

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
Minutes of WEST CARROLLTON CITY COUNCIL REGULAR Meeting

Held June 24, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Barnhart at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance and Roll Call followed.

ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Mayor Rick Barnhart, Councilmembers Jill Tomlin, Mike Boyle, Rick Dobson, Angie Fryman, and Lauren Williams. City Staff: City Manager Amber Holloway, Law Director Lori Denlinger, Planning & Community Development Director Greg Gaines, Interim Police Chief David Wessling, and Clerk of Council Tracy Moore.

EXCUSED: Councilmember Keith Tilton

MINUTES

Mrs. Fryman moved, seconded by Mr. Boyle to approve the regular meeting minutes of June 10, 2025. A vote was taken: Mrs. Tomlin-yes, Mr. Boyle-yes, Mr. Dobson-yes, Mrs. Fryman-yes, and Mayor Barnhart-yes.

Mrs. Fryman moved, seconded by Mr. Dobson to approve the special meeting minutes of June 14, 2025. A vote was taken: Mrs. Tomlin-yes, Mr. Boyle-yes, Mr. Dobson-yes, Mrs. Fryman-yes, and Mayor Barnhart-yes.

Mrs. Fryman moved, seconded by Mr. Dobson to approve the special meeting minutes of June 17, 2025. A vote was taken: Mrs. Tomlin-yes, Mr. Boyle-yes, Mr. Dobson-yes, Mrs. Fryman-yes, and Mayor Barnhart-yes.

APPOINTMENT AND OATH OF OFFICE FOR NEW COUNCILMEMBER

Mrs. Fryman moved, seconded by Mrs. Tomlin to appoint Lauren Williams to the role of Councilmember. A vote was taken: Mrs. Tomlin-yes, Mr. Boyle-yes, Mr. Dobson-yes, Mrs. Fryman-yes, and Mayor Barnhart-yes.

Mayor Barnhart administered the Oath of Office. Newly appointed Councilmember Williams joined Council at the dais.

Council congratulated and welcomed Mrs. Williams to City Council.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW COUNCILMEMBER TO COUNCIL COMMITTEES

Mr. Boyle moved, seconded by Mr. Dobson to appoint Lauren Williams to serve as a Council Representative on the Planning Commission and Special Studies Committee, and as an alternate representative to the Personnel Appeals Board and City Council/School Liaison Committee. A vote was taken: Mrs. Tomlin-yes, Mr. Boyle-yes, Mr. Dobson-yes, Mrs. Fryman-yes, Mrs. Williams-abstain, and Mayor Barnhart-yes.

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PUBLIC HEARINGS

Presentation from Charter Review Commission

Mayor Barnhart explained per section 12.06 of the West Carrollton City Charter; The Council shall no later than every five (5) years appoint a Charter Review Commission to review the Charter of the City of West Carrollton. At the City Council Meeting held April 22, 2025, Council appointed Jim Folker, Dan Bir, Linda Lotspaih, Peg Rinaldi, Nate Mundy, and Jim Napper to serve as the 2025 Charter Review Commission. Mayor Barnhart turned the floor over to Chairperson Folker for a presentation.

Chairperson Folker stated the committee met a total of four times. The first meeting was held on May 15, 2025, and the last meeting was held on June 16, 2025. Mr. Folker stated Council received a memo in their packet that includes all of the recommended amendments made by the Charter Review Commission. He stated the commission made a total of seven recommendations, with many of them being "housekeeping" issues. Mr. Folker further explained, these items are simply for Council's consideration. It is ultimately up to Council to decide what gets moved forward to the ballot for the voters. Mr. Folker went through all of the recommendations that were suggested in the memo, and offered to answer questions for Council regarding the reason behind these recommendations. A copy of the Charter Review Commission's memo can be obtained by requesting it from the Clerk of Council, Tracy Moore.

Mr. Dobson stated since he's been on Council he has always wanted citizens to have more opportunities to be aware of where they can find information. He stated if the agendas and ordinances don't get posted in the five most public places he feels this would take an opportunity away.

Mr. Folker recommended that Mrs. Moore provide Council additional information regarding the posting locations when they have their work session to discuss the recommended amendments.

Mr. Dobson also asked about the summary form being stricken in reference to the ordinances.

Ms. Denlinger explained city staff posts the entire ordinance versus creating a one or two sentence summary about the ordinance.

Mr. Boyle asked if something could be posted in the current locations to redirect citizens to the city building or website.

Ms. Denlinger answered Council does not have to make any decisions regarding the recommendations this evening. This presentation is for Council to take into consideration the Charter Review Commission's perspective. Council will be able to schedule a work session to discuss their perspective on the recommended changes. Council makes the final decision on what, if anything, moves forward to the ballot.

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Mr. Boyle inquired if the City Manager would still have to get permission from Council regarding purchases over a certain dollar amount.

Mr. Folker answered that process wouldn't change, but the language within the charter would be updated to reflect how purchasing is currently being done. Mr. Folker explained the city is too small to have a singular department or person that handles all purchasing for all departments within the city.

Mr. Boyle also asked for clarification regarding the Assistant to the City Manager. Ms. Holloway answered that is a listed position that is no longer filled.

Mr. Folker thanked Council, on behalf of the Charter Review Commission, for their selection to serve on this committee. Mr. Folker offered to answer any other questions.

Mrs. Fryman asked if the majority of the committee was in favor, or were there any members against the recommended amendments.

Mr. Folker answered all of the commission members were in favor of the amendments that were recommended.

Mrs. Fryman stated the commission did some thoughtful consideration of detail, and thanked the commission members.

Mayor Barnhart opened the Public Hearing on the recommendations made by the Charter Review Commission to the public.

He asked for anyone wishing to speak in favor of the recommendations made by the Charter Review Commission come to the podium and state their name and address for the Clerk of Council. No persons came forward.

He also asked for anyone wanting to speak against the recommendations made by the Charter Review Commission come to the podium and state their name and address for the Clerk of Council. No persons came forward.

Mayor Barnhart closed the Public Hearing on the recommendations made by the Charter Review commission.

Mayor Barnhart, Councilmembers, and City staff thanked the Charter Review Commission members for their time and their thoughts on the City Charter.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

None

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COMMENTS BY THE AUDIENCE

Mark Stabler, resident of 200 Vinemont Drive, addressed Council to speak about the street lights. He stated he is a part of the Ohio Chapter of the Dark Sky Association. He is concerned about the newer LED lights, which are too bright and too white. He encouraged Council to look into the soft white lights as a replacement option with Miami Valley Lighting.

Elizabeth Schumacher-Berger, resident of 1621 Longbow Lane, also addressed Council regarding responsible lighting. She stated she is the secretary of the Miami Valley Astronomical Society. She encouraged Council to think about Astrotourism options for the city.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Ordinance 3805 – An Ordinance To Make Appropriations For Current Expenses And Other Expenditures Of The City Of West Carrollton, State Of Ohio, During The Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2025, Amending Ordinance 3795, Repealing Any Ordinances In Conflict Herewith, And Declaring An Emergency

City Manager Holloway presented Ordinance 3805. She stated Council received a memo from Finance Director Duffy regarding a supplemental appropriation, and requested Council consider it as an emergency.

Mayor Barnhart asked Council if there were questions or comments. There were none.

Mayor Barnhart moved, seconded by Mrs. Tomlin to approve Ordinance 3805. A vote was taken: Mrs. Tomlin-yes, Mr. Boyle-yes, Mr. Dobson-yes, Mrs. Fryman-yes, Mrs. Williams-abstain, and Mayor Barnhart-yes.

Mayor Barnhart introduced Resolution 31-2025.

Resolution 31-2025 – A Resolution Declaring It Necessary To Provide For Lighting The Streets, Lanes And Other Public Ways In The City Of West Carrollton, Ohio With Electric Lighting During The Year 2024 And Authorizing The Assessments For The Cost And Expense Thereof Upon All Lots And Lands Lying And Being Within The Corporate Limits Of Said City.

City Manager Holloway presented Resolution 31-2025. She explained this resolution establishes the need for the city to provide lighting on public roads throughout the community. She further explained this is the first of the required steps the city must take in order to assess the cost of street lighting on the FY 2025 property tax bill payable in 2026.

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Mayor Barnhart asked if 2024 was the correct year listed in the title of the ordinance.

Clerk Moore answered yes.

Mrs. Fryman moved, seconded by Mrs. Tomlin to approve Resolution 31-2025. A vote was taken: Mrs. Tomlin-yes, Mr. Boyle-yes, Mr. Dobson-yes, Mrs. Fryman-yes, Mrs. Williams-abstain, and Mayor Barnhart-yes.

Ordinance 3806 – *An Ordinance Determining To Proceed With The Lighting Of Streets, Lanes And Other Public Ways In The City Of West Carrollton, Ohio. (1st Reading)*

City Manager Holloway presented Ordinance 3806. She stated this ordinance indicates a determination by City Council that the city shall proceed with the lighting of public roads in the city. She stated this ordinance is in its first reading.

Mayor Barnhart asked if there were any questions or comments.

Mr. Dobson asked if we could look at other types of lights we are using, such as the soft lighting, as recommended by Mr. Stabler. He asked if that might be more cost effective. He also stated he didn't know if that applies with this ordinance.

Ms. Holloway stated it is probably more applicable to our negotiations with Miami Valley Lighting moving forward. She stated she would be happy to bring that up to them to see what our options are.

Ordinance 3807 – *An Ordinance Levying Special Assessments For The Lighting Of Streets, Lanes And Other Public Ways In The City Of West Carrollton, Ohio With Electric Lighting. (1st Reading)*

City Manager Holloway presented Ordinance 3807. She explained this is the last step in the assessment process. She further explained it indicates the total expenses the city incurred during the FY 2024 for the operation and maintenance of street lights which totaled \$173,555.39. This legislation also authorizes staff to file the necessary documents with the Montgomery County Auditor and add such allocated charges to the next property tax bill. Ms. Holloway concluded by stating this ordinance is in its first reading.

Mayor Barnhart asked Council if there were questions or comments. There were none.

Planning Commission Member Appointment – Brad Hensley

Mrs. Tomlin moved, seconded by Mr. Boyle to appoint Brad Hensley to the Planning Commission for the longest term possible. A vote was taken: Mrs. Tomlin-yes, Mr. Boyle-yes, Mr. Dobson-yes, Mrs. Fryman-yes, Mrs. Williams-abstain, and Mayor Barnhart-yes.

Mayor Barnhart thanked Mr. Hensley for volunteering his time.

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REPORTS BY OFFICERS

City Manager Holloway welcomed and congratulated Councilmember Williams. She also gave a reminder that First Thursday will be held in Carrollton Centre on Thursday, July 3, 2025, from 5:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m. She advised information regarding other summer events can be found on the city's website at www.westcarrollton.org. Ms. Holloway also reminded residents that the city offices will be closed on July 4, 2025, in observance of Independence Day. There will be no trash delay.

Law Director Denlinger also congratulated and welcomed Councilmember Williams.

UNSCHEDULED BUSINESS

Comments by the Audience

Mark Stabler, resident of 200 Vinemont Drive, addressed Council with some follow up information regarding street lighting. He provided photos that show the difference between warm lighting and blue/white lighting.

Mayor Barnhart asked for clarification regarding soft light and blue light.

Comments by Council

Mrs. Tomlin welcomed Councilmember Williams. She also welcomed Mr. Hensley to the Planning Commission. Mrs. Tomlin thanked the residents for speaking about lighting and the night sky. Mrs. Tomlin wished everyone a happy and safe Fourth of July. Finally, she thanked the Charter Review Commission members for their time and recommendations on the City Charter.

Mr. Boyle welcomed Councilmember Williams and Planning Commission Member Hensley. He also thanked the Charter Review Commission members. Mr. Boyle stated he worries about dimming the street lights from a safety perspective. He pointed out in the photos provided, he is unable to see behind one of the vehicles versus in the photo with the brighter lights he can. He stated lighting is something for them to look into, but he also doesn't want to compromise the safety of the citizens. Mr. Boyle concluded by thanking city employees for their hard work, especially the employees working out in the heat.

Mr. Dobson congratulated and welcomed Councilmember Williams. He hopes her presence will help bring better relationships with the schools and the city. Mr. Dobson stated he appreciates the hard work of the Charter Review Commission. He welcomed Mr. Hensley. Mr. Dobson passed an Alex Road comment card along to City Manager Holloway to be added to the records. Finally, Mr. Dobson wished everyone a great Fourth of July and stated this is the most important holiday of our life. He asked for support of the military.

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Mrs. Fryman thanked the Police Department for the extra patrols and extra time running traffic. She also thanked Mr. Hensley for volunteering to serve on the Planning Commission. Mrs. Fryman commented the lighting information was very interesting. She stated Council has heard both ways regarding the lighting – some people think they are too bright while others prefer the bright lights. Mrs. Fryman advised Councilmember Williams that all of Council, the City Manager, Law Director, and City Staff are there for her when she has questions.

Mrs. Williams thanked Council for this opportunity. She stated she is excited to serve, and to be a part of this side of the community.

Mayor Barnhart congratulated and welcomed Councilmember Williams. He stated he feels she will be a great asset to Council and to the citizens. He thanked the Charter Review Commission for their work. Mayor Barnhart thanked Mr. Hensley for volunteering for the Planning Commission. Mayor Barnhart stated the Fourth of July is an important holiday. He asked for anyone handling fireworks to be extremely careful. Finally, Mayor Barnhart concluded by stating the drone show and concert was an amazing event.

RECESS

Mayor Barnhart moved, seconded by Mr. Boyle to recess to a Work Session to discuss the items on the agenda. A vote was taken: Mrs. Tomlin-yes, Mr. Boyle-yes, Mr. Dobson-yes, Mrs. Fryman-yes, Mrs. Williams-yes, and Mayor Barnhart-yes.

Mayor Barnhart moved, seconded by Mr. Boyle to recess to an Executive Session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22 (G)(1): To consider the employment of a public employee or official; and pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22 (G)(4): Preparing for, conducting, or reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment, to return to the regular meeting for adjournment. A vote was taken: Mrs. Tomlin-yes, Mr. Boyle-yes, Mr. Dobson-yes, Mrs. Fryman-yes, Mrs. Williams-yes, and Mayor Barnhart-yes.

WORK SESSION

PRESENT: Mayor Rick Barnhart, Councilmembers Jill Tomlin, Mike Boyle, Rick Dobson, Angie Fryman, and Lauren Williams. City Staff: City Manager Amber Holloway, Law Director Lori Denlinger, Planning & Community Development Director Greg Gaines, Interim Police Chief David Wessling, Steve McHugh, and Josh Lounsbury.

EXCUSED: Councilmember Keith Tilton

Right of Way Vacation

City Manager Holloway and Director Gaines presented to City Council on a city-initiated right-of-way vacation at 1000 E. Dixie Drive. It was noted that this would be going to the Planning Commission on June 26th, and normally would not come to Council before, however Staff was aiming to keep the process moving to facilitate the sale of the property.

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Council Vision 2030 and Policy Goals

Ms. Holloway shared an updated Vision 2030 with City Council based on feedback gathered in the April Council Retreat. Discussion ensued about the list, which was determined to be up to date.

Ms. Holloway then discussed Council Policy Goals/Top List. She reminded Council that she drafted a list based on things that she had heard from them, but anything was on the table. A discussion ensued on whether the reference to S. Alex Road improvements should be listed as a separate goal or live under an infrastructure goal.

Mr. Boyle stated that he felt there should be a more detailed description under each goal. Mrs. Fryman disagreed. Ms. Holloway explained that Council may consider keeping the goals broader or somewhat self-explanatory.

Ms. Holloway suggested that she would try to rework the goals based on the discussion and plan to revisit at the next meeting when Mr. Tilton could be part of the discussion.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

PRESENT: Mayor Rick Barnhart, Councilmembers Jill Tomlin, Mike Boyle, Rick Dobson, Angie Fryman, and Lauren Williams. City Staff: City Manager Amber Holloway, Law Director Lori Denlinger, Steve McHugh, and Josh Lounsbury.

EXCUSED: Councilmember Keith Tilton


Council met in Executive Session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22 (G)(1): To consider the employment of a public employee or official; and pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22 (G)(4): Preparing for, conducting, or reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment, and then returned to the regular meeting for adjournment.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Mr. Boyle moved, seconded by Mayor Barnhart, to adjourn the City Council Meeting of June 24, 2025. A vote was taken: Mrs. Tomlin-yes, Mr. Boyle-yes, Mr. Dobson-yes, Mrs. Fryman-yes, Mrs. Williams-yes, and Mayor Barnhart-yes.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:26 p.m.


Clerk of Council


Mayor