs noted the following:

1. The Finance Committee Meeting to discuss the 2026 Budget is scheduled for Wednesday, November 5, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., and Thursday, November 6, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., in the Council Chambers.
2. The next Regular City Council meeting will be on Monday, November 17, 2025, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Councilman Winkel reminded residents to verify polling locations through the Lorain County Board of Elections website, noting changes in Ward 4 where voters would now use LCCC Ridge Campus, the library, or Gateway Church instead of St. Julie's Parish.

Councilman Abens announced that Ward 3, Precinct E, would vote at Fields Church.

Councilman Schaffer raised concerns about the proposed tax increase, observing that city employees who work within the City would be affected, which he viewed as a de facto salary reduction. He suggested considering a pay adjustment to offset the impacts.

ADJOURNMENT:

President Jacobs adjourned the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

Approval of minutes on November 17, 2025:



Jason Jacobs
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL



Nicholas Ciofani
CLERK OF COUNCIL