

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Dublin City Council

Minutes of

Meeting

GOVERNMENT FORMS & SUPPLIES 844-224-3338 FORM NO. 10148

January 20, 2026

Held _____ 20 _____

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Amorose Groomes called the Tuesday, January 20, 2026 Regular Meeting of Dublin City Council to order at 5:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Members present were Ms. Alutto, Mayor Amorose Groomes, Vice Mayor De Rosa, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Keeler, Ms. Kramb and Dr. Lam.

Staff members present were Ms. O'Callaghan, Chief Paez, Mr. Hartmann, Mr. Rubino, Ms. Weisenauer, Ms. Willis, Ms. Wawszkiewicz, Mr. Rayburn, Deputy Chief Tabernik, Mr. Barker, Mr. Dilsaver, Mr. Jiang, Ms. Blake, Mr. Hammersmith, and Ms. Hunter.

Others present were Mr. Joe Batchelor, Frost Brown Todd Gibbons; Joe Bauserman and Scott Rodgers, SFC.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ms. Amorose Groomes moved to adjourn to executive session to consider:

- Personnel Matters: Considering the Employment of a Public Employee;
- Considering Confidential Information related to a request for Economic Development Assistance that involves Public Infrastructure Improvements that are directly related to an Economic Development Project, and which Executive Session is necessary to Protect the Possible Investment or Expenditure of Public Funds to be made in connection with the Economic Development Project;
- Preparing for, Conducting, or Reviewing Negotiations or Bargaining Sessions with Public Employees concerning their Compensation or other Terms and Conditions of their Employment;
- Conferences with an Attorney for the Public Body concerning Disputes involving the Public Body that are the subject of Pending or Imminent Court Action; and
- Personnel Matters: Considering the Compensation of a Public Employee.

Vote on the motion: Vice Mayor De Rosa, yes; Ms. Johnson, yes; Dr. Lam, yes; Mayor Amorose Groomes, yes; Ms. Kramb, yes; Mr. Keeler, yes; Ms. Alutto, yes.

The meeting was reconvened at 7:03 p.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Amorose Groomes invited Dr. Lam to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

David Venne, 56 S. Riverview Street, Dublin, came forward to share an opportunity to improve the character of Dublin's historic district, specifically South Riverview Street. He explained that last year the City buried utilities immediately west of South Riverview on South Blacksmith Lane and South High Street, but their street was not included due to the geological nature of their ground having extremely high rock content. He stated that boring through the rock would be too costly. Mr. Venne stated that neighbors asked him to reach out to Alta Fiber after the company marked utility locations in front of homes on South Riverview Street. There was confusion about the extent of work and whether there would be remediation. He reached out to Alta Fiber and was informed that Alta Fiber is burying fiber cable in the area and would repair any damage to property during installation. The installation was initially scheduled for December but was pushed back to spring because their machinery could not get through the rock present on South Riverview Street. The company needs to bring in heavy boring machinery with a 3 to 4 month wait

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list for the necessary equipment. Mr. Venne stated that this provides an opportunity to do what could not be done last year. He noted his understanding that it is a longstanding policy of the City that when opportunities arise to lay underground wiring in conjunction with underground burials, it would be considered. He requested that Council explore taking advantage of the work being done on South Riverview by Alta Fiber to align their street with the rest of the historic district by burying their utilities.

Mayor Amorose Groomes thanked Mr. Venne and asked Director of Engineering Paul Hammersmith to meet with Mr. Venne at his convenience to exchange information.

Nader Zidan of 6296 Ross Bend, addressed Council regarding increasing ICE activity across the country. He stated that in recent months there have been significant escalations in ICE raids, including in Central Ohio and Dublin. He described these actions as driven by anti-immigrant sentiment that has caused fear and distress in communities, tearing families apart and destabilizing neighborhoods. Mr. Zidan stated that while ICE claims to be upholding immigration law, its actions have repeatedly undermined the rule of law and violated constitutional protections. He reported that ICE is now operating in Dublin, noting that last December alone ICE detained more than 214 people in Columbus, including US citizens and legal residents. For a city that prides itself on diversity, this has understandably spread fear throughout immigrant and minority communities. He stated these actions are eroding public trust in law enforcement. He reminded Council members that they took an oath to uphold and defend the Constitution, and when federal agents violate constitutional rights, action must be taken to uphold them. He noted that the City of Worthington has already passed a resolution condemning racism, affirming the importance of immigrants to their community, and acknowledging the fear ICE has created. They reaffirmed their identity as a welcoming city. He urged that passing a similar resolution is how Dublin can take a stand and support the city, neighbors, community, and students. He concluded by asking Council to come together and take whatever action they can to protect the community, values, and democracy.

Mayor Amorose Groomes asked Chief Paez to meet with Mr. Zidan to share the work that Dublin officers are doing in response to these concerns.

Diane Cartolano, 3390 Martin Road, Dublin, thanked Council for being willing to hear residents out, noting some of this would be repetition. She stated there were additional things on her mind related to the November 6th Planning and Zoning meeting. She described the meeting as seeming very rushed and confusing, especially regarding the waivers. She also found it puzzling that apparently applicants have a process by which they can appeal a decision, but there is no recourse or avenue for residents to do that. She questioned why that is and whether there is any way to introduce language to allow that, as it seems very unfair. Ms. Cartolano mentioned that Scott Haring had sent a very detailed email of certain things that transpired during that meeting. She welcomed Council's feedback on the concerns stated.

Ms. Weisenauer read comments submitted via the website from Lauren Ranalli of 4760 Bright Road, Dublin, who wrote:

I drive through Old Dublin on High Street everyday. At some point I noticed how unsightly the utility poles were, so many wires, inconsistent heights and leaning pole structures. I thought, wow Dublin should do something about that. Sure enough about 2 weeks later the work started. On my Friday commute I admired the new clean and beautiful look of the street! Thank you Dublin for always being a step ahead.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes of the January 5, 2026 Organizational Council Meeting
- Notice to the Legislative Authority of a New D2 Liquor Permit for Alexava LLC, 7042 Hospital Drive, Dublin, Ohio 43016
- Notice to the Legislative Authority of a New D5J and D6 Liquor Permit Application for HOE Dublin, 6757 Longshore Drive, Dublin, Ohio 43017

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Hearing no request to remove an item from the Consent Agenda, Mayor Amorose Groomes moved to approve the four items on the Consent Agenda.
Ms. Alutto seconded the motion.

Vote on the motion: Ms. Kramb, yes; Mr. Keeler, yes; Mayor Amorose Groomes, yes; Dr. Lam, yes; Ms. Alutto, yes; Ms. Johnson, yes; Vice Mayor De Rosa, yes.

INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING – ORDINANCES

Ordinance 01-26

Amendments to Sections 72.021, 132.03, 153.076 and Adding Section 72.022 to Chapter 72 of the Dublin Codified Ordinances to Address Vehicular and Environmental Noise

Ms. Alutto introduced the Ordinance.

Ms. Willis explained this amends various sections of code: 72.021 regarding loud noise, 72.022 as a new section for no engine braking permitted, 132.03 regarding disorderly conduct, and 153.076 regarding public nuisance. Updates are proposed to three existing code sections and adding one new section. The changes aim to establish clear, measurable standards, enhance the City's ability to respond to community noise concerns, and objectively evaluate disturbances. There have been no changes to the draft code language since the November 17th introduction.

Ms. Willis highlighted the key changes:

- In 72.021 Loud Noise from Motor Vehicles, there are two areas with changes. The first addresses noise from speakers or amplifiers from motor vehicles with a proposed threshold of 80 decibels. The second addresses vehicle engine noise with proposed thresholds based on speed limit - for posted speed limits of 35 miles per hour and lower, the proposed threshold is 86 decibels, and for roadways with higher speeds, the proposed threshold is 90 decibels.
- Section 72.022 is a new section that adds an engine brake restriction provision and allows the City to post signs in appropriate locations.
- Section 132.03 Disorderly Conduct is consistent with the motor vehicle section addressing noise from speakers or amplifiers, using a threshold of 80 decibels with a duration of 15 minutes.
- Section 153.076 Public Nuisance establishes a new subsection expressly addressing excessive noise, consistent with previous sections establishing an 80 decibel threshold with 15-minute duration. This section also includes restrictions on pervasive noise, including but not limited to continuous low frequency noise that may be considered unreasonable and disturbing even when below 80 decibels.

Staff recommended that Council adopt Ordinance 01-26 at the second reading public hearing on February 9, 2026.

There were no public comments.

Mr. Keeler noted this is one of the primary complaints he hears from residents regarding loud vehicle noise. He pointed out that in sections 72.021(b) and (c), the code refers to motor vehicles but suggested adding motorcycles, as he hears numerous loud motorcycles with even louder sound systems.

Ms. Willis thanked him for the comment, explaining they reviewed the code and found an oversight - the motor vehicle definition specifically excluded motorcycles, which was not their intent. She confirmed they will revise that definition for the second reading.

Dr. Lam asked for clarification on whether there are objective criteria for pervasive noise to avoid subjective enforcement or selective complaints. Ms. Willis explained that part of the code is meant to provide flexibility for types of noises that remain constant for longer than 15 minutes at a time, meant to cite for lower decibel readings that are still annoying to someone with ordinary sensibilities. Mr. Batchelor from Frost Brown Todd Gibbons,

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clarified there are two portions - the objective portion with decimals, and the pervasive portion which is subjective but requires more context and evidence to prove.

Ms. Kramb thanked staff for moving in the right direction with these amendments. She suggested that educational information include graphics showing what makes certain noise levels, as people need to understand what 80 decibels actually is. She specifically asked about truck traffic, which is the number one complaint she hears, wondering what the average dump truck decibel reading is at 50 feet. Ms. Willis responded they have been using FHWA criteria establishing that a dump truck in proper working order should be at 89 decibels, using that to set thresholds so they are not unintentionally causing dump trucks to be out of compliance, but vehicles not properly maintained would be.

Ms. Kramb also asked about noise readings from loud cars doing street racing or like activities in Bridge Park. Ms. Willis clarified they have readings for Hard Road specifically focused on trucks, and while they have UpCity cameras giving averages over a day, they cannot pinpoint to a specific source. Ms. Kramb suggested it would be helpful to add this information to show they are capturing that number.

Vice Mayor De Rosa asked how these suggested changes compare to neighboring jurisdictions like Columbus, particularly related to noise on routes like I-270 and Sawmill Road. Staff indicated they would research that and report back, with Ms. O'Callaghan noting they did benchmarking at the beginning and recall most had very subjective standards similar to what Dublin has had, believing this is pretty advanced in comparison.

Mr. Keeler emphasized that while taking an important step with this ordinance, it will be critical to measure and enforce it. He noted they discussed exploring different technologies last year and he is anxious to see what those are. He suggested testing devices even before the second reading if possible. He also stressed the importance of educating the community, noting many offenders are likely not Dublin residents but visitors to Bridge Park. At minimum, he wants to educate Dublin residents and parents of kids with loud cars.

Deputy Chief Tabernik responded that sound meters and emerging technologies have been the biggest barriers to overcome. They are still testing options, including a company called Sound View that the business district team is currently testing. He confirmed education will definitely be part of this, with an educational period so residents, community members, and visitors understand the new law and enforcement efforts. Ms. O'Callaghan added that code enforcement staff have also been testing devices, and they are working to get various work units together to ensure consistent use of technology across the city. Through discussions with AWS, they also learned best practices from various communities regarding noise measurement.

Mayor Amorose Groomes asked two questions: First, regarding I-270, whether they would have jurisdiction given potential crossover with highway policy. Staff confirmed they would be able to enforce it. Second, regarding nuisance activity like lawn mowing equipment, whether they might encounter issues with poorly maintained equipment in residential areas. Ms. Willis explained the public nuisance provision applies from 9 PM to 7 AM, so it would be limited to poorly maintained equipment operating during those times, where code enforcement could talk to property owners. This provides flexibility in the code as written.

Second reading/public hearing is scheduled for February 9, 2026.

Mayor Amorose Groomes moved to waive the Council Rules of Order and read Ordinances 02-26 and 03-26 together.

Ms. Alutto seconded the motion.

Vote on the motion: Mr. Keeler, yes; Mayor Amorose Groomes, yes; Ms. Kramb, yes; Ms. Johnson, yes; Vice Mayor De Rosa, yes; Dr. Lam, yes; Ms. Alutto, yes.

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Ordinance 02-26

Authorizing the City Manager to Execute and Accept Necessary Conveyance Documents and Contracts to Acquire a 0.006-acre Temporary Right of Way Easement from Ralco Properties, LLC, an Ohio limited liability company, from the property located at 36-38 North High Street for the Public Purpose of Constructing and Improving Roadway Infrastructure, which shall be Open to the Public without Charge

Ordinance 03-26

Authorizing the City Manager to Execute and Accept Necessary Conveyance Documents and Contracts to Acquire a 0.005-acre Fee Simple Warranty Deed for right- of-way, with Reservation of Existing Access Rights; and a 0.006-acre Permanent Utility Easement; and a 0.024-acre Temporary Right of Way Easement from 72 Dublin LLC, an Ohio limited liability company, from the Property Located at 20 North Street for the Public Purpose of Constructing and Improving Roadway Infrastructure, which shall be open to the Public without Charge

Ms. Alutto introduced the Ordinances.

Ms. Willis showed a map indicating the subject property interests for the project. Parcels 5 and 7 have agreed to terms for the relevant property. Parcel 5 (Ralco Properties LLC) has agreed to the fair market value estimation for 0.006 acres for a temporary construction easement in the amount of \$2,120. Parcel 7 (72 Dublin LLC) has agreed to the fair market value for a 0.005 acre warranty deed, 0.006 acre permanent utility easement, and 0.024 acre temporary construction easement in the total amount of \$39,370.

Staff recommended adoption of both ordinances at the second reading public hearing on February 9, 2026.

There were no public comments.

Second reading/public hearing is scheduled for February 9, 2026.

Mayor Amorose Groomes moved to waive the Council Rules of Order and read Ordinances 04-26 through 06-26 together.

Ms. Alutto seconded the motion.

Vote on the motion: Mayor Amorose Groomes, yes; Ms. Johnson, yes; Mr. Keeler, yes; Vice Mayor De Rosa, yes; Dr. Lam, yes; Ms. Alutto, yes; Ms. Krumb, yes.

Ordinance 04-26

Appropriate a 0.008 -acre Fee Simple Warranty Deed for right-of-way, with Reservation of Existing Access Rights; and a 0.005-acre Temporary Right of Way Easement from Papibriones LLC, an Ohio limited liability company, from the Property Located at 16 North High Street for the Public Purpose of Constructing and Improving Roadway Infrastructure, which shall be Open to the Public without Charge

Ordinance 05-26

Appropriate a 0.009 -acre Fee Simple Warranty Deed for right-of-way, with Reservation of Existing Access Rights; and a 0.007 -acre Temporary Right of Way Easement from Fadhil Abbousy and Najla Abbousy, from the Property Located at 24-26-28 North High Street for the Public Purpose of Constructing and Improving Roadway Infrastructure, which shall be Open to the Public without Charge

Ordinance 06-26

Appropriate a 0.053-acre Permanent Utility Easement, and 0.010-acre Temporary Right of Way Easement from STJ319 Holdings LLC, an Ohio limited

liability company, from the Property Located at 40 North High Street for the Public Purpose of Constructing and Improving Roadway Infrastructure, which shall be Open to the Public without Charge

Ms. Alutto introduced the Ordinances.

Ms. Willis presented the ordinances, showing the map with subject properties being Parcels 2, 3, and 5. She detailed the property interests for each:

- Parcel 2 (Papibriones LLC): 0.008 acre warranty deed and 0.005 acre temporary construction easement
- Parcel 3 (Fadhil Abbousy and Najla Abbousy): 0.009 acre warranty deed and 0.007 acre temporary construction easement
- Parcel 5 (STJ319 Holdings LLC): 0.053 acre permanent utility easement and 0.01 acre temporary construction easement

Ms. Willis explained the City has not been able to reach agreement on compensation terms with these property owners. The City remains hopeful that amicable agreements can still be reached, but these ordinances continue the appropriations process in the event negotiations are unsuccessful.

Staff recommended approval at the second reading public hearing on February 9, 2026, as these ordinances will allow the Northern Historic District Infrastructure Improvements Project to remain on schedule and proceed to construction.

There were no public comments.

Second reading/public hearing is scheduled for February 9, 2026.

INTRODUCTION/PUBLIC HEARING/VOTE – RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 02-26

Accepting the Lowest and Best Bid for the Heightened Awareness Crosswalk - Hyland-Croy Road and Tullymore Drive (25-026-CIP)

Ms. Alutto introduced the Resolution.

Mr. Dilsaver explained staff conducted a competitive bid for the heightened awareness crosswalk at Highland-Croy Road and Tullymore Drive. The project includes installation of a pedestrian hybrid beacon at this intersection, which was identified in the Heightened Awareness Crosswalk Study to provide residents with improved crossing to access Glacier Ridge Metro Park.

The project is budgeted in the 2026-2030 Capital Improvement Program at \$435,000 as part of the Heightened Awareness Crosswalk Study Implementation Project. On December 9, 2025, three bids were received and publicly opened. Complete General Construction submitted the lowest and best bid of \$367,679.94, which is 13% over the engineer's estimate of \$325,000. Construction is expected to commence in March 2026 with anticipated completion in late 2026 or early 2027.

Staff recommended approval of the resolution accepting Complete General Construction's bid as lowest and best.

There were no public comments.

Ms. Kramb asked about the temporary beacon that will go up, whether it is something being rented from the contractor or something the City is acquiring that could be used again. Mr. Dilsaver clarified it is a temporary facility the contractor would install for the duration of construction until the permanent signal is in place, then they would remove and keep all components.

Vice Mayor De Rosa thanked staff for their work, noting residents up and down that area who go into the park to ride will be very happy. She asked about the length of time between beginning and end of the project. Mr. Dilsaver explained that traffic signal components have long lead times, including electrical components like the traffic cabinet

and controller, as well as custom-made poles for every project. You get in line with no ability to bump ahead, and when your product is made they deliver it. There are very long lead times for these types of projects. He noted they are still waiting for equipment by Scottish Corners Elementary School.

Vice Mayor De Rosa then asked about education when transitioning from the temporary beacon to permanent, as this is a very heavily trafficked road and there will be a learning curve for people to recognize they really need to give right of way to pedestrians. She wondered how they educate folks that this is not just a yellow flash but truly a stop signal. Mr. Dilsaver explained there is definitely education needed. Prior to the temporary signal going into active operation, they will place signs along the roadway educating folks that the signal will begin stop-and-go operation on a certain date, and when they see the red signal indication, that indicates they need to stop. Public education has to go into effect, and the temporary signal will be in play throughout construction duration. He confirmed the temporary signal will have full operation as a pedestrian hybrid beacon, just like the final condition.

Vote on the Resolution: Dr. Lam, yes; Ms. Alutto, yes; Ms. Kramb, yes; Ms. Johnson, yes; Vice Mayor De Rosa, yes; Mayor Amorose Groomes, yes; Mr. Keeler, yes.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Designating the Clerk of Council to Complete the Required Public Records/Open Meetings Training on Behalf of City Council Members
Ms. Delgado explained that Ohio Revised Code requires officials elected to statewide or local office to complete three hours of public records training during each term of office. This training must be certified by the Ohio Attorney General, and proof of completion is required and provided to auditors. The ORC allows elected officials to appoint a designee to complete the training on their behalf. If desired, Council may by motion designate the Clerk of Council to complete the required public records training on their behalf.

Ms. Kramb thanked Ms. Delgado for taking a three-hour class for Council.

Ms. Johnson also thanked her and asked that as a new member of Council, if there are points in the training that Ms. Delgado feels would be worthwhile for Council to fully understand, to please come back and share that information with them.

Vote on the motion: Ms. Johnson, yes; Mr. Keeler, yes; Dr. Lam, yes; Ms. Alutto, yes; Vice Mayor De Rosa, yes; Ms. Kramb, yes; Mayor Amorose Groomes, yes.

- Micromobility Device Code Revisions and Policy Recommendations
Ms. Willis presented the draft micromobility device code revisions and policy recommendations. She explained that tonight they would provide an overview of the micromobility program, proposed updates to code related to micromobility, and additional considerations that influenced their thought process in developing the proposed code. She introduced Joe Batchelor from Frost Brown Todd Gibbons who would lead the existing and draft code revisions discussion.

Ms. Willis provided background that the micromobility pilot program was launched in 2022 to assess the feasibility and community impacts of mobility options within the City. Council adopted Resolution 25-25 on April 21, 2025, extending the pilot program for an additional 12-month period concluding on June 1, 2026. At that time, Council directed staff to bring forward micromobility code revisions so they would not have to continue suspending code by resolution to allow operations of these devices.

Mr. Batchelor reviewed the existing code and what it already contemplates:

- E-bikes: Current code largely mirrors State code on e-bikes with specific definitions including speed, wattage, and type of assist. There are three

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classifications, and manufacturers are required to label e-bikes with their classification.

- Mini motorcycles: Under current code they are prohibited, but it is difficult to find as it is buried in an all-purpose vehicle section with only one mention. It is hard to clarify where they can and cannot be ridden even though they are prohibited everywhere.

He then reviewed the proposed revisions:

- Micromobility devices: A technical definition is proposed including power, maximum speed capability with motor assist, and number of wheels. General operator requirements include where you can and cannot ride, with the most important being a helmet provision requiring helmets until at least 18 years of age. Specific parking requirements address issues other Central Ohio cities have had with devices blocking ADA ramps and sidewalks. These devices would generally be operated on streets, sidewalks, and shared use paths due to their capped speed.
- Fleet operators: A code provision was added with most technical requirements like geofencing in the contract with the provider. This ensures fleet operators cannot start operating without permission.
- Bicycles, e-bikes, skateboards, roller blades: Not many changes have been made, listing where they can and cannot operate. Adding helmet provision up to 18 while maintaining helmet requirement for all class 3 e-bike riders per State Code.
- Miniature motorcycles: These are still banned on streets, sidewalks, shared use paths everywhere except private property, but much more clearly with a standalone provision.
- Parent accountability: An element has been added holding parents accountable for preventing children from operating devices recklessly.
- Enforcement: This is a layered penalty system.

Additional considerations included that many motorcycles are banned in parks, regional coordination aligns with other Central Ohio municipalities though Dublin's is more comprehensive, and a community survey was conducted.

Ms. Willis presented the community survey results. They conducted a micromobility proposed code amendment survey from December 12-28, 2025, receiving 312 responses. Results indicated most respondents are very or somewhat familiar with micromobility devices with strong overall support for enhanced safety measures - about 86% support. Youth safety emerged as a key priority with 88% supporting helmet requirements and 78% supporting holding parents accountable when minors are knowingly allowed to ride unsafely. Over 93% of respondents supported maintaining the existing ban on miniature motorcycles. Common concerns included speed differentials, youth behavior, and enforcement challenges on shared use paths, alongside calls for simpler, more understandable regulation.

Ms. Willis outlined the education plan, noting a strong clear education plan will be critical to success. Staff developed an education strategy to enhance pedestrian safety and clearly communicate expectations for safe and legal operation of devices. The forthcoming public education strategy will build on outreach that began in December with the survey launch. The campaign will use mixed communication tools including social media, email, flyers, newsletters, QR codes, and signs. While reaching all audiences, additional emphasis will be placed on engaging families and younger children.

Staff created a micromobility matrix highlighting code updates with yellow cells showing differences between proposed and existing code. They also drafted an Active Transportation Safety Guide providing a unified, easy-to-understand

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reference for rules governing walking, biking, e-biking, and micromobility use within Dublin. It blends Ohio Revised Code requirements with Dublin's local ordinances to promote safe, consistent travel across sidewalks, shared use paths, trails, and streets.

Staff sought Council feedback on three questions:

- o Is Council supportive of the proposed code revisions?
- o Is Council supportive that mini motorcycles should not be permitted on Dublin streets, sidewalks, shared use paths, and within parks?
- o Are there additional elements Council would like incorporated into draft code revisions or education plan?

There were no public comments.

Ms. Kramb asked for clarification on terminology, noting they call them "miniature motorcycles" but questioning whether "motor" implies combustion engine. She wondered if they need to specify either electric or gas powered, noting they differentiate for bicycles. Mr. Batchelor acknowledged they could consider that when going back to drafts, noting the challenge between defining too specifically versus using broad terms. Mr. Keeler added that gasoline powered anything is not allowed on sidewalks or shared use paths, but the term "motor" applies to both gasoline and electric. He suggested codifying this since the question arose. He also raised the question of where electric motorcycles with top speeds of 78 miles per hour can be used, suggesting he could consider being open to park use as long as not on paths, given people who spent \$3,500 on them want somewhere to ride.

Ms. Kramb stated the memo did a good job explaining why not to open parks to these vehicles, so she is fine saying they cannot be used. Regarding helmets, she asked about existing rules. Staff clarified Dublin currently has no helmet requirement except for class 3 e-bikes where everyone must wear one. Ms. Kramb expressed she is not supportive of requiring helmets for those under 18, suggesting it seems excessive when they can drive at 16 and should decide about helmets when riding skateboards or scooters.

Ms. Johnson agreed with Ms. Kramb about helmet mandates. She noted that one purpose of micromobility is clean transport for that last mile, and forcing 16-17 year olds or even 14-15 year olds to wear helmets could work against that effort. She is not sure she could support any age helmet mandate, noting enforcement challenges and that officer time could be better spent elsewhere, suggesting education instead. She also noted many survey responses mentioned golf carts and ATVs, which are covered under other regulations. She encouraged expanding education to include ATVs and golf carts so people understand legal uses.

Ms. Alutto stated this is great work. She would continue supporting the ban on mini motorcycles, having seen them in her neighborhood. She would be okay mandating helmets for under 16 but does not see it as the most pressing issue. She would not want mini motorcycles in parks, comparing it to people who buy kayaks having to transport them to water - mini motorcycle owners can transport their vehicles to appropriate places.

Mr. Keeler agreed he would not support a helmet mandate, noting rented scooters with helmet requirements are not feasible unless vendors provide helmets. He emphasized education will be critical and wondered if they could enlist school district help, remembering health class from middle school. He noted this is not a gender-specific issue but about educating everyone on safe riding and etiquette. He observed that in Europe these devices are everywhere as part of how their civilization is built, while this is relatively new for Americans. Many kids do not know how to yield or act responsibly on sidewalks. He suggested the school district is on the front line and could add

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half an hour once a year to health class. He also noted enforcement challenges, seeing reckless behavior mostly on motorcycles they will ban, but also people riding scooters on one wheel on narrow sidewalks with pedestrians. He supports being clear on golf carts, noting he sees them all over Upper Arlington. Deputy Chief Tabernik offered they have had discussions on education approaches and have natural connectivity through school resource officers.

Dr. Lam thanked staff for the comprehensive work. He absolutely agrees mini motorcycles should not be permitted, citing seeing one going 40 miles per hour on a bike path on Glick Road where families were walking. He agrees they should not be allowed in parks for reasons delineated in the report. He asked about speed limits, noting New Albany sets 10 mph on sidewalks/paths and Westerville sets 15 mph, wondering why Dublin is not being specific since it could hinder education and enforcement without clear standards. Mr. Batchelor explained the flexibility reason - not listing in code but doing through administrative order allows the city manager or designee to post on website and through communications channels. If they start at 15 mph and determine it is too fast, they can adjust to 12 mph without going through multiple readings and votes. Dr. Lam confirmed there will be a specific limit established. Ms. O'Callaghan added they could certainly put a speed limit in Code if Council prefers, noting it was for flexibility similar to how engineering establishes road speed limits, but they are happy to change if Council desires.

Dr. Lam emphasized education will be absolutely important, noting things like ringing a bell when passing are basic niceties many are unaware of. He asked if penalties will be included in education components, as this will motivate people, particularly parents encouraging young ones to be compliant. Ms. Willis confirmed penalties will absolutely be included in broader communication efforts, apologizing for not including that in the interest of keeping the memo shorter. Dr. Lam also raised enforcement challenges, noting infractions occur instantly with difficulties in reporting and verifying violations. Deputy Chief Tabernik responded they are always responsive to community concerns and when they get complaints, they will meet with callers to gather facts and circumstances, then educate or enforce as necessary. While lacking facts sometimes makes enforcement difficult, they will still try.

Ms. Alutto asked about golf carts during tournament time on Muirfield Drive and whether code covers that with planned event exceptions. She also asked about enforcement on Muirfield Drive where golf carts travel though it is not 25 mph. Mr. Batchelor noted there may be homeowners' association (HOA) regulations for private roads/sidewalks. Ms. O'Callaghan added existing code addresses golf carts, and since those are not micromobility devices, they were not covered in these materials but staff can follow up with an informational memo. Ms. Alutto also asked if these are enforceable on private HOA paths or only public paths. Mr. Batchelor explained this only applies to public paths in theory, with HOA rules potentially different, though City rules operate as a floor if on public streets in HOA neighborhoods.

Vice Mayor De Rosa expressed support for prohibiting mini motorcycles in parks, noting they would have to get to parks to ride and she has seen them making a mess on hills around shared use paths. She thinks they would not solve what they are trying to solve by allowing park use. She supports other revisions and thinks speed limit postings could address courtesy issues. As someone who bikes extensively on paths, she noted speed is often the scariest issue - when someone comes around at great speed, they could not stop if they wanted. She differs from colleagues on helmet use, suggesting that while maybe not requiring until 18, under 14 concerns her. She described a young kid on an electric scooter passing her car on a 25 mph street without triggering her car's deflection sensors. She thinks they should consider youth protection,

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acknowledging helmet costs might be prohibitive. She supports educational materials emphasizing courtesy.

Mayor Amorose Groomes expressed strong support for the proposed code revisions with caveats. She wants Dublin to lead in education through youth programming, suggesting they dedicate time in all summer, after-school, and recreation programs to safety education. She referenced how educating kids about recycling successfully changed behavior through children influencing parents. She views helmet requirements as a personal and parental choice. She thinks education should include ramifications of accidents and responsibility for damages, how it defaults to homeowners insurance or personal responsibility if someone causes injury or property damage. She agrees with prohibition on mini motorcycles but suggests maybe someday setting aside park acreage for this recreation if there is demand, similar to the bicycle pump track.

Ms. Kramb added that she agrees with using administrative orders for speed limits but also agrees they need to start posting speed limits on different paths, as certain straight paths could accommodate faster speeds while curvy or hilly ones need lower limits.

Ms. Willis sought clarification on helmet consensus. Mayor Amorose Groomes confirmed Council consensus is no mandate for helmets. Ms. Willis noted class 3 e-bikes on roads already require helmets under existing code.

• SportsOhio Update

Ms. Blake provided an update on SportsOhio operations. She reminded Council that on July 1, 2025, the City entered into a contract with Sports Facilities Companies (SFC) to manage day-to-day operations of SportsOhio. SFC is a premier national leader in sports facilities management, aligning with Council's goal to create a premier athletic and recreation campus.

Ms. Blake introduced Joe Bauserman, the new General Manager for SportsOhio, who began his role December 1st. Mr. Bauserman brings over 15 years of experience in facility management, sports operations, and small business ownership, with extensive knowledge in budgeting, maintenance, sports programming, and security. A former Ohio State quarterback and fourth round MLB draft pick by the Pittsburgh Pirates, he combines discipline, teamwork, and performance-driven leadership with a bachelor of science in environmental science and resource management.

Mr. Bauserman thanked Council for the opportunity, stating he has been involved with sports his entire life and enjoys seeing how sports can impact community. He looks forward to working with Council and understanding their visions and goals for both SportsOhio and Dublin.

Scott Rogers, VP of Venue Management from SFC, provided operational updates. Staffing has been the biggest focus over recent months. They hired a golf center manager for the clubhouse area, a maintenance manager working on the 30-year-old facility, and recently a food and beverage manager. They are excited to dive into food and beverage improvements, though changes will take time. Mr. Bauserman has been working extremely hard hiring team members, with many new local community faces now on-site. They have leveraged relationships with Dublin for contracts with Rumpke for trash and Cintas for facility cleaning.

Adult soccer leagues are back running after being a major request. October had 48 leagues running indoors. January started adult and youth programming with 145 teams entered in current leagues. New leagues will be offered for session 2, running in 9-week periods with advertising beginning shortly. They are partnering with the City on youth and adult programming, including launching softball leagues at Darby Park and working with volleyball and basketball leagues inside the facility. They have started booking tournaments on grass

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fields for spring and summer, importantly bringing back organizations that had left SportsOhio for other parks outside Dublin, losing tax dollars and community involvement. They are working to bring back the long drive contest, likely in July, with Mr. Rogers noting his 91-year-old father plans to enter the 75+ division.

Usage statistics from August through December showed over 1,400 rental hours, 439 games played (with numbers growing rapidly), 428 hours of other programming, 95 birthday parties, over 3 million golf balls hit at the driving range (with people using it even in freezing weather), and almost 7,000 rounds of golf and foot golf.

Regarding operations, they have updated licensing including food vendor licensing, merchant vendors, and liquor licenses. SFC recently hired a regional sports marketing manager who toured the facility, with ongoing work on sponsorships. They partnered with Visit Dublin to bring in rights holders for a conference to promote Dublin's future. They conducted facility walkthroughs with Dublin Police, Building Standards, and Washington Township to ensure safety and code compliance, making improvements as needed for the 30-year-old building. Routine maintenance continues including bringing in electricians, landscaping, cleaning, and painting, keeping things neutral until determining SportsOhio's future. They have a van available on-site that came with the property purchase.

Capital improvements underway include HVAC work in Soccer First with City support for air conditioning to make it more viable for sports camps and large indoor rentals. WiFi infrastructure is being installed with AltaFiber bringing wiring to the building, parts ordered, hoping for public WiFi within 30-45 days (employees already have WiFi). The City is working on security cameras. The golf course pump system, which is old and antiquated, is going through bidding process for improvements to get water on fields and keep grass green.

Ms. Blake provided financial perspective, noting SFC has only managed the facility from August through December. Since takeover, financial performance has trended positively. SFC operated within approved budget and helped position the facility to operate in the black. These figures reflect operating funds only with capital tracked separately. Net income for 2025 was just over \$262,000.

Next steps include SFC continuing to hire staff enabling more programming, finalizing programming schedules for winter 2 and spring/summer cycles with City partnership (their camps will be advertised in Dublin's guide), and instituting new maintenance software for routine work orders and forecasting capital needs. From Dublin's side, upcoming capital needs will likely appear in the Q1 supplemental with staff doing due diligence to ensure requests are true needs. They need to finalize transfers which have been challenging but worth pursuing. Together, they are working closely with SFC as partners for master planning efforts, with completing park master planning and beginning rebranding discussions as joint next steps.

There were no public comments.

Mr. Keeler recalled that when the City bought the property it was running in the black, probably around \$300,000 profit. He asked about tracking year-over-year comparisons for balls hit, rounds played going back 2-3 years to use their management model as baseline for measuring success. Mr. Rogers confirmed they will track everything possible, having dug through past records with help from the facility operations manager who stayed on and has past history. Soccer First was not open for basically two years but reopened in January, which will increase numbers and show positive movement. Mr. Keeler noted that for a while almost the whole facility was shut down, so being in the black after taking over in August says a lot. He also asked about an HVAC unit that was on the

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ground when purchased. Ms. Blake explained the City already installed those units on Soccer First but evaluation showed they are insufficient to bring temperature down, which led to the Q3 2025 supplemental. The facilities team has done design work with a contractor and is underway purchasing equipment for summertime installation to help their camping program.

Vice Mayor De Rosa welcomed Mr. Bauserman back home, asking where he had been. He responded he had been everywhere - Colorado, Montana, North Carolina, and most recently Northern Virginia/West Virginia area, working on transitioning back. She welcomed him home and expressed looking forward to great things.

- Request to Refer the HOA Woodlot Maintenance Topic to the Public Services Committee and to the Community Services Advisory Committee (CSAC)
Ms. Hunter presented this referral request. During the 2025 goal setting retreat, City Council discussed the Woodlot Maintenance Program and HOA responsibility for maintaining woodlots in common and reserve areas. Staff provided an overview of the City's woodlot maintenance program, which is intentionally limited to City-owned woodlots and prioritizes sites based on overall health and ecological value. Council discussed canopy health, invasive species management, sustainability, and the importance of coordinated forestry and development standards to support canopy health over time.

Discussion shifted to HOA common area maintenance, which exceeds the scope of the City-owned woodlot maintenance program. Staff explained HOA maintenance responsibilities for common areas have historically been determined through development negotiations, resulting in varying arrangements across neighborhoods. Previous analysis concluded a uniform citywide approach adjusting these responsibilities may not be equitable and could create precedent concerns. As a result, staff routinely provides consultation and technical guidance to HOAs based on individual needs.

Following staff's presentation, Council discussed potential policy tools including matching grants or dedicated grant programs for woodlot maintenance, distinct from existing beautification or stormwater grant programs. Council members emphasized the need for intentional criteria, accountability, and recognition that woodlot management differs from landscaping or pond maintenance, which could be incorporated into a potential grant program.

Staff recommended Council refer the topic to the Public Services Committee and CSAC for further discussion and recommendation.

Vote on the motion: Mr. Keeler, yes; Ms. Johnson, yes; Mayor Amorose Groomes, yes; Ms. Alutto, yes; Dr. Lam, yes; Vice Mayor De Rosa, yes; Ms. Kramb, yes.

- Request to Refer the Greenway Corridor Pilot Program to the Public Services Committee and to the Community Services Advisory Committee (CSAC)
Mr. Earman presented this referral request. During the 2025 goal setting retreat, Council discussed the Avery-Muirfield Greenway Corridor pilot program and whether the City-led approach to maintaining corridor landscaping should be expanded. Staff reviewed the 2020 pilot program implemented after significant tree loss along the Avery-Muirfield corridor through voluntary easements. The City maintained required screening for participating properties, reducing need for individual code enforcement. Of 31 affected properties, 25 participated, and the City has since removed end trees and replanted to code standards with generally positive resident feedback.

Council discussed expanding the program to other corridors including Frantz Road, Emerald Parkway, Dublin Road, and Coffman Road, noting needs to address aging corridor landscapes on a citywide basis. Council emphasized

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importance of clear communication, sensitivity to established neighborhoods, and preference for voluntary compliance for any ongoing programs. Interest was expressed in focusing next steps on Frantz Road due to planned infrastructure improvements in that area, fewer single family properties, and existing landscape plans. Council requested various corridor assessments including visual documentation and original planting requirements to support future decisions.

Council supported referring the topic to the Public Services Committee and CSAC.

Mayor Amorose Groomes opened the floor for questions and discussion. Hearing none, she made a motion to refer the Greenway Corridor pilot program topic to the Public Services Committee and CSAC.

Vote on the motion: Ms. Alutto, yes; Dr. Lam, yes; Mayor Amorose Groomes, yes; Vice Mayor De Rosa, yes; Mr. Keeler, yes; Ms. Kramb, yes; Ms. Johnson, yes.

STAFF COMMENTS

Ms. O'Callaghan share the following:

- On Wednesday, February 4th from 6:30-7:30 PM, the City will host a public information meeting for the Park Place stormwater basin improvements project. This project will improve edges of the Park Place stormwater pond north of Monticello Lane. Improvements will reduce erosion around the pond perimeter and enhance appearance following a previous water level adjustment needed to address upstream stormwater management needs. She knows area residents are looking forward to the aesthetic improvements. The meeting will provide project overview, timeline, and answer questions since it is a very visible feature undergoing construction.
- Second, she thanked the Dublin Parents of Black Students Association for partnering to host nearly 100 community members for the MLK Sunday supper. The event centered on a community conversation about mental wellness and was a great opportunity to highlight Council's goal and Dublin Wellness Alliance efforts. The evening included meaningful conversations focused on mental health importance and access to resources. She appreciated leadership from Syntero with Sarah Harrison-Mills attending and speaking, along with Dublin Police Department (Chief Paez), Washington Township (Chief Donahue), and Dublin City Schools (Dr. Marschhausen) participating in the conversation. It was interesting hearing their perspectives on mental health support systems and community collaboration. She also thanked Ms. Nardecchia and the outreach and engagement team plus volunteers who supported planning and execution. It was a great example of how partnerships and open dialogue can enhance and strengthen community connection.

COUNCIL ROUNDTABLE

Ms. Kramb began by thanking Jennifer Delgado for a wonderful welcoming on January 5th for new members' swearing in, for making them look good especially in photos that will be out forever. On January 13th, she attended the Washington Township meeting to pass the reigns to the new Council member. She looks forward to another good year partnering with Washington Township, with Ms. Johnson providing future updates. January 14th was the Planning and Zoning Commission agenda meeting, and she thanked Vice Mayor De Rosa for her last few years doing those meetings, looking forward to providing updates going forward.

Ms. Kramb also gave an update on Dublin Historical Society, sharing final numbers for the year. In the museum's first year open, they had 5,043 visitors who signed their visitor log, coming from 42 states and 23 countries. For January and February, the museum is open

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12-4 PM Saturdays and Sundays, adding Fridays 12-4 PM starting in March. Many events are scheduled this year with information in the Healthy Dublin brochure and on their website. A speaker series runs the second Sunday of each month March through November at the Dublin Library, free with registration through the library (links on Historical Society website). Many walking tours of downtown Dublin are scheduled and posted. They had over 50 regular volunteers this year.

Ms. Alutto noted that she will be meeting with Mr. Rubino and Ms. O'Callaghan to review Finance Committee topics for the coming year and invited anyone with topics they want covered to email or text her.

Mr. Keeler echoed the City Manager's comments about attending the MLK Sunday supper with his wife. Ms. Nardecchia did an excellent job organizing it with great conversations. The City Manager led a panel discussion with Dr. Marshhausen, Chief Paez, Chief Donahue, and Sara Harrison-Mills from Syntero. It was interesting hearing their frontline perspectives on mental health issues they encounter daily. He noted it is always a good group of folks at that dinner.

Vice Mayor De Rosa thanked staff for work done to put in mirrors and mark the bike path going under Avery Road into Indian Run Meadows Park. Recalling a resident who spoke about safety concerns, she said it "rocks the house" - you can now see what is coming through the tunnel and the markings are terrific. She hopes to see more rollout of markings before she can put her bike on the path, thinking painting speed limits on paths rather than expensive signage would work well in tandem with this work. She knows for someone who rides it will make a big difference and thanked the team for their fast response to that need.

Mayor Amorose Groomes shared the following:

- o She thanked Legislative Services for the wonderful reception for new and reelected members, which was a lovely evening much appreciated by all.
- o The following morning she went to the Nevada desert at MORPC's invitation and expense to meet with Brightline West President Sarah Watterson, having great conversation about how they executed their passenger rail project from Las Vegas to Los Angeles. William Murdock, Joe Garrity and others from MORPC attended. She sent images to Ms. O'Callaghan of their stations and what they are looking for, hoping to have more information to come.
- o On the 9th, she and Ms. O'Callaghan attended the COMMA meeting hosted in Grandview Heights' new facility combining fire, police, and city hall. They heard about activities there and had COMMA discussions.
- o On the 15th, she attended the virtual Ohio Mayors Alliance meeting where much conversation focused on the future of tax in the state and how cities will respond to educating the public about implications should ballot initiatives be successful. She hopes Council will continue conversations about educating their public as pictures become clearer.
- o She also attended the Sunday supper honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, noting the mental health conversation really solidified work yet to be done in the community. While that work will never be done, it highlighted the need to continue leaning in and pressing forward as there is still much to do.
- o Regarding the Historical Society, she walked by recently and thinks new entrants to the building will drive attendance even higher next year, as it was awkward to enter before. With new sidewalks and entry, it will be more welcoming and accessible. She congratulated the Historical Society on completing all that work.

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 p.m.



Mayor – Presiding Officer



Clerk of Council