

Council met in **REGULAR SESSION** on Monday, September 22, 2025 at 6:57 P.M. in the Council Chambers with President Greer presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and the invocation was given by President Greer.

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

It was moved by Mr. Heitic and seconded by Mrs. Thompson to approve the Minutes of the Regular Legislative Meeting held on Monday, September 8, 2025 as presented. No remarks made. All Members present voted “Aye”. Motion carried.

It was moved by Mr. Heitic and seconded by Mr. Griffin to approve the Minutes of the Special Legislative Meeting held on Tuesday, September 15, 2025 as presented. No remarks made. All Members present voted “Aye”. 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

Mr. Thompson spoke regarding the passage of 143-2025.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 141–2025

PRESENTED BY MR. HEITIC TITLE; ADOPTING CHAPTER 1479 OF THE BARBERTON CODIFIED ORDINANCES “LICENSING PROCEDURES AND REGULATIONS FOR SHORT-TERM RENTAL UNITS” AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING CHAPTER 1479 OF THE BARBERTON CODIFIED ORDINANCES TITLED “LICENSING PROCEDURES AND REGULATIONS FOR SHORT- TERM RENTAL UNITS”, 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.” Motion carried. It was moved by Mr. Heitic, seconded by Mrs. Thompson, that **ORDINANCE NO. 141-2025 BE ADOPTED.** All Members present voted “Aye.” Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 142-2025

PRESENTED BY MRS. THOMPSON TITLE: GRANT REQUEST AMERICA 250 AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT REQUEST BY THE MAYOR OF THE CITY OF BARBERTON TO THE BARBERTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, IN THE AMOUNT OF UP TO \$25,000 FOR THE AMERICA 250-OHIO GRANTS PROGRAM AND BARBERTON 135 CELEBRATION IN 2026. 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.” Motion carried. It was moved by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Heitic, that **ORDINANCE NO. 142-2025 BE ADOPTED.** All Members present voted “Aye.” Motion carried.

RESOLUTION NO. 143-2025

PRESENTED BY MR. HEITIC TITLE: AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 124-2021
VARIOUS TYPES OF BUSINESSES MORATORIUM A RESOLUTION AMENDING
ORDINANCE NO. 124-2021 “VARIOUS TYPES OF BUSINESS MORATORIUM” TO ALLOW
THE PERMISSABILITY OF DOLLAR STORE INFILLS WHILE MAINTAINING A
MORATORIUM STAY IN PLACE REGARDING NEW CONSTRUCTION AND PERMITTING,
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.” Motion carried. It was moved by Mr. Heitic, seconded by Mrs. Thompson, that **RESOLUTION NO. 143-2025 BE ADOPTED.** All Members present voted “Aye.” Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 144-2025

PRESENTED BY MRS. THOMPSON TITLE: APPROPRIATION FIRE DEPARTMENT
AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$7,687.50 FROM THE CITY GRANT FUND TO THE
FIRE DEPARTMENT’S CAPITAL BUDGET, 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.” Motion carried. It was moved by Mrs. Thompson, seconded by Mr. Heitic, that **ORDINANCE NO. 144-2025 BE ADOPTED.** All Members present voted “Aye.” Motion carried.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

THERE ARE NONE

THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 95-2025

PRESENTED BY MR. HARRIS TITLE: AMEND BCO CHAPTER 670: TREES, WEEDS,
AND GRASS AN ORDINANCE AMENDING BARBERTON CODIFIED ORDINANCES,
CHAPTER 670 “TREES, WEEDS, AND GRASS” TO INCLUDE THREE NEW SECTIONS 670.06
“NUISANCES – TREES, SHRUBS, BUSHES, GRASSES, AND WEEDS”, 670.07 “ABATEMENT
OF DECLARED NUISANCES—TREES, SHRUBS, BUSHES, GRASSES, & WEEDS” AND 670.08
“ASSESSMENT OF COSTS BY MUNICIPALITY OF DECLARED NUISANCES”, AND
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

THIS IS THE THIRD READING. THE FIRST READING WAS ON MONDAY, JULY 28, 2025
AND THE SECOND READING WAS MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2025.

A motion was made by Mr. Harris and seconded by Mr. Easterling to withdraw this Ordinance from consideration/vote at this time. Per President Greer the roll was called. All members voting “Aye”. Motion carried. Ordinance 95-2025 has been withdrawn.

APPOINTMENTS

There were none.

MISCELLANEOUS AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

President Greer requested a motion to excuse Mrs. Thompson and Mrs. Hager for their absence at the September 15, 2025 Special Legislative Meeting. The motion was made by Mr. Heitic and seconded by Mr. Harris. All members present voting “Aye”. Motion carried.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE BODY

Mrs. Thompson remarked that she believes that 141-2025 is a good thing but worries about how the Building Department will handle the extra load.

President Greer reminded everyone that next Monday is the fifth Monday and that there will be no meeting. The next meeting will be a Committee of the Whole Meeting on Monday, October 6, 2025.

It was also remarked that the power is currently out on the Eastside of Barberton. The Mayor stated he was aware and that First Energy stated the tentative time to restore power is 9:30 PM.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor began his comments stating that he has received reports from First Energy regarding the power outage affecting the east side of town and the expected restore time will be 9:30 P.M.

The Mayor reminded everyone that this is going to be a busy weekend. Friday kicks it off with the Annual Walk of Fame celebration and Tuscany on Tusc and the on Saturday and Sunday is our annual Mumfest Celebration.

The Mayor reminded everyone that there are numerous construction zones all around town and he wanted to remind everyone that traffic flow in those zones can change daily. When the city is notified that there is a change in traffic and that the change will be in effect for a period of time, the city makes every attempt to notify the public of the changes. If there is a lane change for only a couple of hours or a short period of time, many times the city is not notified as the change is not permanent nor will it go on for a couple of days. Everyone needs to be aware that if they are in an active work zone that changes can and do happen and to be aware of the changes and hazards as they are marked.

Regarding the speeding discussion from previous weeks, the Mayor noted that speeding is an issue in many communities. We have had discussions with other communities on how to best handle this problem and we are looking at problem areas and talking with state boards in regards to possible solutions. Speed bumps and other traffic control devices are being discussed and statistics are being gathered. As of the end of the month of August, Barberton has made over 7000 traffic stops. In comparison, at the same time last year we had made 5000 stops. We have also had an increase in traffic crashes as well.

The Mayor noted that a reference was made on social media regarding the empty lots around the city and those owned by the city. The statistics were listed as the City owns over 450 parcels. One lot can be composed of numerous parcels so those figures are not a good representation of the land owned by the city. The Mayor gave the example of the Block 7 parking lot which is comprised of over 20 parcels.

Regarding the fire on West Tuscarawas Avenue, the report from the State Fire Marshall is not yet complete and the Mayor stated he wanted to have all the information before presenting it to City Council. The Mayor stated he has reached out to the developers who are currently working on the adjacent buildings and they are still interested in proceeding forward.

Lastly, the Mayor wanted everyone to know that the Health District meeting will be in the Mayor's Conference Room and not the Council Chambers this Wednesday.

Mr. Heitic asked that of all the properties owned by the City as in a flood zone, when houses are purchased by the city and torn down, these properties will not be resold or built on as they are part of the flood water mitigation. The Mayor confirmed this as true. Also, as property taxes rise, citizens are hesitant to take on a side lot or to purchase one as it would increase their already high property taxes so therefore the city can not force neighbors to purchase vacant side lots. Again, the Mayor confirmed this to be true.

Ms. Gearhart asked if there will be a Leaf Pickup Schedule published soon. Service Director Todd Shreve stated that pickup typically begins at the end of October as the trucks are equipped and being used for other service-related jobs at this time to take advantage of the good weather. The Mayor stated that he is aware that with over 50 days of no rain the leaves have started to fall early and that the schedule will be presented soon. Ms. Gearhart also asked that since the Mayor had talked with the owner/developer of the Cox Powell building on West Tuscarawas, if he was still interested. The Mayor stated that since the State Fire Marshall's report has not yet been released, as far as he knows now that

the owners of those buildings are still interested in moving forward as planned. There are many variables to their plans as well as the interest rates on loans and capital improvements. One slight change can make a world of changes one way or another. Ms. Gearhart closed her comments by stating that the portion of Wooster Road West that had the direction changed for two days with no prior notice to residents has not been a part of the re-construction for that road and suddenly the traffic pattern had changed and police officers had been positioned to direct traffic yet effected residents were not notified. This was taken under advisement as to how the situation can be improved on in the future.

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

Meeting Adjourned 7:26 P. M.

Justin Greer
President of Council

Laura J. Ries-Price
Clerk of Council