

Mayor
Kathy Huner

City Council
Shane Chamberlin
Sarah Heising
Steve Schneider
Jeremy Simon
Brandon Tijerina
Heather Galbraith



230 Clinton Street • Wauseon, Ohio 43567

Director of Law
Thomas A. McWatters III

Director of Finance
Jamie L. Giguere

Police Chief
Kevin Chittenden

Fire Chief
Phil Kessler

February 12, 2026

Wauseon City Council
230 Clinton Street
Wauseon, Ohio 43567

RE: Council Meeting of February 16, 2026

Dear Council Members:

At the outset of the meeting, Sarah Heising will be sworn in to fill the unexpired term of Harold Stickley.

We are not aware of anyone wishing to address Council.

The Park Board will present a report and recommend adoption of a revised contract for leasing the fields at Biddle Park.


There will be a first reading on Ordinance 2026-2 (emergency), which would amend the Codified Ordinances to increase the water rates in order to help finance improvements to the water treatment plant mandated by the EPA.

There is no legislation for second or third reading.

In new business, a motion will be necessary to approve revised Council Committee assignments for 2026 and 2027.

These are the only issues I am aware of to come before Council. Should any member of Council have any questions or comments, you are strongly encouraged to contact the appropriate Department Head prior to the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Thomas A. McWatters III
City Law Director

TAM:knj

cc: Kathy Huner, Mayor
Jamie Giguere, Finance Director
Jan Tropsf, Acting Clerk of Council
The Blade

Phone 419-335-5041 • Office Fax 419-335-3866

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WAUSEON CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
February 16, 2026
5:00 pm

Order of Business

1. Call meeting to order
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Moment of Silence
4. Swearing in-
 Sarah Heising
5. Roll Call
6. Approval of prior meeting minutes:
 - a) Council Meeting: February 2, 2026, Committee of the Whole February 11, 2026
 - Motion to approve the prior meeting minutes moved by _____ and seconded by _____.

 All in favor:
7. Committee Reports
 - a) Park Board (02.10.2026) – Recommend adoption of a revised contract for tournament games at Biddle Park.
8. Department Head Reports
 - a) Phil Kessler, Fire Chief
 - b) Kevin Chittenden, Police Chief
 - c) Jamie Giguere, Director of Finance
 - d) Thomas McWatters III, Law Director
9. First Reading of Legislation or Emergency
 - a) **Ordinance 2026-2: AN ORDINANCE MODIFYING THE RATE SCHEDULE FOR WATER RATES FOR THE CITY OF WAUSEON; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY**

Motion to place Ordinance 2026-2 on emergency reading moved by _____ and seconded by _____.

Motion to place Ordinance 2026-2 on final reading moved by _____ and seconded by _____.

Discussion:

Vote: ____ Yeas ____ Nays

10. Second Reading of Legislation or Emergency

11. Third Reading of Legislation or Emergency

12. New Business

a) Approval of Revised Council Committee Assignments 2026-2027

13. Old Business

14. Approval of Bills

15. Adjournment

a) Motion to adjourn moved by _____ and seconded by _____.

All in favor:

Brandi Galbraith
Clerk of Council

Council reserves the right to adjourn into Executive Session at any time it deems appropriate. The distribution of this Agenda does not obligate Council to take action on the items set forth herein, nor does it limit Council from taking action on other items not on the Agenda. The items listed on the Agenda are subject to change. If additional items are added, Council will use its best effort to notify all interested parties of changes prior to the meeting

**WAUSEON CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, February 2, 2026**

Mayor Huner called this meeting of the Wauseon City Council to order at 5:00 p.m. in Council Chambers. She led the Pledge of Allegiance which was followed by a moment of silence. Roll was taken by the Clerk of Council. Present were Council President Chamberlin, Councilors Galbraith, Stickley, Simon, Tijerina, and Schneider, constituting a quorum.

COUNCIL HEARING

The Council Meeting was led into a public hearing pursuant to Article XI of the Charter on the removal of an elected official. The motion to go into public hearing was moved by Council Chamberlin and seconded by Council Galbraith.

No Discussion
6 yeas 0 nays
Motion carried

Mayor Huner and Attorney Bob Bohmer then read from the Wauseon Charter Section 11.01 for the process of removing an elected official from the City Council. Witnesses consisted of Sarah Heising, Chief Phil Kessler, Assistant Chief Jeremy Shirky, Human Resources Manager Michelle Wing, and Jamie Giguere. Each witness took an oath to tell the truth or risk the penalty of perjury. Each person explained their happenings and a discussion was had.

The motion to remove Harold Stickley under Wauseon Charter Section 11.01 was made by Council Galbraith and seconded by Council Simon.

Discussion: Council Tijerina stated that his decision was difficult and not taken lightly.

No Discussion
5 yeas 0 nays
Motion carried

Motion to end City Council Public hearing was made by Council Chamberlin and seconded by Council Schneider.

No Discussion
5 yeas 0 nays
Motion carried

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mayor Huner asked for a motion to approve the prior meeting minutes and committee of the whole. Council Simon moved and seconded by Council Galbraith to approve the minutes as printed.

All in favor: *Motion Passed Unanimously*

PERSON WISHING TO ADDRESS COUNCIL

Kevin Hite and Brandon Schantz addressed Council with questions and discussions were had along with Council members, both questioning the timing of the hearing and "why it took so long" to bring the allegations forward. Both attempted to compare to private industry. Mayor Huner explained to each of them that

Government entities are different and have different standards to follow, especially for the removal of an elected official. If this situation were an employee, they could have been dismissed immediately.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Council Simon provided a summary of the Tree Commission. Arbor day will be held at Reighard Park, there will be vendors and a speaker offering information on planting trees. No recommendations offered.

Council Schneider reports at the Utility/Finance Meeting. The EPA want 1.3 million to repair the Water Treatment Plant now and in 5-6 years 10 million GAC system installed. Thomas McWatters states that the administration will pursue discussions with the EPA regarding the installation of a GAC system at the Water Treatment Plant. A conference call with Terry Finn (attorney specializing in environmental), Tom McWatters and the EPA happened earlier in the day where EPA would like to see a letter of recommendation, timeline and budget. The Utility y Commission recommended to bypass the \$1.3 mill band-aid and go directly to the \$10 mill project and create the GAC system.

Motion to accept the recommendation of the joint meeting moved by Council Tijerina seconded by Council Chamberlin.

No Discussion
5 years 0 nays
Motion carried

Council Simon with the Utilities Department recommended increasing water rates 5 percent in March then 2 percent to help with the funding of the Water Treatment Plant's GAC system

Motion to accept Utilities recommendation was made by Council Chamberlin and seconded by Council Galbraith.

No Discussion
5 years 0 nays
Motion carried

DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS

Phil Kessler, Fire Chief: The ambulance that was involved in an accident is back and running. The fire department has not had any problems or calls due to the weather.

Kevin Chittenden, Chief of Police: The D.A.R.E program for second graders will start February 3rd. Classes will be held one a week for 8 weeks. The Police Department will be supplied with new body cameras due to the body camera grant offered by the State.

Tom McWatters: Legislation Ordinance 2026-1, Resolution 2026-3 signed and certified copy for the Board.

FIRST READING OF LEGISLATION OR EMERGENCY

- a) **Ordinance 2026-1:** An Ordinance Directing the City Clerk to File a Copy of Proposed Charter Amendment Adding a New Section 6.10 to Create a Department of Building and Zoning for Placement by the Board of Elections on the Ballot at the Next Regularly Scheduled Election; and Declaring an Emergency.

Motion to place Ordinance 2026-1 on emergency reading moved by Council Chamberlin and seconded by Council Simon.

No Discussion
5 Yeas 0 Nays
Motion Carried

Motion to place Ordinance 2026-1 on final reading moved by Council Schneider and seconded by Council Tijerina.

No Discussion
5 Yeas 0 Nays
Motion Carried

- b) **Resolution 2026-02:** A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into an Agreement with Fredericksen Engineering Services, LLC for engineering Services; and Declaring an Emergency.

Motion to place Resolution 2026-2 on emergency reading moved by Council Galbraith and seconded by Council Tijerina.

No Discussion
5 Yeas 0 Nays
Motion Carried

Motion to place Resolution 2026-2 on final reading moved by Council Tijerina and seconded by Simon.

No Discussion
5 Yeas 0 Nays
Motion Carried

- c) **Resolution 2026-3:** A Resolution Submitting to the Electors of the City of Wauseon the Question of an Additional Tax Levy for Parks and Recreational Purposes and Declaring an Emergency.

Motion to place Resolution 2026-3 on emergency reading moved by Council Schneider and seconded by Council Galbraith.

No Discussion
5 Yeas 0 Nays
Motion Carried

Motion to place Resolution 2026-3 on final reading moved by Council Tijerina and seconded by Council Galbraith

No Discussion

5 Yeas 0 Nays
Motion Carried

- d) **Resolution 2026-4:** A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Advertise for Bids for the HI Service Valve System Replacement at the Water Treatment Plant; Authorizing the Mayor to Accept the Lowest and Best Bid; and Authorizing the Mayor to Enter a Contract with the Lowest and Best Bidder; and Declaring an Emergency.

Motion to place Resolution 2026-4 on emergency reading moved by Council Chamberlin and seconded by Council Simon.

No Discussion
5 Yeas 0 Nays
Motion Carried

Motion to place Resolution 2026-4 on final reading moved by Council Simon and seconded by Council Galbraith.

No Discussion
Vote: 5 Yeas 0 Nays
Motion carried

SECOND READING OF LEGISLATION OR EMERGENCY

There was no legislation for second reading.

THIRD READING OF LEGISLATION OR EMERGENCY

There is no legislation for third reading.

NEW BUSINESS

Council Chamberlin recommended new assignment for council members upon the removal of Council Stickley.

Motion to accept Council assignments moved by Council Tijerina and seconded by Council Simon.

No Discussion
5 yeas 0 nays
Motion Carried

Recommendation to offer vacant Council member seat to Sarah Heising, if not accepted then move to Kevin Hite, moved by Council Chamberlin seconded by Council Galbraith.

Discussion: Council members had a discussion.
5 yeas 0 nays
Motion carried

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS

Council Schneider moved and seconded by Council Simon to approve and pay the bills as presented.

All in favor: *Motion Passed Unanimously*

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Huner asked for a motion to adjourn. Moved by Council Chamberlin and seconded by Councilor Simon to adjourn this meeting at 6:44 p.m.

All in favor: *Motion Passed Unanimously*

Brandi Galbraith, Clerk of Council

Shane Chamberlin, President of Council

**WAUSEON CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026**

Present: Police Chief Kevin Chittenden, Fire Chief Phil Kessler, Council President Chamberlin, Councilors Galbraith, Simon, Tijerina, and Schneider, Jamie Giguere, Tom McWatters, Mayor Kathy Huner, Jan Tropf, and Brandi Galbraith

Committee of the Whole was called to order by Council President Chamberlin at 7:15 a.m.

Committee Reports:

- Park Board- Martin Furhop developed a contract for tournaments. The fees are all basically the same, except for some added costs for field maintenance during the game, etc. This contract was modelled after Toledo and Findlay's. Tom is currently reviewing. The concession portion was removed and will be a separate contract. The biggest changes are adding a security deposit so if there are any damages, we are not trying to chase down for payment because we already have some funds from them, and we need a copy of their liability insurance on file.

1st Reading Legislation

- Ordinance 2026-5: Recommendation to Increase Utility Rates Effective on the March 1st Bill – Emergency

2nd Reading Legislation

3rd Reading Legislation

Chief Kevin Chittenden

- Police Department received tasers and will begin training for all staff.
- Police chief will be on the radio on 2/12
- Fulton County Commercial got rescheduled to the 24th

Chief Phil Kessler

- Fire Department has their annual preventative physical, there will be a physical trailer on the south side of the building starting 2/11-2/12
- Zoll training on new monitors has been delayed and is to be rescheduled.
- Phil along with Jamie met with physical representatives and other fire chiefs in the county about where commissioners see EMS going in the next contract. They were informed that the southern stations were going to receive a less amount, Archbold Delta and Swanton, Fayette, Lyon and Metamora are going to receive a larger amount. Wauseon main station will stay the same. More discussion is to be had with Phil and one of the commissioners.
- Wauseon ALS team responded to in a few weeks less than one year:
Archbold-104
Delta- 77
Fayette- 5

Lyons-
Metamora- 0
Morenci- 0
Swanton- 5
Wauseon- 2,031

- City contributes \$870,000 of EMS services
- Levy is going back on the ballot; contracts will not be distributed until after the election

Jamie

- TIF payment was due on the 1st of this month
- In court for Reighard vandalism
- From Huntington the Argent transfer has not taken place as of yet
- ODOT grant for hybrid beacon, still hasn't received full amount of funding, remaining funds owed is \$21,000

John Arps

- Up to 9 watermain breaks
- Waiting for follow up with contracts for Utility companies working in our right of way, discussion was had.

Tom

- Richer request for damages, contingent negotiations for \$3000 easement, most easements are in the boulevard
- Terry Finn sent an email to counter part in the enforcement of the EPA, positive response is to come next week to go from EPA to GAC
- Annexation Assessment eliminations is down to one, the Senior Villas

Danny

- Wanted to thank everyone for the scriptures, encouraging emails and prayers!!!
- Inspections are doing good
- Contractors are doing video walk throughs and documenting everything to keep things current
- TIF-Brett and Ben working together so see the progress of different builds over 60%
- Tom Zimmerman is out until March 6, Rex from defiance is the backup
- Meeting with Michelle and Mayor to work Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday in the office
- Possible Intern to where they train under his license to be able to step into his role after some time
- Taking Electrical Exam to be able to do everything in house

Mayor

- Tucker Fredericksen, an engineer, is on board, has visited sites and will be working with Ryan to start bids for valve replacements.

Shane

- Swearing in Sarah Heising Monday 16, 2026
- New business: Motion to approve revised committee assignments to incorporate Sarah Heising
- Larry Zimmerman asked Heather Galbraith if the levy on the ballot will provide funding for operation of the pool

Jan

- Pool reservations are coming in
- There will be no homecoming this year
- Received call about 4th of July
- Discussion of parade for the 4th of July
- Brandi is doing very well; she has moved her desk around to her liking and has also typed up meeting minutes from the council meeting from February 2nd and has also been working in Civic Plus.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further discussion the staff meeting was adjourned at 7:57 am.

Brandi Galbraith, Clerk of Council

Council President, Shane Chamberlin

Wauseon Biddle Park

Special Event/Tournament- Athletic Facility Permit Request Form

-Lease Procedure, Fees, Restrictions and Insurance-

A \$ _____ non-refundable processing fee must accompany the request form

Standard Enclosed Facility Lease: Includes field maintenance workers to oversee facility. This lease includes basic maintenance. *Leases/permits must be picked up, signed, have deposit paid, and have required insurance certificates attached 30 days prior to the first date of usage or they will be cancelled. You must give a 48-hour notification of cancellation, or your security deposit will be forfeited.* Refunds will only be given for cancellations due to inclement weather and/or unplayable field conditions, which will be assessed by the Park Manager or a member of the Wauseon Recreation office. Lease/permit fees are due at time of permit pick-up.

All field maintenance and line markings must be approved, performed and/or supervised by the Park Manager. In case of inclement weather, decisions to begin or resume play will be that of the head Parks staff assigned to the event.

All reservations will be made at the Recreation Office. Wauseon Recreation Program reserves the right of first usage. Reservations hours for ball parks will be: **9:00am-Dark (IF NO LIGHTS) or 9:00am-Midnight (w/LIGHTS)**. There are four(4) softball fields with 300ft. fences (Haas Door, Legion, Zeller and 5/3 Bank Field). Two(2) softball/baseball fields with 200ft. fences (F&M Field, Funk Field). One(1) baseball field with 200ft. fences (Dehnbostel Field) and one(1) pony league field (Lichtenwald Field).

Lease Fees/per field per day:

	<u>Per Field</u>		<u>Per Field</u>
Haas Door Field:.....	\$250.00	F&M Field:.....	\$250.00
Legion Field:.....	\$250.00	Funk Field:.....	\$250.00
Zeller Field:.....	\$250.00	Dehnbostel Field (baseball).....	\$300.00
5/3 rd Bank Field:.....	\$250.00	Lichtenwald Field (baseball)	\$300.00

Fields Lights:.....\$50.00per field/night

Field Maintenance Option:

Basic Included..... Included

- Included in tournament agreement, basic prep in the AM, and drag, rake, and chalk before Finals

Tournament Upgrade..... \$30/hr

- AM prep, minor field repair, raking, chalking

Full Field Upgrade.....\$60/hr

- Full staff, dragging, raking, and chalking between every other game, and rain crew

Lease Security Deposit: A \$400.00 Security Deposit is required and must be turned into the Recreation Department Office **30 days** prior to the requested event's start date. The Security Deposit will be held until after the completion of the event/tournament and returned if the facility is in good condition and approved. Any facility damage will be the responsibility of the renter. Applicant agrees to be responsible for any/all damage

caused to the park and facility, including damages to equipment, furnishings, buildings and landscaping which may be related to the proposed activity.

Required Insurance: Groups leasing City facilities must furnish a certificate of comprehensive liability insurance. The city must name the City as insured, with coverage of not less than one million dollars (\$1,000,000) for any and all injuries to or death of one person and on million dollars (1,000,000) for any and all injuries to or death of more than one person in any single occurrence insuring the City against any and all claims, demands, actions, or cause of action which may arise, of any nature, kind or description whatsoever, resulting from the use of the City's premises or participation in or attendance at the facility and one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) for any single occurrence of property damage. Applicant agrees to hold harmless the City of Wauseon, including its elective officials, officers, agents and employees from any and all liability for injuries or losses to persons or property that may result from any act or omission to act on the part of said individual or organization, or the acts of its employees or agents or anyone visiting the park and facility, or using any of the equipment, furnishing and buildings licensed herein, upon the invitation of said applicant, negligent or otherwise.

The facility will be ready for your reservation. You must communicate with the Park Manager the specifics of your reservation no later than **Date:**_____ **Time:**_____ **(48hours)** prior to your event (i.e. base lengths, pitching mound distance, etc.). If you have any questions about your reservations or about the facility, please contact the Park Manager at 567-454-6041 or the Recreation Department at 419-335-8334. Person(s) renting the facility/fields **will not** be issued a key to any areas for entry.

Absolutely **NO** alcoholic beverages, no pets and no smoking within/around the athletic fields/facilities.

Applicant hereby agrees to follow the guidelines associated with the park being closed. If park is closed due to weather and/or any other reason, there will be absolutely **NO** use for practice or games. If applicant or any entity associated with applicant is found using the park for practice or games, contract can and will be terminated with all fees, payments and/or deposits being forfeited.

x _____ (sign here) _____ (print)
confirms that you read and agree to the above policies and conditions

Date: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Dept. Signature: _____ (print)

Title: _____

Date: _____

	Yes	No
Emergency	_____	_____
First Reading	_____	_____
Second Reading	_____	_____
Third Reading	_____	_____
Suspension	_____	_____

ORDINANCE 2026-2

AN ORDINANCE MODIFYING THE RATE SCHEDULE FOR WATER RATES FOR THE CITY OF WAUSEON; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

WHEREAS, the City of Wauseon has undertaken a rate study and analysis to determine the appropriate water and sewer fees necessary to ensure that the water fund remains solvent; and

WHEREAS, Council has determined that it is necessary to raise the base water and rate 5% to ensure that the water and sewer fund remains solvent and to comply with improvements to the water plant mandated by the EPA; and

WHEREAS, Council has determined that it is appropriate for the water rate increase to take effect March 1, 2026; and

WHEREAS, this Ordinance should be declared an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the health, safety, and public welfare of the City because it is necessary for the City’s financial well-being that the increases take effect on March 1, 2026, as required by this legislation;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Wauseon, Fulton County, Ohio as follows:

Section 1.

That sections 933.02(a) of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Wauseon shall be amended to read as follows.

933.02 RATE SCHEDULE.

(a) The following shall be the water rates charged by the Municipality for water services per billing period as recorded by each water meter in use on the premises. In the event of one or more meters on the premises, each meter shall be billed separately:

- (1) Beginning on March 1, 2026, the effective water rates shall be :

<u>Residential Accounts</u>	<u>Rate per 100 cubic feet</u>
First 7.00 hundred cubic feet	\$8.27
Over 7.00 hundred cubic feet	\$5.49
Minimum charge per billing	\$9.52

<u>Commercial Accounts</u>	<u>Rate per 100 cubic feet</u>
First 20 hundred cubic feet	\$8.27
Over 20 hundred cubic feet	\$5.49
Minimum charge per billing	\$27.67

- (2) Beginning March 1, 2026, residential and commercial accounts inside the City limits whose usage exceeds 100,000 cubic feet per billing period shall pay at the rate of \$29.32 per 1000 cubic feet of water.
- (3) Beginning March 1, 2026, residential and commercial accounts outside the City limits whose usage exceeds 120,000 cubic feet per billing period shall pay at the rate of \$29.32 per 1000 cubic feet of water.

Section 2.

That all other ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 3.

That this Resolution be, and hereby is, declared to be an emergency measure, necessary for the immediate preservation of health, safety, and public welfare of the citizens of the City of Wauseon, and shall be in full force and effect from and immediately after its passage.

Passed:

Kathy Huner, Mayor

Shane Chamberlin, President of Council

Attest: _____

Jan Tropf
Acting Clerk of Council

Approved as to form:

Thomas A. McWatters III
City Law Director