



BRUNSWICK CITY COUNCIL AGENDA

Nate Witsaman Ward 3	Kristy Piper At-Large	Tim Smith At-Large	Dennis Nevar Law Director	Carl S. DeForest City Manager	Ron Falconi Mayor	Laura Timura Clerk of Council	Nicholas Hanek Ward 2	Michael Abella Jr. Ward 1	Joseph Delsanter At-Large	Keith Kuczma Ward 4
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JUNE 8, 2026

1. Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance
2. Roll Call of Members
3. Correspondence
4. Approval of Regular Council Meeting Minutes
 - (a) Regular Council Meeting Minutes dated May 18, 2026
5. Mayor's Report:
 - (a) Mayor's Court Financial Report for the month ending May 2026 will be posted on the website and added to the minutes for the record.
 - (b) Proclamation declaring March 6 Random Acts of Kindness Day
 - (c) Mayor's recommendation to reappoint Jeffrey Arona, John Rocha, and Joseph Shirilla to the Planning Commission
 - (d) Mayor's Update
6. Clerk of Council's Report
7. Council Committee Reports:
 - Economic Development Committee.....Mr. Witsaman
 - Services, Utilities, Technology & Cable Committee.....Mr. Smith
 - Finance Committee.....Mr. Hanek
 - Safety & Environment Committee.....Mr. Kuczma
 - Safety & Environment Committee Minutes dated May 18, 2026
 - Planning & Zoning Committee.....Mr. Delsanter
 - Parks, Recreation & Community Committee.....Mrs. Piper
 - Building & Building Code Committee.....Mr. Abella
8. Other Committees, Boards and Commissions
 - (a) Committee-of-the-Whole Minutes dated May 18, 2026

- 9. Petitions from the Public on Legislation
- 10. Reading of Legislation and Action on Legislation:
 - a. 3rd Reading(s)
 - b. 2nd Reading(s)
 - c. 1st Reading(s)

RES. NO. 33-2026 - A resolution declaring March 6, 2027 as Random Acts of Kindness Day in the City of Brunswick. - **1st Reading** (To be brought from Parks, Recreation, and Community Committee, *Council/Nicholas Hanek*)

- 11. City Manager's Report
- 12. Open Forum
- 13. Unfinished Business
- 14. New Business
- 15. Adjournment

CITY OF BRUNSWICK, OHIO

MINUTES OF COUNCIL

Monday, May 18, 2026

Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance The regular meeting of Brunswick City Council was called to order by Mayor Ron Falconi at 7:00 p.m. at the Municipal Complex.

Roll Call of Members Nicholas Hanek, Nate Witsaman, Michael Abella Jr., Keith Kuczma, Kristy Piper.

Others Present: City Manager/Safety Director Carl DeForest, Law Director Dennis Nevar, Clerk of Council Laura Timura.

Michael Abella moved to excuse Mayor Falconi, Joseph Delsanter, and Tim Smith for just cause, seconded by Kristy Piper. Roll Call - Ayes - 5, Nicholas Hanek, Michael Abella Jr., Keith Kuczma, Kristy Piper, Nate Witsaman. Nays - 0. Motion Carried.

Correspondence There was none.

Approval of Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Regular Council Meeting Minutes dated May 11, 2026:

Michael Abella moved to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes date May 11, 2026, as written, seconded by Keith Kuczma. Roll Call - Ayes - 5, Nicholas Hanek, Michael Abella Jr., Keith Kuczma, Kristy Piper, Nate Witsaman. Nays - 0. Motion Carried.

Mayor’s Report:

Proclamations in recognition of Juried Exhibition of Student Art (JESA) Regional Winners Faith Bartoul, Lindsey Beljin, and Hailey Potts:

Vice Mayor Hanek revealed that he was excited to recognize the first-grade students from Huntington Elementary along with Councilwoman Piper. Art teacher, Erin Kraly announced that the students completed a mixed media project, which they proudly displayed. Over 8,000 artworks were submitted by students in the State of Ohio and their artwork was one of 150 regional winners and 120 regional finalists.

Mayor's Update:

Vice Mayor Hanek announced that William Furman would be starting an initiative in the community called Random Acts of Kindness Day which would occur on March 6, 2027. Everyone was encouraged to do acts of kindness both big and small. He added that he felt this was a great idea and that both Council and the Mayor would follow up with both a proclamation and resolution to show their support.

Clerk of Council’s Report Mrs. Timura wished everyone a happy Memorial Day and mentioned that the next Council Meeting would be on June 8.

Council Committee Reports:

Economic Development Committee..... Mr. Witsaman:

Mr. Witsaman had no formal reports this evening.

Services, Utilities, Technology & Cable Committee.....Mr. Smith:

Services, Utilities, Technology & Cable Committee Minutes dated May 11, 2026:

Michael Abella moved to approve the Services, Utilities, Technology & Cable Committee Minutes dated

May 11, 2026, as written, seconded by Kristy Piper. Roll Call - Ayes - 5, Nicholas Hanek, Michael Abella Jr., Keith Kuczma, Kristy Piper, Nate Witsaman. Nays - 0. Motion Carried.

Finance Committee.....Mr. Hanek:

Mr. Hanek had no formal reports this evening.

Safety & Environment Committee.....Mr. Kuczma:

Mr. Kuczma had no formal reports this evening.

Planning & Zoning Committee.....Mr. Delsanter:

Planning & Zoning Committee Minutes dated May 11, 2026:

Keith Kuczma moved to approve the Planning & Zoning Committee Minutes dated May 11, 2026, as written, seconded by Nate Witsaman. Roll Call - Ayes - 5, Nicholas Hanek, Michael Abella Jr., Keith Kuczma, Kristy Piper, Nate Witsaman. Nays - 0. Motion Carried.

Parks, Recreation & Community Committee.....Mrs. Piper:

Mrs. Piper had no formal reports this evening.

Building & Building Code Committee.....Mr. Abella:

Mr. Abella had no formal reports this evening.

Other Committees, Boards and Commissions

Committee-of-the-Whole Minutes dated May 11, 2026:

Michael Abella moved to approve the Committee-of-the-Whole Minutes dated May 11, 2026, as written, seconded by Nate Witsaman. Roll Call - Ayes - 5, Nicholas Hanek, Michael Abella Jr., Keith Kuczma, Kristy Piper, Nate Witsaman. Nays - 0. Motion Carried.

Petitions from the Public on Legislation

Reading of Legislation and Action on Legislation:

3rd Reading(s)

ORD. NO. 26-2026 - An emergency ordinance authorizing and adopting the proposed tax budget for the City of Brunswick, Ohio for the year beginning January 1, 2027, through December 31, 2027. - **3rd Reading** (Finance Committee, *Administration/Todd Fischer*):

Michael Abella moved to adopt Ordinance Number 26-2026, seconded by Keith Kuczma. Roll Call - Ayes - 5, Nicholas Hanek, Michael Abella Jr., Keith Kuczma, Kristy Piper, Nate Witsaman. Nays - 0. Motion Carried.

2nd Reading(s)

1st Reading(s)

City Manager's Report Mr. DeForest reminded that there would be a program and parade for Memorial Day beginning at Brunswick Middle School which was sponsored by both the American Legion and VFW. The program would start at 9 a.m. followed by a parade that would go to Westview Cemetery. Traffic would be detoured, and the intersection closed from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. Trash would be delayed one day due to Memorial Day.

Laurel Road eastbound would be closed between Coventry Drive and Pinewood Drive on Wednesday, May 20. Westbound traffic would be maintained, while Maxwell Boulevard southbound would be closed at Chelsea Drive and traffic detoured. Similarly, Rockland Road would be closed northbound at Applewood Road and detoured. This would be due to construction of the roundabout, which would take 3 to 4 months for completion.

Open Forum Jennifer Arida (664 Sandra Drive) felt the Flock Cameras were a fourth amendment overreach. She felt there was a need for strong safeguards to be put into place and that there could be potential issues with cybersecurity, errors, and misuse. Ms. Arida disclosed that the risks far outweighed the benefits in a low-crime community. She revealed that the two-factor authentication was not sufficient protection against hackers. She was concerned about data sharing and lack of privacy protection.

Colleen Crowley (4614 Persimmon Lane) explained that the Flock Cameras could be trained to recognize faces and sexual orientation. She suggested the cameras could be hacked and used to look at more than license plates. The company that runs the cameras had no accountability and could easily misuse the cameras without the City's knowledge. She pointed out that in one city, the cameras falsely identified someone as having a warrant. Ms. Crowley added that she was not aware of the cameras and did not feel the City informed residents.

Richard Hudson (140 Bradway Street, Medina, Ohio) recognized that Council took the role of protecting its citizens seriously. Mr. Hudson questioned whether the City had the oversight to responsibly govern a new surveillance technology without eroding citizens' public trust and civil liberties. He conveyed his concern that Flock Safety Cameras would be misused and urged everyone to search for Flock on Google News. He concluded that Council should reconsider Flock particularly before expanding surveillance.

Unfinished Business There was none.

New Business Mr. Kuczma informed that on Wednesday, June 3, the Chardon Polka band would be playing at the Recreation Center from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.. This was one of three concerts that would be held with close to 200 people in attendance.

Adjournment Michael Abella moved to adjourn, seconded by Keith Kuczma. Roll Call - Ayes - 5, Nicholas Hanek, Michael Abella Jr., Keith Kuczma, Kristy Piper, Nate Witsaman. Nays - 0. Motion Carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Timura, MMC
Clerk of Council

Mayor Ron Falconi

Adopted

**APPLICATION FOR
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

NAME Jeffrey T Arona PHONE _____

STREET 962 Pearlman Trl CELL 216-313-0317

Years of Residency 33 Registered Brunswick Voter: YES NO

POSITIONED DESIRED: Planning Commission EMAIL jeffarona@gmail.com

EDUCATION _____ DEGREE _____ YEAR GRADUATED _____

HIGH SCHOOL Normandy Sr. High, Parma 1979

COLLEGE Cleveland State U. BBA/1985 Bobwin-Walker MBA/1991

SPECIAL TRAINING Leadership Medina County 2013

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Retired
Company _____ Address _____ Title _____ Dates _____

RELEVANT PAST EMPLOYMENT

PNC Bank Various Operations/Risk MGR. 1985-2021
Company _____ Address _____ Title _____ Dates _____

Company _____ Address _____ Title _____ Dates _____

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, COMMUNITY SERVICE, OR SOCIAL AFFILIATIONS

Western Reserve Land Conservancy, Chapter Board Member
Friends of Medina County Parks, Member
Leadership Medina County Active Alumni

REFERENCES (other than relation):

- | | NAME | ADDRESS | PHONE |
|----|--------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 1. | <u>TODD Reis</u> | <u>743 Salem Ln Brunswick</u> | <u>330-225-9521</u> |
| 2. | <u>DAVE Basile</u> | <u>441 Pebble Shore, Sneads Ferry, NC</u> | <u>746-410-5565</u>
<u>216-</u> |
| 3. | _____ | _____ | _____ |

QUALIFICATIONS AND DESIRE FOR SERVING: (Attach sheet if needed*)

My past demonstrated performance and commitment
to Planning Commission.
My desire to continue to contribute to the excellence
of the City of Brunswick.

ATTACH RESUME IF DESIRED.

Signature: Jeffrey T Arona Date: 5-10-2026

*Attaching a cover letter or resume describing particular experience or qualifications bearing on the position sought is recommended, but not required.

**APPLICATION FOR
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

NAME JOHN R. ROCHA PHONE (330) 273-5000

STREET 989 Substation Road CELL (214) 355-0381

Years of Residency 45 Registered Brunswick Voter: YES NO

POSITIONED DESIRED: Planning Commissioner EMAIL N/A

EDUCATION _____ DEGREE _____ YEAR GRADUATED _____

HIGH SCHOOL South High School Cleve, Ohio 1968'

COLLEGE N/A

SPECIAL TRAINING Ohio Municipal Leadership Training

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Retired

Company	Address	Title	Dates

RELEVANT PAST EMPLOYMENT

<u>Cleve B'd of Education</u>		<u>Office Equip Manager</u>	
<u>Rocky Type & Computer Co.</u>		<u>President</u>	<u>1979'</u>

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, COMMUNITY SERVICE, OR SOCIAL AFFILIATIONS

Charter President Optimist Club
Past Pres. of Brunswick Jaycees
Former Councilman of Ward 4

REFERENCES (other than relation)

	NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
1.	<u>Steve Hambley</u>	<u>Commissioner</u>	
2.	<u>Shaon Ray</u>	<u>State Rep.</u>	
3.			

QUALIFICATIONS AND DESIRE FOR SERVING: (Attach sheet if needed*)

Present Sec. of Planning Commissioner

ATTACH RESUME IF DESIRED.

Signature: John R. Rocha Date: May 8th 2026'

*Attaching a cover letter or resume describing particular experience or qualifications bearing on the position sought is recommended, but not required.

**APPLICATION FOR
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

NAME Joseph Shirilla PHONE 216-402-7532

STREET 3353 Red Clover Lane CELL Same

Years of Residency 25 Registered Brunswick Voter: YES NO

POSITIONED DESIRED: PLANNING Comm. EMAIL Joseph.SHIRILLA@ABBVIE.COM

EDUCATION DEGREE YEAR GRADUATED

HIGH SCHOOL Valley Forge Parma Yes

COLLEGE BALDWIN - WALLACE UNIV. Yes

SPECIAL TRAINING BOARD CERTIFIED IN PHARMACOLOGY

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

<u>ABBVIE LLC</u>	<u>CHICAGO ILL.</u>	<u>EXEC SALES DIR.</u>	<u>27 YEARS</u>
Company	Address	Title	Dates

RELEVANT PAST EMPLOYMENT

<u>—</u>			
Company	Address	Title	Dates

Company	Address	Title	Dates
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RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS, COMMUNITY SERVICE, OR SOCIAL AFFILIATIONS

ADVANCED MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

Former BZA.

ST. EMILIAN PARISH COUNCIL

REFERENCES (other than relation):

- | | NAME | ADDRESS | PHONE |
|----|-----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. | <u>JEFF MEYERS</u> | <u>POWELL OHIO</u> | <u>330-256-7140</u> |
| 2. | <u>JOE PELLAGRENI</u> | <u>MONTVILLE TWP OH.</u> | <u>330-410-3071</u> |
| 3. | <u>JOE DELSANTER</u> | <u>BRUNSWICK OH.</u> | <u>330-635-8198</u> |

QUALIFICATIONS AND DESIRE FOR SERVING: (Attach sheet if needed*)

PREVIOUS BZA, COMMISSION MEMBER 20+ YEARS.
CURRENT ROLE AS CHAIRMAN. STRONG AND POSITIVE
WORKING RELATIONSHIP WITH CITY COUNCIL AND DEPT.
OF THE ADMINISTRATION.
ALWAYS KEEP THE HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WELFARE
OF BRUNSWICK RESIDENTS AT THE FOREFRONT

ATTACH RESUME IF DESIRED.

Signature:  Date: 5-21-2026

*Attaching a cover letter or resume describing particular experience or qualifications bearing on the position sought is recommended, but not required.

Safety and Environment
May 18, 2026

IN ATTENDANCE: Chairman Keith Kuczma, Committee Member Kristy Piper, Michael Abella, Jr., Nicholas Hanek, Nate Witsaman, Law Director Dennis Nevar, City Manager/Safety Director Carl DeForest, Police Chief Robert Safran, Clerk of Council Laura Timura, William Furman, News Media.

The meeting convened at 5:30 p.m.

Mrs. Piper moved to excuse Mr. Delsanter for just cause. Vote – 2 Ayes, 0 Nays

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

(a) E-Bikes

Mr. Kuczma referenced recent concerns regarding children operating high-speed motorized bikes throughout the community. He noted that many of the riders appeared very young and expressed concern about unsafe operation on public streets. He also cited informational materials recently distributed by the Police Department explaining the difference between e-bikes and e-motorcycles.

Mr. Hanek added that Councilman Delsanter had raised concerns about e-bike usage near proposed developments and pedestrian-heavy areas, including around St. Ambrose School and senior housing developments. He explained that concerns centered on riders using cut-through paths and traveling at excessive speeds in areas not designed for motorized traffic.

Mr. Kuczma stated that he had previously provided Chief Safran with a copy of Strongsville's ordinance regarding e-bikes and e-motorcycles as a possible reference point for future discussions.

Chief Safran remarked that the department's current focus is education and public awareness. He explained that many vehicles marketed as e-bikes are actually e-motorcycles capable of speeds exceeding 28 miles per hour and therefore subject to different legal classifications. He expressed concern that parents may unknowingly purchase these higher-speed vehicles for young teenagers without realizing the risks involved.

Chief Safran explained that Class 1 and Class 2 e-bikes are generally permitted anywhere a traditional bicycle may operate and therefore are subject to fewer restrictions. He suggested that some concerns raised about riding through private developments may fall under private property regulations, allowing property owners to post signage restricting use if desired.

To further educate the public, Chief Safran announced that the Police Department would partner with Eddy's Bike Shop to host an informational e-bike demonstration event on June 24 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Recreation Center. The event would explain the differences between e-bikes and e-motorcycles and help parents understand what to consider when purchasing one for a child.

Mr. Kuczma added that Council would help promote the event through social media and other communication channels.

Mr. Kuczma asked whether riders operating recklessly on public streets could be stopped by officers.

Chief Safran responded that lawful e-bikes may operate anywhere traditional bicycles are permitted, but officers do stop and cite riders operating illegal e-motorcycles. He described a recent incident in which a juvenile operating an unclassified e-motorcycle at approximately 35 miles per hour on West 130th Street was cited by a traffic sergeant. Chief Safran expounded that the rider's mother had purchased the vehicle online without realizing it exceeded the legal speed classification for e-bikes.

Chief Safran encouraged residents to contact the Police Department if they observe suspicious or dangerous activity involving e-bikes or e-motorcycles. He explained that officers routinely respond to such complaints and determine whether the vehicle involved is operating legally.

(b) Flock Safety Cameras

Mr. Kuczma relayed that the topic of the City's Flock camera system had recently been discussed during a Council meeting and public comments. Mr. Kuczma explained that concerns had been raised publicly regarding the number of cameras in the City and allegations that additional cameras were continually being installed. He noted that while some of the information circulating appeared inaccurate, he wanted clarification for the committee and the public.

Chief Safran noted that Council approved the Flock camera program in August 2021. Following approval, a committee consisting of police supervisors was formed to establish policies governing camera usage and determine optimal camera placement throughout the City. He explained that ten cameras were ultimately selected and installed at key intersections to provide effective citywide coverage. Installation began in September 2021, and the system became fully operational in November 2021.

Chief Safran emphasized that the City currently has ten cameras and has not added additional units since the original installation. He explained that misinformation on social media likely stemmed from the replacement of a malfunctioning camera on State Route 303. According to Chief Safran, the replacement occurred because the original camera experienced latency and performance issues, and the company replaced it pursuant to its service obligations. He noted that no additional permanent cameras had been installed.

Mr. Kuczma asked whether temporary cameras were sometimes placed while repairs were being completed.

Chief Safran responded that he was unfamiliar with temporary replacements but noted that Flock typically responds quickly when a camera underperforms. He stated that a police sergeant monitors the system daily and alerts the company when issues arise.

Chief Safran then provided a broader explanation of how the camera system functions. He described the cameras as a “force multiplier” for the Police Department and explained that they are used both proactively and reactively. Proactive uses include identifying stolen vehicles, subjects with warrants, and AMBER alerts when vehicles pass camera locations. Reactive uses involve assisting with criminal investigations and suspect development after incidents occur.

Chief Safran distributed a document summarizing approximately twenty examples of successful uses of the camera system over the past four and one-half years. He explained that the list represented only a small portion of the cases in which the cameras had proven valuable. He discussed the department’s first Flock-related arrest, which occurred on November 22, 2021, when officers stopped a vehicle with stolen license plates identified by the system. During the stop, officers arrested the occupants for cocaine possession, obtained a search warrant for a hotel room connected to the suspects, and recovered additional narcotics along with approximately twenty stolen identifications.

Additional examples included hit-and-run crashes, probation violations, theft investigations, and a case involving the sexual assault of a twelve-year-old girl, in which the cameras helped place the suspect in Brunswick at the time of the offense. Chief Safran also referenced a recent felony fleeing and eluding case involving a motorcycle pursuit exceeding 100 miles per hour. Although officers terminated the pursuit, the cameras captured the license plate information, allowing detectives to identify and arrest the suspect. He stated that the motorcycle was expected to be seized.

Chief Safran further explained that the cameras have been especially useful in retail theft investigations, particularly at Meijer. He stated that the store had experienced approximately 140 incidents over the last two years, with roughly seventy-five percent involving theft. He noted that the cameras helped investigators connect suspects from organized theft rings operating out of the Detroit-Toledo area to similar thefts throughout Northeast Ohio.

The discussion then turned to data retention and cybersecurity concerns. Chief Safran explained that license plate images are retained for thirty days before being automatically purged from the system. However, audit logs documenting officer access to the system are retained indefinitely. He stated that officers must complete multi-factor authentication to access the system and that each search is tied to an individual user account and password. In addition, officers are required to enter a report or Computer Aided Dispatch Number (CAD) number and identify the type of investigation associated with the search through a National Crime Information Center (NCIC) classification menu. Chief Safran noted that these safeguards create a detailed audit trail that can be reviewed internally.

Addressing privacy concerns, Chief Safran explained that the system operates under the plain view doctrine because license plates are publicly visible on roadways and therefore do not carry an expectation of privacy. He stated that automated license plate reader technology has existed in law enforcement for decades and compared the system to traditional police license plate checks performed from patrol vehicles.

Mr. Kuczma referenced allegations that Flock systems had been hacked and asked whether those claims were accurate.

Chief Safran responded that, according to a Flock representative he met with the previous week, there had been attempts to access individual cameras during the company's early development stages, but the system has since been strengthened with additional security measures. He noted that Flock is Criminal Justice Information Services (CJIS) compliant, meaning it satisfies FBI standards governing criminal justice information systems. He added that if desired, a representative from Flock could attend a future meeting to provide a more technical explanation regarding encryption and firewall protections.

Mrs. Piper asked whether the cameras monitor pedestrians or parks in addition to roadways.

Chief Safran explained that the cameras are designed to focus on a single lane of vehicle travel, although under certain conditions, they may occasionally capture adjacent lanes. He added that the cameras are not intended to monitor sidewalks or pedestrian activity.

Mr. Witsaman asked whether department leadership receives reports concerning officer access to the system.

Chief Safran confirmed that a supervising sergeant regularly reviews usage activity, including who is logging into the system and what information is being searched. He stipulated that the department has never received a complaint regarding misuse of the cameras, but noted that the audit trail would allow any concerns to be thoroughly investigated.

As the meeting concluded, Mr. Kuczma thanked Chief Safran for attending and providing detailed information on both the Flock camera program and e-bike concerns. He stated that the discussion provided valuable clarification that Council members could share with residents regarding the effectiveness and oversight of the camera system.

GENERAL DISCUSSION:

There was none.

ADJOURNMENT:

Being no further business, Mrs. Piper moved to adjourn at 5:49 p.m. Vote – 2 Ayes, 0 Nays

Submitted respectfully,



Keith Kuczma
Chairman



Committee of the Whole

May 18, 2026

IN ATTENDANCE: Vice Mayor/President Nicholas Hanek, Michael Abella Jr., Keith Kuczma, Kristy Piper, Nate Witsaman, Law Director Dennis Nevar, City Manager/Safety Director Carl DeForest, Clerk of Council Laura Timura, Random Act of Kindness Day Representative William Furman, News Media.

The meeting convened at 5:49 p.m.

Mrs. Piper moved to excuse Mr. Delsanter and Mr. Smith for just cause. Vote – 5 Ayes, 0 Nays

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

(a) Random Acts of Kindness Day - William Furman

The first item of discussion involved Mr. Furman, who appeared before Council to discuss establishing a Random Acts of Kindness Day within the community. Mr. Hanek stated that he was excited to hear more about the proposal and invited Mr. Furman to address Council.

Mr. Furman explained that he currently works in the Recreation Department for the City of Mentor and thanked Council for allowing him time to speak. He shared that the idea for a communitywide day dedicated to kindness stemmed from the passing of his father, although he emphasized that he did not want the initiative to become centered on personal recognition or self-promotion. Rather, his father's memory inspired him to think about how communities could benefit from intentionally promoting kindness and civic goodwill.

Mr. Furman described the concept as a simple but meaningful initiative that could have significant positive impact with very little cost or infrastructure required. He stated that the idea was "low-hanging fruit for the highest possible gains," noting that it would be positively received by residents, community organizations, elected officials, and the media alike. He emphasized that the program would not require staffing, infrastructure, or substantial funding, but rather community endorsement and promotion.

He explained that his vision involved communities formally recognizing a Random Acts of Kindness Day through proclamations or resolutions and then using municipal communication channels to encourage participation among schools, churches, businesses, civic organizations, and residents. Mr. Furman indicated that local leadership could help spread the initiative by working through established networks such as school districts, chambers of commerce, churches, and other organizations to promote acts of kindness throughout the community.

Mr. Furman shared that Brunswick was the first community he approached regarding the idea due to his existing connections within the City. He expressed appreciation for the immediate support shown by Mr. DeForest, who had previously invited him to appear on Brunswick Area Television. Mr. Furman detailed that Brunswick's interest motivated him to begin reaching out to additional communities,

including Cleveland, Medina, Valley View, Mentor, and Euclid. He explained that obtaining formal support from Brunswick would provide momentum and credibility as he continued presenting the concept elsewhere.

Mr. Hanek asked what specifically Mr. Furman hoped to receive from the City.

Mr. Furman replied that ideally, the City would establish March 6 as Random Acts of Kindness Day, explaining that March 6 was his late father's birthday and therefore personally meaningful. He reiterated that he did not want the initiative to focus solely on his father but acknowledged that his father's example was what initially inspired the idea.

Mr. Furman declared that he was seeking two primary forms of support from the City: a formal endorsement through a proclamation or resolution and assistance promoting the initiative through official municipal communication channels. He expressed hope that the City would help spread awareness through schools, churches, local businesses, and community organizations.

Mrs. Timura asked when he would like the proclamation.

Mr. Furman responded that he would appreciate formal recognition as soon as possible because it would help him continue conversations with neighboring communities. He noted that Brunswick could become the founding community for the initiative, something that could only occur once.

Mr. Hanek discussed the possibility of issuing a mayoral proclamation that evening during his report, noting that while a formal resolution might require additional preparation time, he saw no issue with declaring March 6 as Random Acts of Kindness Day in Brunswick. He confirmed that March 6, 2027, falls on a Saturday.

Mr. Nevar suggested that a formal resolution could later follow the initial proclamation.

Mr. Abella agreed, stating that Council could announce its intent immediately and then formalize the action at a subsequent meeting.

Mr. Hanek stated that he would make the declaration during the Mayor's Report and suggested that the Parks and Recreation Committee might be an appropriate committee to further coordinate and support the initiative because of its community-oriented focus.

Mrs. Piper expressed enthusiasm for the idea and suggested that schools could potentially establish kindness-focused clubs or related activities.

Mr. Hanek commented that the initiative fit well with Brunswick's community character and stated that even a single day dedicated to encouraging kindness could have meaningful value.

Mr. Furman established that he envisioned the initiative eventually gaining broader media attention and becoming a greater regional effort. He emphasized that he intended to continue personally meeting with churches, civic leaders, and municipalities to build support rather than relying solely on local officials to promote the concept.

Mr. Kuczma suggested placing the topic on a future Parks Committee agenda and invited Mr. Furman to attend a future committee meeting to further discuss the initiative with residents and committee members.

Mrs. Piper offered to provide Mr. Furman with her contact information so that he could remain involved in future discussions.

To formalize Council's support, Mr. Hanek stated that legislation would be prepared for a future meeting establishing a resolution in support of Random Acts of Kindness Day. He reiterated that he would still announce the initiative publicly that evening during his report.

Mr. Furman thanked Council members, stating that he felt honored and grateful for their support. Mr. Hanek also encouraged him to continue utilizing Brunswick Area Television and other local media outlets to promote the initiative, commenting that "the world needs more kindness."

MOTIONS:

- (a) A motion to authorize the donation of \$10,000 to the Imagination Library.

Mr. DeForest presented Motion Item A regarding a proposed donation to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Mr. DeForest explained that representatives from the Imagination Library had attended a prior Council meeting on March 9, 2026, to discuss funding difficulties after losing support from a nonprofit organization that had previously provided financial assistance. He noted that while the organization had not directly requested donations, it had shared information regarding its financial situation.

Mr. DeForest reviewed information included in the motion packet, explaining that the Imagination Library provides age-appropriate books each month to children from birth through age five. He stated that approximately 1,473 children in Brunswick currently participate in the program, representing roughly twenty-four percent of all recipients in Medina County. Following the organization's presentation, Mr. DeForest stated that he had informally inquired whether Council would support a one-time \$10,000 donation to assist the program, and members had generally indicated support. He further explained that the amount had already been included in the City's recent budget amendment approved by Council and that formal authorization was now required to release the funds.

Prior to a motion being made, Mr. Hanek commented that he viewed the contribution as an exception rather than a standard practice. He stated that while he did not believe municipalities should routinely fund nonprofit organizations, he considered the Imagination Library to be a worthwhile program because it provides an important public benefit that might otherwise go unsupported.

Mrs. Piper moved to authorize the donation of \$10,000 to the Imagination Library. Vote – 5 Ayes, 0 Nays

(b) A motion to amend the Council Rules to require Members of Council to supply a telephone number that can be utilized by residents and Council for City business.

Mr. Hanek introduced Motion Item B, a proposed amendment to Council Rules. He explained that several years earlier Council had amended its rules to require Council members to adopt email communication. He stated that the new amendment would require all Council members to provide a telephone number for use by residents conducting City business to ensure accessibility to the public.

Mr. Kuczma moved to amend the Council Rules to require Members of Council to supply a telephone number that can be utilized by residents and Council for City business. Vote – 5 Ayes, 0 Nays

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mr. Kuczma moved to go into Executive Session at 6:06 p.m. to consider the purchase of property for public purposes, the sale of property at competitive bidding, or the sale or other disposition of unneeded, obsolete, or unfit-for-use property, and to consider the appointment, employment, dismissal, discipline, promotion, demotion, or compensation of a public employee or official, seconded by Mr. Abella.

Roll Call - Ayes – 5, Mr. Abella Jr., Mr. Hanek, Mr. Kuczma, Mrs. Piper, Mr. Witsaman. Nays – 0

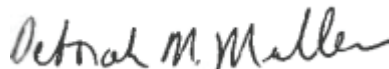
Mr. Hanek voluntarily excused himself from Executive Session.

Mr. Kuczma moved to adjourn Executive Session at 6:46 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

Being no further business, Mr. Kuczma moved to adjourn at 6:46 p.m. Vote – 5 Ayes, 0 Nays

Submitted Respectfully,



Deborah Mullen
Assistant Council Clerk

PROPOSED LEGISLATION



DATE: 6/8/2026

TO: Vice Mayor Nicholas Hanek and Members of City Council

FROM: Carl S. DeForest, City Manager
Nicholas Hanek

COPY: Mayor Ron Falconi

LEGISLATION: **RES. NO. 33-2026** - A resolution declaring March 6, 2027 as Random Acts of Kindness Day in the City of Brunswick. - **1st Reading** (To be brought from Parks, Recreation, and Community Committee, *Council/Nicholas Hanek*)

BACKGROUND: Random Acts of Kindness Day is an initiative designed to strengthen community spirit and foster goodwill, compassion and positive connections throughout the community through the intentional performance of acts of kindness (big or small) without expectation of return.

PURPOSE AND EXPLANATION: Council wishes to declare March 6, 2027, Random Acts of Kindness Day and to encourage residents and businesses to perform intentional acts of kindness.

IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE: Three readings.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

One Reading	No
Two Readings	No
Three Readings	Yes
Emergency	No
Suspension of Rules	No

If emergency or suspension of the rules, why the request?

**ADDITIONAL
INFORMATION:**

CITY OF BRUNSWICK, OHIO
RESOLUTION NO. 33-2026

BY: Mrs. Piper, Mr. Kuczma, and Mr. Smith

A RESOLUTION DECLARING MARCH 6, 2027 AS RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS DAY IN THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK.

WHEREAS: Random Acts of Kindness Day is a low-cost, high-impact initiative designed to strengthen community spirit and foster goodwill, compassion and positive connections throughout the community through the intentional performance of acts of kindness (big or small) without expectation of return.

WHEREAS: THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BRUNSWICK HEREBY RESOLVES:

SECTION 1: That this Council hereby declares March 6, 2027 as Random Acts of Kindness Day in the City of Brunswick and encourages individuals, businesses and organizations to perform intentional acts of kindness to strengthen community spirit and foster goodwill, compassion and positive connections throughout the community.

SECTION 2: That this Resolution shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: 1st Reading _____

2nd Reading _____

3rd Reading _____

ADOPTED: _____ AYES _____ NAYS _____

ATTEST: _____

Clerk of Council
Laura E. Timura, MMC