

**WAUSEON CITY COUNCIL
COUNCIL MEETING
Monday, May 19, 2025**

Mayor Huner called this meeting of the Wauseon City Council to order at 5:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers. She led the Pledge of Allegiance which was followed by a moment of silence.

ROLL CALL

Roll was taken by the Clerk of Council. Present were Council President Chamberlin and Councilors Schneider, Simon, Tijerina, Galbraith, and Heising, to constitute a quorum for the transaction of city business.

MINUTES

Council President Chamberlin asked for a motion to approve the prior meeting minutes. Councilor Heising moved and was seconded by Councilor Galbraith to approve the minutes as printed.

All in favor: Motion Passed Unanimously

ANNUAL JOINT MEETING BETWEEN CITY COUNCIL AND CLNTON TOWNSHIP TRUSTEES

Present were Council President Chamberlin and Councilors Galbraith, Heising, Simon, Tijerina, Schneider, and Trustees Hite, and Frey.

Motion to reappoint Council President Chamberlin and Trustee Frey to the Wauseon Union Cemetery Board moved by Trustee Hite and seconded by Councilor Tijerina.

Vote: 8 Yeas 0 Nays

Motion to adjourn the annual joint meeting moved by Trustee Hite and seconded by Council President Chamberlin.

Vote: 8 Yeas and 0 Nays

INDIVIDUALS ADDRESSING COUNCIL

Karen Pennington from the Fulton County Health Department addressed the council to provide an update on efforts to reduce tobacco use among minors, supported by a grant initiative. This marked the first update on the topic in two years.

Ms. Pennington reported that the Health Department recently completed compliance checks in collaboration with local law enforcement. Underage individuals, accompanied by law enforcement, attempted to purchase tobacco products in communities throughout Fulton County. She was pleased to report that no sales to minors occurred in Wauseon or anywhere in the county—an unprecedented outcome in the history of the program.

In addition to compliance checks, the department conducts audits of tobacco retailers to assess product placement and advertising strategies. Findings revealed that 29% of tobacco products were displayed at youth eye level, a concern due to the potential for increased appeal among minors. Furthermore, 76% of retailers were found to sell tobacco products for less than \$1.00, which may increase accessibility for underage individuals. The audits also showed that 66% of stores carry e-cigarette products.

Over the past year, the department completed a Youth Status Report, which indicated a promising decline in youth vaping, with usage and purchasing rates among minors dropping to 1–2%.

The Council and Mayor expressed their appreciation to Ms. Pennington for her presentation and continued efforts.

Billy Meyer, a local resident, addressed the City Council regarding the recently enacted Slow-Moving Vehicle Ordinance. Mr. Meyer referred to an article in the Northwest Signal, which stated that an inspection fee of \$10 would be required before March 1st, with the fee increasing to \$50 thereafter. He expressed opposition to the requirement for annual inspections, suggesting that the police department could monitor safety or maintenance concerns of slow-moving vehicles similarly to traditional motor vehicles. Mr. Meyer also recalled a discussion with the Safety and Code Committee in October 2024, where he believed it was indicated there would be no inspection fee. He requested clarification on the rationale behind the current \$10 fee.

Councilor Tijerina, Chair of the Safety and Code Committee, responded that while the possibility of eliminating the fee was considered, discussions with the Police Chief highlighted the time and personnel required to conduct inspections. As a result, a nominal \$10 fee was established to offset those resource demands.

Mr. Meyer then inquired about the city's approach to addressing traditional vehicles that have faulty or missing safety equipment. In response, Councilor Simon explained that such matters fall under the jurisdiction of the Ohio Revised Code, whereas the regulation of slow-moving vehicles is a relatively recent development.

Mr. Meyer questioned why different types of vehicles are regulated differently. Councilor Tijerina clarified that vehicle laws are primarily set at the state level, and that the city's ordinance pertains solely to slow-moving vehicles within municipal boundaries. Councilor Simon added that, under state law, slow-moving vehicles are not permitted on roads with speed limits exceeding 35 mph, including county roads.

Mr. Meyer challenged this point, stating that his Gator can reach speeds of 50 mph and questioned where in the ordinance it explicitly prohibits such vehicles from operating on 35 mph roads. Councilors Tijerina and Simon reiterated that these limitations are established under state law, not local ordinance.

Mr. Meyer continued to voice frustration with the inspection requirement and associated fee. Council President Chamberlin emphasized that safety was a key consideration in the passage of the ordinance. He explained that the annual inspection process offers reassurance that slow-moving vehicles meet safety standards. Mayor Huner echoed this sentiment, underscoring that public safety is the city's highest priority and explaining that the inspection process justifies the minimal fee.

Councilor Heising thanked Mr. Meyer for adhering to the rules and acknowledged that she, too, had experienced confusion over the distinctions between various slow-moving vehicles, such as Gators and golf carts. Councilor Tijerina clarified that, under current legislation, all such vehicles are treated equally.

Mr. Meyer expressed dissatisfaction with how he perceives a difference in the treatment of his vehicle compared to traditional vehicles and stated his disappointment with the council. Council President Chamberlin suggested that the city could consider sending out annual inspection reminders to assist residents in staying compliant.

In closing, Mr. Meyer voiced his belief that golf carts should not be permitted on city streets. He stated that he finds it offensive and surprising that his Gator is categorized the same as a golf cart, as he believes it is clearly better equipped. Councilor Tijerina reaffirmed that the city ordinance aligns with applicable state law.

Mayor Huner concluded the discussion by thanking Mr. Meyer for bringing his concerns to the council's attention.

EMS PROCLAMATION

Mayor Huner formally read the Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week proclamation, recognizing and honoring the contributions of EMS personnel in safeguarding the health and safety of the community. The proclamation highlighted the dedication, professionalism, and efforts of first responders, and acknowledged the importance of continued public support and awareness for emergency medical services.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor Simon gave a report from the previous Tree Commission meeting on May 6, 2025.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Keith Torbet gave a report for his department. He is working with Wauseon Rotary on getting a grant for new playground equipment at Rotary Park. That legislation will be up for first reading. In November the grant will be announced.

Tom McWatters gave a report for his department. He is working on various things for different department heads. The trails look great this time of year. They were not damaged from the World War II event or the Firecracker 5k.

FIRST READING OF LEGISLATION OR EMERGENCY

Resolution 2025-9: A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor or Her Designee to Apply for a Nature Works Grant for The Purpose of Replacing the Playground Equipment at Rotary Park; And Declaring an Emergency

Motion to place Resolution 2025-9 on emergency reading moved by Councilor Schneider and seconded by Councilor Heising.

Vote: 6 Yeas 0 Nays Motion Carries

Motion to place Resolution 2025-9 on final reading moved by Councilor Tijerina and seconded by Councilor Simon.

Vote: 6 Yeas 0 Nays Motion Carries

THERE WAS NO LEGISLATION FOR SECOND OR THIRD READING

NEW BUSINESS

Motion to approve Mayor's appointments to various boards or committees moved by Councilor Simon and seconded by Councilor Tijerina.

Vote: 6 Yeas 0 Nays Motion Carries

APPROVAL OF THE BILLS

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

Vote: 6 Yeas 0 Nays Motion Carries

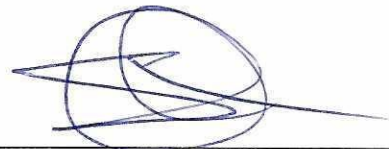
ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, moved by Councilor Tijerina and seconded by Council President Chamberlin to adjourn the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

All in favor: *Motion Passed Unanimously*



Korin Miller, Clerk of Council



Shane Chamberlin, Council President