

# RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Dublin City Council

Minutes of

Meeting

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

May 11, 2026

Held \_\_\_\_\_

20 \_\_\_\_\_

## CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Amorose Groomes called the Monday, May 11, 2026 Regular Meeting of Dublin City Council to order at 6:30 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. Shamp, Mr. Rubino, Ms. Weisenauer, Mr. Earman, Ms. Miglietti, Ms. Falcone, Mr. Gracia, Mr. Severyn, Mr. Barker, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Jiang, Ms. Blake, Ms. Rauch, Mr. Hammersmith and Mr. Ament.

Also present: Retired LTC Jeff Noble, VFW Post 800

## ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

- Personnel Matters: Considering the Employment of a Public Employee

Ms. Alutto seconded the motion.

Vote on the motion: Mr. Keeler, yes; 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 7:00 p.m.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Amorose Groomes invited Retired LTC Jeff Noble of VFW Post 800 to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

## SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/RECOGNITION

- Memorial Day Ceremony Invitation  
Retired Lieutenant Colonel Jeff Noble, a member of the Veterans Advisory Committee, presented the plans for the upcoming Memorial Day ceremony on May 25, 2026. He introduced Colonel Andrew Powers, Commander of the 121st Aerial Refueling Wing and Dublin resident, as the keynote speaker. LTC Noble noted the particular significance of Colonel Powers serving in this role given that his unit recently lost six members.

The ceremony will begin at 11:00 AM at South Dale Drive in front of the Wendy's location, proceed with a wreath-throwing ceremony on the bridge, and conclude with a formal ceremony in the cemetery. Following the ceremony, the Dublin Jerome Band will lead attendees across the road to a community picnic. LTC Noble noted that this year's program will not include a Gold Star family speaker. Mayor Amorose Groomes welcomed the plans, noting that Colonel Powers is a Dublin High School graduate and lifelong resident.

## CITIZEN COMMENTS

Sen Gao, President of the Global Asian Culture Heritage Foundation and Dublin resident and small business owner of eleven years, addressed Council. He thanked the City of Dublin for supporting diversity, culture and community unity. Recently, the Ohio Asian Culture Heritage Festival was held, which brought together families from many different backgrounds through music, martial arts, dance, food and the culture exchange. As an Asian American community leader, he expressed appreciation for the support shown by the City of Dublin, the Mayor, the Vice Mayor, City Council members, City staff, and the volunteers. Dublin is becoming a model city for inclusion, respect and multicultural understanding. He expressed pride in calling Dublin home. On behalf of our organization and the Asian American community, thank you for supporting culture heritage and

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community engagement. Mr. Gao also invited all present to the 32nd Asian Festival at Franklin Park, Memorial Day weekend, May 23 through 24. He presented the Mayor with a special gift from Thailand and a certificate of appreciation.

Daniel Hammill, 5725 Trafalgar Lane, addressed Council regarding the Planning and Zoning Commission meeting of the prior week and code changes in the ID-6 Research Transition District. He addressed resident safety concerns and asked that the R and D manufacturing in ID-6 be removed or listed as a conditional use. He would like to see strong guidelines for the byproducts of manufacturing and waste streams as a result of advanced manufacturing, a clear definition that distinguishes clean manufacturing from advanced manufacturing. Also a definition of guidelines for fleet vehicles and clearly defined parameters of hours of operation including shipping and receiving. He stated that the current code language as it states today is too vague. He was pleased to hear several commissioners voice similar concerns regarding the code language. Ms. Harter stated that everyone in the room, not just developers, should be able to read and understand what's in the code, and conditional use is very important to her. Commissioner Alexander voiced concern regarding toxic output. Commissioner Newell had similar concerns that residents had regarding the distinction between clean manufacturing and advanced manufacturing and also called for conditional uses. Chairman Way continues to tell residents that commissioners' hands are tied, and that they are guided by all the planning and work that has developed up until now. He asked City Council to untie planning and zoning's hands and direct them to focus on protecting residents. Ideally, the land should be residential, which was in the plan from 2007 until recently and supported by residents, property owners, and now Zillow. But at a very minimum, advanced manufacturing should be a conditional use and we should look to develop clean manufacturing standards instead. Last Thursday, Ms. Rausch stated that adding certain types of manufacturing as conditional adds another layer of uncertainty, and that would make it difficult to attract development to the city. He disagreed with that statement and added that our high standards and discernment are what attracts the type of business we want in our community. To lower those standards, does a disservice to all. He stated his opinion that we are nowhere closer to acceptable code language than we were 9 months ago when this was tabled. Let's act now and continue the Envision Dublin plan and not make this "invasion Dublin."

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- Minutes of the April 27, 2026 Regular Council Meeting
- Minutes of the May 4, 2026 Special Council Meeting
- Excuse the Absence of Dr. Lam from the May 4, 2026 Special Meeting.

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. Kramb, yes; Mayor Amorose Groomes, yes; Mr. Keeler, yes; Dr. Lam, yes; Ms. Alutto, yes; Ms. Johnson, yes; Vice Mayor De Rosa, yes.

## **INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING – ORDINANCES**

### **Ordinance 27-26**

### **Authorizing the Submission of a Petition for the Regular Annexation of 201.7 Acres, More or Less, of Property from Darby Township, Madison County to the City of Dublin, Ohio**

Ms. Alutto introduced the Ordinance.

Mr. Shamp presented the report for the ordinance, which authorizes the Law Department to submit a petition for regular annexation of 201.7 acres located in Darby Township, Madison County. This parcel is part of the larger 348.6-acre strategic land acquisition in the West Innovation District and serves as the companion piece to the 146.9-acre municipal annexation authorized at the previous meeting under Ordinance 25-26.

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Mr. Shamp explained that the regular annexation process, governed by Ohio Revised Code 709.02, requires a majority of real estate owners within the area to submit and file the petition and mandates a hearing before the Madison County Board of Commissioners. This process was chosen specifically because it allows the City to later conform township boundaries, consistent with the City's long-standing policy of bringing newly annexed land into Washington Township. Municipal annexation does not permit such township boundary adjustments.

Anticipated next steps include the submission of the municipal annexation petition to Franklin County following the effective date of Ordinance 25-26 on May 28, with a Franklin County hearing expected in June. Should the current ordinance be adopted at the May 26 meeting, the regular annexation petition would be submitted to Madison County with a hearing anticipated in July or August.

There were no public comments.

Second reading/public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, May 26, 2026.

### **Ordinance 28-26**

#### **Authorizing the Provision of Certain Incentives to Ruscilli Construction Co. LLC to Induce it to Purchase an Office Building for the Relocation of the Company's Existing Office and the Expansion of that Office and its Associated Operations and Workforce within the City; and Authorizing the Execution of an Economic Development Agreement**

Ms. Alutto introduced the Ordinance.

Ms. Falcone presented this ordinance on behalf of Economic Development staff. Ruscilli Construction Company, currently headquartered in Dublin, is considering expanding its operations to a new location within the City. The company provides construction management and design-build services across markets including commercial offices and affordable housing.

The proposed Economic Development Agreement includes a ten-percent income tax withholding performance incentive over five years valued at \$185,000, as well as a location grant payment of \$50,000 to assist with the purchase of a building and related renovation expenses within Dublin. The project is projected to result in the retention of 120 employees and the creation of 26 new positions by December 31, 2032, bringing approximately \$2,140,000 in additional income tax withholding revenue over the term of the agreement.

There were no public comments.

Second reading/public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, May 26, 2026.

### **INTRODUCTION/PUBLIC HEARING/VOTE – RESOLUTIONS**

#### **Resolution 24-26**

#### **Accepting the Lowest and Best Bid for the Street Light & Traffic Control Utility Painting Project (26-015-CIP)**

Ms. Alutto introduced the Resolution.

Mr. Taylor presented Resolution 24-26. The scope of work covers the painting of 222 poles, 84 streetlight cabinets, and 30 signal control cabinets at various locations throughout the City. The engineer's estimate for the project was \$175,000. Three bids were received, with the lowest submitted by Public Works Painting in the amount of \$109,044.04, representing a savings of 37.7 percent below the engineer's estimate and \$65,955.96 under the budgeted funds. Although Public Works Painting has not previously performed work within Dublin, staff conducted reference checks and received positive feedback. Work is expected to commence in May 2026 and be completed by October 2026.

There were no public comments.

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Ms. Kramb inquired whether the scope represented all poles identified as needing painting at this time, or whether additional poles had been deferred to stay within budget. Mr. Taylor confirmed that the scope reflects all poles identified through the City's asset management inspection data as requiring painting, and that none had been set aside for budgetary reasons.

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

**OTHER BUSINESS**

- Request for Approval of a Reclassification of a Position in the Division of Legislative Services

Ms. Miglietti presented the request. Following a recent vacancy in the position of Assistant Clerk within the Division of Legislative Services, staff conducted an evaluation consistent with the City's vacancy review process. The recommendation is to reclassify the position from Assistant Clerk to Deputy Clerk in order to ensure a more balanced distribution of responsibilities and support the division's ongoing organizational goals. The annual budgetary impact of the reclassification is approximately \$7,800, with the change to be reflected in the 2027 operating budget if approved.

There were no public comments.

Mayor Amorose Groomes moved to approve the reclassification of the Assistant Clerk position to the Deputy Clerk position.

Ms. Alutto seconded.

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

- Deer Management Program

Ms. Goliver presented a comprehensive update on the City's multi-year deer management review process and sought Council direction to proceed with contract negotiations with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA).

*Background and Process*

Staff noted that this topic has been under active review for more than four years through the Community Services Advisory Commission (CSAC). Key milestones included the adoption of an outdoor feeding prohibition ordinance in November 2023, presentations from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) to CSAC in 2024, a community survey conducted in early 2026 that received 3,656 responses, and an April 20, 2026 work session at which Council heard directly from subject matter experts from ODNR, the Ohio State University, and Metro Parks.

*Data and Survey Findings*

Staff reported 20 direct reports of dogs attacked by deer and 35 reports of deer stalking or chasing incidents in 2025 alone, a significant increase from three and four such reports in 2023 and 2024, respectively. The community survey's open-ended responses documented 120 accounts of pets being attacked by deer, four references to pets being killed, and 45 distinct references to deer chasing or stalking people. Among survey respondents, 59 percent believe the population should be managed, 49 percent expressed support for lethal methods, 18 percent neither supported nor opposed lethal methods, and 33 percent opposed lethal methods.

*Population Survey*

Dark Horizon Drones conducted a citywide thermal imaging drone survey from April 24 through April 27, 2026, using a systematic grid pattern consistent with surveys conducted for Upper Arlington and the Metro Parks. A total of 528 deer were

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counted, establishing a baseline population estimate. Notably, the hotspots identified during the drone survey aligned closely with prior thermal imaging work conducted by the Dublin Police Department in February, lending confidence to the data. The survey also revealed a higher-than-expected deer concentration in the Ward 2 area, where resident complaints have historically been lower.

### *Management Options*

Ms. Goliver reviewed management options. Relocation is prohibited under ORC Chapter 1531 due to the lethal stress it causes and the risk of disease spread. Birth control methods, including surgical sterilization and contraceptives, are generally only approved for research purposes, have limited effectiveness in an open herd, and would not reduce the existing population. Staff recommended proceeding with targeted removal conducted by USDA Wildlife Services, involving professionally trained sharpshooters using rifles with noise suppression devices, operating overnight from baiting stations. Processed venison from removed deer would be donated to local food pantries. Archery programs were noted as a longer-term, cost-effective complement to a targeted removal program, though less effective at quickly reducing the population.

There were no public comments.

### *Council Discussion*

Ms. Kramb clarified that the evening's vote would authorize staff to begin contract negotiations with USDA and would not constitute final approval of an operational plan, a point confirmed by Ms. Goliver. The contract, anticipated to come before Council on June 8 pending negotiation progress, would include location details, the number of deer targeted for removal, associated costs, and related scope of work.

Mr. Keeler expressed that while he had initially focused on the public safety dimension of aggressive deer encounters, the presentations from ODNR, Ohio State, and Metro Parks had significantly expanded his understanding of the ecological impacts. He noted that deer carry ticks and spread Lyme disease, preferentially consume native plant species over invasives such as honeysuckle, and that a clear ethics statement would be valuable in helping residents understand the humane and ecologically responsible rationale for management.

Ms. Alutto echoed those sentiments, emphasizing that the ecological impact of an oversized deer population on brush-dwelling species and rare native plants deserved prominent treatment in any communications plan, not just the public safety arguments.

Ms. Johnson noted that the drone survey's findings were broadly consistent with expectations and confirmed that the City is approaching ecological carrying capacity.

Dr. Lam raised several substantive points: the importance of beginning the public education process as early as possible given the lead time required before winter operations, the significance of obtaining the ODNR deer damage control permit in advance, the mathematical reality that reducing the population meaningfully would likely require removing far more than the roughly 100 deer removed by Worthington given Dublin's significantly larger geographic area, and the value of a long-term advisory committee structure. Ms. Goliver responded that USDA would likely submit the ODNR permit on the City's behalf, and that CSAC would serve as the ongoing resident advisory body given its deep institutional knowledge of the issue, similar to the role Worthington's Deer Advisory Committee plays.

Vice Mayor De Rosa commended the methodical, multi-year process and stressed that the ethics statement should guide not only communications but the entire management program. She also emphasized the importance of broad public education and acknowledged that not all residents support lethal management.

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Mayor Amorose Groomes highlighted public safety concerns related to deer concentrations along Riverside Drive and Dublin Road, noted the visible deterioration of native species on Dublin's forest floors, and indicated support for hosting public education events featuring the same subject matter experts that had informed Council's deliberations.

Mayor Amorose Groomes moved to direct staff to proceed with contract negotiations related to a deer management program.

Ms. Alutto seconded.

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

- Food Truck Regulations

Ms. Blake presented recommendations from the Public Services Committee regarding the establishment of a formal food truck regulatory framework, stemming from recommendations in two recently adopted strategic plans: the Community Events Road Map and the Downtown Dublin Curbside Management Plan.

*Proposed Regulatory Framework*

Staff recommended removing two existing code sections within the Historic District zoning chapter and consolidating regulations into a standalone chapter for clarity and usability. A pilot program approach was proposed, featuring an annual City license for food truck operators with a delayed effective date of March 1, 2027, to allow time for a comprehensive cost study, feedback collection, and alignment with state renewal timelines. During the initial pilot period, the license fee would be waived. In the interim, operators wishing to reserve a designated food truck parking zone would be required to submit a copy of their valid state food service operations license.

Operational regulations would take effect on the normal timeline and include permitted hours of 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM with no overnight parking, a requirement to display a valid City-issued license while operating, containment of all operational equipment within or immediately adjacent to the truck (with auxiliary items such as condiment tables permitted within ten feet), a prohibition on amplified sound (with an exception for permitted ice cream trucks), a prohibition on connecting to utilities without property owner consent, a restriction from operating within 1,000 feet of a City-approved or permitted event, and a prohibition on improper disposal of grease or liquid waste. Violations would be treated as a third-degree misdemeanor. Appeals would be heard by the Board of Zoning Appeals. Operators would also be required to register with the Division of Taxation for income tax reporting, and Washington Township Fire Department committed to inspect each food truck prior to license issuance.

*Designated Locations*

Staff proposed twelve designated food truck zones using a corridor approach that balances public safety, distance from existing restaurants, and proximity to gathering areas. Rather than striping specific parking spaces, staff recommended defined zones within which operators would be responsible for finding a safe parking location, avoiding conflicts with regular parking users. Proposed locations include: Avery Park (south), Ballantrae Community Park and Splash Pad, Belle Griffin Park, Coffman Park (three zones: rec center overflow, the existing Food Truck Wednesday lot, and the Commerce Parkway lot), Darree Fields (three zones: north soccer fields, baseball diamonds, and softball/dog park area), Arlington Park, Emerald Fields (two zones), Ferris Wright Park, Franklin Street, Riverside Crossing Park (on-street and plaza food carts), Kaltenbach Community Park, and Scioto Park.

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## *Additional Considerations*

Staff noted feedback from the Visit Dublin board and local hospitality industry, which expressed general support for food trucks as a community vibrancy asset while requesting limitations in high-traffic areas such as High Street and Riverside Drive. Staff also acknowledged that two existing youth organizations operating concession stands at City sports complexes had previously raised concerns about unannounced food trucks competing with their sales; the proposed designated zones were intentionally placed away from those concession stands while still permitting food truck access to the parks. Staff further identified the Central Ohio Food Truck Association as a potential outreach partner, and noted that a comprehensive website with location, availability, and application information would be developed. Regarding private property, the proposed code permits commercial property owners to invite licensed food trucks onto their premises for up to fourteen days, and carves out explicit provisions for neighborhood gatherings, HOA and civic-approved events, and City-permitted block parties.

Scott Turner came forward to express concern about the DCRC overflow parking lot location given its close proximity to residences.

## *Council Discussion*

Mr. Keeler confirmed with staff that the regulations apply to City-owned property and designated public spaces, with private property addressed separately in the code. He raised a concern that restricting food trucks from operating near concession stands at youth athletic facilities could reduce revenue for those same organizations that seek bed tax grant funding from the City, representing a tension between two City interests. He also requested clarification on the logistical process for the fire inspection and license issuance prior to a food truck's first operation.

Vice Mayor De Rosa, drawing on Public Services Committee discussions, emphasized the importance of the pilot program structure and the ability of city manager staff to update designated locations administratively without returning to Council. She also raised concerns about the Riverside Crossing Park on-street locations along Riverside Drive, citing pedestrian safety, blocked sightlines, and the visual impact of food trucks as de facto billboards along the corridor. She suggested exploring whether trucks could be relocated to the pathway area closer to the river. She also raised the concept of revenue sharing with youth organizations at athletic parks as a potential mechanism to offset any impact on their concession sales.

Dr. Lam asked whether the educational component would extend to residents beyond just food truck operators, and staff confirmed plans to present the program at a future HOA Leadership Night. He also asked about enforcement, specifically whether there was a graduated warning system for lower-level infractions. Mr. Severyn responded that no formal grace period is included in the current draft but that prosecutorial and enforcement discretion would apply, and that Council could direct staff to add a warning or remediation period if desired. Dr. Lam noted that an enforcement ladder beyond a single misdemeanor charge would be worth considering, particularly for technical, non-safety violations. He also emphasized the need for direct communication with the youth organizations at Darree Fields and Avery Park prior to implementation.

Ms. Kramb expressed support for the draft code and suggested several location modifications to be incorporated: adding a second food truck zone on the north side of Avery Park given the park's size, adding a zone near the baseball fields at Emerald Fields, and adding a zone at the lower level of Scioto Park to serve the shelter area and improve access for visitors with mobility challenges.

Ms. Alutto expressed support for the pilot approach and echoed Council Member Kramb's suggestions, particularly regarding Scioto Park accessibility.

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Mayor Amorose Groomes expressed reservations about the Riverside Crossing Park on-street locations along Riverside Drive, citing pedestrian and safety hazards, visual impacts on the corridor's aesthetic, and the tendency of trucks and their associated equipment to obstruct sidewalks. She suggested that relocating trucks into the park along the river path would better serve visitors and enhance the experience. She also supported exploring a revenue-sharing model with youth organizations.

Ms. Blake confirmed they had received sufficient direction and would incorporate the following location modifications in the forthcoming draft code: relocating the DCRC zone closer to the main building, adding Avery Park North, adding an Emerald Fields baseball-area zone, adding a Scioto Park lower-level zone, and further evaluating the Riverside Crossing Park on-street placement in consultation with public services staff. Council reached general consensus that if trucks cannot be moved into the park at Riverside Crossing, the on-street locations should be shifted further north, away from the plaza area, and reduced in number if necessary.

Mayor Amorose Groomes moved to approve the recommendations of the Public Services Committee regarding food truck regulations and advance the proposed related code amendments.

Ms. Alutto seconded.

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

## **STAFF COMMENTS**

Ms. O'Callaghan had no staff comments.

## **COUNCIL ROUNDTABLE**

Ms. Kramb thanked staff and extended congratulations to all new citizens who took the oath at the recent naturalization ceremony held the prior Wednesday.

Ms. Alutto wished residents a happy belated Mother's Day and reminded the community that, with approximately three weeks remaining in the school year, traffic patterns would be changing and drivers should exercise heightened caution around children both in school zones and throughout the community, particularly given the prevalence of motorized bicycles and electric devices.

Mr. Keeler thanked the Chamber of Commerce and its volunteers for their participation in the community service day on May 2, noting his own contribution to improving curb appeal at the justice center.

Vice Mayor De Rosa thanked the Chamber for the opportunity to speak at the Leadership Academy graduation, recognizing the strong organizational support for community volunteerism. She also expressed appreciation for the honor of attending the naturalization ceremony and singled out frequent volunteer Emmet Apolinario, who delivered remarks about his own journey from the Philippines to U.S. citizenship. Vice Mayor De Rosa also requested a staff update on the rollout of the updated motorized vehicle and path regulations, noting increased activity on paths with the arrival of spring and asking that any update include details on signage deployment and school communications outreach.

Mayor Amorose Groomes reported on the following:

- a trip to Miami on April 28 to meet with BrightLine leadership, including the CEO and business development staff, in connection with the Federal-State Partnership grant application currently before the federal government.
- She also expressed gratitude for the invitation to JASCO's celebration gala on April 30, at which the City of Dublin was recognized for its work as an inclusive community.

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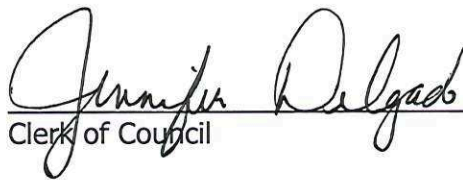
- She reported on a community meeting held on May 1 with journalists from The Dispatch, Business First, and Axios to discuss coverage of suburban communities and mutual expectations.
- She noted that a resolution was passed at that meeting opposing the proposed Ohio constitutional amendment to eliminate property taxes.
- She thanked the Memorial Tournament and Nationwide Children's Hospital for the Legends luncheon on May 5, noting that the tournament raised more than one and a half million dollars for Nationwide Children's Hospital.
- She also remarked on the naturalization ceremony held on May 6 as a meaningful civic celebration.
- Finally, the Mayor recognized Council Member Johnson on the occasion of her upcoming birthday on Wednesday, May 13, and extended congratulations on behalf of Council.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 p.m.



Mayor – Presiding Officer



Clerk of Council