

Wellston City Council

Meeting Minutes

June 4, 2026

Meeting was called to order at 7 p.m. by President Rick Hudson by asking everyone to stand for the Pledge. He then called for the roll call.

Councilpersons answering the roll call included: Rhonda Downey, Fred Duby, Karen Boch, Keith Woolum, Tami Phillips, and Roaby Browning. Angela Spangler was absent. The City Clerk was absent; filling in was Heather Mohler.

Excusal of Previous Absence(s)

- Boch was excused from the previous meeting.

Public Comments

- None

Minutes- All in attendance voted to approve the minutes from the previous meeting.

Correspondence

- None

Reports of Special Committees

- Health and Safety Committee- none
- Public Service Committee- none
- Planning Committee- Boch stated there is need to schedule a meeting regarding the Lake Alma Lease.
- Recreation Committee- none
- Finance Committee- none
- Community Action- none
- Civic Organization Liaison- none

Old Business

- Phillips made an inquiry regarding a stop sign behind the post office.

New Business

Legislation

- Third Reading of Resolution No. 2026-22- A Resolution of the Legislative Authority of the City of Wellston authorizing the Mayor to enter into the Indigent Defense Contract with the Jackson

County Commissioners to provide legal counsel to indigent persons charged with violations of the Wellston Municipal Code for 2026 in the total amount of \$5,000.00.

Sponsor: Downey

Discussion: no new discussion

A Motion to Adopt and Pass was made by Browning, seconded by Woolum, and approved by all in attendance.

- Second Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-24- An Ordinance authorizing a temporary program for the waiver of water and sewer tap fees for certain new residential construction within the City of Wellston, Ohio

Sponsor: Browning

Discussion: The Mayor explained that the City is seeing an increase in new builds. He would like to continue to see this growth and make the City more marketable toward new stick build construction.

- First Reading of Resolution No. 2026-25- A Resolution authorizing the Mayor, Service Director, and any other necessary official to enter into an agreement with the county of Gallia regarding the custody, supervision, confinement, and board of prisoners.

Sponsor: Woolum

Discussion: The Mayor would like to see all jail contracts presented to Council at the same time in the future.

- First Reading of Resolution No. 2026-26- A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to apply for, accept, and enter into a Water Pollution Control Loan Fund (WPCLF) Agreement on behalf of the City of Wellston for construction of Wastewater Facilities and designating a dedicated repayment source for the loan and Declaring an Emergency.

Sponsor: DUBY

Discussion: A mistake was made in the legislation and that will need to be addressed by the next meeting.

- First Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-27- An Ordinance approving additional appropriations in the DUI Enforcement and Education Fund from the 233 Carryover Fund.

Sponsor: Boch

Discussion: This will be used on an alcohol presence testing device. These funds have been made available byway of fines.

- First Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-28- An Ordinance adopting Credit Card Account Policies and Procedures for the City of Wellston, Ohio, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 717.31, and declaring an emergency.

Sponsor: Woolum

Discussion: The Service Director explained that the credit card policy needs to be updated; Mohler continued that the emergency was written because higher credit card limits are already in place and Council will receive statements every month. Council decided to go full readings on this legislation.

- First Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-29- An Ordinance approving additional appropriations from the WPD Other (Misc.) Fund to the WPD Training Fund.

Sponsor: Woolum

Discussion: Chief Robinson stated this is to transfer NRA grant funds so that they can be spent.

- First Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-30- An Ordinance approving additional appropriations from the 201 Fire Fund to the New Equipment Fund.

Sponsor: Boch

Discussion: The Mayor stated this is to transfer General Mills grant funds for AED units.

- First Reading of Resolution No. 2026-31- A resolution awarding the Water Treatment Plant – PH II/Rebid construction contract in accordance with the engineer’s letter of bid recommendation, subject to final approval of funding requirements of the project and declaring an emergency.

Sponsor: Downey

Discussion: The Mayor explained the Water Plant financing and project costs thus far: project cost approx. \$12.8M (original estimate ~\$8.9M); financing adjustments discussed (potential 40-year loan term); payment will be \$275,00 per year (original goal was to keep the amount below \$500,000 per year). An emergency is needed to accept the letter of bid recommendation so that the City does not lose previously awarded grant funds. A Motion to Suspend the Rules was made by Boch, seconded by Browning, and approved by all in attendance.

A Motion to Adopt and Pass was made by Boch, seconded by Browning, and approved by all in attendance.

Mayor

- Brenner began by encouraging Council to visit the water plant site since the actual plant is being built.
- The Mayor asked Council to consider the New York Avenue project to 12th Street in lieu of finishing the project from 10th to halfway through 11th Street. Council agreed to extend the project. An emergency appropriation will be prepared for the next meeting.

Service Director

- Director Walton spoke about service line repairs at Michigan and A Street.
- Road closures will be happening on New York Avenue for the 10th.to 12th Street project.
- Crosswalk painting has started
- The RV Park groundbreaking went well.
- The Railroad project came in right on budget at around \$25,000
- Wolum asked if there is still a problem with geese in the area of the RV Park. The Mayor answered in the affirmative and stated a permit is usually given to someone to eradicate the geese in that area.

Law Director

- none

Auditor

- Annual Financial Report was presented (audit). The Auditors prepared an abbreviated version which will be emailed to Council. It was stated that the Law Director should send Auditor Dupree a letter requesting his presence at the next meeting to explain the report.

City Clerk's Reports

- none

Treasurer's Report

- none

Recreation

- Smith gave a rundown of the tournament season and needed Gus Macker sponsorships.

Fire

- Not present

Zoning/Code

- Not present

Police

- Chief Robinson gave an update regarding the MARCS radio grant.

A Motion to go into Executive Session was made by Browning, seconded by Phillips, and approved by all in attendance for contractual and personnel reasons at 7:33 p.m. No action will follow.



Council Clerk



Council President

