

MEDINA CITY COUNCIL  
Monday, March 23, 2026

**Call to Order:**

Medina City Council met in regular session on Monday, March 23, 2026, at Medina City Hall. The meeting was called to order at 7:30 p.m. by President John Coyne, who also led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Roll Call:**

The roll was called with the following members of Council present: R. Haire, E. Isabella, B. Lamb, C. Simmons, J. Coyne, and N. DiSalvo. Dennie Simpson was not in attendance.

Also present were the following members of the Administration: Mayor Shields, Greg Huber, Keith Dirham, Nino Piccoli, Patrick Patton, Chief Kinney, Chief Walters, Janson Wehrley, Kathy Patton, Andrew Dutton, Dan Gladish, Matt Tomek and Joe Toth.

**Reading of Minutes:**

Ms. Haire moved that the minutes from the meeting on March 9th as prepared and submitted by the Clerk of Council be approved, seconded by Mr. Simmons. The roll was called and the motion passed with the yea votes of E. Isabella, B. Lamb, C. Simmons, J. Coyne, N. DiSalvo, and R. Haire.

**Reports of Standing Committees:**

**Finance Committee:** Mr. Coyne stated the Finance Committee met prior to Council this evening and will meet again in three weeks.

**Public Properties Committee:** Ms. Haire had no report.

**Health, Safety & Sanitation Committee:** Mr. Simpson was absent.

**Special Legislation Committee:** Natalie stated they had a Special Legislation meeting today regarding the deer and received a lot of information from the cities of Parma and Mentor and what their deer remediation plan is and how it works. Natalie is looking to schedule another meeting, hopefully before April 13<sup>th</sup>.

**Streets & Sidewalks Committee:** Mr. Isabella is planning a follow-up meeting for April 6<sup>th</sup>.

**Water & Utilities Committee:** Mr. Simmons had no report.

**Emerging Technologies Committee:** Mr. Lamb stated there was an advisory committee meeting to Emerging Technologies which was interesting. Some topics were self-driving cars, Flock cameras and automatic door locks.

**Requests for Council Action:**

Finance Committee

26-066-3/23 – Budget Amendments

26-067-3/23 – Advance Request – CDBG

26-068-3/23 – Expenditure – Technology Engineering Group – Police

26-069-3/23 – Bids, Job #1151 – US 42 Resurfacing and Repealing Ord. 169-25

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26-070-3/23 – Bids, Job #1062 – Prospect St. Bridge Replacement  
26-071-3/23 – LPA Project Agreement w/ ODOT – Job #1099, State Road  
26-072-3/23 – Amend S&B Code – Parks Dept. PT Laborer Position Conversion

**Reports of Municipal Officers:**

**James Shields, Mayor,**

Jim wanted to publicly thank several of our city departments and employees for all their efforts during the high winds that we experienced on Friday, March 13 and throughout that weekend.

Mayor Shields recognized the exceptional work of our dispatch team during the severe windstorm. During the height of the storm, Dispatchers Crystal Vance and Jennifer Kehoe managed an extraordinary volume of incoming phone calls, radio traffic, and 911 calls. Despite the significant increase in activity, they handled the situation with professionalism, composure, and efficiency and at one point, the CAD screen set a record for active calls at one time. Later in the day, Dispatchers Patty Miller and Pat Villeneuve arrived and seamlessly took over operations, maintaining the same high level of professionalism and effectiveness.

Events like this highlight just how critical the role of dispatcher is for the safety and effectiveness of our entire operation. Thanks to the operation that day and evening- officers, firefighters, and service department employees- streets, parks and forestry personnel- had the information they needed to respond safely and effectively. Once again, our various city employees rose to the challenge and provided exceptional service. The Mayor expressed his sincere appreciation for the dedication and outstanding performance during this challenging event.

**Proclamation for Red Cross**

March is American Red Cross Month. Medina is served by the Red Cross of the Greater Akron and Mahoning Valley District. The Red Cross has been in existence for 145 years. The Red Cross provides vital services such as food and shelter during emergencies, provides lifesaving blood supplies to patients, provides global support to military and veterans and provides education and training for first aid and CPR. Mayor Shields presented Red Cross Board Member Steve Ferris with a City of Medina proclamation congratulating the American Red Cross and thanking them for the services provided to Medina residents.

**Keith Dirham, Finance Director,** Keith stated that the City of Medina has an income tax, you can get forms and pay online at [www.rita.ohio.com](http://www.rita.ohio.com)

Keith thanked Kimberly Marshall and Barb Dzur for all the events in relation to America 250.

**Greg Huber, Law Department,** had no report.

**Kimberly Marshall, Economic Development Director,** was not present.

**Chief Kinney, Police Department,** had no report.

**Joe Toth, LST Director,** stated that through February, the Life Support Team responded to 629 calls for the City of Medina and for all three entities they responded to 1,000 calls.

**Nino Piccoli, Service Director**, Nino had no report.

**Patrick Patton, City Engineer**, Patrick had no report.

**Chief Walters, Fire Department**, had no report.

**Andrew Dutton, Community Development Director**, had no report.

**Jansen Wehrley, Parks and Recreation Director**, Jansen stated beginning March 29<sup>th</sup> through April 18<sup>th</sup> they will be having some renovations done on the Gazebo in the uptown park / Square, and there will be some scaffolding set up during that time while they work to replace some wood and paint repairs.

**Dan Gladish, Building Official** – Dan stated the windstorms we had caused some structural damage to three homes where trees had fallen through the roofs and some façade damage to the new hotel, but nothing that would delay the project.

**Jarrold Fry, Communications Director**, reminded everyone that the American 250 page is on the city website if you go to visitor's section, you will find the American 250 section that will update you on all the calendar events happening.

Jarrold also mentioned the Documentaries and Videos page where you can find great documentaries and videos that they have produced over their time as Medina TV.

Focus this month is on the Arts – Conversations with Joanne King and local artists.

Jarrold thanked Darin Zaremba and Justin Fields for helping his department through some issues they experienced during a livestream two weeks ago.

You can also watch on Apple Fire TV app, Roku TV on demand.

#### **Confirmation of Mayor's appointment.**

Beth Girman – Archive Commission – expiring 12/31/28

Ms. Haire moved to confirm the Mayor's appointment, seconded by Mr. Simmons. The roll was called and the confirmation was confirmed by the yeas votes of B. Lamb, C. Simmons, J. Coyne, N. DiSalvo, R. Haire and E. Isabella

#### **Notices, communications and petitions**

There were none.

#### **Unfinished Business**

##### **Ord. 37-26 (SECOND READING)**

**An Ordinance amending section 1133.04 of the Zoning Code of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Medina, Ohio relative to Conditionally Permitted Uses.** Ms. Haire moved to approve the second reading, seconded by Mr. Simmons. Mr. Dutton explained this ordinance will amend our local commercial C-1 section of our zoning code to allow three new uses as conditionally permitted uses, a conference center, less than or equal to 5,000 sq. ft., restaurant with

drive in or drive through and retail business less or equal to 20,000 sq. ft. There is a public hearing scheduled for this ordinance on April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2026. John Coyne stated the third reading of this ordinance will be at the next council meeting on April 13<sup>th</sup> and then it will be put on the floor for final passage.

**Introduction of visitors**

Janet Newcomer – Executive Director of Feeding Medina County

Reported on how Feeding Medina County has been utilizing the funds that the City of Medina so generously provided at the end of 2025. Janet stated they used the money for a variety of their programs. Direct Distributions including the special distribution that they had at the Fairgrounds on December 30<sup>th</sup> and distributions that will include City of Medina residents in January, February and March. They spent \$11,559.00. They have an emergency pantry where people contact them when they are out of food and come directly into the office and have been able to serve City of Medina residents with \$4,640.00 of that. Their Home Delivery Program provides shelf stable food and hearty produce twice a month to individuals who have transportation barriers and health barriers, and they have used \$5,679.00 for home deliveries.

Staples for Seniors is a program where they deliver between 30 and 40 pounds of food per individual to the low-income housing facilities that are designated specifically for seniors here in the City of Medina and they have spent \$11,767.00 on that. Total is approximately \$33,000.00 and they have plans for the remainder amount of funds and plan to do another special distribution for City of Medina residents on April 21<sup>st</sup> that will be held at the Medina County Fair Grounds from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. We would appreciate any volunteer assistance from the City.

Janet would appreciate police traffic control from Chief Kinney. In addition to that they will be using any remainder funds for the staples for seniors’ program or emergency pantry and for home deliveries. Janet thanked the city for this generous donation and wants to assure the city that they are putting it to good use. John Coyne thanked Janet for all she does for feeding Medina County and focusing on the efforts of those in the City of Medina as our goal is to make sure nobody goes that hungry.

Visitors spoke on House Bills 26, 42, 281 and Ohio Senate Bill 172, pertaining to ICE. See list of visitors that spoke on attached sign in sheet.

**Introduction and consideration of ordinances and resolutions.**

Ms. Haire moved to suspend the rules requiring three readings on the following ordinances and resolutions, seconded by Mr. Simmons.: Ord. 48-26, Ord. 49-26, Ord. 50-26, Ord. 51-26, Ord. 52-26, Ord. 53-26, Ord. 54-26, Ord. 55-26, and Ord. 56-26. The roll was called and the motion passed by the yea votes of C. Simmons, J. Coyne, N. DiSalvo, R. Haire, E. Isabella and B. Lamb.

**Ord. 48-26**

**An Ordinance amending Section 133.01 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Medina, Ohio relative to the “Chief of Police or Designee(s)” Association Memberships.** Ms. Haire moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 048-26, seconded by Mr. Simmons. Chief Kinney stated he is asking to add International Association of Financial Crimes Investigators as one of the memberships that they are permitted to be members of and would be for one of their detectives that does financial investigations. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No.

048-26 passed by the yea votes of J. Coyne, N. DiSalvo, R. Haire, E. Isabella, B. Lamb, and C. Simmons.

**Ord. 49-26**

**An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Medina County Board of Commissioners to provide public transportation services within the City of Medina for the period of April 1, 2026, through August 31, 2027.** Ms. Haire moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 049-26, seconded by Mr. Simmons. Ms. Haire moved that the emergency clause be added to Ordinance/Resolution No. 049-26, seconded by Mr. Simmons. Mr. Dutton stated the funds are \$90,000.00 over a two-year period. \$75,000.00 will come out of their recently awarded CDBG grant with remainder coming out of the General Fund. The emergency clause is requested as they were late getting awarded the grant. The roll was called on adding the emergency clause and was approved by the yea votes of N. DiSalvo, R. Haire, E. Isabella, B. Lamb, C. Simmons, and J. Coyne. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 049-26 passed by the yea votes of R. Haire, E. Isabella, B. Lamb, C. Simmons, J. Coyne, and N. DiSalvo.

**Ord. 50-26**

**An Ordinance authorizing the purchase of two (2) 2026 Ford F-150 Pick-Up Trucks from Montrose Ford, to be used by the Water Department.** Ms. Haire moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 050-26, seconded by Mr. Simmons. Mr. Piccoli stated these purchases were discussed during the Water Dept. budget process and will bring them up to speed with their vehicles and replacements. One truck will be equipped with a small plow to assist on water breaks and to clean up small areas. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 050-26 passed by the yea votes of E. Isabella, B. Lamb, C. Simmons, D. Simpson, J. Coyne, N. DiSalvo, and R. Haire.

**Ord. 51-26**

**An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to approve Change Order #02 to GMP #3 with the Ruhlin Company for renovation work at the Medina Municipal Courthouse.** Ms. Haire moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 051-26, seconded by Mr. Simmons. Mr. Patton stated the cost for the replacement of the underground sanitary and storm sewers in the courthouse basement is \$368,772. This will be approved as a change order to the project. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 051-26 passed by the yea votes of B. Lamb, C. Simmons, J. Coyne, N. DiSalvo, R. Haire and E. Isabella

**Ord. 52-26**

**An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Agreement with Wichert Insurance for the City's Property, General Liability and Umbrella Liability insurance for the period of April 1, 2026, through March 31, 2027.** Ms. Haire moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 052-26, seconded by Mr. Simmons. Ms. Haire moved that the emergency clause be added to Ordinance/Resolution No. 052-26, seconded by Mr. Simmons. Mayor Shields stated this involves their Airport liability insurance as well as our property general liability, auto and umbrella insurance for the city. Emergency clause is needed as it is due on April 1<sup>st</sup> for renewal. Overall increase this year is about 14% and is higher than average in the years past.

The roll was called on adding the emergency clause and was approved by the yea votes of C. Simmons, J. Coyne, N. DiSalvo, R. Haire, E. Isabella and B. Lamb. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 052-26 passed by the yea votes of J. Coyne, N. DiSalvo, R. Haire, E. Isabella, B. Lamb, C. Simmons and D. Simpson.

**Ord. 53-26**

**An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an Employer Adoption Agreement to implement the Ohio Deferred Compensation Roth 457 Option for employees of the City of Medina Ohio.** Ms. Haire moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 053-26, seconded by Mr. Simmons. Keith Dirham stated the Teamster's union asked us to approve an Ohio Deferred Compensation Roth plan. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 053-26 passed by the yea votes of N. DiSalvo, R. Haire, E. Isabella, B. Lamb, C. Simmons, and J. Coyne.

**Ord. 54-26**

**An Ordinance authorizing the Mayor to accept three easements necessary for the S. Huntington Street Bridge Project.** Ms. Haire moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 054-26, seconded by Mr. Simmons. Ms. Haire moved that the emergency clause be added to Ordinance/Resolution No. 054-26, seconded by Mr. Simmons. Patrick stated this is for three easements, and one property owner needs the emergency clause as they signed a while ago and would like to get this going. The roll was called on adding the emergency clause and was approved by the yea votes of R. Haire, E. Isabella, B. Lamb, C. Simmons, J. Coyne, and N. DiSalvo. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 054-26 passed by the yea votes of E. Isabella, B. Lamb, C. Simmons, J. Coyne, N. DiSalvo, and R. Haire.

**Ord. 55-26**

**An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 218-25, passed December 8, 2025. (Amendments to 2026 Budget)** Ms. Haire moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 055-26, seconded by Mr. Simmons. Keith Dirham explained one is for a contract with a law firm and there are several appropriations involving a grant through CDBG. There are also appropriations for the Celebrations Fund. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 055-26 passed by the yea votes of B. Lamb, C. Simmons, D. Simpson, J. Coyne, N. DiSalvo, R. Haire and E. Isabella.

**Ord. 56-26**

**An Ordinance authorizing the Finance Director to make certain fund advances.** Ms. Haire moved for the adoption of Ordinance/Resolution No. 056-26, seconded by Mr. Simmons. Keith Dirham stated this is typical with federal grants, as we advance the money and the advance is just a loan from our general fund to the grant fund. We spend the money and then submit for reimbursement, then repay the loan. The roll was called and Ordinance/Resolution No. 056-26 passed by the yea votes of C. Simmons, J. Coyne, N. DiSalvo, R. Haire, E. Isabella and B. Lamb.

**Council Comments:**

Ms. Haire thanked everyone for coming out again tonight to talk about this quite controversial issue. She stated she has questions she needs answered and will be approaching people to get those questions answered. We are so divided as a country, and it breaks her heart and it angers her as well. We have become a society where is its all about "ME", we don't care about our neighbors,

nor do we care about anything that doesn't immediately involve "ME" and she doesn't like it at all. She takes this topic extremely seriously. Regi is requesting that we all treat people the way we want to be treated. Look at facts – not dumb stuff on social media. Act appropriately.

Mr. Simmons talked about America 250. April 11<sup>th</sup> – library hosting author Steve Hambley as he talks about the electric railroad. April 25<sup>th</sup> – Rec Center- Touch A Truck .

Ms. DiSalvo echoed Regi Haire as she too has questions. As a teacher that works in inner city Canton that has a large immigrant population that she deals with regularly.

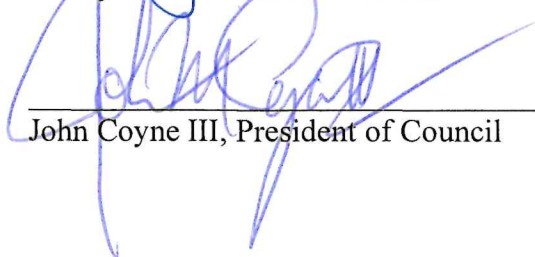
Natalie attended the adult bookfair that had about 30ish local authors at the Common Fround and she really enjoyed it. Thanks to Common Ground for putting it together.

Mr. Isabella thanked all for coming out again. He stated he doesn't feel this is going to be coming up for action but wanted to express where he sits on the topic. The version of ICE that we've seen in other cities is not a version that he wants to see here in this town. Seeing them show up at shopping centers, and restaurants harassing people, beating up people and killing people. He feels they are not being held particularly accountable and at least from what he has seen, we have a phenomenal police dept. here in Medina and are very professional and talented. Mr. Isabella would like to see ICE clean up their own house before they come here to Medina.

Mr. Lamb doesn't know what to say to be honest. We don't look like a community that shares a commonality, we look like a community that has let itself get seriously divided / separated. As the oldest person on council, it's difficult because he grew up in such a different time. When he reflects on the way he grew up it is hard for him to witness what he has seen happening here. We can't remain this sort of divided space. While we may not take an action right here, he doesn't want anybody to misconstrue that that inaction lacks support for the beliefs that are in the resolution because that would be wrong. We need to work together as people, not discriminate, not to characterize people but to recognize that we are all here together. How people look, where people come from, their status is not my business, it is that we work together as a community.

Mr. Coyne stated we are a government of the people for the people and that is what we do, we listen and everyone has different views and it shows here this evening that Medina is diverse and as a diverse community that is great for us because with diversity, we learn from each other.

  
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Kathy Patton, Clerk of Council

  
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John Coyne III, President of Council

