

DOWNTOWN COMMITTEE

October 15, 2025

The October 15, 2025 Downtown Committee meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. in Council Chambers by Tom Karcher, Chairperson. Downtown Committee members present were Tom Karcher, Marc Mays, Scott Moore, Zach Morral, and Kate Niederkohr. Nicole Morris and Graham Treadway were absent.

Others present included: Ethan Korte, Administrative Assistant; Jenny Romich; Rodger Brodman; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The minutes of the September 8, 2025 Downtown Committee meeting, having been mailed to each Downtown Committee member, were approved as received.

Mrs. Jenny Romich, First Citizens National Bank, addressed the Downtown Committee with concerns about parking in the downtown noting that many parking spaces are filled all day by the same vehicle which hinders parking convenience for customers. Mrs. Romich suggested ten (10) or fifteen (15) minute parking spaces be designated in various locations throughout the downtown. Mr. Karcher indicated that the Downtown Committee will be discussing parking in the downtown later in this meeting.

Mr. Rodger Brodman addressed the Downtown Committee indicating that he is curious about any intentions of closing additional alleys in the downtown area. Mr. Karcher and Mrs. Niederkohr both indicated that there have been no discussions of additional alley closures.

Mrs. Niederkohr reported that the flowers to be planted in the downtown area in 2026 will be patriotic colors in recognition of Semiquincentennial Celebration of the United States.

Mr. Mays reported that the Wyandot Classics and Cruisers worked with Harris Electric on the installation of speakers in the downtown area for their annual Autumn Cruise and those speakers were left for future uses.

Mr. Karcher indicated that he discussed the definition of the downtown area with Mr. Ben Buckland, Law Director, and Mr. Buckland suggested the Central Business District (CBD) be considered the downtown area.

A motion was made by Mr. Mays, seconded by Mrs. Niederkohr, to establish the Central Business District (CBD) as the downtown area. Upon Voice Vote, all members voted Yes. The Chairperson declared the motion carried.

Mr. Karcher reported on issues experienced with the October 2, 2025 1st Thursday event including:

- Streets were closed earlier than the time approved by the Downtown Committee and additional space was included in the street closures than what was approved by the Downtown Committee with no additional activities provided in those spaces.
- There is a need for additional trash cans in the downtown during the 1st Thursday events, and the food truck vendors should be providing trash containers as stated in the Ordinance addressing Mobile Food Vendors.
- A pumpkin smashing event was held in the 100 block of North Sandusky Avenue during this 1st Thursday event where pumpkins were smashed on a tarp on the street and the tarp was then rolled up with the pumpkin debris inside and left along the curb. On Wednesday, October 8, 2025 the City's Sanitation Department was asked to clean up the mess and due to the weight of the tarp a loader had to be used to dispose of the mess.

It was noted that these are all issues that will have to be discussed with Mrs. Brittney Walton, Wyandot County Chamber of Commerce Director.

Regulations for commercial use of sidewalks and rights-of-way in the City, as established by Ordinance No. 23-14 and temporarily suspending the effective date of this Ordinance to January 1, 2026 pursuant to Ordinance No. 29-14, were again discussed. Downtown Committee members favor a lowered fee of \$25.00 plus an application if the space is being used for businesses income purposes, and requiring an application but no fee for signage and decorations. Members agreed that the \$25.00 fee paid should be for the calendar year, January 1 through December 31. Mr. Buckland will be provided with this information so he can prepare a draft Ordinance that the Downtown Committee can review at their November 10, 2025 meeting and then possibly to City Council for their review and consideration.

Inspections by the Fire Department of food truck vendors' propane hoses, as discussed at the August 11, 2025 and September 9, 2025 Downtown Committee meetings, was again reviewed. Mr. Karcher indicated that members of the Fire Department have expressed concerns about these inspections with these trucks being mobile and hardware that could be jarred loose or be damaged in transport compared to the inspections they perform at the Wyandot County Fair where food vendors will not be moved for the week of the fair. It was noted that it needs to be figured out who is best suited to perform these inspections such as a licensed plumber. Downtown Committee members agreed they are not in favor of adding more work to the members of the Fire Department.

The possibility of allowing mobile food trucks to set up in the designated locations in front of the Wyandot County Courthouse year round was discussed. Downtown Committee members voiced no objections to allowing this practice and recommended the Mobile Food Vendor Ordinance be amended to reflect this change.

The possibility of changing the licensing dates for mobile food vendors to run from January 1st to December 31st each year instead of one year from the date of issue was again discussed. Downtown Committee members agreed that the Mobile Food Vendor Ordinance should be amended to reflect the January 1st to December 31st licensing period with no existing permits to be prorated.

Mr. Korte presented a draft Special Event Permit for events throughout the City. Downtown Committee members agreed to review the draft permit and provide their feedback.

Mr. Korte indicated that he has been researching resources provided by Main Street America which could be beneficial to the City.

It was noted that positive feedback was received about the Wyandot Classics and Cruisers annual Autumn Cruise that was held on Saturday, September 27, 2025. Mr. Karcher did note that the barricades were removed early and there were still participant cars parked in the downtown area and visitors still walking on the streets.

Downtown Committee members continued the discussion on parking in the downtown area. Mr. Karcher indicated that there is an enforcement issue with parking restrictions in the downtown area. Mr. Korte stated that Chief Lucas has indicated that the "2 Hour Parking" signs in the downtown are invalid due to these roadways also being state routes and these signs need to be removed. Mr. Mays indicated that he understands that marking tires in effort to monitor parking is unconstitutional and a violation of the 4th Amendment. Downtown Committee members requested Mr. Buckland's opinion on parking limitations including signs and regulations.

There being no further business, the Chairperson declared the meeting adjourned.

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

Tom Karcher, Chairperson