

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Dublin City Council

Minutes of

Meeting

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

Held _____

May 26, 2026

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CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Amorose Groomes called the Tuesday, May 26, 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, Mr. Keeler, Ms. Kramb and Dr. Lam.

Staff members present were Ms. O'Callaghan, Chief Paez, Mr. Ashrawi, Mr. Batchelor, Mr. Rubino, Ms. Weisenauer, Mr. Earman, Ms. Falcone, Deputy Chief Lattanzi, Deputy Chief Tabernik, Mr. Severyn, Mr. Gable, Mr. Barker, Mr. Jiang, Ms. Blake, Ms. Rauch, Mr. Hammersmith and Mr. Ament.

Also present: Andrew Fredelake, Ruscilli Construction Co.

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

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

- Considering the Purchase of Property for Public Purposes; and
- 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.

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 Dr. Lam to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

There were no comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes of the May 11, 2026 Regular Council Meeting
- Minutes of the May 18, 2026 Council Work Session
- Notice to the Legislative Authority of a Transfer of Ownership of a D5A Liquor Permit from One OH Columbus ES Management LLC, Embassy Suites Dublin, 5100 Upper Metro Place, Dublin, OH 43017 to Dublin Beverage Services LLC, Embassy Suites - Dublin, 5100 Upper Metro Place, Dublin, OH 43017

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.

TABLED ITEM

Ordinance 06-25

Mayor Amorose Groomes provided background context, noting that Council had tabled Ordinance 06-25 the previous August and directed staff to work with stakeholders to draft targeted zoning code amendments to address compatibility concerns, preserve the long-term vision for development within the West Innovation District (WID), and ensure consistency with the approved Envision Dublin Community Plan. She also noted that the Planning and Zoning Commission reviewed the proposed code amendment at its May 21 meeting.

Mayor Amorose Groomes moved to remove Ordinance 06-25 from the table and place it on the July 1, 2026 agenda for additional reading/public hearing.
Ms. Alutto seconded the motion.

Vote on the motion: Mayor Amorose Groomes, yes; Ms. Kramb, yes; Ms. Johnson, no; Vice Mayor De Rosa, yes; Mr. Keeler, yes; Dr. Lam, yes; Ms. Alutto, yes.

Mayor Amorose Groomes moved to amend Ordinance 06-25 to the substitute version for May 26, 2026.
Ms. Alutto seconded the motion.

Vote on the motion: Vice Mayor De Rosa, yes; Mayor Amorose Groomes, yes; Ms. Johnson, no; Dr. Lam, yes; Ms. Alutto, yes; Mr. Keeler, yes; Ms. Kramb, yes.

Mayor Amorose Groomes stated that staff would send public notices at least 30 days in advance of the July 1 meeting to ensure all interested and legally required parties are properly informed. She further clarified for the record that this action was not a public hearing on Ordinance 06-25. The public hearing will be held as stated on July 1, 2026, with all required notifications fulfilled in advance.

SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING – 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

Mr. Ashrawi presented the staff report, noting that there had been no changes since the first reading. The ordinance would permit the City to file an annexation petition for regular annexation of the subject property with the county.

There were no public comments.

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

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. Falcone presented the staff report. She explained that the City had been working with Ruscilli Construction Company, which is currently headquartered in Dublin and is seeking to expand into a new, larger location within the City. The proposed incentive package consists of a 10 percent performance incentive on withholdings over five years, valued at \$185,000, as well as a location grant payment of \$50,000 to assist with the purchase of a Dublin building and associated renovation expenses. There were no changes to the proposed ordinance, and staff recommended Council approval.

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Andrew Fredelake, Vice President/General Counsel, and Partner at Ruscilli Construction, addressed Council. He noted that when the company moved to its current Dublin headquarters on Wall Street in 2020, its headcount stood at approximately 120 associates. Over six years, the company transitioned to 100 percent employee ownership and grew to 260 associates, necessitating operations across multiple Dublin offices. The company has identified a building at 5450 Frantz Road at the corner of Frantz and Tuttle roads as its intended next headquarters, with plans to renovate approximately 40,000 square feet to consolidate all employees and accommodate an additional 20 to 30 anticipated new hires. There were no public comments.

Mayor Amorose Groomes expressed appreciation for Ruscilli's longstanding contributions to the Dublin community, including the construction of many local school buildings.

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

INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING – ORDINANCES

Ordinance 29-26

Amendments to Sections 153.002 and 153.172 and Adding Chapter 123 to the Dublin Codified Ordinances to Address Food Truck Operations

Ms. Alutto introduced the Ordinance.

Ms. Blake explained that the ordinance would establish a standalone Chapter 123 governing food truck operations within the City, removing two existing sections from Chapter 153 and creating regulations intended to be clear, enforceable, and responsive to community operational needs.

Ms. Blake noted that Council had provided specific feedback at the May 11 meeting, and the ordinance was updated to reflect three items.

- First, the 12 designated food truck locations were expanded to include additional parking lots.
- Second, regarding a Council request to allow food trucks within Riverside Crossing Park rather than on Riverside Drive, staff determined this was not feasible due to topography challenges, infrastructure limitations regarding weight, circulation concerns, and emergency response time considerations. Consistent with prior Council consensus, the allowable on-street parking was narrowed to the northern portion of Riverside Drive.
- Third, Mr. Severyn addressed a prior question regarding progressive discipline, clarifying the distinction between license-related offenses, which are treated as more severe, and operational offenses, which follow a progressive structure based on severity and repeat violations. He further noted that food safety and health concerns remain within the purview of county boards of health and are not displaced by this ordinance.

Mr. Severyn also reported on a request regarding revenue sharing at sports complexes, advising that staff does not recommend such an approach at this time due to both administrative feasibility and legal considerations.

Ms. Blake also reported on outreach efforts, including a meeting with the Central Ohio Food Truck Association, which has 150 member operators and agreed to communicate City information to its membership, and a meeting with Street Food Finder, a public platform already used by operators, customers, and event organizers. Ms. Blake identified Street Food Finder as a strong candidate to serve as the City's registration system, citing its public familiarity, existing operator adoption, cost to the City of nothing, and ability to generate location-specific reporting and limit reservations by licensed operators only.

Council discussion touched on several topics. Ms. Johnson inquired about whether the scheduling calendar would open all at once or on a rolling basis. Ms. Blake indicated that staff would align availability with the community event permit process to avoid conflicts with buffer zones. She added that operators generally do not book far in advance. Ms. Kramb suggested limiting how frequently a single operator could reserve the same location to prevent the arrangement from resembling a permanent brick-and-mortar operation. Ms. Blake confirmed that Street Food Finder has the capability to impose such limits. Dr. Lam

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inquired about how the policy might protect youth sports organizations that derive revenue from concessions when food trucks are operating nearby. Mr. Severyn indicated that the primary tool available would be blocking out specific locations on days when events with concession activity are occurring. Vice Mayor De Rosa emphasized the value of the pilot program in generating data and expressed confidence that staff and Council would learn from the experience over the summer and fall, with a staff report anticipated in January 2027 ahead of the March 1 licensing timeline. Dr. Lam also asked that staff identify specific measurable metrics in advance to guide the pilot evaluation. Ms. Blake noted that the Street Food Finder platform provides the ability to survey operators and that the City intends to offer a public feedback mechanism on its website. She also confirmed that existing data from the Wednesday food truck program at Coffman Park would serve as a useful baseline.

There were no public comments.

Second reading/public hearing is scheduled for June 8, 2026.

Ordinance 30-26

Adopting and Enacting a Supplement (S-57) to the Code of Ordinances for the City of Dublin, Ohio

Ms. Alutto introduced the Ordinance.

Mr. Batchelor presented the staff report, offering an overview of the biannual code supplement process for the benefit of newer Council members. He explained that the City's codifier, American Legal Publishing, compiles changes from local ordinances and the Ohio Revised Code twice annually and incorporates them into Dublin's published code. The current supplement incorporates Ohio Revised Code updates through June 25, 2025, covering primarily minor traffic definition changes and criminal offense adjustments, as well as local ordinances passed through December 8, 2025, including an amendment to the fee schedule and other minor code cleanup. Legal reviewed all 263 pages and submitted corrections to the codifier on Friday, including grammatical corrections, removal of a definition that could conflict with the forthcoming micromobility code codification, and a minor fix related to the fireworks code section. The updated version reflecting those corrections would be presented at the second reading.

Amy Swank, 5945 Vandeler Place, came forward to speak regarding this legislation. Ms. Swank identified what she asserted was an omission in the supplement, referencing a motion made at the April 7, 2025 Council meeting in which Council voted unanimously to amend the applicable code section for the West Innovation District to reflect that data centers would be a conditional use rather than a permitted use in the ID-3 zoning district. She requested that Council direct staff to audit the supplement, ensure the adopted action from April 2025 is reflected in the final supplement, and ensure that communications about ID-6 use the correct version of the code reflecting that prior Council action.

Mr. Batchelor responded, noting that the supplement does include an update from Ordinance 42-25, which made data centers a conditional use in ID-2. He acknowledged that the change may not have appeared online in a visible way prior to the supplement, but noted the ordinance has been in effect. He also stated that the proposed new ID-6 code would include a prohibition on data centers in all WID districts. Staff committed to reviewing the matter to ensure the correct change is reflected.

Ms. Krumb requested that future supplements use a two-color highlighting system to distinguish state-level changes from local changes. Mr. Batchelor committed to working with American Legal Publishing to accommodate this. Ms. Johnson requested that staff specifically address the concern raised by Ms. Swank in its presentation at the second reading, verifying the record and reporting back to Council. Staff confirmed this would be done.

There were no public comments.

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Second reading/public hearing is scheduled for June 8, 2026.

Ordinance 31-26

Adopting the Proposed Tax Budget for Fiscal Year 2027

Ms. Alutto introduced the Ordinance.

Ms. Murray presented the staff report. She explained that the tax budget is required by Ohio Revised Code and must be adopted by Council no later than July 15 each year, after which it is filed with the Delaware and Franklin County Auditors by July 20. She emphasized that the tax budget is not an appropriation measure and does not grant spending authority or commit the City to specific capital projects. Its primary purposes are to establish property tax rates and allocate local government fund dollars.

On the revenue side, income tax projections were held flat, with updated projections to be developed later in 2026 as part of the full budget process. Most other revenue sources were also held flat. On the expenditure side, a 3 percent increase was applied to personnel services, consistent with prior years, and a 3 percent inflation factor was applied across other spending categories. The inside millage of 1.75 mills was fully allocated to the Capital Improvements Tax Fund consistent with Resolution 48-25, and the voted ongoing 1.2 mills dedicated to police and safety operations continues as previously authorized.

There were no public comments.

Ms. Alutto confirmed that the tax budget does not need to be filed with Union County this time. Ms. Murray responded affirmatively.

Second reading/public hearing is scheduled for June 8, 2026.

Ordinance 32-26

Amending The Annual Appropriations for the Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2026

Ms. Alutto introduced the Ordinance.

Mr. Urbancsik presented the Q2 supplemental appropriations, which contained four sections.

- Section 1 addresses a manuscript debt payment of \$3,400,000 transferred from the General Fund to the CIP Fund to support the 2024 manuscript debt series associated with a 2024 land acquisition, with \$11,000,000 from the Water Fund and \$4,200,000 from the Sewer Fund. The structure allows flexibility for early principal repayment, and staff elected to proceed with the standard payment schedule.
- Section 2 appropriates \$585,000 for interest payments on 2026 land acquisition notes issued in February, with interest-only payments required through December 2027.
- Section 3 requests \$693,000 in additional funding for the Computer-Aided Dispatch (CAD) and Records Management System (RMS) upgrade in 2026, funded through the CIP Fund, Safety Fund, and Wireless 911 Fund. The current system, installed in 2014, has reached the end of its useful life. The original budget estimate was approximately \$550,000 for CAD and \$450,000 for RMS across 2026 and 2027. Following a competitive selection process that included partner agencies, the total project cost was determined to be \$3,800,000, with Phase 1 costs of \$1,700,000 occurring in 2026. Partner agencies are expected to reimburse \$1,500,000 in 2027 for the CAD portion, which supports regional emergency response operations.

Deputy Chief Greg Lattanzi explained the discrepancy between the original estimate and the actual cost. Initial ballpark estimates were obtained from vendors without detailed analysis of the center's specific requirements. As the selection process deepened and partner agencies were included, it became apparent that the regional center required a more advanced system capable of supporting wireless 911 advancements and future integrations, resulting in costs that were not initially anticipated. He clarified that the CAD project is shared with partner

agencies and will be partially reimbursed, while the RMS system is specific to Dublin Police and Communications and will be funded entirely by the City at \$1,250,000.

Ms. Kramb asked for clarification on the reimbursement structure and the reason for the original estimate being significantly lower. Deputy Chief Lattanzi provided the explanation noted above.

- Section 4 appropriates \$4,000 from the Law Enforcement Trust Fund for investigative activities, including evidence collection and case preparation. These funds are restricted to asset forfeiture use.

There were no public comments

Second reading/public hearing is scheduled for June 8, 2026.

INTRODUCTION/PUBLIC HEARING/VOTE – RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 25-26

Accepting the Lowest and Best Bid for the Shier Rings Road: Eiterman to Cosgray Shared Use Path Project, 23-008-CIP

Ms. Alutto introduced the Resolution.

Mr. Gable presented the staff report. The project constructs 1,730 feet of shared use path along the south side of Shier Rings Road between two existing shared use paths, east of Shier Lane and east of Lockrey Drive, installed as part of the Ayrshire Farms residential development. The project also includes drainage improvements, driveway apron reconstruction, and ADA ramp installation, with care taken to avoid impacts to mature trees, private septic facilities, and utilities. The project is funded through the 2026–2030 Capital Improvements Program at \$460,000 and also received LinkUs grant funding through Washington Township totaling \$544,300. The engineers' estimate was \$486,000. Five bids were received and publicly opened on May 7, 2026. J&J Schlegel Incorporated submitted the lowest and best bid of \$467,884.53. Construction is expected to commence in June 2026 and be completed by the end of October 2026. The City will encumber costs and be reimbursed by LinkUs through Washington Township as construction progresses, with any remaining balance invoiced to Washington Township upon project completion.

There were no public comments.

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

Resolution 26-26

Appointing Members to the Various Boards and Commissions of the City of Dublin and the Board of Trustees of the Bridge Park New Community Authority

Ms. Alutto introduced the Resolution.

Vice Mayor De Rosa presented the resolution on behalf of the Administrative Committee. She noted that the Administrative Committee conducted interviews on April 14 and Council conducted interviews on April 27, and that a strong pool of applicants came forward this year. The following appointments and reappointments were proposed:

- Planning and Zoning Commission: Kathy Harter and Jamey Chinnock, 4-year terms expiring May 31, 2030;
- Architectural Review Board: Stacia Suleiman, 3-year term expiring May 31, 2029;
- Board of Zoning Appeals: Bridget Tyznik, 3-year term expiring May 31, 2029;
- Bridge Park New Community Authority: Lynn Readey and Ed Armstrong, 2-year terms expiring May 31, 2028;

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- Community Services Advisory Commission: Ingrid Fields, Dana Mack, and Victoria Guinther, 2-year terms expiring May 31, 2028;
- Chiefs Advisory Committee: Lisa Baer and Ron Barnes, 2-year terms expiring May 31, 2028;
- Veterans Committee: Steven Dickman, Benedict Awo, and Tom Holton, 2-year terms expiring May 31, 2028;
- Personnel Board of Review: Lauren Hunter, 3-year term expiring May 31, 2029
- Tax Board of Review: Deborah Rogner and Bill Root, 2-year terms expiring May 31, 2028;
- Records Commission: David Walsh, 2-year term expiring May 31, 2028; and
- Dublin Arts Council: Mike Stull, 2-year term expiring May 31, 2028.

There were no public comments.

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

OTHER BUSINESS

- Request to Refer a Review of the Structure and Function of CIAC to the Administrative Committee

Dr. Lam described the origins of the Community Inclusion Advisory Committee (CIAC), which was established following the work of a community task force to elevate diverse perspectives and recommend meaningful actions. He noted that over the past four years, CIAC had accomplished its mission in promoting cultural awareness and fostering community conversations, and that as organizational and community priorities continue to evolve, it is appropriate to periodically review advisory structures. Dr. Lam proposed referring an evaluation of the committee's structure and function to the Administrative Committee, with the intent of receiving a report on whether the current structure remains the most effective mechanism for advancing community inclusion as Dublin pursues its goal of becoming a global City of choice.

There were no public comments.

Dr. Lam moved to refer a review of the structure and function of CIAC to the Administrative Committee.

Ms. Alutto seconded.

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

- Administrative Committee Recommendation – Proposed Council Recognition Policy

Ms. Delgado presented the draft policy on behalf of the Administrative Committee. She explained that the policy was developed to establish a consistent and transparent framework for recognizing Council members at the conclusion of their service. The process included benchmarking against comparable municipalities and a review of past recognition practices. The Administrative Committee reviewed the draft policy at two separate meetings and provided feedback on each occasion.

Council was asked to review the draft and provide any feedback, with adoption anticipated at the June 8, 2026 meeting.

- Parks and Recreation – Balancing Population Growth Strategies Update

Mr. Earman presented an update on the implementation of strategies outlined in the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, adopted in October 2023, to manage

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growing demand on City facilities driven by population growth outside the City's corporate boundaries.

Mr. Earman described the challenges underlying the strategies: the school district boundaries are approximately twice the size of the City's corporate boundaries, resulting in the City subsidizing recreational use by a significant number of residents who do not live within the City limits. Multiple school districts and overlapping boundaries create inequities for Dublin residents with respect to access to high-demand amenities. The Master Plan recommended transitioning from a three-tier pricing structure (Dublin resident, school district resident, and non-resident) to a two-tier structure (Dublin resident and non-Dublin resident), along with developing regional partnerships and updating pricing and partnership policies.

Mr. Earman presented preliminary data from the implementation of these strategies, cautioning that the findings represent a snapshot in time and are not sufficient for long-term conclusions. Regarding Dublin Community Recreation Center (DCRC) memberships, school district resident memberships declined year over year, but total memberships remained stable as growth in Dublin resident memberships offset those declines. For program enrollments, Dublin resident participation continued to increase, while overall enrollment saw some fluctuation consistent with typical seasonal cycles. Outdoor pool season pass sales saw a slight overall decline, including approximately 100 fewer school district resident passes. The community swim team facility use fee was implemented in a phased approach, with a \$75 seasonal fee or DCRC membership option in 2025, and \$150 for all non-residents beginning in 2026's long course season.

Athletic field use data showed that the most notable change was a decline of nearly 500 participants in the Dublin Soccer League (DSL) recreational program across all residency categories. Mr. Earman attributed this to multiple variables, including coaches unable to form teams as a result of the fee change. He noted that DSL had also gained access to fields at Radiant Life Church on Post Road, which partially offsets demand on City fields. For community events, spooktacular priority access was limited to Dublin residents in 2025, with Dublin residents reserving 82 percent of the total inventory during the priority period, and Thursday time slots were fully reserved by Dublin residents. Irish Festival presale discount pricing was limited to Dublin residents in 2025, and while DCRC ticket sales declined by 9 percent, online ticket sales increased by 34 percent. No changes were made to Independence Day wristband availability for school district residents in 2025.

Staff presented three items for Council direction.

- First, staff recommended maintaining the current \$75 field use fee for the youngest age group in the DSL program (U4 and U5) that uses Arlington Park, as those groups use informally maintained grass areas that do not receive the same level of maintenance as primary athletic fields.
- Second, staff recommended limiting early discounted Independence Day wristbands to Dublin residents only, beginning in 2027.
- Third, staff requested Council feedback on what additional data it would like to inform future decisions.

Robert Burda, 6199 Turvey Loop West, noted that virtually all comparable central Ohio communities maintain field use fees under \$60 for a full year and treat school district residents as residents, as Dublin did until recently. He highlighted that baseball and softball players pay 33 percent less than soccer and lacrosse players despite receiving facilities with lighting, fencing, laser-graded fields, and paved covered areas, while soccer and lacrosse operate on grass with no such improvements. He requested that Council consider a \$50 per player per season fee across all sports for the fall 2026 and spring 2027 seasons.

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Ken McMahon, 2163 Canter Street, Marysville, identified himself as the founding director of Dublin United Soccer Club. He stated that 498 fewer children were playing soccer in Dublin as a result of the pricing change. He observed that no other community charges more than \$50 for comparable field use, and argued that residents move to Dublin for the schools rather than city services per se, making a school-district-based residency definition more appropriate. He also noted the disparity in capital investment between baseball and softball fields versus soccer and lacrosse fields, and requested that Council consider reducing the fee to \$100 per year (covering both seasons) before additional children are lost to the program.

Ms. Kramb sought clarification on the fee schedule, confirming that the \$75 fee applied to soccer and lacrosse per season in 2025, was set to increase to \$150 per season in fall 2026, and that baseball and softball carried a fee of \$50 in 2025 increasing to \$100 in 2026 for a single-season sport. She expressed support for the direction the policy was taking in its first year, noting that the intent was to ensure Dublin residents had priority access to overcrowded facilities and that the preliminary data appeared consistent with that objective. She also requested that data on school district use of City pool lanes be included in future reporting, and suggested that if those fees were not deterring school district teams, the rate should be reconsidered.

Ms. Johnson asked for clarification on the original intent of the fee changes. Mr. Earman and Ms. O'Callaghan explained that the Master Plan identified both capacity concerns at several facilities and insufficient cost recovery rates, and that all other benchmarked communities used a two-tier resident and non-resident structure rather than a three-tier structure.

Ms. Alutto expressed appreciation for the update and indicated support for pausing the fee increase for field sports. She drew a distinction between facility access items such as recreation center passes, pool passes, and event tickets, where she was comfortable with the current direction, and field sports, where she was concerned that increasing fees could price children out of participating in group athletics. She cited demographic research regarding a projected decline of 11 to 15 percent in high school graduates nationally by 2041 and noted that Central Ohio's continued growth would place additional financial pressure on youth sports participation. She recommended pausing Phase 2 of the fee increase pending a full updated cost study, an affordability analysis, and data on population projections. She also suggested exploring whether schools could make ancillary facilities available for youth sports practices to alleviate pressure on City fields.

Dr. Lam agreed with pausing the increase, noting that one year of data does not constitute a trend, and emphasized the need for fee equity analysis across sports. Mr. Keeler also agreed with freezing fees, adding that he favored exploring collaborative approaches with neighboring communities and examining alternative funding sources such as corporate sponsorships or regional partnership agreements similar to the model observed at the Carmel Clay Recreation Center in Carmel, Indiana. He noted that the school district boundaries being double the size of the City creates a structural challenge in that growth is concentrated outside the City, and that Dublin taxpayers should not be expected to indefinitely subsidize recreation for non-residents without contribution from those surrounding jurisdictions.

Vice Mayor De Rosa offered broader context, noting that the Master Plan was built on a 10-year planning horizon that established clearly that without significant additional investment, demand would be untenable. She noted that neighboring municipalities had not moved to build their own facilities, relying instead on Dublin's continued investment, and that the fee change was intended to signal the need for regional partnerships. She expressed concern that simply pausing the increase would return the City to the same unsustainable situation and recommended that the updated cost data that informed the original fee levels be brought back to Council at the June 8 meeting, so that Council could evaluate whether the current fee schedule reflects actual maintenance costs before making a final decision on whether and at what level to freeze rates.

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Ms. O'Callaghan noted that the cost data used to establish the current fees could be presented at the June 8 meeting, with a fully updated cost study expected by September. Mr. Earman clarified that organizations had already begun collecting registrations at the \$150 per season rate.

Following discussion, Mayor Amorose Groomes sought consensus on freezing field use fees at the 2025 rate of \$75 per season for all sports, pending the results of the cost study.

Mayor Amorose Groomes moved to hold the existing 2025 fee structure for 2026 for all sports including the recreation center swim team, for a period of one year. Ms. Alutto seconded the motion.

Vote on the motion: Ms. Kramb, no; Ms. Alutto, yes; Dr. Lam, yes; Ms. Johnson, yes; Vice Mayor De Rosa, yes; Mayor Amorose Groomes, yes; Mr. Keeler, yes.

- Q2 Public Safety Briefing

Chief Paez presented the Q2 2026 public safety briefing. He noted that Dublin continues to be a very safe community, and reviewed the department's five goals for 2026: critical incident preparedness and response, theft reduction, traffic safety improvement, proactive community outreach and engagement, and addressing issues of community concern. All data presented reflects the period through May 1, 2026, compared to the same period in 2025.

On trends, the department continued to see decreases in overall theft offenses, theft from vehicles, motor vehicle theft, and attempted theft. Small increases were noted in breaking and entering and burglary offenses. A notable increase in OVI-related traffic crashes was identified and flagged as a trend requiring continued attention.

Regarding critical incident preparedness, the department experienced a series of swatting or hoax threats during the period, mirroring similar incidents at school districts and facilities statewide. Chief Paez credited preparation efforts and strong communications protocols for effective navigation of each incident. He highlighted a tabletop exercise conducted in April with Washington Township Fire Department leadership, which proved valuable during a fire at the Asherton Apartments in early May. Officers ensured full evacuation of the affected building before fire personnel contained the fire, and no injuries were reported.

On police reports and crime trends, Chief Paez highlighted selected notable activities from the quarter, including the drone as first responder program identifying individuals attempting to steal a trailer and resulting in arrests, arrests made in connection with breaking and entering offenses at the Shops at River Ridge and a burglary at Aubrey Loop, recovery of a stolen vehicle and arrest of juvenile suspects in the Ashford Road neighborhood following a community tip, and a detective's participation on the FBI cybercrime task force that contributed to the first conviction under the federal Take It Down Act.

On firearm safety, the Chief noted that firearms continue to be stolen from vehicles more frequently than desired. A recent burglary involving a firearm and two juveniles was resolved within 12 hours, with suspects identified, property recovered, and all parties accounted for. The department reiterated its public safety message encouraging vehicle owners to remove firearms from their vehicles.

The department provided an update on the business district unit in Bridge Park, noting that Officer Lou Altomare joined the team following the promotion of Sergeant Dobney.

On the autonomous robot pilot program at the Rockcrest Parking Garage, which had been initiated in response to a prior Council inquiry, Chief Paez reported that the program experienced significant downtime, technology deployment delays, and unexpectedly high staff time demands. The gap between anticipated and actual

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operational utility was determined to be too large to justify continuation, and the pilot was concluded. The department will continue exploring alternative technologies.

The drone as first responder program continued to demonstrate strong utility, with 212 deployments year to date and 585 total since program inception. The program received recognition at the Ohio Association of Public Safety Directors conference on May 8. Deputy Chief Lattanzi and Sergeant Clark presented on the program, and multiple communities have requested information. A recent example included Sergeant Clark remotely launching the drone from home during a swatting incident to support officer safety, and a separate deployment to assist in locating an elementary school student who had left the building.

On traffic safety, officers continue focusing on speed enforcement. The traffic enforcement unit recorded 1,241 traffic stops and 710 citations through the reporting period. Speed warning cameras on Rings Road, Post Road, and Dunmoor Park are operational, with one camera working through a technical issue before deployment. Ms. Kramb sought clarification on the traffic crash data, confirming the figures represented year-to-date comparisons for the same period across years, not cumulative totals.

On noise enforcement, the department purchased six decibel readers compliant with Ohio Revised Code and American National Standards Institute specifications. Officers have conducted 23 noise-related stops, issuing 6 citations and 17 warnings. A focused enforcement campaign was held on May 9 in the Bridge Park area, and an additional operation on the Saturday prior to the meeting resulted in 22 stops in Bridge Park over a two-hour period, generating a resident compliment.

On community outreach and engagement, the department continues to emphasize education on e-scooters and small mobility devices. A Link Ahead podcast released on May 7 received over 500 downloads, roughly double the typical engagement. A bike rodeo was cut short by weather after approximately 20 minutes. The department is developing a Ride Matrix tool, a RAC card summarizing motorized device rules, and a Dublin Ride Guide. Additional education is planned at City pools, the Atherenny, Asherton Apartments, and Bridge Park over the summer. Ms. Kramb suggested coordinating with coaches and camp organizers during summer athletic activities to distribute education materials to student riders. Mr. Keeler acknowledged that the volume and variety of micro-mobility devices continues to cause public confusion and that consistent, repetitive education will be necessary. Dr. Lam requested future inclusion of crash etiology data to better target enforcement and behavioral interventions.

On community mental health, Chief Paez thanked Deputy Chief Tabernik, Syntero, and the Dublin Wellness Alliance for their joint effort to reduce stigma around mental health support and encourage residents in need to seek assistance.

Vice Mayor De Rosa inquired whether new technologies related to AI-generated threats or swatting incidents were being explored. Chief Paez acknowledged the issue as an emerging trend across facility types and committed to exploring available technologies, while noting that the department continues to work with federal partners to identify individuals responsible for such incidents.

STAFF COMMENTS

Ms. O'Callaghan had the following staff comments:

- She drew attention to the quarterly real estate report included in the April city manager report, noting highlights including Dublin accounting for 15 percent of all central Ohio leasing volume in Q1 2026. Two notable executed leases requiring no City incentives were recognized: Rosen USA, a 16,000 square foot lease at 5900 Parkwood Place, and Micware North America, an 11,000 square foot lease at Park Center Circle. Mayor Amorose Groomes had visited Micware's corporate headquarters in Japan in September during a business mission trip prior to the company selecting Dublin.

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- The City Manager announced that the Columbus fourth water plant transmission main project team will hold a neighborhood meeting for property owners in the Muirfield Green and Bristol Commons subdivisions on June 18 at 6:00 PM at the Dublin Community Recreation Center. The meeting will address anticipated impacts from construction on Ashbaugh Road, including proposed removal of invasive species such as honeysuckle and installation of improved landscaping screening. The meeting is open to any interested resident, with invitations being mailed by Columbus's team to affected properties and HOA leadership.
- She reported that installation of the new COTA bus shelters is officially underway. The first completed shelter at East Bridge Street and Dale Drive is already generating positive public feedback. Improvements at five total locations are nearly complete, with final coordination occurring with COTA.
- The communications and marketing team earned nine awards at the Central Ohio PRSA Prism Awards, including a Best of Show distinction for the 2025 Dublin Irish Festival Annual Report. Recognition also came for environmental branding, the new resident welcome packet, the Dublin Reindeer Roundup, Dublin News Now, Go Dublin Texts, the 2025 State of the City, and a community champion feature. Visit Dublin, Ohio also earned five awards.
- The City Manager thanked the American Legion, sponsors, community partners, volunteers, and staff for their work on the Memorial Day ceremony and America 250 community picnic, which drew an estimated 750 guests combined. She also recognized staff for ongoing Memorial Tournament preparation amid challenging wet conditions.

COUNCIL REPORTS

- Committee Reports
 - Finance Committee Report: Ms. Alutto reported that the Finance Committee met on May 12 with two agenda topics. The first addressed draft hotel-motel tax agreements for Visit Dublin, Ohio and the Dublin Historical Society. Visit Dublin, Ohio funding is proposed to be based on actual revenue with an annual 3 percent inflationary increase. The Dublin Historical Society agreement would establish direct annual funding at \$36,000. The committee was supportive of conducting an updated analysis of the Dublin Arts Council lease structure, with a triple net lease identified as the preferred framework. The committee also reviewed a draft hotel-motel tax fund balance policy favorably and requested annual reporting on actual grant disbursement rates. The second topic was the investment portfolio update, which confirmed the portfolio remains in compliance with the City's investment policy. The committee expressed support for considering strategic land banking alongside liquid investment performance, and for reviewing investment management services every three to five years.
- Liaison Reports
 - Sports Ohio Steering Committee: Mr. Keeler reported that the committee met on May 7. Capital improvements across campus are advancing, including installation of 12 soccer goals, fuel tank replacement completion, and security and Wi-Fi upgrades nearing completion. Additional projects underway or planned include HVAC upgrades at Soccer First, parking lot maintenance, golf center pump station replacement, landscaping equipment purchases, and Phase 2 schematic design for the park, expected to begin in the near future. Staff discussed issuing a Request for Information (RFI) to evaluate the wide interest being received from potential partners including strength and conditioning, golf, handball, and volleyball organizations, among others. The committee was supportive of the RFI process. Additionally, the Sports Facilities Company recommended converting a portion of the field sports building from indoor turf to multipurpose sports

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courts to address strong and growing demand, consistent with both the Parks and Recreation Master Plan and the Hunden study. The committee was supportive of moving forward with a Request for Proposals (RFP) for that conversion. Any recommended proposal and resulting agreement would be brought to Council for authorization.

- MORPC: Mayor Amorose Groomes reported that her last meeting as chair of MORPC was held the prior Thursday, and she congratulated Ben Kessler on becoming the incoming chair. She noted her continued service as chair of the passenger rail committee. She attended a joint meeting with COMMA and Northeast Ohio peers on May 12, which included delegations from the state house and focused on shared regional challenges. She attended the LinkUs Executive Council meeting on May 14, chaired by Mayor Ginther at Columbus City Hall, and acknowledged both the positive progress seen in the evening's bid award and the ongoing challenges of identifying corridors and securing easements for transit infrastructure.

COUNCIL ROUNDTABLE

Ms. Kramb noted that she observed residents actively using the new bus shelter at Brighton and Sawmill Road on a rainy Friday, which she found encouraging. She also thanked residents who turned out for the Memorial Day ceremony.

Ms. Johnson echoed appreciation for the Memorial Day ceremonies, noting strong attendance including youth scouts, and thanked staff and volunteers for the community picnic.

Ms. Alutto expressed regret at being unable to attend due to a conflict and conveyed her thanks to staff and residents based on accounts she received from attendees.

Dr. Lam commended staff for the Memorial Day celebration and expressed thanks on behalf of his parents, who are Bridge Park residents and told him they noticed a significant decrease in noise levels in the neighborhood, which he attributed to the police department's enforcement efforts.

Mr. Keeler expressed his hope that the playing of Taps at the police memorial service, performed by Colonel Andrew Powers, would not be required again for a very long time. He also congratulated Assistant Law Director Yazan Ashrawi on being named to Business First's 40 Under 40 list.

Vice Mayor De Rosa reported on attending the Leadership Dublin graduation ceremony and praised the work of the 2026 class on projects benefiting local nonprofits. She also recognized Chief Paez and the department for the police memorial service held on May 15, and thanked the Mayor for her many years of service as the longest-serving chair of MORPC.

Mayor Amorose Groomes reflected on the significance of the Memorial Day ceremony, offering personal remarks about Colonel Andrew Powers, whom she has known since childhood and who grew up on the same street. She expressed admiration for Colonel Powers' military service and the address he delivered at the ceremony. Mayor Amorose Groomes also reported on attending the Ohio Mayors Alliance meeting downtown on May 26, noting discussions about property tax, income tax, centralized collections, and a forthcoming update from the Ohio Department of Development on immigration and population data suggesting Ohio may be growing at a faster rate than previously projected. She highlighted the Ohio Mayors Alliance's focus on how cities can power a resurgence for Ohio, emphasizing the state's unique distribution of multiple mid-sized cities as a competitive strength. Mayor Amorose Groomes flagged the need to address a legacy bus stop sign near the Bridge Park shelter on US 161 that predates the new shelter installation and should be coordinated with COTA for removal. She also thanked staff for the City's overall appearance in preparation for the Memorial Tournament and noted a few properties on Dublin Road with overgrown turf that should receive outreach prior to the event.

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ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:46 p.m.



Mayor – Presiding Officer



Clerk of Council