

CITY OF MIDDLEBURG HEIGHTS, OHIO

REGULAR MEETING
JANUARY 13, 2026

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The Council of the City of Middleburg Heights, Ohio met in Council Chambers at City Hall on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 for the purpose of conducting a REGULAR MEETING. President of Council David Bortolotto called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT:	Matthew Castelli	Mayor
	David Bortolotto	President of Council
	Tim Ali	Councilman At Large (left 6:52 p.m.)
	Dan Sage	Councilman At Large
	Bill Meany	Councilman Ward 1
	Matthew McGregor	Councilman Ward 2
	Michael Ference	Councilman Ward 3
	John Zakel	Councilman Ward 4
	Mary Ann Meola	Clerk of Council

STAFF

ATTENDING:	Santo Incorvaia	Law Director
	Nick Vitalone	Asst. Finance Director
	Jim Herron	Service Director
	Chuck Bichara	Economic Development Director
	Ed Tomba	Police Chief
	Mark Elliott	Recreation Director

MINUTES

Motion by Mr. Ali to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of December 9, 2025, minutes of the executive session of December 9, 2025 and the minutes of the swearing-in of December 9, 2025. Seconded by Mr. Zakel. MINUTES APPROVED

ROLL CALL: YEAS 7, NAYS 0, MINUTES APPROVED

COMMUNICATIONS

Memorandum from Planning Commission dated December 11, 2025 recommending approval of Ordinance No. 2025-67 vacating a portion of Morningside Avenue. FILE AS RECORD

Notice to Legislative Authority from Department of Commerce requesting new liquor permit to SPOA Business, 15220 Bagley Road, Bagley's Grill. No objections from Chief Tomba. MOTION 2026-1 RETURN LIQUOR PERMIT WITHOUT OBJECTION (SPOA BUSINESS - BAGLEY'S GRILL.)

Mr. Bortolotto made a motion to return the new liquor license permit request without objections. Seconded by Mr. Sage.

ROLL CALL: YEAS 7, NAYS 0, MOTION APPROVED

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Mr. Randy Kimbro, 34841 Legends Way, Grafton, was present and was thankful for the opportunity to speak briefly about the Friends of the Middleburg Heights Animal Shelter this evening. He said he is the president of the Friends of the Middleburg Heights Animal Shelter and is joined today by their board treasurer, Elliott Mahnke and another board member, Michelle Mindell who is a brand new grandma of just three days ago and could not be here tonight. Mr. Kimbro gave a brief history that led us here today, and the difference between the City of Middleburg Heights Animal Shelter and the Friends of the Middleburg Heights Animal Shelter. He said in March 2024, the city hired Dani Farinacci as the shelter manager. Mr. Kimbro said due to her experience, professionalism and her absolute love for dogs and cats, a number of volunteers who worked with her at other

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organizations followed her here to the Middleburg Heights Animal Shelter. He said those volunteers dug right in to help clean, organize the shelter and started to care for the dogs and cats that were already in the shelter. Mr. Kimbro said at the same time, those volunteers started raising money to help the city support the special medical needs of those animals. He said within nine months, those volunteers raised approximately \$30,000 with that money flowing through the Middleburg Heights Finance Office to the benefit of the shelter. Mr. Kimbro said in January 2025, the finance director and law director stopped fund raising saying they never imagined it would be that successful and that much would be flowing through the city. He said that was a little bit more than the city wanted to manage on a regular basis. Mr. Kimbro said in February 2025, there was a meeting held in this room with the police chief, law director, finance director, the animal shelter manager and himself for the purpose to discuss avenues to move forward with fundraising and to keep it separate from the city. He said the volunteers scrambled to form a non-profit from scratch, and quickly formed a trusted board with the other members that I mentioned. Mr. Kimbro said working with attorney David Briller, who is a retired Middleburg Heights Police sergeant, they created their articles of incorporation and bylaws. He said Mr. Briller refused to accept any money for this work and he continues to offer his services pro bono, based on the love of his kitty that he has at home that runs the show. Mr. Kimbro said 109 days later, the board filed paperwork with the State of Ohio incorporated as Ohio Non-Profit in May 2025, which allowed them to begin that fundraising again, but this time independent of the city. He said subsequent to that they filed with the IRS for 501(c)(3) status and received that tax exempt determination letter in August of 2025. Mr. Kimbro said the Friends of the Middleburg Heights Animal Shelter mission is to insure the health, safety and wellbeing of homeless and at risk cats and dogs by supporting the Charter of the Middleburg Heights Animal Shelter. He said they provide vital financial support for extraordinary medical care and other special needs as determined by the board. Mr. Kimbro said the Friends of the Middleburg Heights Animal Shelter is not involved with the daily operations or operational funding at all of the animal shelter. He said the city provides basic vetting, vaccinations, spaying and neutering, but they do not cover extraordinary medical care for the animals. Mr. Kimbro said that is where the Friends come in to raise funds for those extraordinary expenses. He said a couple recent examples included a cute little kitty named Forest who needed an amputation of a badly broken leg and tail that was estimated to be \$4,000 and there was a cute one year old dog named Brillo, that looked just like a brillo pad, that had a heart issue which was potentially a \$10,000 open heart surgery that the friends would have covered but the vet determined for now that it could be controlled with medication. Mr. Kimbro said they donated \$1,000 for that animals care. He said since June 2025, when they started the independent organization, they have raised over \$20,000 in cash, plus in-kind donations to help the shelter with those extraordinary expenses. Mr. Kimbro said one of the in-kind donations from one of our volunteers provided two free billboards on I-480 that resulted in an adoption from someone who never even knew the shelter existed. He said a few volunteers are here today with us, and said they have over 114 volunteers, in which many of them help at the shelter plus they spend extra time fundraising. Mr. Kimbro said they have almost 100 foster families that help with the shelter and volunteer. He said many end up as foster fails, where a family fosters an animal, fall in love and decide to keep it forever. He said these volunteers are the real people that help keep Dani and the shelter running. Mr. Kimbro was thankful to be able to share this information regarding the Friends group. He said in front of you, is an envelope which has their latest newsletter with a little more information and a few tokens of things that they provide for fundraising.

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1 Mr. Ali said it is truly amazing that we have over 100 dedicated volunteers. He
2 said in talking to all of the people, they truly are dedicated. Mr. Ali said it is
3 amazing how many animals are adopted every single week. He said we have
4 numerous animals that are left behind at the hotels where people check out and we
5 end up with their animals. Mr. Ali said we also have numerous residents that call
6 the shelter that find a stray or an abandoned animal. He said it is because of people
7 like you, the 501, that we have the funds to take care of medical bills, get them
8 vaccinated and then you have a very good animal to get adopted out. Mr. Ali said
9 looking at the page, it is truly amazing how many animals are adopted and seeing
10 the smiles on the faces of these people. He said he thinks he speaks for everyone
11 up here, we sincerely thank you. Mr. Ali said we know we have the best city shelter
12 in the state of Ohio.
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16 APPOINTMENTS AND CONFIRMATIONS

17 Mayor Castelli said he has several appointments this evening, but said before we
18 get to that he turned the meeting over to Chief Tomba.

19 Chief Tomba said on the 29th of this month, the mayor swore in two new police
20 officers. He said Dave Holderbaum retired and he will also be retiring shortly.
21 Chief Tomba said the new officers officially started yesterday, but wanted to bring
22 them here tonight to introduce them to city council. He introduced Dennis Meehan
23 and Jacob Cerovac and gave a brief background on each of them. Chief Tomba
24 asked Sgt. Steve Stervagi-Rivera to come forward. He said Steve is one of the day
25 shift sergeants, and said some of the tasks that are done during the day is pretty
26 extensive. Chief Tomba said to be involved and go the extra mile as a law
27 enforcement officer is real important, particularly when you engage with the
28 community and he said Steve is a big part of that. He said he wanted to
29 acknowledge Steve and the annual shop with a cop event, which Steve spearheads.
30 Chief Tomba said they served 11 kids who are a little underprivileged and maybe
31 had some struggles. He said 11 officers volunteered to participate, as well as some
32 of the wives and said Steve's wife Dana is one of those volunteers that participates
33 with this event and is here this evening. He said Steve was instrumental in pushing
34 through the purchase of a Christmas tree that was in Memorial Hall. Chief Tomba
35 said they had a nice breakfast with the kids and gave them a tour of the station. He
36 said then with a police escort the kids are taken to do Christmas shopping for not
37 only themselves but for their family and friends. Chief Tomba wanted to publically
38 acknowledge Steve and let the members of city council know the great work that
39 he does.
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45 Members of council welcomed Officer Meehan and Officer Cerovac to our city,
46 and also thanked Sgt. Stervagi-Rivera for what he has done as well.

47 Mayor Castelli said we are very fortunate and have a great police department. He
48 said we have great leadership, and Steve is part of that great leadership. Mayor
49 Castelli said he had the opportunity to sit down with many of the officers interested
50 in potentially furthering their career as a chief. He said the one thing that really
51 came out of that is that he was very impressed with the individuals that we have in
52 place. Mayor Castelli said we are very fortunate as a community and said the future
53 of the community is very bright, knowing Steve and the other officers that are in
54 place. He extended kudos to Chief Tomba for continuing to develop and train for
55 the future. Mayor Castelli said Deputy Chief Swanson is here tonight, and as city
56 council knows, he has made the decision to appoint our deputy chief as our next
57 chief. He said there is a little time before we officially make that happen, but
58 appreciated his service and looks forward to our future chief.
59
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61 Mr. Sage said on Sunday morning, he received a text message from his daughter
62 who is a nurse at the Cleveland Clinic, in which he read as follows: " I just had the
most lovely interaction with some Middleburg Heights Police Officers. I left work

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2 late and my friend called me that she got into an accident and her husband wasn't
3 picking up his phone so I drove to her to make sure she was ok. When I got there
4 the police officers were comforting her and were so kind. She lost control on I-71
5 and went into the ditch and was really shaken up." Mr. Sage said his daughter
6 waited until her friend's husband arrived. He wanted to take this opportunity to
7 express his thanks, and said we truly do have the best force in the area. Mr. Sage
8 welcomed the new officers to the team and extended congratulations to the officers
9 who did a fantastic job, although they did not get their names.
10

11
12 Mayor Castelli said he had several appointments this evening to the Planning
13 Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals and Civil Service.

14 Mayor Castelli made a motion to appoint Dave Herwerden to the open term starting
15 January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2030.

16 On behalf of the mayor, Mr. Bortolotto made a motion to appoint Dave Herwerden
17 to the Planning Commission. Seconded by Mr. Meany.

MOTION 2026-2
APPOINTMENT:
DAVE HERWERDEN
(PLANNING
COMMISSION)

18
19 Mayor Castelli said as you know, Dave is an experienced member of the Planning
20 Commission and will be remaining on the commission and be appointed to a new
21 open term.

22 ROLL CALL: YEAS 7, NAYS 0, MOTION CONFIRMED
23

24
25 Mayor Castelli made a motion to appoint Eric Smearman to fill the open term
26 starting January 1, 2026 through December 31, 2030.

27 On behalf of the mayor, Mr. Bortolotto made a motion to appoint Eric Smearman
28 to the Planning Commission. Seconded by Mr. McGregor.

MOTION 2026-3
APPOINTMENT:
ERIC SMEARMAN
(PLANNING
COMMISSION)

29 Mayor Castelli said Eric Smearman is a local attorney, and is also an experienced
30 member on our boards and has served on the Planning Commission in the past. He
31 said he looks forward to his service moving forward on and his new term starting
32 in January.

33
34 Mr. Ference said as the council representative to the Planning Commission, he can
35 tell you that those two gentlemen do an excellent job, are very thoughtful and
36 thorough and take that position very seriously. He said having these two gentlemen
37 for five more years is a great thing for the Planning Commission.

38 ROLL CALL: YEAS 7, NAYS 0, MOTION CONFIRMED
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40
41 Mayor Castelli made a motion to appoint Janet Bardwell to fill Mike Piepsny's
42 unexpired term, which would start present and end December 31, 2026.

43 On behalf of the mayor, Mr. Bortolotto made a motion to appoint Janet Bardwell
44 to the Planning Commission. Seconded by Mr. Meany.

MOTION 2026-4
APPOINTMENT:
JANET BARDWELL
(PLANNING
COMMISSION)

45 Mayor Castelli said Janet has been a resident for many decades and has been
46 involved in a lot of different organizations. He said she has also served on the board
47 of her HOA, and is a members of the Middleburg Heights Women's Club as well.
48 Mayor Castelli said Janet is going to be a very good member to fill that unexpired
49 term that Mike Piepsny has vacated.

50 ROLL CALL: YEAS 7, NAYS 0, MOTION CONFIRMED
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54 Mayor Castelli made a motion to appoint Don Valletta to the Board of Zoning and
55 Building Appeals open position that will start January 1, 2026 through December
56 31, 2030.

57 On behalf of the mayor, Mr. Bortolotto made a motion to appoint Don Valletta to
58 the Board of Zoning and Building Appeals. Seconded by Mr. Ference.

MOTION 2026-5
APPOINTMENT:
DON VALLETTA
(BOARD OF ZONING
AND BUILDING
APPEALS)

59 Mayor Castelli said Don is another active resident in the City of Middleburg
60 Heights, and is also an active member at St. Bartholomew Parish. He said Don has
61 also been active at our community center, CYO coaching baseball and basketball,
62

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1
2 is a delegate to Southwest Community Health System and also a board member of
3 the City Club of Middleburg Heights.

4 ROLL CALL: YEAS 7, NAYS 0, MOTION CONFIRMED
5

6 Mayor Castelli said last but not least, he would like to make a motion to appoint Al
7 Budney to the Civil Service Commission. He said his term will start in January and
8 expire December 31, 2031.
9

10 On behalf of the mayor, Mr. Bortolotto made a motion to appoint Al Budney to the
11 Civil Service Commission. Seconded by Mr. McGregor.

12 Mayor Castelli said all of us know Al Budney. He said he served on City Council
13 and retired as City Council President. Mayor Castelli said Al was also the Assistant
14 Clerk of Courts for the Berea Municipal Court. He said Al mentioned that he would
15 be happy to help in any way that he can to help our city council and myself as
16 mayor. Mayor Castelli said he asked Al if he would be willing to serve on our Civil
17 Service Commission, and he said he has been involved with our safety committees
18 in the past. He said he will make a nice, experienced member for that commission.
19

20 ROLL CALL: YEAS 7, NAYS 0, MOTION CONFIRMED
21

22 ORDINANCES, RESOLUTIONS AND MOTIONS

23 CITY PARKS, RECREATION & SERVICES COMMITTEE – MR. ALL
24 CHAIRMAN

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26 No legislation.
27

28 FINANCE, TAXATION & ASSESSMENTS COMMITTEE – MR.
29 BORTOLOTTA, CHAIRMAN

30
31 No legislation.
32

33 LEGISLATION & RULES COMMITTEE – MR. ZAKEL, CHAIRMAN

34
35 No legislation.
36

37 PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY & RELIEF COMMITTEE – MR. MCGREGOR,
38 CHAIRMAN

39 Mr. McGregor introduced ORDINANCE NO. 2026-1, An Ordinance amending
40 Chapter 402 “Definitions” and Chapter 474 “Bicycles and Motorcycles Generally”
41 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Middleburg Heights and MOVED TO
42 ADOPT. Seconded by Mr. Sage.

43 Mr. McGregor said this was discussed in committee for the past two months. He
44 thanked the administration, Chief Tomba, Deputy Chief Swanson, and Mr.
45 Incorvaia who all helped to get some background on this. Mr. McGregor said one
46 of things we are looking at, is E-Bikes which are a new fad. He said there was
47 some confusion as to where E-Bikes are legally allowed to ride. Mr. McGregor
48 said he had numerous calls where they were being rode on sidewalks and they were
49 using the motor. He said they asked as a committee for Chief Tomba, DC Swanson,
50 Mayor Castelli and Mr. Incorvaia to help come up with something so we could have
51 some type of guidelines for this. Mr. McGregor said we are hoping this helps in
52 terms of safety. He said we want to keep our residents safe, as well as, pedestrians
53 that are walking and those that are riding these types of bikes, etc. Mr. McGregor
54 said he would appreciate council’s support.
55

56 ROLL CALL: YEAS 7, NAYS 0, ORDINANCE NO. 2026-1 ADOPTED
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59 PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS COMMITTEE – MR. SAGE, CHAIRMAN

60
61 No legislation.
62

MOTION 2026-6
APPOINTMENT:
ALAN BUDNEY
(CIVIL SERVICE)

ORD. 2026-1
ADOPTED
AMEND CODIFIED:
CHAPTER 402 &
CHAPTER 474

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STREETS, UTILITIES & RAILROAD COMMITTEE – MR. MEANY,
CHAIRMAN

Mr. Meany introduced RESOLUTION NO. 2026-2, A Resolution authorizing the mayor to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Cuyahoga County Board of Health to provide Phase II Stormwater Services in 2026-2030 and MOVED TO ADOPT. Seconded by Mr. McGregor.

RES. 2026-2
ADOPTED
ENTER MOU -
BOARD OF HEALTH
(PHASE II
STORMWATER
SERVICES)

Mr. Meany said this is in response to the implementation of US EPA Phase II Stormwater regulations. He said the Cuyahoga County Board of Health will develop a stormwater management plan to assist Middleburg Heights. Mr. Meany said this will be paid for by the sewer district.

ROLL CALL: YEAS 7, NAYS 0, RESOLUTION NO. 2026-2 ADOPTED

Mr. Meany introduced RESOLUTION NO. 2026-3, A Resolution authorizing the mayor to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) to carry out mandated responsibilities related to NPDES Storm Water Permit and MOVED TO ADOPT. Seconded by Mr. Ference.

RES. 2026-3
ADOPTED
ENTER MOU -
CUYAHOGA SOIL
AND WATER
CONSERVATION
DISTRICT

Mr. Meany said these services are related to stormwater pollution prevention and stormwater quality management. He said the cost will not exceed \$34,000 for the first year and \$36,250 for the second year. Mr. Meany said the Cuyahoga Soil and Water Conservation District also monitors our construction sites, silt fences and things of that nature.

ROLL CALL: YEAS 7, NAYS 0, RESOLUTION NO. 2026-3 ADOPTED

Mr. Meany introduced RESOLUTION NO. 2026-4, A Resolution authorizing the mayor and finance director to enter into contract with TK Excavating & Concrete LLC for the Abrams Creek Detention Basin 2 Improvement Project and MOVED TO ADOPT. Seconded by Mr. Ference.

RES. 2026-4
ADOPTED
CONTRACT:
TK EXCAVATING
(ABRAMS CREEK
DETENTION BASIN
2 IMPROVEMENT
PROJECT)

Mr. Meany said this will permit the city to enter into a contract with TK Excavating & Concrete from Girard, Ohio. He said in accordance with section one of the legislation, this is for the Abrams Creek Detention Basin 2 Improvement Project.

Mr. Meany said this bid was in the amount of \$1,725,437.15.

Mayor Castelli said this is a very important project and said we have been working on the detention basins and managing some of the worst areas in the city that are impacted by flooding. He said from an acreage size standpoint, this will be the largest basin. Mayor Castelli said this is going to make a huge difference, adding that the initial one that was put in has already made a difference. He said having two functioning basins by the end of this year will make a considerable improvement for the area. Mayor Castelli thanked city council for their support in managing flooding challenges throughout the city.

Mr. Bortolotto thanked our engineer as well, as they worked hard to get us a good price.

Mr. Ali said he believed there were ten bids, and this saved \$260,000 which is huge.

ROLL CALL: YEAS 7, NAYS 0, RESOLUTION NO. 2026-4 ADOPTED

ZONING & BUILDING CODE COMMITTEE – MR. FERENCE, CHAIRMAN

No legislation.

Mayor Castelli introduced ORDINANCE NO. 2026-5, An Ordinance to make supplemental appropriations for current expenditures and expenses for the City of Middleburg Heights for the calendar year 2026 and moved to adopt. On behalf of the mayor, Mr. Bortolotto MOVED TO ADOPT. Seconded by Mr. Meany.

ORD. 2026-5
ADOPTED
SUPPLEMENTAL
APPROPRIATIONS

Mayor Castelli said there are two items on this legislation. He said one is for capital under fire for CPR machines. Mayor Castelli said this will be a reimbursement grant through FEMA in the amount of \$34,857.14. He said in addition to that, we

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1 will also be asking for \$29,900 to help with the start of the former police station
2 demo. Mayor Castelli said this isn't tearing down the building, but we need to
3 remove the electrical transformer. He said at some point, this potentially could be
4 available for reimbursement as we are working on a grant for the rest of the demo
5 of the police station. Mayor Castelli said he will keep council informed if we do
6 receive a grant for that demo.
7

8 Mr. Ali asked if there was a timeline.
9

10 Mayor Castelli said the timeline is somewhat dependent on if we receive a grant
11 through the landbank. He said we are working with them right now, and they are
12 working through financials to see if that can be feasible this year. Mayor Castelli
13 said they told us they can't say for sure something will be available this year, but
14 that is the hope. He said Service Director Herron, Economic Development Director
15 Bichara and himself are going to continue looking for assistance for the demo of
16 the police station.
17

18 Mr. Ali asked if NOACA would be involved with that.

19 Mayor Castelli said no, but the landbank does has potential funding sources for
20 these types of demolitions and that is what we are actively seeking right now.

21 ROLL CALL: YEAS 7, NAYS 0, ORDINANCE NO. 2026-5 ADOPTED
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24 Mayor Castelli introduced ORDINANCE NO. 2026-6, An Ordinance authorizing
25 the mayor and finance director to enter into a contract with OHM Advisors and
26 moved to adopt. On behalf of the mayor, Mr. Bortolotto MOVED TO ADOPT.
27 Seconded by Mr. Sage.

ORD. 2026-6
ADOPTED
CONTRACT:
OHM ADVISORS

28 Mayor Castelli said as you know, we are going to be starting on our Central Park
29 project. He said we have been very fortunate to receive a \$500,000 donation from
30 the Public Library System in order to help facilitate the Central Park project. Mayor
31 Castelli said in addition to that, we received a \$400,000 grant from the state of Ohio
32 to assist with this project. He said as you know, OHM was very much involved in
33 the design of the project, and also in gathering information from our residents as to
34 what they would like to see. Mayor Castelli said we are looking at implementing
35 phase one, which we hope to start in February or March. He said we are hoping to
36 start either late winter or early spring. Mayor Castelli said he is asking city council
37 to help the administration with consulting services, as well as construction
38 administration with OHM. He said the amount is \$81,000, but we do have \$33,000
39 remaining in the contract. Mayor Castelli said that means it will only be
40 approximately \$50,000 of additional money to help with the entire construction and
41 administration of that project, which will be over \$1,500,000.
42

43 ROLL CALL: YEAS 6, NAYS 0, ABSTAIN 1, ALL, ORDINANCE NO. 2026-6
44 ADOPTED
45

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48 Mayor Castelli introduced RESOLUTION NO. 2026-7, A Resolution awarding
49 Madelynn Kaminski a Middleburg Heights Safety Town Scholarship and moved to
50 adopt. On behalf of the mayor, Mr. Bortolotto MOVED TO ADOPT. Seconded
51 by Mr. Zakel.

RES. 2026-7
ADOPTED
SAFETY TOWN
SCHOLARSHIP

52 Mayor Castelli turned this over to Chief Tomba since he was very much involved
53 working on this scholarship program.
54

55 Chief Tomba said this scholarship is given to a volunteer heading into college. He
56 said this year's recipient volunteered for four years in row. Chief Tomba said they
57 couldn't have done Safety Town without Madelynn and the other volunteers. He
58 said the officers that were running Safety Town thought it would be appropriate if
59 we offered some type of scholarship or stipend to encourage these young residents
60 to be involved with us and to help them get airborne in their college careers. Chief
61 Tomba said there were four of them that voted on this, and decided to go forward
62 with it this year.

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1 Mr. Ference said he really liked this and thought it was a great idea.

2 ROLL CALL: YEAS 7, NAYS 0, RESOLUTION NO. 2026-7 ADOPTED

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5 Mayor Castelli said he had one more item that will potentially be presented after
6 our executive session.

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8 COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORTS

9 City Parks, Recreation & Services Committee – Mr. Ali, Chairman

10 No report.

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13 Finance, Taxation & Assessments Committee – Mr. Bortolotto, Chairman

14 No report.

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17 Legislation & Rules Committee – Mr. Zakel, Chairman

18 No report.

19
20 Public Health, Safety & Relief Committee – Mr. McGregor, Chairman

21 Mr. McGregor said the committee met last night and minutes were distributed this
22 morning.

23
24
25 Public Improvements Committee – Mr. Sage, Chairman

26 No report.

27
28 Streets, Utilities & Railroad Committee – Mr. Meany, Chairman

29 Mr. Meany said his committee also met last night and minutes have already been
30 emailed.

31
32
33 Zoning & Building Code Committee – Mr. Ference, Chairman

34 No report.

35
36 MAYOR'S REPORT

37 Mayor Castelli reminded everyone that NOACA and the City of Brook Park are
38 going to be holding a meeting tomorrow at 6:00 p.m. at the Brook Park elementary
39 school to discuss traffic and transportation as it relates to the new Browns Stadium
40 located in Brook Park. He said as you are aware, he and Service Director Herron
41 have been meeting with Brook Park on a regular basis talking about our concerns
42 as the City of Middleburg Heights will be neighboring right next door to the
43 stadium. Mayor Castelli said we want to make sure we are part of the discussion
44 as to how this will impact us from a safety standpoint and traffic management. He
45 thanked Mayor Orcutt and Brook Park for having us be part of that discussion.
46 Mayor Castelli also thanked the Browns and NOACA for working on traffic
47 management as it relates to Bagley Road and Engle Road. He said that is our
48 primary concern, but we are certainly concerned about the whole area. Mayor
49 Castelli said the Browns have agreed to pay for a \$50,000 study on the
50 Bagley/Engle Roads area to see what kind of impact will take place because of the
51 stadium. He said we are very happy and have been pushing for an agreement for
52 them to do that study. Mayor Castelli said that will not be presented at the meeting
53 tomorrow. He said over the next month once we get data from that study, we will
54 come back to city council to present those findings.

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58
59 LAW DIRECTOR

60 Mr. Incorvaia asked that council consider a motion to convene into executive
61 session for the following purposes: (1) Discussion of pending or imminent litigation
62 pursuant to ORC Section 121.22(G)(3) and (2) Discussion of the purchase of real
estate/property for public purposes pursuant to ORC Section 121.22(G)(2).

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2
3 Mr. Bortolotto made the above mentioned motion. Seconded by Mr. Meany.
4 ROLL CALL: YEAS 6, NAYS 0, ABSTAIN 1, ALL MOTION APPROVED
5

6 FINANCE DIRECTOR

7 No report.
8
9

10 RECREATION DIRECTOR

11 Mr. Elliott said they have been very busy at the community center with a lot of New
12 Year's resolutions. He said there are lot of new faces, and all of the winter
13 programming is underway. Mr. Elliott said they had their first senior dance today,
14 and spring registrations are already being accepted for a number of programs.
15

16 ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

17 Mr. Bichara said as council knows, the former Sears property did transfer to
18 Meijer's this past fall. He said he continues to have regular meetings with Meijer's
19 design, engineering and construction teams. Mr. Bichara said they intend to begin
20 construction on March 2nd. He said the question of 2025 has been answered, and
21 as you know Popeye's on Bagley Road is open.
22
23

24 SERVICE DIRECTOR

25
26 Mr. Herron congratulated Chief Tomba, adding that he has been great to work with
27 for the past eight years. He said he looks forward to working with Chief Swanson.
28

29 POLICE CHIEF

30 Chief Tomba said this is his last meeting. He thanked the mayor, members of
31 council, Mary Ann and all of the fellow directors for their support in creating a
32 great working environment. Chief Tomba said the last eight years was a great way
33 to finish his law enforcement career of over 40 years. He said on behalf of himself
34 and his family, he again thanked everyone and said he really appreciated working
35 for and with everybody. Chief Tomba said he hopes everyone continues to support
36 Deputy Chief Swanson and the mission of the police department.
37

38 Mr. Ali thanked Chief Tomba for all that he has done in law enforcement for the
39 City of Middleburg Heights, but especially thanked him for all that he has done
40 with the Animal Shelter. He said Chief Tomba has been a grand slam, and they
41 really appreciated that.
42

43 Mr. McGregor said he recalls eight years ago when we found out that Chief Tomba
44 was coming here and this room was packed, standing room only. He thinks that is
45 a true testament of his service with Cleveland. Mr. McGregor said it was very
46 impressive that the chief at the time, numerous other people and dignitaries, etc. all
47 came here. He said he has appreciated Chief Tomba's support, guidance and
48 leadership in the eight years that he and the other members of council have worked
49 with him. Mr. McGregor said it has been an honor to work with Chief Tomba, and
50 appreciated his communication. He wished him the best in his retirement.
51

52 Mr. Ference also thanked Chief Tomba for his good and honorable service to this
53 city. He said eight years ago when Chief Tomba was appointed, he said he sat right
54 here and said you are going to make our city even better. Mr. Ference said he knew
55 he did, and he made the department even better. He said having the Chief and his
56 leadership at the police department has been a blessing for the City of Middleburg
57 Heights. Mr. Ference again thanked Chief Tomba for all that he has done.
58

59 Mr. Bortolotto thanked Chief Tomba and extended kudos to him for the
60 phenomenal job that he did. He said Chief Tomba did a very professional job and
61 made our city safer and better.
62

Mayor Castelli said he will be talking this Saturday about Chief Tomba and will be
saving a lot of remarks for that time. He said he wanted to make sure that council

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was aware that this weekend from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. there is an open house for the retirement for Chief Tomba.

Start Executive Session: 6:52 p.m.

Following the Executive Session, Mr. Bortolotto reconvened the Regular Meeting of Council at 7:09 p.m.

PRESENT:	Matthew Castelli	Mayor
	David Bortolotto	President of Council
	Dan Sage	Councilman At Large
	Bill Meany	Councilman Ward 1
	Matthew McGregor	Councilman Ward 2
	Michael Ference	Councilman Ward 3
	John Zakel	Councilman Ward 4
	Mary Ann Meola	Clerk of Council
	Santo Incorvaia	Law Director
	Nick Vitalone	Asst. Finance Director
	Jim Herron	Service Director
	Chuck Bichara	Economic Development Director

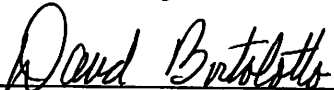
Mayor Castelli introduced ORDINANCE NO. 2026-8, An Ordinance authorizing the mayor and finance director to enter into a purchase agreement for the purchase of certain real estate in the City of Middleburg Heights and moved to adopt. On behalf of the mayor, Mr. Bortolotto MOVED TO ADOPT. Seconded by Mr. Meany.

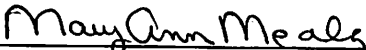
ORD. #2026-8
ADOPTED
PURCHASE
AGREEMENT:
CERTAIN REAL
ESTATE

Mr. Sage mentioned that Mr. Ali had left the meeting and will not be voting on this legislation.

ROLL CALL: YEAS 6, NAYS 0, ORDINANCE NO. 2026-8 ADOPTED

There being no further business, Mr. Bortolotto made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Sage. Mr. Bortolotto adjourned the meeting at 7:10 p.m.


David Bortolotto
President of Council


Mary Ann Meola
Clerk of Council