CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Amorose Groomes called the Monday, October 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 Mr. Barker, Mr. Hartmann, Mr. Rubino, Deputy Chief Lattanzi, Ms. Babbitt, Mr. Earman, Ms. Rauch, Mr. Gable, Mr. Hoyt, Ms. Hunter, Ms. LeRoy, Ms. Uhl, Ms. Wigram, Mr. Connolly, Mr. Anderson, Mr. Urbancsik, Ms. Willis, Ms. Wawszkiewicz, Mr. Ament.

Others present: Paula Beadle, SMA (Sponsorship Marketing Association)

ADJOURNMENT TO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Mayor Amorose Groomes moved to adjourn to executive session for the purposes of:

- Conferences with an Attorney for the Public Body concerning Disputes involving the Public Body that are the subject of Pending or Imminent Court Action;
- To consider 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 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 reconvened at 7:00 PM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

- Citywide Sponsorship Strategy Update

  Ms. Hunter reported that the project stems from Resolution 35-25 and Council's direction through the community events road map. The direction was to create a coordinated sponsorship strategy across city events, facilities, and programs. Sponsorships have historically focused on community events. With the acquisition of SportsOhio and the addition of new opportunities, a more coordinated approach is needed to protect the Dublin brand and community values while providing a sustainable source of nontax revenue. Following a competitive procurement process, the City selected Sponsorship Marketing Association (SMA). SMA has completed stakeholder engagement, including interviews with city staff, sports facility companies, and the Downtown Dublin Strategic Alliance Partners. The project is now in the asset valuation and strategy phase. The final report is scheduled for delivery to staff by November 30, and staff will then bring it to Council for adoption in early 2027.

Ms. Hunter introduced Ms. Beadle, Founder and CEO of Sponsorship Marketing Association. Ms. Beadle presented an update and preliminary considerations. She described Dublin as starting from a position of strength, with double-digit event sponsorship growth, exceptional sponsor retention, more than $700,000 in cash and trade sponsorship this year, and a nationally recognized signature event in the Irish Festival. Staff rated the Dublin brand 8.7 out of 10. She identified structural weaknesses rather than effort-related ones: no citywide strategy, policy, or asset inventory; SportsOhio and city events sold separately with different processes and pricing; limited staffing; and no shared system for tracking potential sponsors. More than 100 potential assets were identified, of which about 20 are active today. Stakeholders showed strong alignment that SportsOhio is the top opportunity, that health care is a natural anchor, that partnerships are preferred over advertising, and that City Hall and the Link should be protected from naming rights sponsors. Some friction exists regarding naming rights, revenue expectations, and visibility, which Ms. Beadle described as normal at this stage.

Ms. Beadle presented benchmarking from San Diego, which has run a citywide program since 1999 and reported generating $27 million since 2000; the Ohio Department of Transportation naming rights agreement with State Farm; and Carmel, Indiana, where Allied Solutions is a centerpiece sponsor. She noted that Hilliard is the only neighboring city with a facility naming rights policy and that neighboring sponsorship packages top out around $10,000 to $15,000. Her preliminary considerations included developing a policy first, establishing one team responsible for all city assets, keeping events as the foundation, keeping sponsorship distinct from grants and philanthropy, pursuing fewer and more focused official partners, considering category exclusive official partners and an environmental anchor partner, and engaging sponsors at the design stage of capital projects. She asked Council whether it supports the direction, what deserves more or less emphasis, and whether there are concerns to address.

Ms. Kramb stated that she supported the direction and looked forward to the policy and strategy portion as the first piece to put in place.

Ms. Alutto offered her support for the direction and emphasized operationalizing the strategy, noting that organizing sponsorship is difficult without a customer relationship management system. She said the policy may be where Council works through the friction points to give staff clear direction.

Mr. Keeler asked who would lead the effort on an ongoing basis and stressed the need for a customer relationship management system and contact network. He asked whether Ms. Beadle had spoken with potential sponsors, including the four health systems in Dublin, and noted the distinction between annual event sponsors and longer-term venue sponsors. He observed that sometimes the City simply needs to ask for support.

Dr. Lam asked about sponsorship categories. Ms. Beadle cited examples such as official health care, automotive, banking, and insurance partners, as well as designations such as an exclusive environmental sustainability partner. Dr. Lam raised concern about an exclusive health care partner, since OhioHealth, Mount Carmel, and Ohio State compete with one another and some also have relationships with the schools. Ms. Beadle agreed this category requires rigor, strategy, and extensive conversation with all health care companies and that she did not yet have an answer. Dr. Lam supported emphasis on the policy and on clear separation of sponsorships, grants, and philanthropy. He liked the environmental anchor concept, which Ms. Beadle illustrated with Amazon and the Climate Pledge Arena, but urged caution because any company may carry unintended downsides.

Vice Mayor De Rosa noted that Dublin is working to grow independent festivals, which seek the same sponsors as the City but have different incentives, and that these should be treated as distinct from city-run events. She also noted that SportsOhio is quasi-independent. She asked for policy guidance on naming

parameters, one-time versus ongoing naming, and the skill sets needed for a partnerships position, whether internal or external, including where to recruit. She expressed support for the SWOT analysis.

Mayor Amorose Groomes asked for an all-in cost estimate, including staff, support, and travel, relative to a revenue goal of $3 million per year. She also asked how the City should treat festivals it already sponsors, such as the Festival of Lights, Diwali, the Jasco event, and the Moon Festival. She shared that the Mayor of San Diego described that city's sponsorship of nearly every surface, which she was unsure Dublin wished to emulate. She requested advice on risks, exit strategies, and crisis planning for sponsor relationships as Ms. Beadle's recommendations are finalized.

CITIZEN COMMENTS

Mayor Amorose Groomes opened the Citizens Comments portion of the meeting for any member of the general public wishing to speak on matters not on the agenda.

Rachel Althof, 6912 Blackhawk Court, Dublin, a resident of Indian Run Meadows for 14 years, spoke about a transitional group home operating as a business in her neighborhood. She stated that her concern is how the home is run and who holds it accountable, not the people it serves. She cited the growth of recovery houses in Ohio, the Governor's executive order requiring statewide certification, and House Bill 58. She noted that residents were surprised to learn the City considers Indian Run Meadows to share a planned unit development with Dublin Village, whereas city records from 2020 list them as separate. She asked Council to explain how the City verifies information about this business, explain why a map from nearly 50 years ago serves current residents, and designate a city point of contact for neighbors.

Peter Murray, 6063 Tara Hill Drive, Dublin, who lives two doors from the recovery housing at 6085 Tara Hill Drive, reported that an open records request to the Ohio Department of Behavioral Health produced 25 compliance letters dated October 15 concerning residences associated with Dove Recovery. One letter was addressed to Dublin Living LLC at 6085 Tara Hill Drive and stated that the operator had not attained state certification and was operating in violation of the law, with possible referral to the Ohio Attorney General if certification efforts were not initiated within 60 days. Mr. Murray stated that the City described its preliminary position at the October 21 meeting with residents as allowing the use by right, and that the relevant city code conditions such allowance on state licensing or certification or equivalent recognition. He asked what documentation shows the operator satisfies those requirements. He asked the City to bring these concerns to the Department of Behavioral Health at the meeting scheduled for November and to provide a written determination of whether the residence satisfies city code, the supporting documentation, and next steps. He noted he forwarded the records to the Director of Community Planning and Development and an assistant law director.

Akshay Dhariwal, 5385 Drumcally Lane, Dublin spoke about the Sewa Diwali food drive, a collaborative effort of sociocultural and interfaith organizations. He reported that nearly 8,000 pounds of food were donated last year across four food pantries in the Columbus area, including the Dublin food pantry. He thanked the City for supporting the campaign in recent years and expressed hope for continued support this year.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Minutes of the October 12, 2026 Regular Council Meeting
- Minutes of the October 19, 2026 Special Council 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.

SECOND READING/PUBLIC HEARING – ORDINANCES

Ordinance 52-26
Amending Chapters 51 and 52 Establishing User Fees and Capacity Charges for the Sanitary Sewer and Water Systems
Mr. Rubino stated that the ordinance establishes user charges for the sanitary sewer and water systems for 2027 and 2028. The first reading and public hearing took place at the October 12 meeting. Staff recommended approval. No member of the public wished to speak. Mayor Amorose Groomes noted that the City of Columbus had passed its water and sewer rates the previous Thursday for itself and surrounding municipalities, which should clarify real costs going forward. Mr. Rubino stated that staff would update the information provided to Council accordingly.

There were no public comments.

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

INTRODUCTION/FIRST READING – ORDINANCES
Ordinance 53-26
Adopting the Annual Operating Budget for Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2027 and the 2027-2031 Five-Year Capital Improvements Program
Ms. Alutto introduced the Ordinance.
Mr. Rubino presented the proposed budgets, noting that the information was consistent with the budget development work sessions held over recent months. He explained that approval occurs on two tracks: adoption of the operating budget and Capital Improvements Program (CIP) by this ordinance, followed by a separate appropriations ordinance planned for first reading on November 16.

Mr. Rubino reported that proposed operating revenue is $124.3 million, an increase of about 4 percent over the 2026 approved budget. Tax revenue comprises about 75 percent of resources, with 80 percent of revenue in the general fund. The budgeted income tax is $119.5 million, while staff expect to receive over $124.5 million. Proposed operating expenditures are $124.1 million, an increase of 4.1 percent, with personal services above 53 percent. Updates since the last work session included a new deputy city manager position and the creation of two new funds. The net operating result is just under $238,000, and the budget remains structurally balanced. He noted the historical trend of revenue exceeding operating expenditures, and that the 2027 general fund ending balance is estimated at 77 percent, which exceeds the 50 percent policy target. He stated he was not recommending a transfer of excess reserves to the capital improvements fund at this time.

The five-year CIP totals just under $397 million, including $127 million for maintenance of existing assets, with $102.6 million in project requests for 2027. Anticipated debt issuance in 2027 is $46.4 million. The plan targets about 12 percent of income tax capacity utilization for debt, equating to just under $60 million in new income tax backed debt, plus $29.9 million in new sewer debt. Annual sewer debt service would rise from $1.8 million to $5.6 million by 2035, which was factored into the utility rate study. Staff recommended approval at the second reading and public hearing on November 9.

There were no public comments.

Vice Mayor De Rosa asked how the plan was adjusted to meet the debt policy threshold. Mr. Rubino replied that larger projects were phased or moved out, particularly roadway and infrastructure projects in the West Innovation District, including Cosgray Road, and that other funding sources were used. Income tax backed debt was originally closer to $95 million. No signature projects were removed. Mr. Barker confirmed that staff reviewed the

new phasing in detail and are comfortable with it. Vice Mayor De Rosa noted Council support for the sewer investment to address immediate resident needs.

Ms. Kramb raised the staff memo regarding the Golf Club of Dublin and a proposed $300,000 for the maintenance facility next year. She noted the City already spent $150,000 in 2024 and $200,000 in 2025 studying the facility, and that the study concluded the facility could not be moved. She did not support the additional funding as described and objected to the attached concept plan because of its impact on the historic integrity of the property. She stated she would prefer to use the funds for crosswalk improvements, which were moved to 2028. She indicated she would not hold up the budget over the item.

Mr. Barker explained that numerous agreements govern the operator's occupancy of the parcel. The operator currently uses the historic house as an office and for restroom accommodations. The $300,000 is a placeholder for a possible city cost share to extend water and sanitary sewer service to a future building at another location if the City wishes the operator to vacate the house. The operator would bear the cost of any building improvements, and any proposal would return to Council for review and approval. He offered to provide a detailed summary.

Mr. Keeler observed that the property is in disrepair, that the City is the landlord and typically makes improvements, and that the site is worthy of preservation, but that no alternative location has been identified. Mayor Amorose Groomes expressed disappointment in the condition of the site and noted that the agreement is long term, with roughly 20 or more years remaining. She suggested the requested contribution could serve as an opportunity to reopen or review the contract terms, including revenues, as usage has likely grown since execution. Ms. Kramb stated she would be comfortable with the funds if used for practical purposes, noting that no engineering or structural study has examined whether the existing house and barn could be reused.

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

Ordinance 54-26
Establishing the SportsOhio Operations Fund No. 227 Special Revenue Fund
Ms. Alutto introduced the Ordinance.
Mr. Rubino explained that the ordinance creates a standalone special revenue fund for all SportsOhio operating revenues and expenditures, excluding capital, rather than blending them into the general fund. The fund remains part of the operating budget and is similar to the recreation and pools funds. Staff recommended approval at the second reading on November 9, and the ordinance will be submitted to the Auditor of State for approval of the new fund.

There were no public comments.

Vice Mayor De Rosa asked whether there is any downside. Mr. Rubino stated there is none, and that staff will determine the general fund resources attributable to SportsOhio as part of the 2027 appropriations measure. He confirmed that excess revenue could be transferred back to the general fund or used to offset capital expenditures.

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

Ordinance 55-26
Establishing the Electric Vehicle Charging Fund No. 640 Enterprise Fund
Ms. Alutto introduced the Ordinance.
Mr. Rubino explained that the ordinance establishes an enterprise fund to track all revenue, operating, maintenance, and capital expenditures for the city's electric vehicle charging program. The fund is not part of the operating budget but is part of the total budget, and it is consistent with best practice. The fund is intended to become self-supporting, with temporary advances providing seed funding until revenue patterns are established. Staff recommended approval at the second reading on November 9, and the ordinance will be provided to the Auditor of State.

There were no public comments.

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

Ordinance 56-26
Amending Various Sections of Ordinance 15-17 (Compensation Plan for Non-Union Personnel)
Ms. Alutto introduced the Ordinance.
Ms. Miglietti explained that it is a companion to the operating budget. It updates the list of authorized position titles to reflect the proposed organizational structure and aligns classifications and pay grades. It renames the instant bonus program the Exceptional U bonus program without changing the program itself. It updates language on the results based premium waiver incentive for the Healthy by Choice wellness program. A recommendation to add Hinge Health to the medical benefits portfolio in mid-2027 is also included. She will present the proposed organizational chart at the second reading on November 9.

In response to Vice Mayor De Rosa, Ms. Miglietti stated that only two classification changes are included: a correction of a misclassified position and the removal of a duplicate director of engineering position, since the position was filled.

There were no public comments.

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

INTRODUCTION/PUBLIC HEARING/VOTE – RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 46-26
Accepting the Lowest and Best Bid for the SportsOhio Parking Lot Resurfacing Project (26-038-CIP)
Ms. Alutto introduced the Resolution.
Mr. Gable reported that the project provides asphalt resurfacing and concrete curb repairs for three existing parking lots at the SportsOhio complex along the east side of Cosgray Road. It is funded in the 2026 through 2030 CIP and is part of a multiphase improvement initiative. The engineer's estimate was $542,000. Six bids were received and opened on October 7, 2026, and Rex Paving submitted the lowest and best bid of $370,438.38. Construction is expected to begin and finish in November.

There were no public comments.

Mr. Keeler asked whether the lots will still exist in three to four years under the park master plan. Staff responded that the majority of these lots remain in place under the plan. Mr. Barker added that staff overlaid the current layout and planned roadway extensions to avoid resurfacing areas expected to change in the shorter term. Mr. Keeler also asked about the PGA interest, and Mr. Barker stated he had received an email on the subject that day and would follow up.

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.

STAFF COMMENTS
Mr. Barker reported that the City issued a request for proposals for Phase 2 of the Premier Athletic and Recreation Campus (PARC) initiative. This phase will validate and refine the PARC vision framework accepted by Council earlier this year and begin translating it into an implementation strategy. The consultant will assess programming and operations, including how community recreation and tournament and event uses can coexist, as well as infrastructure, access, parking, environmental considerations, costs, and risks. The result will be prioritized near term actions and a roadmap. Proposals are due November

13, 2026, with consultant selection anticipated the week of December 13 and award by the end of the year.

COUNCIL REPORTS

- Committee Reports

  Finance Committee Report: Ms. Alutto reported that the Finance Committee met on October 20 to evaluate hotel/motel tax grant applications. Twenty-three applications requested a total of $413,165, and the Committee recommended awards totaling $292,500, which will come before Council on November 9. The Committee reached consensus on an abbreviated application for applicants seeking only a fee waiver, with staff to bring recommendations on a cap and process to a future meeting. The Committee also reached consensus that contractual personnel costs specific to an event are eligible for grant funds, but ongoing or year-round staff costs are not.

- Council Liaison Reports

  - Board of Education — Dr. Lam reported that the liaison group met on October 5. Topics from the City included the water treatment transmission main and its effects on traffic patterns and bus routes, the finalized School Resource Officer agreement, the fee schedule and cost study including pool fees, and the 2027 budget process. The Schools shared financial updates and information on engagement groups, including PERC and ACT, which focus on youth mental health and substance misuse prevention. The superintendent invited Council Members to visit the Tolles Career Technical Center.

  - US 33 Corridor and US 161 Corridor — Vice Mayor De Rosa reported that the US 33 Corridor group met on October 9 at the Marysville Water Reclamation Facility. Mike McNutt of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources presented on the Big Darby watershed, which covers 556 square miles across four counties and is one of the most pristine waterways in the country. The group volunteered to serve as a sounding board. The 161 Corridor group met the previous Friday and discussed overlapping water service agreements among Mid-Ohio, Marysville, and Columbus in relation to the shared land use plan. The group also discussed the need for additional north-south and east-west roadways, since 161 improvements alone will not be sufficient. The December meeting will explore the economic impact of the shared plan, and the group is willing to hold additional meetings with some funding.

  - Planning and Zoning Commission – Ms. Kramb reported that the Commission recommended minor changes to the ID 2 and ID 3 code, which will come to Council.

  - Washington Township — Ms. Johnson reported that the Township hosted Jamey Green for an overview of the 161 Corridor Planning Group and is committed to participating as a partner. She thanked Chief Donahue for attending the fall HOA meeting and praised the township's partnership and service to residents.

  - Dublin Arts Council — Mr. Keeler reported that the Dublin Arts Council hosted a public art tour on October 15, visiting the social benches in Bridge Park and the Field of Corn, followed by a dinner and panel discussion. Artist Malcolm Cochran emphasized that less prescriptive direction from the city results in more artistic work.

  - MORPC — Mayor Amorose Groomes reported continued work on refining tools and guardrails for the advance fund, and noted the Summit on Sustainability scheduled for Wednesday of this week (10/28).

COUNCIL ROUNDTABLE

Ms. Kramb thanked staff for the Halloween Spooktacular event.

Ms. Alutto reminded residents to drive safely during trick-or-treat on Thursday and recommended visiting Tolles Career Technical Center, noting its partnership with the Delaware Area Career Center. She asked whether Walk with Your City events would continue in the spring. Mr. Barker stated one more was scheduled this year and he would look into continuing the series next season. Mayor Amorose Groomes added that Ms. Nardecchia indicated at the HOA meeting that spring walks were being considered.

Dr. Lam commended the October 14 Walk with Your City, encouraged continuation of the program, and thanked Mr. Rubino and the finance staff for their budget work.

Mr. Keeler commented on heavy early voting activity at the Board of Elections.

Vice Mayor De Rosa described attending the unveiling of the Ohio Women's Monument at the Statehouse with Ms. Kramb. She asked about Riverside Drive improvements, and Mr. Barker confirmed the second sidewalk and decorative boulders are on schedule. She also asked that Council's thanks be extended to staff for increased sponsorship revenue this past year.

Mayor Amorose Groomes reported on the following:

- Ohio Mayors Alliance meeting on October 15, which focused on the core city strategy.
- Dublin received the Intelligent Community Forum award, and she thanked staff and Doug McCullough.
- She thanked HOA leaders for attending the October 19 fall HOA leadership meeting.
- On October 20 and 21, the Mayor attended events for the US Conference of Mayors in Columbus, including an affordability tour on health care hosted at Nationwide Children's Hospital.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Mayor – Presiding Officer

Clerk of Council