

CITY COUNCIL

July 20, 2026

The July 20, 2026 City Council meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers by Julia Lemire, President. A moment of silence was observed followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America. City Council members present were, Kenneth Wessler, Tom Karcher, Aaron Korte, Julia Lemire, Scott Moore, and John Walker. Kate Niederkohr was absent.

Others present included: Kyle McColly, Mayor; Ben Buckland, Law Director; Bob Michener; Deb Michener; Heidi Moore; Dianne Grafmiller; Carole Young; Rae Wessler; Sharon Huffman; Carrie Rinderknecht; Robert Waxlax, Louis Dreyfus Company; Bob Snavely, Palmer Energy; Adam Duddy, Waterworth (via zoom); Brian Hemminger, Daily Chief Union; and Sarah Bennett, Clerk.

The minutes of the July 6, 2026 Budget Hearing, having been mailed to each City Council member, were approved as received.

The minutes of the July 6, 2026 City Council meeting, having been mailed to each City Council member, were approved as received.

The minutes of the July 6, 2026 Safety Committee meeting, having been mailed to each City Council member, were reviewed.

The minutes of the July 6, 2026 Service Committee meeting, having been mailed to each City Council member, were reviewed.

The minutes of the July 6, 2026 Planning Commission meeting, having been mailed to each City Council member, were reviewed.

The minutes of the July 13, 2026 Park Board meeting, having been mailed to each City Council member, were reviewed.

The minutes of the July 13, 2026 Downtown Committee meeting, having been mailed to each City Council member, were reviewed.

The minutes of the July 14, 2026 special Safety Committee meeting, having been mailed to each City Council member, were reviewed.

Visitors to the meeting, including Heidi Moore and Sharon Huffman, presented their concerns to the members of City Council. Mrs. Moore made a public statement regarding the ongoing data center discussion. Mrs. Moore stated that it was clear that Smartland Energy has begun to educate the community as they sent v.p.'s and labor union representatives to the July 6, 2026 City Council meeting to promote the power generation facility and data center. Mrs. Moore also stated that she would argue that the value of Upper Sandusky land is immeasurable and Smartland Energy is desperate to gain control of it; and she encouraged City Council members to get involved and educate themselves because Smartland Energy has clearly begun deceptive and manipulative tactics to gain public favor at the cost of our natural resources, our home values, and our health. In regards to the labor union representatives who attended the July 6, 2026 City Council meeting and spoke in favor of the power generation facility and data center and the jobs that would be created from these project, Ms. Sharon Huffman stated that we don't need them telling us how much we need this. Ms. Huffman also inquired about the timeframe for street resurfacing as part of the sewer project at the north end of the City, and noted that the detour created as a result of this project is congested. Ms. Huffman expressed concern about the reservoir in relation to the Louis Dreyfus Company project and future City projects and indicated that our water is a resource that needs to be protected. Ms. Huffman commended the Street Department for their work in maintaining the street trees, and she noted that a good job is being done grinding the compost at the compost area.

A motion was made by Mr. Wessler, seconded by Mr. Korte, to place Ordinance No. 75-14 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE VACATING COURT STREET IN THE CITY OF UPPER SANDUSKY, COUNTY OF WYANDOT, STATE OF OHIO.", on its second reading by title only. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes; the President declared the motion carried. The Clerk read Ordinance No. 75-14 for the second time by title only.

A motion was made by Mr. Moore, seconded by Mr. Walker, for the adoption of Ordinance No. 75-14. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The President declared the motion carried and Ordinance No. 75-14 was duly adopted.

A motion was made by Mr. Walker, seconded by Mr. Korte, to place Ordinance No. 78-14 entitled, "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A POTABLE WATER SUPPLY AGREEMENT WITH LOUIS DREYFUS COMPANY AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS LLC FOR TREATED WATER SERVICE.", on its second reading by title only. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes; the President declared the motion carried. The Clerk read Ordinance No. 78-14 for the second time by title only.

A motion was made by Mr. Korte, seconded by Mr. Moore, for the adoption of Ordinance No. 78-14. Upon Roll Call, all members voted Yes. The President declared the motion carried and Ordinance No. 78-14 was duly adopted.

Mr. Robert Waxlax, head of Business Development with the Louis Dreyfus Company (LDC), addressed City Council regarding a proposed infrastructure improvement agreement. Mrs. Lemire voiced several concerns including the contractor for the project being up to Ohio Revised Code and City standards, warranties, testing, new equipment functioning and working properly, and access to the Water Treatment facility. Mr. Moore voiced his concerns regarding possible willful fraud/damage by the contractor and having the blue prints reviewed by the City and LDC before construction begins. Mr. Waxlax addressed these concerns. It was agreed that discussions regarding this matter will continue.

Mr. Bob Snavelly, Palmer Energy, addressed City Council regarding electric aggregation regionally beginning in the fall of 2026, by grouping five to six counties together, to obtain more favorable pricing. Mr. Snavelly indicated that he is working to revamp the electric aggregation program and he will get this information to Mr. Ben Buckland, Law Director. Mr. Snavelly noted that Palmer Energy will be working on a similar plan for gas aggregation.

Mr. Adam Duddy, Waterworth, joined the meeting via zoom noting that Waterworth works with over four hundred fifty (450) municipalities and provides a financial forecasting tool in relation to utilities provided by municipalities. Mr. Duddy reviewed two models for wastewater based on revenue, operating expenses, budget, current debt, proposed future debt, and capital improvements. It was noted that the Shannon Hollow Lift Station Improvements Project is expected to be addressed in 2028. Mr. Duddy stated that since the City's wastewater income from the Louis Dreyfus Company is unknown at this time that information is not included in the models. The models presented suggested a 12% increase in wastewater charges for residential and commercial customers in both 2027 and 2028, a 6% increase in 2029, and 3% annual increases beginning in 2030. It was noted that this information was presented to the Service Committee earlier this evening and those members agreed to further review the information provided and discuss this matter again at a future Service Committee meeting. Mr. Duddy will keep in contact and provide additional models as requested.

It was noted that City Council members received the City Auditor's Finance Report as of June 2026.

Mayor McColly reported on the following:

- Representatives from the Louis Dreyfus Company have requested tours of the City's Water and Wastewater Treatment facilities. These tours are tentatively scheduled to take place on Tuesday, July 28, 2026.
- A zoom meeting will be held with Ms. Cindy Brooks to discuss the Crawford waterline findings on Thursday, July 23, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.
- A preconstruction meeting will be held for the 2026 Street Maintenance Program on Wednesday, July 29, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.

- A meeting will be held with representatives from Sunbury, Ohio at 10:00 a.m. tomorrow, Tuesday, July 21, 2026, to gather information about their data center moratorium and townhall meetings being held. Ms. Huffman inquired as to who these people are that the City will be meeting with. Mayor McColly stated that these representatives have no affiliation with the power generation facility and data center request that was received by the City and later withdrawn.

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

Sarah J. Bennett, Clerk

Julia Lemire, President