

Wellston City Council

Meeting Minutes

October 1, 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, Angela Spangler, Keith Woolum, Tami Phillips, and Roaby Browning. Karen Boch arrived at 7:03 p.m. and was present for the remainder of the meeting.

Excusal of Previous Absence(s)

- none

Public Comments

- Eric and Precious Long, owners of Autism Unboxed, addressed Council regarding an incident outside their business involving individuals consuming alcohol and displaying firearms within the DORA district. They expressed concerns regarding public safety, police understanding of DORA regulations, and the impact on their clients and families. They requested consideration of modifying DORA boundaries near their business and clarifying DORA operating procedures. Chief John Robinson advised that officers have since been re-educated regarding DORA requirements and cup regulations. Council discussed the need to review DORA regulations, boundaries, operating times, and enforcement procedures. The matter was referred to the Planning Committee for further review.
- Monty Ruin of South New York Avenue requested consideration of a three-way stop near the recently improved roadway between Ninth and Twelfth Streets due to speeding traffic and concerns for pedestrian safety. Chief Robinson agreed to increase patrol presence and monitor traffic conditions in the area.
- Donna Smith addressed Council regarding maintenance conditions at Richwood Cemetery, including concerns over overgrown grass, damaged flags, veteran markers, and headstones. Service Director Dave Walton explained staffing levels and weather-related maintenance challenges and offered to inspect the reported damage with Ms. Smith.

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- none

- Recreation Committee- none
- Finance Committee- Councilperson Bennett reported the Finance Committee met to review the proposed 2027 budget. The committee reviewed a budget draft that does not require reductions within the Police Department. Council will continue reviewing the budget and anticipates presenting a recommendation at the next council meeting.
- Community Action- none
- Civic Organization Liaison- none

Old Business

- none

New Business

- None

Legislation

- Third Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-41- An Ordinance approving additional appropriations in the 606 Sewer Distribution Fund from the 606 Carryover Fund and Declaring an Emergency.
Sponsor: Spangler
Discussion: Walton explained the appropriation is necessary to replenish Sewer Distribution funds due to extensive lift station pump repairs and replacements.
A Motion to Adopt and Pass was made by Bennett, seconded by Duby, and approved by all in attendance.
- Third Reading of Resolution No. 2026-42- A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to execute a contract between the City of Wellston and the Village of Coalton to provide fire protection.
Sponsor: Downey
Discussion: no new discussion
A Motion to Adopt and Pass was made by Downey, seconded by Boch, and approved by all in attendance.
- Third Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-46- An Ordinance approving additional appropriations from the 606 Sewer Fund to the Supplies, Materials, and Maintenance Fund.
Sponsor: Spangler
Discussion: Walton requested emergency passage due to repairs needed on a wastewater backup generator before winter weather arrives.
A Motion to Adopt and Pass as an Emergency was made by Woolum, seconded by Downey, and approved by all in attendance.
- Third Reading of Resolution No. 2026-47- A Resolution authorizing the Mayor of the City of Wellston to negotiate and enter into a loan agreement with Ohio Valley Bank for funds to be available upon purchase of fire equipment and vehicles and declaring an emergency.
Sponsor: Downey
Discussion: no new discussion
A Motion to Adopt and Pass was made by Boch, seconded by Bennett, and approved by all in attendance.
- First Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-50- An Ordinance amending and repealing Ordinance 4036 and Codified Ordinance Section 110.06 to increase the video service provider fee from one percent (1%) to five percent (5%) to be paid by any video service provider offering video service

in the City; authorizing the Mayor to give notice to the video service provider of the video service provider fee; and declaring an emergency.

Sponsor: Downey

Discussion: Walton reported that neighboring communities charge the maximum allowable five percent fee. Increasing the fee is expected to generate approximately \$50,000 annually and assist with budget stabilization efforts.

A Motion to Suspend the Rules was made by Bennett, seconded by Woolum, and approved by all in attendance.

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

- First Reading of Resolution No. 2026-51- A Resolution authorizing the Mayor of the City of Wellston, Ohio, to execute an amendment to the bargaining agreement between the City of Wellston and City Employees Bargaining Unit (OCSEA) and declaring an emergency.

Sponsor: Downey

Discussion: Walton explained the amendment eliminates the Street Superintendent position and reallocates responsibilities, resulting in cost savings and compensation adjustments for affected employees.

A Motion to Suspend the Rules was made by Woolum and seconded by Bennett. All approved to suspend the rules except Phillips and Browning.

A second reading will appear on the next agenda.

- First Reading of Resolution No. 2026-52- A Resolution authorizing the City to participate in the Ohio Department of Transportation Winter Fill Program.

Sponsor: Phillips

Discussion: Annual authorization allowing the purchase of road salt through the state program.

- First Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-53- An Ordinance approving additional appropriations from the 601 Water Fund to the Chemicals Fund and Declaring an Emergency.

Sponsor: Bennett

Discussion: Increased rainfall and water treatment demand have significantly increased chemical usage and costs at the North Water Plant.

A Motion to Suspend the Rules was made by Browning, seconded by Bennett, and approved by all in attendance.

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

- First Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-54- An Ordinance approving additional appropriations from the 606 Sewer Fund to the North Sewer Engineering and Professional Services Fund.

Sponsor: Woolum

Discussion: Walton explained this is moving OWDA grant funds from expense to revenue.

- First Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-55- An Ordinance approving additional appropriations from the 606 Sewer Fund to the North Sewer Loan Payment Fund.

Sponsor: Bennett

Discussion: Administration explained the appropriation is related to paying off the FlexNet water meter reading system loan obligation.

- First Reading of Ordinance No. 2026-56- An Ordinance approving additional appropriations from the 611 Garbage Fund to the Garbage Loan Payment Fund.

Sponsor: Downey

Discussion: he appropriation will allow the City to pay off the remaining garbage truck loan balance.

- First Reading of Resolution No. 2026-57- A Resolution authorizing the Mayor of the City of Wellston, Ohio, to negotiate and enter into an agreement with the Coalton Volunteer Firemen, Inc., for the purchase of assets and declaring an emergency.

Sponsor: Boch

Discussion: Law Director Joe Kirby reviewed the proposed purchase agreement for Coalton Fire Department assets, including equipment, vehicles, and two lots, while excluding the fire station building and banquet hall property.

A Motion to Suspend the Rules was made by Phillips, seconded by Woolum, and approved by all in attendance.

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

Mayor

- Not present
- Consideration of Kathy Carney for appointment to the Planning and Zoning Commission was tabled pending verification of voter registration and residency status.

Service Director

- Bid opening for the earthwork phase of the RV Park project is scheduled for October 21.
- A historical marker dedication ceremony at Berlin Crossroads is scheduled for October 4.
- Lead service line inspections have begun to comply with EPA requirements.
- The sanitary sewer line project is expected to begin following a pre-construction meeting with the successful contractor.
- A major water leak on North Pennsylvania Avenue was located and repaired.
- A two-inch water line on New York Avenue was replaced.
- Staff continue investigating sewer pump issues and searching for buried or missing manholes.
- Adult volleyball has begun and youth basketball registration is underway. A pickleball tournament is also planned.
- Council discussed a proposed OVRDC-funded Pennsylvania Avenue intersection improvement project with an estimated local share of approximately \$100,000.

Law Director

- Joe Kirby provided legal review and explanation regarding the Coalton Fire Department purchase agreement.

Auditor

- not present

City Clerk's Reports

- none

Treasurer's Report

- none

Recreation

- Not present
- Gus Macker expense and revenue report was submitted and acknowledged.
- Walton reported adult volleyball leagues are active, basketball registration is complete, and a pickleball tournament is planned.

Fire

- Reports received: Monthly Fire Report, Station Report, and Total Record Volume by Incident

Zoning/Code

- Not present

Police

- Reports received: Public Records BWC Policy, WPD Impound Scale Sheet, Monthly Report, Fee Schedule, WPD Special Events, August Activity Summary, and August Calls.
- Chief John Robinson announced official approval of the MARCS communications grant after several years of effort. The grant will modernize radio communications equipment and improve interoperability with other agencies.

The meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.



Council Clerk





Council President