

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Dublin City Council

Minutes of

Meeting

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

Held

February 9, 2026

20

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Amorose Groomes called the Monday, February 9, 2026 Regular Meeting of Dublin City Council to order at 5:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

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

Others present were Ohio State Representative for District 60, Brian Lorenz; Scott Dring, Visit Dublin Ohio; Ian Montgomery, Fado; and Joe Batchelor, Frost Brown Todd Gibbons.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

- Personnel Matters: Considering the Appointment of a Public Official;
- 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; and
- Considering the Purchase of Property for Public Purposes.

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Amorose Groomes invited Ms. Kramb to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

- State Representative Brian Lorenz (60th District)
Representative Lorenz explained that he currently serves as State Representative for Ohio's 60th District, which includes only four precincts in the City of Dublin, all located in Delaware County. He emphasized his service on key committees in the Ohio House of Representatives that address local government, land use, and fiscal policy, focusing on issues directly affecting cities like Dublin including responsible growth, infrastructure, public safety, and tax policy.

He expressed his honor in representing the district and valued the partnership with Dublin, commending the City's commitment to thoughtful planning, responsible growth, and strong leadership. His legislative priorities, he stated, are grounded in fiscal responsibility, local control, and ensuring government works as a partner rather than an obstacle to communities.

Representative Lorenz detailed his work over the past term to bring meaningful state resources back to the district, supporting infrastructure improvements, public safety, and economic development initiatives that strengthen communities without increasing the tax burden on families and businesses.

He identified property tax relief as one of the most urgent issues facing residents, explaining how sharp increases in property valuations have driven tax bills higher even when tax rates have not changed. He discussed his support for reforms that build on protections, including transparency and accountability measures such as

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Dublin City Council

Minutes of

Meeting

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

February 9, 2026

Page 2 of 14

Held _____

20 _____

House Bill 187, and his work through the state operating budget to limit the impact of valuation spikes on homeowners. His efforts focus on restoring predictability, enforcing restraint, and ensuring taxpayers are not penalized simply for remaining in their homes.

Regarding public safety, Representative Lorenz proudly discussed advancing Keith's Law, which strengthens accountability and reinforces protections for Ohio families. He characterized this legislation as reflecting a common-sense approach that stands with victims, upholds the rule of law, and ensures communities have the tools they need to remain safe.

Representative Lorenz spoke about House Bill 361, which he personally authored. As the only zoning professional and registered planner currently serving in the entire Ohio legislature, he brings firsthand experience with the challenges local governments face when navigating outdated or inconsistent land use laws. He explained that House Bill 361 is designed to modernize zoning and land use processes, reduce unnecessary red tape, and reinforce local decision-making authority. The legislation reflects practical conservative governance by respecting the expertise of local officials, improving clarity in state law, and ensuring development standards are predictable, fair, and workable for both communities and property owners. He emphasized that this legislation empowers cities like Dublin to continue planning for growth on their own terms without unnecessary state-level interference.

Representative Lorenz firmly stated his belief that the best outcomes occur when state and local leaders work together in good faith. He praised Dublin as a model of responsible development and community investment, remaining committed to being a reliable partner and advocate for the City's priorities in the State House.

Before concluding, Representative Lorenz mentioned that his office had sent an email to the City Manager regarding the capital budget process, which provides a biennial pot of money geared toward civic projects. While noting it would not be as much funding as the last biennium, he emphasized it still represents an opportunity to partner on projects that will benefit citizens. Mayor Amorose Groomes thanked Representative Lorenz and expressed confidence that the City would have a project to submit for his consideration.

- Hospitality and Restaurant Industry Update

Scott Dring introduced Ian Montgomery to provide an update on Dublin's restaurants. Mr. Montgomery, from Fadó addressed the Council about the state of the restaurant industry in Dublin.

Mr. Montgomery explained that while operational costs have increased and margins have been squeezed, they have not returned to pre-pandemic levels as the industry had hoped. Looking at reports and projections over the next 12 to 24 months for the industry, he indicated there might be some modest growth in certain sections, but not across the board. He emphasized that for smaller entities like his, which lack huge budgets, being stable for the next year or two would constitute a win - something he noted the industry has never said before, characterizing it as a survival situation.

Mr. Montgomery then praised Visit Dublin and Mr. Dring's work in informing Dubliners about what is available on their doorstep, though he felt this is sometimes overlooked. He stressed that for the restaurant industry, it is a numbers game - there simply are not enough Dubliners to sustain the businesses. The industry needs a constant influx of people from outside the city to fill hotels, shop in stores, and eat in restaurants.

He commended the City for being proactive in making Dublin what it is now, noting that Dublin consistently ranks highly on lists of places to work, visit, and live.

Mr. Dring then provided a comprehensive overview of Visit Dublin's operations and impact. He explained that Visit Dublin has a staff of four and is funded through the

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Dublin City Council

Minutes of

Meeting

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

February 9, 2026

Page 3 of 14

Held

20

Hotel Motel Tax - a 6% tax paid by every visitor staying in one of Dublin's 18 hotels. The tax is collected by the City and distributed to three primary entities: the City of Dublin, the Dublin Arts Council, and Visit Dublin.

Mr. Dring emphasized that Visit Dublin drives the engine that generates bed tax growth, noting its importance as a non-resident tax that generates events for the city, supports arts and culture, and creates economic impact through tourism. Their work involves bringing in events, conferences, trade shows, bus tours, sporting events, and leisure travelers to stay in hotels and generate impact.

He presented metrics showing bed tax revenue has averaged 8-10% growth year-over-year for the past five years. Hotel occupancy ended last year at 68%, well above the industry average of 62%. Notably, 2024 was the first time since 2017 that Visit Dublin's cost recovery exceeded 100%, reaching 101%.

Mr. Dring detailed their work to raise Dublin's profile as a global city of choice through placing articles in national and international publications, hosting media visits, conducting broadcast interviews, and working with influencers and bloggers. Last year, they achieved 2.1 billion impressions.

He highlighted their regional campaign targeting markets within a three-hour radius of Dublin, running from April through early July. This campaign works to both attract visitors to hotels and raise awareness of Dublin as a destination.

Mr. Dring emphasized Visit Dublin's role in boosting the economy by supporting local businesses and serving as a resource to residents. He detailed various trails they have created, including the Fairy Door Trail (now in its tenth year with nearly 20,000 participants), the Celtic Cocktail Trail, the Dublin Parks Pass celebrating Dublin's 64 parks, and the Espresso Martini Trail launched in November. The Espresso Martini Trail alone has generated \$135,000 in martini sales, with restaurants estimating total impact at \$400,000-500,000 from just a \$10,000 investment.

He concluded by summarizing that Visit Dublin enhances bed tax revenue, serves as a resource for Dublin residents, generates economic impact, and promotes Dublin globally - all benefiting Dublin residents. Every dollar spent returns \$16, making it a highly effective investment. Mr. Dring also mentioned several upcoming initiatives including Love in Dublin (a mock dating app encouraging local activities), collaborating with SportsOhio and SFC, exploration of NIL (name, image and likeness) opportunities with Ohio State athletes, support for the upcoming Christkindmarkt, and planning for the 50th anniversary of the Memorial Tournament. He noted that Visit Dublin is one of only 6% of convention and visitors bureaus worldwide to be accredited. Mayor Amorose Groomes thanked Mr. Dring and Mr. Montgomery for their report.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Ms. Weisenauer read comments submitted online from Sandy McIntosh of 5792 Trafalgar Lane, Dublin, Ohio 43016, regarding the WID (West Innovation District).

Ms. McIntosh wrote:

Good evening Council Members. In advance of your January 5, 2026 meeting, I wrote to you to express my concern with approval of Council's 2026 Goal # 4, which is to catalyze economic development in the West Innovation District. During the discussion of the goals at that meeting, several council members noted Goal 4 is a "broad goal" and it is about the "entirety of the WID, not one particular portion." I'm here tonight to ask you to focus on one particular portion. That is the portion adjacent to Ballantrae, primarily on the west side Cosgray Road south of Shier Rings Road. Council Member Johnson noted at the January 5th meeting that there are opportunities within the established process to continue to work together and realize outcomes that work for residents and also for the City. I believe that comment is in reference to the ongoing work on the code language. The roadmap for some of that code language was presented to the City's Planning & Zoning Commission on January 22nd. It was clear from the questions and comments made

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Dublin City Council

Minutes of

Meeting

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

February 9, 2026

Page 4 of 14

Held _____

20 _____

by the Commission members at that meeting that they feel beholden to the Envision Dublin Community Plan, which calls for industrial development in the area I mentioned. Because of that, I do not believe that going through the process of revising code language is going to result in an outcome that is satisfactory to the residents of Ballantrae. You, as City Council, must direct city staff to consider the basic notion that industrial zoning is not appropriate adjacent to residential areas. I won't belabor the point made in my January 4, 2026 letter, other than to note that expansion of the WID south of Shier Rings was sudden and it was not appropriately and publicly vetted. As I believe Mayor Groomes has stated, the Envision Dublin Plan is a "living document." The plan itself states it is not a static document and that if community attitudes change, then the plan should be revised and updated accordingly. My request is that you acknowledge the community attitude is not in favor of expansion of the WID south of Shier Rings Road and direct City staff to revise and update the Envision Plan accordingly. Thank you.

Scott Haring, 3280 Lilly-Mar Ct., Dublin, acknowledged Dublin's excellence in many areas but stated that he has returned to discuss the planning and zoning process, suggesting it is acceptable to acknowledge when the City has missed the mark. Mr. Haring thanked Council Member Krumb as the liaison to Planning and Zoning for getting a letter to him after his previous correspondence. He requested that Council examine the planning process, specifically referencing the Y Block Preliminary Development Plan (PDP) but noting broader implications for neighbors in Waterford District and Ballantrae.

He detailed that the November 6, 2025, Planning and Zoning meeting approved the PDP with eight waivers. He noted that while the minutes neatly listed all eight waivers and relevant code sections on page 10, someone watching the video would see only an abbreviated summary was displayed on screen. He asked Council members if they had watched the November 6 meeting, characterizing it as terrible. Mr. Haring questioned why there were so many waivers and why they were so lenient. He provided specific examples:

- Waiver 1: Lots and blocks maximum perimeter allowed 1,750 feet but 3,260 feet granted - almost double
- Waiver 4: Hotel parking structure required three exit lanes but waived to two - two-thirds of code
- Waiver 5: Condo frontline coverage expected 75% but waived to only 27% - one-third of requirements
- One waiver allowed zero frontline property coverage

He argued these waivers could not possibly meet the spirit of the code and asked Council to examine how to prevent this from happening again.

Mayor Amorose Groomes thanked Mr. Haring and noted that Council Member Krumb had provided a reply about moving forward.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes of the January 20, 2026 Council Meeting
- Notice to the Legislative Authority of a Transfer of Ownership of a D1, D2 and D3 Liquor Permit from Shepherd Sports Management LLC, 6100 Dublin Park Drive, Dublin, Ohio 43016 to City of Dublin, SportsOhio Golf Center, 6100 Dublin Park Drive, Dublin, Ohio 43016.

Hearing no request to remove an item from the Consent Agenda, Mayor Amorose Groomes moved to approve the Consent Agenda.

Ms. Alutto seconded the motion.

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

SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING – 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. Willis presented the staff report for amendments to various noise sections of the codified ordinances. She explained that updates are proposed to three existing code sections and one new section as follows: 72.021 (loud noise from motor vehicles), new section 72.022 (no engine brake permitted), 132.003 (disorderly conduct), and 153.076 (public nuisance).

Ms. Willis noted that based on direction from the January 20, 2026 City Council meeting, minor changes had been made. The motorcycle term was deleted and the motor vehicle definition was amended to explicitly include motorcycles to resolve ambiguities. Language relative to disorderly conduct was revised to clarify the use of the 50-foot distance in both qualitative and quantitative evaluation of noise.

She presented benchmarking data comparing how Dublin and neighboring communities regulate various types of noise, noting that Dublin's proposed code provides a comprehensive and balanced approach by establishing both quantitative and qualitative enforcement avenues. The framework improves predictability and transparency, giving residents, drivers, and enforcement staff a shared understanding of expectations.

There were no public comments.

Ms. Krumb asked about implementation, specifically how residents would submit complaints about public nuisance issues like barking dogs. Chief Paez confirmed residents should call the police non-emergency number, noting that while previously they could not enforce against dogs barking all day, now they can under the new ordinance.

Vice Mayor De Rosa thanked staff for the comparison data, expressing surprise at how unquantitative other communities' approaches were. She hoped Dublin could share learnings with others, noting the City is not alone in facing these issues.

Ms. Johnson asked about benchmarking in entertainment areas, expressing concern about potentially creating problems in Bridge Street District and newer developments. Ms. Willis confirmed they have noise meter data from parking cameras showing volumes typically fall below the 80-decibel threshold. Ms. Johnson specifically asked about amplified music on patios and was reassured the data shows typical volumes remain under the threshold.

Mayor Amorose Groomes emphasized the need for public communication about the new legislation since vehicular noise has been a significant driver of public comment for some time. She requested that messages be sent broadly to the community about the new enforcement mechanisms available. Ms. Willis acknowledged that communications were planned.

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

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: Vice Mayor De Rosa, yes; Mayor Amorose Groomes, yes; Ms. Johnson, yes; Dr. Lam, yes; Ms. Alutto, yes; Ms. Krumb, yes.

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. Willis stated that there had been no changes since first reading on January 20, 2026. Staff recommended adoption to allow the Northern Historic District Infrastructure Improvements Project to remain on schedule and proceed to construction.

There were no public comments.

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

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: Ms. Johnson, yes; Dr. Lam, yes; Ms. Alutto, yes; Vice Mayor De Rosa, yes; Ms. Kramb, yes; Mayor Amorose Groomes, 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. Willis again noted no changes since first reading and recommended adoption to keep the Northern Historic District Infrastructure Improvements Project on schedule.

There were no public comments.

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

INTRODUCTION/PUBLIC HEARING/VOTE – RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 03-26

Accepting the Lowest and Best Bid for the Pavement Marking Services 2026-2028 Project (26-006-CIP)

Ms. Alutto introduced the Resolution.

Mr. Gable presented the staff report for accepting the lowest and best bid for the Pavement Marking Services 2026-2028 Project. He explained that this project provides for reapplication of pavement markings in various locations and is funded from the 2026 operating budget at \$175,000.

Mr. Gable noted that since the contract lasts up to three years, staff bid contingency items to have pricing for items that may not be utilized in 2026. After receiving bids, staff found an error in the engineer's estimate, resulting in an adjusted estimate of \$233,000.

On December 18, 2025, one bid was received from Griffin Pavement Striping Incorporated for \$235,429.35. While over budget, staff intends to not perform some contingency quantities to reduce the 2026 contract amount to within budgeted funds. The contract includes two separate one-year renewal periods, with the overall contract expiring December 31, 2028.

There were no public comments.

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

Resolution 04-26

Accepting the Lowest and Best Bid for the Pedestrian Tunnel Maintenance 2026 Project (25-008-CIP)

Ms. Alutto introduced the Resolution.

Mr. Gable presented the bid acceptance for the Pedestrian Tunnel Maintenance 2026 Project. The project performs maintenance at two pedestrian tunnels - under Emerald Parkway just west of Dublin Road and under Dublin Road just south of River Forest Road. Maintenance involves replacing deteriorating stone veneer and caps, repairs to metal fencing, replacement of tunnel joints, and concrete repairs.

Funding is \$603,000 from the 2026-2030 CIP with an engineer's estimate of \$600,000. Two bids were received on December 17, 2025, with Pommell Construction Services submitting the lowest at \$516,453.47. Construction is expected from March through July 2026.

There were no public comments.

Ms. Kramb asked about the public art in the Emerald Parkway tunnel. Mr. Gable explained they would carefully remove some panels for access to joints and replace them after work. Some tile near joints may need to be cut, but staff believes they can avoid negatively impacting the overall artwork by removing only 3-4 inches at edges rather than affecting the main design elements.

Ms. Johnson asked about the impact on students. Mr. Gable noted neither tunnel is heavily used by students. The Emerald Parkway tunnel serves as a bypass with the intersection remaining available. At River Forest Road, the only connection for that neighborhood across Dublin Road, the contractor must maintain half the tunnel open during work except for limited periods of full closure.

Dr. Lam expressed surprise at the disparity between the two bids - one 15% over and one 14% under the engineer's estimate. He asked about experience with Pommell Construction. Mr. Gable explained they had not previously worked with Pommell Construction Services but called all references provided, receiving favorable responses. One reference noted Pommell did great work but got outside their limits on a larger project, though they worked well when issues were discussed. Mr. Gable expressed confidence in working with the new contractor to help them understand Dublin's methods and public communication requirements.

Mayor Amorose Groomes asked if alternate materials had been considered since the synthetic limestone on headwalls seems to fail quickly. Mr. Gable explained that original

installation methods lacked proper backing, but for the last 10 years they have installed chicken wire secured to concrete before mortaring. They believe current installation methods will last much longer, as they have not needed to touch up any installations from the last decade.

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

Resolution 05-26

Intent to Appropriate a 0.090-Acre Easement from James A. Rave, from the Property Located at 6114 Shier Lane, for the Public Purpose of Constructing a Shared Use Path, Which Shall be Open to the Public Without Charge

Ms. Alutto introduced the Resolution.

Mr. Gable presented the intent to appropriate a 0.090-acre easement for the Shier Rings Road Shared Use Path Project. The project will construct a path along the south side of Shier Rings Road, connecting two existing paths and improving network connectivity. In 2024, the City entered an agreement with Washington Township for construction and maintenance, with the township receiving LinkUS grant funding for 2026.

Property interests from nine owners are necessary. This resolution is the first legislation to commence appropriation of an easement on one property. Attempts to contact the owner or authorized representatives have been unsuccessful. Staff hopes to negotiate but this legislation allows proceeding with appropriation if contact is not feasible. Should the owner be found, the City will work toward fair settlement.

There were no public comments.

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

Resolution 06-26

Accepting the Lowest and Best Bid for the 2026 Muirfield Landscape Maintenance Contract

Ms. Alutto introduced the Resolution.

Mr. Earman presented the lowest bid for the 2026 Muirfield Landscape Maintenance Contract. Three bids were opened January 20, 2026 for mowing, planting bed maintenance, weed control, and fertilization in specific Muirfield areas shown on a map display.

The contract establishes up to three years with annual renewal options subject to mutual agreement and performance. The lowest and best bid was from R&R Lawn Care and Landscaping LLC at \$119,500, approximately 19% less than the \$149,000 budget. The contractor has completed prior City projects satisfactorily and demonstrates strong understanding of required service standards.

There were no public comments.

Mayor Amorose Groomes asked about the previous contractor. Mr. Earman explained it was managed by the Muirfield Association through a reimbursement contract.

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

Resolution 07-26

Accepting the Lowest and Best Bid for the 2026 Facilities Landscape Maintenance Contract

Ms. Alutto introduced the Resolution.

Mr. Earman presented the 2026 Facilities Landscape Maintenance Contract. Seven bids were opened January 20, 2026 for maintenance at designated areas surrounding City facilities. The contract is for up to three years with annual renewal options.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Dublin City Council

Minutes of

Meeting

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

February 9, 2026

Page 9 of 14

Held _____

20 _____

Mr. Earman explained that the lowest bid from Rosie's Home and Lawn Care LLC was non-responsive and rejected. The second lowest from R&R Lawn Care and Landscaping LLC was also rejected after staff met with R&R representatives. Since R&R was being recommended for the similar Muirfield contract, it was mutually determined they lacked capacity to perform both without increased risk of delays and performance issues. R&R submitted a letter acknowledging this determination.

Therefore, the third lowest bid from Environmental Management Incorporated (EMI) at \$138,875 was determined lowest and best, approximately 6% below the \$149,000 budget. EMI's qualifications and capacity were verified, supported by successful performance on previous contracts.

There were no public comments.

Mayor Amorose Groomes asked about the previous contractor, which Mr. Earman identified as CLMS, noting their competitive pricing showed knowledge of work requirements.

Ms. Johnson asked why the City contracts this work rather than performing it with City staff. Mr. Earman explained it comes down to cost-benefit analysis, as it would require additional full-time or part-time staff plus associated costs.

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

OTHER BUSINESS

- Spooktacular Discussion

Ms. LeRoy presented background on Spooktacular, which began as a recreation program when Dublin City Schools had a Friday off in October. After COVID, due to large crowds on Thursday night alone, they added Friday in 2021.

The 2024 event saw excellent weather with an estimated 9,200 people total - 5,400 on Thursday night and 3,800 on Friday. Data comes from Placer cell phone information.

The Community Events Roadmap suggested adjusting investment to reduce net costs. With increased sponsorship interest, cost recovery increased to 30% from 15% the previous year, with sponsorship revenue growing from \$12,000 to \$22,000.

Ms. LeRoy presented cost comparisons between one-day and two-day events. Friday daytime events cost less due to reduced overtime and lighting needs. The per-person cost for a two-day event is \$5.30 versus \$8.83 for one day due to spreading fixed costs. Setup and teardown costs of \$19,226 remain the same regardless of days. She explained that sponsorship revenue would likely decrease for a one-day event, with five sponsors already waiting to see the format decision before committing. The sponsorship difference significantly impacts cost recovery percentages between formats.

For Trunk or Treat, Thursday sells out to Dublin residents before opening to the general public, while Friday does not sell out. There are 30 organization spots per day. Eliminating Friday would remove 17 unique spots since sponsors and partners like schools get spots both days. Top sponsors at \$5,000 participate both days, while many \$1,000-1,500 sponsors participate one day only.

Staff recommended continuing as a two-day event, noting it doubles attendance opportunities, showcases businesses, and fosters community connections. While acknowledging the budget difference, they believe cost savings elsewhere would likely prevent need for supplemental appropriation.

Ms. Krumb asked about Friday attendance demographics. Ms. LeRoy confirmed 70% were Dublin residents on Friday, with others potentially from Dublin City

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Dublin City Council

Minutes of

Meeting

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

February 9, 2026

Page 10 of 14

Held _____ 20 _____

Schools or other districts with the day off. Ms. Kramb suggested exploring school district sponsorship given their participation.

Dr. Lam expressed strong support for maintaining two days, citing unanimous community love for the event and its community bonding value. He asked about increasing sponsorship fees, which Ms. LeRoy confirmed they are exploring, noting they already have \$12,000 in sponsorship requests without actively selling.

Vice Mayor De Rosa focused not on the dollar amount but on staff effort for serving non-residents. She requested tracking whether Friday primarily serves Dublin residents to inform future decisions. She recalled consultant recommendations questioning whether this was truly a two-day event or a one-day event stretched to two days.

Ms. Alutto appreciated the adaptive hour for children needing quieter stimulation, suggesting she might support expanding that time. She felt that denying 3,800 guests access would be unfortunate and supported maintaining two days with increased sponsorship efforts.

Ms. Johnson agreed, particularly valuing the adaptive hour and recommending possible expansion. She suggested giving it another year while working to make up the budget difference through sponsorships, then reassessing based on results.

Mayor Amorose Groomes explored earlier Thursday hours, but Ms. LeRoy explained they had tried starting as early as 2:30 PM in past years without success - people simply did not arrive early. Regarding later Friday hours, football games create conflicts even when school is out.

Mayor Amorose Groomes moved to continue hosting Spooktacular as a two-day event.

Ms. Alutto seconded.

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

- Dublin Irish Festival (DIF) 2025 Review & 2026 Ticket Pricing Council Approval

Ms. LeRoy presented Dublin Irish Festival results, referencing the annual report link in the City Manager update. The 2024 festival saw gorgeous weather and a 10% attendance increase, but revenue increased 24%. They gave back \$108,000 to the Sharing o' the Green program. The Dublin Food Pantry received 9.9 tons of food and a record \$16,000. Over 1,000 volunteers donated nearly 10,000 hours.

Survey results showed over 95% rated the festival excellent or good, with 96.1% planning to return in 2026. The festival won USA Today's Top Cultural Festival and received the American Bus Association's Best of the Best Festivals and Events award for the first time.

Environmental achievements included a 42% increase in composting, 8% rise in recycling, and 32% increase in bike parking.

Regarding the events roadmap goal of \$300,000 net positive by 2026, they exceeded this a year early at \$484,520. Cost recovery reached 101% - the first time over 100% since 2017. While expenses grew after COVID, they have kept growth below the 25% inflation rate since 2019. Expenses were up only 2% in 2024, though revenue-dependent expenses like credit card fees and merchandise costs rose 15%.

Staffing costs increased just 1.5%, below staff salary increases, due to a slight decline in hours. Implementing cashless operations dramatically cut staffing

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Dublin City Council

Minutes of

Meeting

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

February 9, 2026

Page 11 of 14

Held _____

20 _____

needs and reduced cash handling from millions to minimal amounts, improving safety.

Revenue increased 24% to the highest ever despite only 10% attendance growth. Non-weather dependent revenue (vendors, sponsorships) increased 7%. Sponsorship reached all-time records with \$365,000 cash and \$227,000 in-kind donations, adding 12 new sponsors.

For 2026, they plan to reduce hours for the first time in Ms. LeRoy's tenure, closing Saturday at 11 PM instead of midnight. Benchmarking found no other festivals still operate until midnight. Even with great attendance, significant drop-off occurs after 11 PM. The one-hour reduction represents 5% of total festival hours, expecting \$10,000 reduction in staffing and entertainment costs with minimal revenue impact.

Beverage revenue hit records after increasing prices by about \$1 last year due to product cost increases, especially plastic. The 30% beverage revenue increase came despite only 10% attendance growth. They have decided against changing cup sizes due to logistical challenges and the environmental benefit of reusable mugs that save significant landfill/recycling volume. They plan to track how many pours go into reusable mugs.

Ticket buyer distribution showed most from Ohio but significant representation from surrounding states and beyond, including someone from Wyoming. This data helps focus marketing efforts on markets like Dayton, Indianapolis, and Detroit with help from Visit Dublin.

Staff recommended no changes to general ticket prices for the third consecutive year, though they anticipate requesting increases next year to keep pace with inflation.

For VIP clubs, survey data showed declining popularity of Dub Club. In response, they plan to enforce no-seat-saving policies, change table layouts, increase bathroom facilities, and offer reserved table options at Dub Club similar to what Celtic Rock Club previously offered. Companies or groups could reserve entire tables for the weekend.

Emerald Club operates successfully with 40% of members receiving tickets through sponsorships, essentially having members pay for sponsor hospitality. Celtic Rock Club continues finding its footing with planned improvements.

Based on research of other festivals' one-day versus multi-day pricing, they adjusted several VIP ticket prices by \$25-50. They also expanded the add-on beverage package (three drinks per day, not unlimited) beyond just Emerald Club to all clubs. Non-alcoholic beverages remain free in all clubs.

During discussion, Ms. Alutto asked about the flash sale success. Ms. LeRoy confirmed it has been very successful and they plan to move it earlier to March 2nd to capitalize on pre-St. Patrick's Day media interest.

Vice Mayor De Rosa questioned the revenue/expense chart showing they finally broke even after five years of losses, noting the tenuous nature dependent on perfect weather. She asked about vendor fee revenue, suggesting exploring percentage-based fees rather than flat rates as other organizations do. Ms. LeRoy agreed to pull out pricing breakdown data from last year's analysis.

Dr. Lam praised the incredible 24% revenue growth with only 2% expense increase. He asked about sustaining growth and increasing attendance. Ms. LeRoy attributed success to weather recovery from poor weather in 2023, increased sponsorships, and strategic product pricing. They target 10% growth for 2025 through expense reduction and revenue growth. Marketing efforts will extend beyond Central Ohio to bring visitors who stay in hotels, especially important with Dublin's growing hotel capacity.

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Dublin City Council

Minutes of

Meeting

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

February 9, 2026

Page 12 of 14

Held _____

20 _____

Dr. Lam also asked about tracking police incidents, noting concerns at other Columbus festivals about organized disturbances. Chief Paez confirmed they track incidents at and peripheral to festival grounds, fortunately seeing very few incidents at the Irish Festival.

Mayor Amorose Groomes noted the exceptional weather made this a high watermark unlikely to be repeated. She suggested adding private security at Celtic Rock Club during later hours to protect volunteers from confrontations over saved seats, citing her personal observation of printed chair-backers and tense interactions. Ms. LeRoy agreed to explore this option.

Mayor Amorose Groomes moved to approve the 2026 DIF Ticket Pricing Structure as presented.

Ms. Alutto seconded.

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

STAFF COMMENTS

Ms. O'Callaghan share the following:

- The Dublin Irish Festival has been nominated for the fourth time in USA Today's 10 Best Readers Poll after winning first place last year. Voting continues daily on all devices through March 2nd, with winners announced March 11th.
- Dublin received a State and Local Cybersecurity Grant from the Department of Homeland Security administered by CyberOhio - the maximum \$20,000 with a \$5,000 match for executing the 2026 cybersecurity plan.
- Design advances for Highland Glen Park at Highland Cross and Post Road will feature a community lawn, loop trail, seating, landscaping, and restored historic barn and granary structures. Initial neighbor letters went out in November with updates going out this week. Construction bidding is anticipated in the third quarter with the \$955,000 CIP budget and fourth quarter completion weather/bid dependent. Barn and granary restoration begins this spring ahead of park construction.
- Furthering the events roadmap, a request for proposals has been issued to develop a citywide sponsorship strategy. Goals include creating coordinated approaches to increase non-tax revenues, strengthen partnerships, and support City programs/facilities/events. The selected firm will evaluate current assets and efforts, identify new opportunities, and deliver an actionable strategy aligned with City brand values. Timing aligns with Premier Athletic and Recreation Campus conceptual framework completion and the need to coordinate with SFC's Sports Ohio sponsorship strategies. Proposals are due March 4th with a cross-departmental team overseeing the process and engaging City Council at milestones.
- A public meeting for property owners near the Riverside Drive Water, Sanitary, And Shared Use Path Area 3 Project will be held March 18th at 6:30 PM in the Development Building. The project includes water main extensions to areas 3A and 3B, sanitary sewer extensions to areas 3A, 3C and portions of 3B, shared use path connections between Taunton Drive and Wyandotte Woods Boulevard, and street maintenance. Construction timing will be determined through the CIP process. Invitations go out February 10th.
- Ms. O'Callaghan recognized the exceptional work during Winter Storm Fern - the most substantial since 2008. Emergency operations practices beforehand ensured full preparation with confirmed protocols, clarified roles, and coordination across departments and Washington Township. The event began January 24th at 9 PM with 24-hour operations through January 28th. Standard procedures were adjusted due to significant snowfall, initially prioritizing passable roadways for emergency services. Prolonged extreme cold limited material effectiveness. Once streets were

passable, crews systematically restored access to residents and businesses, then focused on detailed cleanup to achieve curb-to-curb treatment where feasible. They improved intersection visibility, cleared catch basins, and hauled snow from the Bridge Street District. She praised the citywide effort, professionalism, resilience, long hours in strenuous conditions, and collaboration to keep the community safe and moving. Then more snow came, and now they prepare for drainage issues as it melts.

COUNCIL REPORTS

- Administrative Committee Report

Vice Mayor De Rosa reported the Administrative Committee met February 3rd to discuss two topics:

During this board and commission recruiting season, the Committee and staff examined potential website improvements they have learned about over time. They engaged with staff on improving navigation, potentially integrating volunteer and boards/commissions sections, improving device compatibility, and clarifying information to make it easier for residents to engage and understand opportunities. Staff will bring back comprehensive options to the Committee and then to Council.

For the Architecture Review Board vacancy, recruiting has occurred with expectation to bring a resolution to Council for approval at the February 23rd meeting.

COUNCIL ROUNDTABLE

Ms. Kramb requested staff comment slides be included in OnBoard for future reference.

Ms. Alutto thanked staff for snow storm assistance and noted the Sports Ohio steering committee met with Sports Facilities for a branding exercise on the Monday of the snowstorm, conducted virtually. She thanked Ms. O'Callaghan for organizing it and she looks forward to seeing results.

Dr. Lam reported reaching out to all homeowners associations (HOAs) and community associations in Ward 3, meeting with the Reserve Association on Tuesday February 3rd. He thanked Ms. O'Callaghan and staff for addressing concerns literally the next day. He noted that surprisingly many residents were unaware of major initiatives like the West Innovation District (WID), Premier Athletic Campus, and Metro Center revitalization despite the City's award-winning communication efforts. This highlights a disconnect suggesting need for new innovative communication methods, possibly including newsletters as Ms. Johnson suggested. He questioned whether it is incumbent on the City to reach out or on residents to stay informed.

Dr. Lam also attended the Lunar New Year celebration Saturday with Ms. Johnson and Mayor Amorose Groomes. He praised the amazing cultural performances demonstrating Dublin's deep cultural roots, including water lily dance, wushu arts, and authentic Chinese orchestra with plucked zither string instruments. He particularly thanked Mayor Amorose Groomes for her welcoming words about how Dublin is built on, stands for, and celebrates diversity, which makes the community strong.

Vice Mayor De Rosa added that she and Ms. Kramb participated in a Chamber event entitled "Understanding the Scope of Government Tiers" with a Jerome Township trustee, a Washington Township trustee, and Ohio Senator Andrew Brenner. The two-hour class provided education about how government works and collaboration between levels. She also thanked the snow warriors, noting that after two hours cursing at her shovel she could not imagine 24-hour shifts and appreciated everyone's heroic work.

Mayor Amorose Groomes provided the following updates:

- She was in Washington DC last week at MORPC's invitation and expense. She met with the US Department of Transportation government affairs lead who provided timely advice on an FSP grant for passenger rail due last Friday - a \$6 million planning grant now submitted. She visited the FCC where she serves on the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee, coincidentally the same day Elon Musk filed

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Dublin City Council

Minutes of

Meeting

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

February 9, 2026

Page 14 of 14

Held _____

20 _____

for one million satellite licenses, which will likely change how data moves around the country and may impact development pressure discussions.

The delegation met with all eight congressional representatives from the MORPC region - Senators Moreno and Houston, Representatives Joyce, Jordan, Beatty, Taylor, Balderson, and Sykes. They presented competitive advantage projects including LinkUS and passenger rail for Midwest Connect and 3C+D. They also toured DC Metro to learn lessons about transit-oriented development and how transit impacts movement patterns.

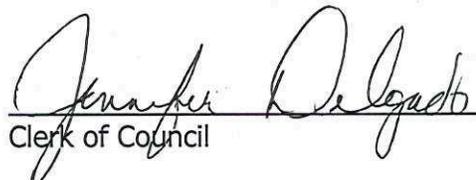
- She also enjoyed Lunar New Year where she learned about the Chinese zodiac, which predicted her year will be a packed social calendar, success through connections, and a great year for weddings or expanding family.
- She expressed appreciation for the herculean snow removal effort, measuring 15 inches at her house. She reported Council Member Keeler wanted his thanks for snow removal efforts passed along as well.
- She congratulated City Manager O'Callaghan on being voted Vice Chair of the Central Ohio Mayors and Managers Association at Friday's COMMA meeting.
- Finally, she noted Wednesday (2/11) is Dr. Lam's birthday, with Council wishing him a wonderful day full of joy and good experiences.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 p.m.



Mayor – Presiding Officer



Clerk of Council