

**NORTH RIDGEVILLE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
FEBRUARY 2, 2026**

CALL TO ORDER:

President Swenk called the Council meeting on Monday, February 2, 2026, to order at 7:00 p.m.

INVOCATION:

Led by President Swenk.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

Led by President Swenk.

ROLL CALL:

Present were Council members President Holly A. Swenk, Kathryn Rogerson, Robert Holub, Bruce F. Abens, Clifford Winkel, Paul Wolanski, and Cali Zingale.

Others Present: Mayor Kevin Corcoran, Law Director Brian Moriarty, 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 Swenk asked if there were any corrections to the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes dated January 20, 2026. No discussion was offered. The meeting minutes stand approved as submitted.

President Swenk noted the following:

Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes dated December 3, 2025.

Planning Commission Meeting Minutes dated January 13, 2026.

Board of Zoning and Building Appeals Meeting Minutes dated January 22, 2026.

LOBBY:

President Swenk opened the lobby session. She asked that anyone who comes up to speak state their name and address for the record at the podium, and that they have three minutes to discuss any topic of their choice.

Public Records Request Update

Robert Baumgardner of 6327 Stony Ridge Road thanked the City's Public Works Department for their work maintaining the roads during the recent storms. The conditions had been difficult, and staff had worked long hours to keep roads clear.

Mr. Baumgardner referenced comments made by the Law Director at a previous meeting regarding transparency and responses to public records requests. He stated that he still had lawsuits pending against the City related to unreleased records concerning mayoral campaign donors and contracts involving those donors. Mr. Baumgardner requested the Police Department climate survey. He noted that the City responded that it was not a public record because it had not been used by the City. He asked the administration to confirm that the Mayor, Police Chief, or Safety-Service Director had never reviewed the survey and reported receiving no response. He expressed concern that selective practices appeared to be occurring within the Law Department.

ADMINISTRATORS' REPORTS:

1. Mayor:

Mayor Corcoran remarked the following:

He acknowledged the work of the Public Works Department. He noted that the department had been working continuously due to the ongoing snowfall over the past week and a half. He reported that the staff had handled at least one major water main break on Saturday night and had put in significant effort to address it.

He stated that the City had used a large amount of salt and that the region continued to face a salt shortage. He explained that demand exceeded supply and that Cargill Salt, the salt provider, had been unable to meet the needs of area municipalities, including North Ridgeville. He reported that the City's salt supply was very low and that Cargill Salt estimated another three to four weeks before the next delivery. As a result, the City would be very limited in salting roads moving forward. He added that attempts had been made to locate salt from alternative sources and that the City had spoken with vendors who might be able to assist. However, Cargill Salt informed the City that even if it sent a truck, the company would not be able to fill it.

Remarked that many residents had not cleared their sidewalks during the recent storms. He reminded the public that the city ordinance required sidewalks to be cleared within 12 hours after a storm. He emphasized that the purpose of the ordinance was pedestrian safety—especially for schoolchildren who continued to walk during winter weather. He advised residents to clear their sidewalks and warned that citations could be issued for noncompliance, although the City preferred not to take enforcement action.

- Legislation I will be requesting the following legislation be passed by emergency this evening. Under First Readings:

Ordinance 2026-9—An ordinance amending Ordinance Number 2025-158, providing appropriations for the period commencing January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2026. Requested to dispense with the second and third readings and add the emergency clause to provide the Finance Department with the resources necessary to meet our financial obligations.

Resolution 2026-10—A resolution authorizing fund transfers. These fund transfers are budgeted annually to support debt service requirements, payroll, capital improvements, and equipment needs within the funds presented. Requested to move to dispense with the second and third readings and add the emergency clause to provide these operating resources as already approved by Council through annual appropriations.

Ordinance 2026-12—An Ordinance authorizing all actions necessary to accept the Northeast Ohio Public Energy Council (NOPEC) 2026 Energized Community Grant(s). NOPEC provided the City with an annual grant, and the funds have been used for roundabout projects for the past several years. In all the years the grant had been received, it had only been used once for LED lighting in the buildings at City Hall, and those upgrades had all been completed.

Ordinance 2026-13—An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement for the purchase and installation of traffic monitoring equipment and supplies through the Ohio Department of Administrative Services or the Ohio Department of Transportation Cooperative Purchase Program. Requested to dispense with the second and third readings and add the emergency clause to purchase before the deadline of a price increase. This is for the signals, not for the movement of the vehicles to give out tickets. The new traffic-signal camera system would provide several benefits to the City, including real-time access for the Police Department to view intersections and remotely control signal operations, automatic software updates through a cellular connection that keep the system current, and built-in notifications that alert staff when a camera is not functioning properly. The upgraded technology would also improve traffic detection and signal timing adjustments, enhance reliability compared to the outdated, non-connected system currently in place, and offer better support for accident investigations through more accessible and higher-quality video. Overall, the improvements would strengthen traffic management, streamline maintenance, and provide greater operational flexibility for both the community and the Police Department.

Mentioned that the administration always asks for the emergency clause, so they can access the necessary funds to meet their financial obligations. A memo to City Council was provided explaining the financial aspect.

- City Offices Closed - City offices will be closed on Monday, February 16, in observance of Presidents' Day. Our next Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 17, due to the holiday.

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 – 6 No – 1 (Zingale)

Adjourned into Executive Session at 7:13 p.m.

Reconvened into the Regular City Council meeting at 7:35 p.m.

Moved by Winkel and seconded by Rogerson to adjourn from executive session and return to the regular City Council session.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Mayor Corcoran concluded his report.

2. Engineer:

City Engineer Christina Eavenson did not have a report for this meeting.

3. Director of Finance:

Director April Wilkerson reported that the Finance Department had issued its preliminary December 2025 financial report, noting that the report remained subject to the completion of the annual audit, which typically began in March, after which a final report would be released. A memorandum had been provided to Council in advance of the meeting outlining the financial legislation under first reading. Ordinance No. 2026-9, an ordinance amending annual appropriations, accounted for salary and fringe benefit increases for members of the AFSCME union following Council's adoption for 2026 to 2028 contract in December 2025, as well as healthcare election changes from open enrollment.

The amendment also included funding for a new ambulance for the Fire Department, previously authorized under Ordinance No. 2025-149, with delays in purchasing the vehicle requiring reappropriation of funds. In addition, the amendment addressed the Park and Recreation Master Plan, before Council under second reading as Ordinance No. 2026-4, and previously appropriated in 2025, with the department requesting the appropriation be moved to 2026 to allow additional time for firm selection.

Director Wilkerson noted that Resolution No. 2026-10, authorizing fund transfers, was also on the agenda, explaining that Council had previously adopted Ordinance No. 2025-158 to establish the budget authority for these transfers, and that the resolution was the second step necessary to formally move funds supporting debt service, payroll reserves, and ongoing capital and equipment needs. Requested that Council adopt both pieces of legislation that evening with the emergency clause to ensure financial resources were in place to meet the City's obligations.

Finance Director Wilkerson concluded her report.

President Swenk noted the following.:

November 2025 Financial Report

4. Other Reports:

President Swenk noted the following.:

December 2025 Parks and Recreation Division Report
November 2025 Police Department Report
December 2025 Police Department Report

COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT(S):

There were none.

CORRESPONDENCE:

The Clerk of Council read the following:

1. CORRESPONDENCE dated January 19, 2026, from Finance Director April Wilkerson – Accompanied by the City Engineers' memorandum indicating the 2026 water rate increase per Codified Ordinance 1046.05(d), and that the new rate will take effect on February 1, 2026.

2. CORRESPONDENCE dated January 29, 2026, from Helen Johnson, Crossing Guard – An appreciation to Councilperson Cliff Winkel and School Board President Frank Vacha for their collaborative efforts in ensuring the Bainbridge crosswalk was cleared following the recent snowstorm.

OLD BUSINESS:

There were none.

NEW BUSINESS:

There were none.

RECESS:

Moved by Winkel and seconded by Rogerson 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 2026-9 An Ordinance amending Ordinance Number 2025-158 of the City of North Ridgeville, Ohio, providing appropriations for the period commencing January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2026.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Moved by Winkel and seconded by Bruce to dispense with the second and third readings for 2026-9.

Councilman Winkel added that Ordinance 2026-9 included Columbia Gas and Corn festival grant revenues, AFSCME contract increases, and carryover funds for the ambulance and the Parks and Recreation study. He noted that these items made up the bulk of the amendment and stated they would likely request the emergency clause to ensure timely action.

Councilwoman Zingale asked the Finance Department for clarification on the amendment of appropriations across multiple funds and purposes. She asked the Finance Department to identify which specific line items would become unlawful, or

could result in missed payroll or contractual obligations, if the ordinance failed to pass under an emergency clause.

Director Wilkerson responded that several items would be affected. She explained that the Council salary increase, and its associated benefits were included in the amendment and required appropriation. She noted that multiple departments, as shown by the fund numbers in the ordinance, were impacted by the AFSCME wage increase, including clothing allowances that were not currently budgeted, as well as pension benefits. Affected funds included Street Construction, M&R, Motor Vehicle License, Water, Sewer, and Stormwater. She added that open enrollment benefit election changes would impact French Creek, the General Fund, and the Fire Levy.

Director Wilkerson explained that the custodial cleaning contract signed at the end of the previous year, would affect the Senior Center and Grounds Maintenance, and that without the amendment, custodial services could not continue. Grounds Maintenance had no current funding for custodial expenses. She stated that failing to pass the ordinance would prevent these items from being appropriated.

Councilwoman Zingale asked whether these items were all new appropriations or whether Council could have begun appropriating them at the meeting on the 5th to avoid the need for an emergency clause.

Director Wilkerson noted that she grouped departmental requests and brought them forward collectively instead of submitting frequent individual amendments.

Councilman Wolanski noted that not every resident attends every meeting or watches every meeting, so some may miss prior explanations. He reiterated that Council had repeatedly discussed how the emergency clause advances the effective date of legislation by 30 days. He explained that if Council did not pass an item with an emergency clause, there would be a delay, but that this did not necessarily indicate the presence of an actual emergency. He acknowledged that the terminology might not be ideal, but it was the terminology prescribed for use. Mr. Wolanski added that if a department or individual needed funding, failing to pass the item as an emergency would delay the process. He stated that he wanted to ensure this was clear to the public.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Yes – 7

No – 0

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Winkel to add the emergency clause in order to provide the Finance Department with the necessary resources 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 Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Winkel to adopt 2026-9 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried for **Ordinance Number 2026-9.**

Yes - 7 No - 0

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

R 2026-10 A Resolution authorizing fund transfers.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Moved by Winkel and seconded by Abens to dispense with the second and third readings for 2026-10.

Councilman Winkel explained that Ordinance 2026-10 involved transferring money from one account to another and that the funds had already been collected. He stated that the City had separation-of-duty requirements for retirements and similar obligations, which needed to be moved to the appropriate accounts before they could be spent. He added that the same process applied to the Water, Sewer, and French Creek funds for both bond payments and capital projects, requiring the money to be placed into the accounts from which expenditures could legally occur. The ordinance did not increase any budget but simply shifted existing funds between accounts.

A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Yes - 7 No - 0

Moved by Winkel and seconded by Abens to add the emergency clause in order to provide the Finance Department with the necessary resources 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 Abens to adopt 2026-10 with the emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried for
Resolution Number 2026-10.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

O 2026-11 An Ordinance amending Ordinance 2025-107 Exhibits A, B, and C.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Ordinance Number 2026-11 moved to Second Reading.

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

O 2026-12 An Ordinance authorizing all actions necessary to accept the Northeast Ohio
Public Energy Council (NOPEC) 2026 Energized Community Grant(s).
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Moved by Mayor Corcoran and seconded by Rogerson to dispense with the second
and third readings for 2026-12.

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 in
order to receive the grant funds in a timely manner.

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 2026-12 with the
emergency clause.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried for
Ordinance Number 2026-12.

Yes – 7 No – 0

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

O 2026-13 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of North Ridgeville to enter
into an agreement for the purchase and installation of traffic monitoring
equipment and supplies through the Ohio Department of Administrative

Services or the Ohio Department of Transportation Cooperative Purchase Program; According to the law and in a manner prescribed by law.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran)

Moved by President Swenk and seconded by Holub to dispense with the second and third readings for 2026-13.

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

Yes – 6 No – 1 (Zingale)

Moved by President Swenk and seconded by Holub to add the emergency clause in order to purchase before the deadline of a price increase and the immediate necessity to provide for the safety and welfare of the Citizens of the City of North Ridgeville.

{Clerk Notes: The legislation was submitted to the City Council without the emergency clause and was discussed with a motion and second to add the emergency clause, with the intention of voting on adoption with the emergency clause per the bylaws.}

Moved by President Swenk and seconded by Holub to adopt 2026-13 with the emergency clause discussed within the meeting.

Councilman Wolanski stated that the system would manage traffic signal operations, adjust light patterns during congestion, and potentially reduce the need for officers to manually control lights during school operations.

Mayor Corcoran added that the system would allow remote viewing, quicker updates, and remote access to footage for the Police Department, improving response and reducing delays. He noted that malfunction alerts would help identify issues sooner, improving public safety.

President Swenk referenced a recent police chase where outdated signal timing contributed to traffic delays, emphasizing the safety benefits. She noted the project was already budgeted, and the quote was valid only until February 13, 2026.

Councilman Wolanski stated that the explanation was helpful for the public, especially when the Council moves items beyond second and third readings.

Councilwoman Zingale expressed support for the cameras, but felt residents should still have opportunities to learn about and comment on such proposals.

Councilman Winkel added that the request originated from Public Works Director John Montgomery, who explained that the current camera system required manual hard resets each time a unit failed, as there was no remote capability. He

stated that this resulted in staff traveling across the city to reset cameras that might or might not resume working.

President Swenk noted that the City also had to rely on GridSmart's availability for service calls.

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, with the emergency, and the motion carried for **Ordinance Number 2026-13.**

Yes – 7

No – 0

SECOND READINGS:

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

O 2026-4 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of North Ridgeville to enter into a contract according to law and in a manner prescribed by law with McKenna for the City of North Ridgeville Parks & Recreation 2026 Master Plan, not to exceed \$149,000.00.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran; First Reading on 01-20-2026; Second Reading on 02-02-2026)

Resolution Number 2026-4 moved to Third Reading.

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

O 2026-5 An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of North Ridgeville, Ohio, to advertise for bids and enter into contract(s) for a twelve-month period, according to law and in a manner prescribed by law, for the purchase of chemicals to be used by the French Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant.
(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran; First Reading on 01-20-2026; Second Reading on 02-02-2026)

Ordinance Number 2026-5 moved to Third Reading.

THIRD READINGS:

Clerk of Council Nicholas Ciofani:

R 2026-1 A Resolution authorizing the Director of Planning and Development to apply on behalf of the City of North Ridgeville for funding from ODOT's Highway Safety Improvement Program for systemic pedestrian safety improvements along Lorain Road; authorizing funds for the required local match; and

authorizing the Mayor to accept the funding, if awarded, and to execute a contract with the State of Ohio.

(Introduced by Mayor Corcoran; First Reading on 01-05-2026; Second Reading on 01-20-2026)

Moved by Wolanski and seconded by Rogerson to adopt 2026-1.

Moved by Winkel and seconded by Rogerson to add the emergency clause in order to provide the Planning and Development Director extra time to prepare the grant application.

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

Yes – 7 No – 0

A roll call vote was taken on the adoption, and the motion carried for **Resolution Number 2026-1.**

Yes – 7 No – 0

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS:

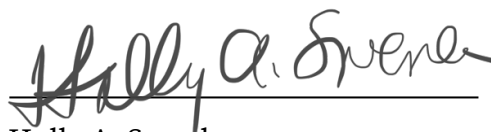
President Swenk noted the following:

1. The next Regular City Council meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

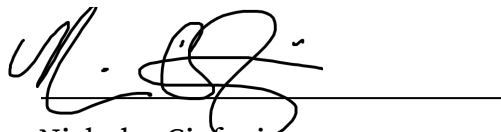
ADJOURNMENT:

President Swenk adjourned the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Approval of minutes on February 17, 2026:



Holly A. Swenk
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL



Nicholas Ciofani
CLERK OF COUNCIL