

Council met in **REGULAR SESSION** on Monday, July 14, 2025 at 7:15 P.M. at the Active Adult Center due to a power outage with President Greer presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and the invocation was given by Vice President Shorter Griffin standing in for President Greer.

The Clerk called the roll: Members present: Mr. Heitic, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Hager, Mr. Easterling, Mrs. Beck, Mr. Griffin, Ms. Gearhart, and Mr. Harris. Absent: President Justin Greer

It was moved by Mr. Heitic and seconded by Mrs. Thompson to approve the Minutes of the Regular Legislative Meeting held on Monday, June 23, 2025 as presented. No remarks made. All Members present voted “Aye”. President Greer was absent. Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Heitic and seconded by Mrs. Thompson to approve the Minutes of the Executive Session held on Monday, July 7, 2025 as presented. No remarks made. All Members present voted “Aye”. President Greer was absent. Motion carried.

PETITIONS AND CLAIMS

There were none.

MATTERS REFERRED

Each Council Member, the Mayor, the Safety and Service Directors were given a report prepared by the Council Clerk listing all matters before all committees with their packets.

CITIZENS ADDRESSING COUNCIL

There were none.

The following Minutes are not transcribed verbatim. This meeting has been digitally recorded in its entirety and is available in the Clerk of Council’s office.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 85-2025

PRESENTED BY MRS. THOMPSON PLANNING DEPARTMENT
ROETZEL CONSULTING SOLUTIONS AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE TO PAY FOUR PAST DUE INVOICES TO ROETZEL CONSULTING
SERVICES, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$11,441.00, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

It was moved by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Heitic, that the rule as required by Section 5.10 of the Barberton City Charter be suspended. All Members present voted “Aye.” President Greer was absent. Motion carried. It was moved by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Heitic, that **ORDINANCE NO. 85-2025 BE ADOPTED.** All Members present voted “Aye.” President Greer was absent. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 86-2025

PRESENTED BY MR. HEITIC TITLE: AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 18-2022
BARBERTON CODIFIED ORDINANCE CHAPTER 1462 – IPMC INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY
MAINTENANCE CODE AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 18-2022 TO
AMEND THE BARBERTON CODIFIED ORDINANCES, CHAPTER 1462 “IPMC
INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE” TO REFLECT A CHANGE IN
WORDING IN 1462.06(I), AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

It was moved by Mr. Heitic, seconded by Mrs. Thompson, that the rule as required by Section 5.10 of the Barberton City Charter be suspended. All Members present voted “Aye.” President Greer was absent. Motion carried. It was moved by Mr. Heitic, seconded by Mrs. Thompson, that **ORDINANCE NO. 86-2025 BE ADOPTED.** All Members present voted “Aye.” President Greer was absent. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 87-2025

PRESENTED BY MS. GEARHART TITLE: APPROVE BALLOT INITIATIVE
SUNDAY ALCOHOL SALES AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A NOVEMBER 2025
BALLOT INITIATIVE TO PERMIT SUNDAY ALCOHOL SALES IN THE DOWNTOWN
COMMUNITY ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT PER SECTION 4301.01 OF THE OHIO REVISED
CODE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

It was moved by Ms. Gearhart, seconded by Mrs. Beck, that the rule as required by Section 5.10 of the Barberton City Charter be suspended. All Members present voted “Aye.” President Greer was absent. Motion carried. It was moved by Ms. Gearhart, seconded by Mrs. Beck, that **ORDINANCE NO. 87-2025 BE ADOPTED**. All Members present voted “Aye.” President Greer was absent. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 88 - 2025

PRESENTED BY MR. HARRIS & MRS. THOMPSON TITLE: APPROPRIATION
POLICE DEPARTMENT AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$70,810.84 FROM THE
UNAPPROPRIATED ITEM OF THE CITY GRANT FUND TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT’S
BUDGET OF THE CITY GRANT FUND, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

It was moved by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mrs. Thompson that the rule as required by Section 5.10 of the Barberton City Charter be suspended. All Members present voted “Aye.” President Greer was absent. Motion carried. It was moved by Mr. Harris, seconded by Mrs. Thompson, that **ORDINANCE NO. 88-2025 BE ADOPTED**. All Members present voted “Aye.” President Greer was absent. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 89-2025

PRESENTED BY MRS. THOMPSON TITLE: AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 73-2024
EMPLOYEES NOT INCLUDED IN NON-BARGAINING PAY GRADES AN
ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 73-2024, “EMPLOYEES NOT INCLUDED IN NON-
BARGAINING PAY GRADES,” IN ORDER TO INCREASE THE PAY SCALE FOR IMMEDIATE
HIRING PURPOSES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

It was moved by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Heitic, that the rule as required by Section 5.10 of the Barberton City Charter be suspended. All Members present voted “Aye.” President Greer was absent. Motion carried. It was moved by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Heitic, that **ORDINANCE NO. 89-2025 BE ADOPTED**. All Members present voted “Aye.” President Greer was absent. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 90-2025

PRESENTED BY MR. HEITIC TITLE: AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 118-2024
(CHAPTER 1478 OF THE BARBERTON CODIFIED ORDINANCES) ADOPT REVISED RENTAL
PROPERTY REGISTRATION PROGRAM AN ORDINANCE AMENDING
ORDINANCE NO. 118-2024, “(CHAPTER 1478 OF THE BARBERTON CODIFIED ORDINANCES)
ADOPT REVISED RENTAL PROPERTY REGISTRATION PROGRAM” TO REFLECT A
CHANGE IN WORDING, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

It was moved by Mr. Heitic, seconded by Mrs. Thompson, that the rule as required by Section 5.10 of the Barberton City Charter be suspended. All Members present voted “Aye.” President Greer was absent. Motion carried. It was moved by Mr. Heitic, seconded by Mrs. Thompson, that **ORDINANCE NO. 90-2025 BE ADOPTED**. All Members present voted “Aye.” President Greer was absent. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 91– 2025

PRESENTED BY MRS. THOMPSON TITLE: AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 120-2006
BLANKET CERTIFICATES FOR PURCHASE ORDERS AN ORDINANCE AMENDING
ORDINANCE NO. 120-2006, “BLANKET CERTIFICATES FOR PURCHASE ORDERS” BY
CHANGING THE MAXIMUM DOLLAR AMOUNT TO \$1,500,000.00, AND DECLARING AN
EMERGENCY.

It was moved by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Heitic, that the rule as required by Section 5.10 of the Barberton City Charter be suspended. All Members present voted “Aye.” President Greer was absent. Motion carried. It was moved by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Heitic, that **ORDINANCE NO. 91-2025 BE ADOPTED.** All Members present voted “Aye.” President Greer was absent. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 92-2025

PRESENTED BY MRS. BECK & MRS. THOMPSON TITLE: APPROPRIATION
STREETS DEPARTMENT AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$20,000.00 FROM
THE UNAPPROPRIATED ITEM OF THE STREET OPERATING FUND TO THE OPERATIONS
AND MAINTENANCE BUDGET OF THE STREET OPERATING FUND, AND DECLARING AN
EMERGENCY.

It was moved by Mrs. Beck and Seconded by Mrs. Thompson, that the rule as required by Section 5.10 of the Barberton City Charter be suspended. All Members present voted “Aye.” President Greer was absent. Motion carried. It was moved by Mrs. Beck and Seconded by Mrs. Thompson, that **ORDINANCE NO. 92-2025 BE ADOPTED.** All Members present voted “Aye.” President Greer was absent. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 93-2025

PRESENTED BY MR. HEITIC TITLE: RESCIND ORDINANCE NO. 80-2025
DISTRICT DESIGNATION DOWNTOWN BARBERTON COMMUNITY ENTERTAINMENT
DISTRICT AN ORDINANCE RESCINDING ORDINANCE NO. 80-2025 “DISTRICT
DESIGNATION DOWNTOWN BARBERTON COMMUNITY ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT”,
AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

It was moved by Mr. Heitic, seconded by Mrs. Thompson, that the rule as required by Section 5.10 of the Barberton City Charter be suspended. All Members present voted “Aye.” President Greer was absent. Motion carried. It was moved by Mr. Heitic, seconded by Mrs. Thompson, that **ORDINANCE NO. 93-2025 BE ADOPTED.** All Members present voted “Aye.” President Greer was absent. Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 94-2025

PRESENTED BY MR. HEITIC TITLE: DISTRICT CREATION DOWNTOWN
BARBERTON COMMUNITY ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT AN ORDINANCE
DESIGNATING 100.5 ACRES IN AND AROUND DOWNTOWN BARBERTON, OHIO AS THE
“DOWNTOWN BARBERTON COMMUNITY ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICT” PURSUANT TO
SECTION 4301.80 OF THE OHIO REVISED CODE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

This will go for two (2) Readings. This was the First Reading. The Second Reading will be on July 28, 2025.

This ended the First Readings.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

There were none.

THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

There were none.

APPOINTMENTS

There were none.

MISCELLANEOUS AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

LIQUOR LICENSE: Transfer of C1 & C2

FROM: Macs Convenience Stores LLC
344 5th Street NE
Barberton, Ohio 44203

TO: MM CS Services LLC
MAPCO #985 – T
344 5th Street NE
Barberton, Ohio 44203

This license was sent to the Chief of Police, the Safety Director and all members of City Council. Having received no objections, the Clerk read this license into the record. No objections were raised when asked by Acting President Griffin. All Members present voted “Aye.” President Greer was absent. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE BODY

A motion was made by Mr. Heitic and seconded by Mrs. Thompson to excuse Council President Justin Greer from tonight’s Regular Legislative Meeting. Vice-President Griffin requested that all members voting to excuse President Greer signify by saying “Aye”. All Members present voted “Aye.” No Objections were made. Motion carried. President Greer is excused.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor began his remarks by commenting that the previously mentioned Circle K on 5th Street NE is one of the stations acquired by MAPCO and that this is what brought on the Liquor License transfer.

Change for Change will be on July 25th at the Hungarian Club to benefit Lexi, a Barberton High School student who is currently battling cancer.

A new business has opened in town, Styles and Finds at 125 Second Street downtown. We wish them a lot of luck and congratulate them on their opening.

This Saturday will be the Purple Paw Party and the Jeep Davis 5k. The Mayor also stated that this Saturday he will be meeting with seniors at the Active Adult Center about the move to the 480 West Tuscarawas building and what all that entails. The Mayor stated that he has heard some mis-communications regarding this and wants to clarify and answer all the questions our senior community might have.

Today, on Oak Avenue, another vacant house was torn down. This is another example of how one blighted structure can ruin a neighborhood.

The Mayor stated he wanted to address a comment made on Facebook regarding Issue 8 which is the funding for our streets. Since the legislation for this was passed prior to the current Council, Mayor felt that clarification was necessary. Issue 8 monies can not be used to fill pot-holes or things of this nature. It is specifically to be used for resurfacing and reconstruction of our roads. At the time this legislation was passed by the voters the city was doing “Strip Paving”. The city, at this time, began assessing the condition of all roads. Paving the entire road, at this time, was assessed to the homeowner by way of the street frontage and monies assessed to the owner’s property taxes. The city would pay up front to have the road paved and the funds were paid back through the tax dollars collected. Through public meetings regarding this, it was explained to the citizens that the monies collected would go for this purpose only. No pay raises. No other issues. To resurface and reconstruct our roads. The city went to the voters and Issue 8 passed. This is why there are signs at the sites of the roads being repaved. To inform the citizens that it is the Issue 8 tax dollars being used. New signs are not being purchased. The signs are being reused from year to year. We go the paving companies and ask for a list of all streets and their schedule so that we can inform the residents and post signs so that no one is surprised. Each paving company does the job in their own way. The steps are sometimes completed in a different order from company to company. The Mayor explained the issues between the paving company scheduling the paving and the information that is sent to the Mayor’s office. The Mayor’s office hand delivers letters to

each household in the area of the paving to set up a meeting with all residents so that the information being disseminated is accurate and if the residents have questions they can ask. This year, the 2025 had a few communication glitches which have been identified and going forward the Mayor stated they will do their best to assure that all residents who live on streets scheduled to be resurfaced or reconstructed will be informed of each step along the way. Communication is key. However, things change due to the suppliers, the weather, and emergencies that are not in our control. If anyone has questions, citizens, council members, whoever, the Mayor encouraged anyone with questions to reach out to his office for straight answers.

If anyone sees city employees out and about doing nothing, please call the Mayor’s office. We have employees working all over town who are very busy. The job lists continue to grow. The Mayor stated he has met with Union leadership as well as department heads. We will never have enough employees or resources to meet the demand but we are trying. So, with that said if anyone sees City employees sitting around and not doing their job, please inform the Mayor or his office immediately so the situation can be addressed. The Mayor further stated that he is very proud of the city employees and how hard they work with limited funding and employees. They do a fantastic job. The Mayor opened the floor for questions.

Councilwoman Gearhart commented that she attended the neighborhood meeting on Oak Avenue regarding the house being town down and stated that it was very informative. She thanked the Mayor for explaining the process and what steps were occurring. She stated that the residents had commented they appreciated the Mayor meeting with them to explain. Ms. Gearhart also commented on several other properties in the Fifth (5th) ward. She also asked about the Cox-Powell Building progress. The Mayor stated that there was no movement as yet to report.

Mr. Easterling inquired about the possibility of putting an “Information” tab on the webpage for citizens to use for updates on current projects throughout town. The Mayor stated he would see if this was possible as he is aware people would rather go to social media first and that isn’t always a true and accurate account of what is happening.

Councilwoman Hager wanted to say that there was a watermain break on State Street very close to her house. She reported it to the City. She wanted to commend the workers on the great job they did not only fixing the break during extremely hot weather conditions but repairing the road afterwards.

Councilwoman-At-Large Thompson asked in regards to the Issue 8 signs, if it was possible to wait until the project is complete to put the signs up. She felt that seeing the sign on a road that is still riddled with pot-holes or in the process of being stripped appeared to be confusing. She referenced a Facebook post that she had seen of a sign posted at a road in progress and a joke was made regarding the irony. The Mayor stated that he sees her point but it would be less efficient to chase the contractors around the city to put up signs in the middle of the progress. He acknowledged that it is frustrating as each contractor does the steps of repaving in different order. We do get updates from the contractors. The signs are important and comments on them from the residents are positive.

Mrs. Beck asked if the schedule of the roads which was given to the Streets Committee is still going forward as stated. The Mayor stated that the weather is so undependable and unpredictable and that the work is weather dependent. The schedule is everchanging.

The Clerk gave a report on an elderly citizen who had called in to the Council office regarding a pot-hole on her street. The Clerk stated she entered the work ticket for her. The citizen called back to commend the workers who repaired her street. She was very happy with the work completed and the friendliness of the employees.

With nothing further, it was moved by Mr. Heitic and seconded by Mrs. Thompson to adjourn. All Members present voted “Aye”.

Meeting Adjourned 7:59 P. M.

Shorter Griffin, Vice President
Acting President of Council

Laura J. Ries-Price
Clerk of Council