

Council met in **REGULAR SESSION** on Monday, February 9, 2026 at 8:08 P.M. in the Council Chambers with President Griffin presiding. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was led by President Shorter Griffin. The Invocation was given by Councilperson Ward One Jen Hager.

The Clerk called the roll: Members present: President Griffin, Mr. Stoll, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Hager, Mr. Poorman, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Beck, Mr. Griffin, Ms. Gearhart, and Mr. Harris.

It was moved by Mr. Stoll and seconded by Mrs. Miller to approve the Minutes of the Regular Legislative Meeting held on Monday, February 2, 2026 as presented. 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

There were none.

CONCENT AGENDA ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 19-2026

PRESENTED BY MR. POORMAN TITLE: GRANT APPLICATION CITY-WIDE MASTER PLAN AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE SUBMISSION OF A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE BARBERTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$75,000.00, FOR ASSISTANCE IN THE PAYMENT OF THE CITY-WIDE MASTER PLAN, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

ORDINANCE NO. 20-2026

PRESENTED BY MR. POORMAN TITLE: AUTHORIZE PAYMENT SUMMIT COUNTY FISCAL OFFICE AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE TO AUTHORIZE PAYMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$24,260.00 TO SUMMNIT COUNTY FISCAL OFFICE FOR THE FIRST HALF OF 2026 RADIO ACCESS FEES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

It was moved by Ms. Gearhart, seconded by Mr. Stoll, 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 Ms. Gearhart, seconded by Mr. Stoll, that the Ordinances and/or Resolutions on the Consent Agenda **BE ADOPTED**. All Members present voted "Aye." Motion carried.

This ends the Consent Agenda.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 17-2026

PRESENTED BY MRS. BECK TITLE: THE STRAIT & LAMP LUMBER COMPANY, INCORPORATED BARBERTON WORKS GRANT AGREEMENT AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A BARBERTON WORKS BUSINESS INCENTIVE GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE STRAIT & LAMP LUMBER COMPANY, INCORPORATED, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

It was moved by Mrs. Beck, seconded by Mrs. Miller, 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. Beck, seconded by Mrs. Miller, that **ORDINANCE NO. 17-2026 BE ADOPTED**. With no remarks President Griffin called for a vote. Councilmembers Mr. Stoll, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Hager, Mr. Poorman, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Beck, and Ms. Gearhart voting "Aye". Mr. Harris voting "Nay". Motion Carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 18 - 2026

PRESENTED BY MRS. BECK TITLE: COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA EXEMPTION FOR 250 SOUTH VAN BUREN AVENUE AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR 250 SOUTH VAN BUREN AVENUE, AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA TAX ABATEMENT AGREEMENT WITH THE STRAIT & LAMP LUMBER COMPANY, INCORPORATED CONCERNING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THAT PROPERTY, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

It was moved by Mrs. Beck, seconded by Mrs. Miller, 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. Beck, seconded by Mrs. Miller, that **ORDINANCE NO. 18-2026 BE ADOPTED.** With no remarks President Griffin called for a vote. Councilmembers Mr. Stoll, Mrs. Miller, Mrs. Hager, Mr. Poorman, Mr. Moore, Mrs. Beck, and Ms. Gearhart voting "Aye". Mr. Harris voting "Nay". Motion Carried.

This ended the First Readings.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 8 - 2026

PRESENTED BY MRS. BECK & MS. GEARHART TITLE: ADOPTION OF NEW DEVELOPMENT CODE AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE NEW CITY OF BARBERTON DEVELOPMENT CODE, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

This was the Second Reading. The First Reading was on Monday, February 2, 2026 and the Third and Final Reading will be on Monday, February 23, 2026

This ends the Second Readings.

THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

There were none.

APPOINTMENTS

TO THE BARBERTON PLANNING COMMISSION:

Maci Devenport For an unexpired term beginning immediately / ending 12-31-2027

With no objections and all members voting "Aye". Ms. Devenport has been appointed.

MISCELLANEOUS AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

618 Wooster Road W C-1 & C-2

Transfer: To: 618 Wooster, LLC
618 Wooster Road
618 Wooster Road West, Barberton, Ohio 44203

From: Magic 1988 Inc.
618 Wooster Road West, Barberton, Ohio 44203

The Clerk read the Liquor License to Council. President Griffin asked and with no objections from any member of City Council and no objections from Police Chief Morber and Safety Director, Motion Carried and the License was returned certified mail with no hearing requested.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE BODY

No Comments

COMMUNICATION FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor began his comments with a Thank-you to the Akron Cleveland Board of Realtors who presented the City of Barberton with a five-thousand-dollar (\$5000.00) place making project grant to be used for improvements to the City's Block 7 Purple Lot. That block has a lot of history and the improvements will make it more functional for downtown activities.

With the snow and ice and wildly changing weather conditions we are bracing and looking at the results of the warm temperatures melting the snow and ice and the possible flooding that will cause. It is not so much the snow and ice melting in town but the tributaries that go through town that carry the melting waters from north of us that cause issues for us. We are monitoring the situation.

Moving forward with the Justice Center Project, monthly updates to Council will begin at the meeting on March 2, 2026.

The Mayor wanted to congratulate the business Clem's Bites on their grand opening last week. This is located at 477 West Tuscarawas Avenue. It is a great building and they did a great job on it for this new business.

A lot of questions on property taxes have come through lately. There is a group of people planning to circulate petitions to remove property taxes altogether. There have been discussions for the last few years in the State Legislature about how or whether to put a cap on or eliminate property taxes and what effects that would have on local governments and agencies who are dependent on those tax dollars for their budgets. As the discussions go on there have been suggestions to raise school and local taxes, the raising of state income and sales taxes. The reality is that taxes make government work. There are states with no property taxes or no income taxes but they have higher sales tax and other local taxes and fees. This is an on-going discussion with communities, our State Representatives, Municipal leagues across the state. This is a serious and dangerous path we are going down. If this happens, what will happen to the city's ability to provide services? On the County level, how will local agencies help those in need? This will affect something as non-political as the Zoo as well as Children's Services. As this discussion continues, we will present updates.

Ms. Gearhart asked if there was or will be an update on the Cox-Powell Building. The Mayor responded that he is unsure but knows that a presentation/meeting is being prepared.

Mr. Moore asked if there was an update on the dumpster which is overflowing at the closed Subway restaurant. The Mayor stated he was unaware of an update. Mr. Shreve, Service Director stated that there have been several attempts made but that a vehicle is blocking access to the dumpster. Mr. Moore stated that on his way to the meeting it was still not emptied and that a vehicle was still blocking access. Mr. Shreve will check with Kimble in the morning and update Council on the results.

With nothing further, it was moved by Mr. Stoll and seconded by Mrs. Miller to adjourn. All Members present voted "Aye". Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned 8:26 P. M.

Shorter Griffin
President of Council

Laura J. Ries-Price
Clerk of Council