

CITY OF BRUNSWICK, OHIO

MINUTES OF COUNCIL

Monday, July 13, 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 showed the following Council Members present: Nicholas Hanek, Nate Witsaman, Michael Abella Jr., Keith Kuczma, Joseph Delsanter, Tim Smith, Kristy Piper.

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

Correspondence Mrs. Timura read correspondence from resident Kevin Kelly regarding his suggestions for disseminating information after the Council Meeting.

Approval of Regular Council Meeting Minutes

Regular Council Meeting Minutes dated June 22, 2026:

Nicholas Hanek moved to approve the Regular Council Meeting Minutes dated June 22, 2026, as written, seconded by Joseph Delsanter. Roll Call - Ayes - 7, Nicholas Hanek, Joseph Delsanter, Michael Abella Jr., Keith Kuczma, Tim Smith, Kristy Piper, Nate Witsaman. Nays - 0. Motion Carried.

Mayor's Report:

Mayor's Court Financial Report for the month ending June 2026 will be posted on the website and added to the minutes for the record.

Proclamation in recognition of Brunswick Citizen's Police Academy Alumni Association's 20th Anniversary:

Representatives of the Brunswick Citizens' Police Academy Alumni Association accepted a proclamation from Mayor Falconi recognizing their 20th anniversary.

Mayor's recommendation to reappoint Sarah Alfano to the Juvenile Diversion Board.:

If anyone on Council has questions regarding this recommendation, they should contact the Mayor's Office.

Motion to appoint John Rocha to the Board of Zoning Appeals to fulfill an unexpired term expiring March 14, 2028.:

Joseph Delsanter moved to appoint John Rocha to the Board of Zoning Appeals to fulfill an unexpired term expiring March 14, 2028, seconded by Nicholas Hanek. Roll Call - Ayes - 7, Nicholas Hanek, Joseph Delsanter, Michael Abella Jr., Keith Kuczma, Tim Smith, Kristy Piper, Nate Witsaman. Nays - 0. Motion Carried.

Clerk of Council's Report There was none.

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 June 22, 2026:

Tim Smith moved to approve the Services, Utilities, Technology & Cable Minutes dated June 22, 2026, as written, seconded by Kristy Piper. Roll Call - Ayes - 7, Nicholas Hanek, Joseph Delsanter, Michael Abella Jr., Keith Kuczma, Tim Smith, 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:

Mr. Delsanter had no formal reports this evening.

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 June 22, 2026:

Committee-of-the-Whole Minutes dated July 6, 2026:

Nicholas Hanek moved to approve the Committee-of-the-Whole Minutes dated June 22, 2026, and July 6, 2026, as written, seconded by Kristy Piper. Roll Call - Ayes - 7, Nicholas Hanek, Joseph Delsanter, Michael Abella Jr., Keith Kuczma, Tim Smith, Kristy Piper, Nate Witsaman. Nays - 0. Motion Carried.

Petitions from the Public on Legislation There were none.

Reading of Legislation and Action on Legislation:

3rd Reading(s)

RES. NO. 33-2026 - A resolution declaring March 6, 2027 as Random Acts of Kindness Day in the City of Brunswick. - **3rd Reading** (Parks, Recreation, and Community Committee, *Council/Nicholas Hanek*):

Kristy Piper moved to adopt Resolution Number 33-2026, seconded by Keith Kuczma. Roll Call - Ayes - 7, Nicholas Hanek, Joseph Delsanter, Michael Abella Jr., Keith Kuczma, Tim Smith, Kristy Piper, Nate Witsaman. Nays - 0. Motion Carried.

2nd Reading(s)

1st Reading(s)

ORD. NO. 35-2026 - An emergency ordinance to approve the editing and inclusion of certain ordinances as components of the codified ordinances; to provide for the adoption of new legislation in the updated revised codified ordinances; and to repeal the ordinances in conflict therewith. - **1st Reading** (To be brought from Committee-of-the-Whole, *Administration/Laura Timura*):

Nicholas Hanek moved to suspend the rules, seconded by Joseph Delsanter. Roll Call - Ayes - 7, Nicholas Hanek, Joseph Delsanter, Michael Abella Jr., Keith Kuczma, Tim Smith, Kristy Piper, Nate Witsaman. Nays - 0. Motion Carried.

Nicholas Hanek moved to adopt Ordinance Number 35-2026, seconded by Keith Kuczma. Roll Call - Ayes - 7, Nicholas Hanek, Joseph Delsanter, Michael Abella Jr., Keith Kuczma, Tim Smith, Kristy Piper, Nate Witsaman. Nays - 0. Motion Carried.

RES. NO. 36-2026 - A resolution appointing Nicholas J. Hanek as City Manager/Safety Director of the City of Brunswick. - **1st Reading** (To be brought from Committee-of-the-Whole, *Council/Joseph Delsanter*):

Mr. Delsanter moved this resolution to second reading.

City Manager's Report Mr. DeForest congratulated the Brunswick Police Academy Alumni Association on their anniversary and expressed appreciation for their hard work at parades and football games in all kinds of weather. He also recognized Sheila Watson for organizing this year's parade and thanked all those who participated. He noted that the quarterly newsletter would be coming out soon and included information on the Division of Fire's Heart Heroes program and Trike and Bike signups. He added that Trike & Bike will be held on September 11 at 6 p.m. at Brunswick High School to raise money for pediatric cancer research. The Veterans Breakfast will be held Wednesday, October 21 at 7:30 a.m. at St. Ambrose. He also recognized the 40th anniversary of Brunswick Area Television.

Open Forum Colleen Crowley (4614 Persimmon Lane) was concerned that Flock Camera data belongs to a third party, private company and not the City of Brunswick. She revealed that the cameras track more than license plates. They also track people and include data such as race, size and clothing. Ms. Crowley added that she had viewed videos in which cameras zoomed in on pedestrians. She felt that the cameras should require a warrant to track people. She suggested that cameras be rented and that the data be maintained solely by law enforcement in a secure manner. She then cited an instance where a Flock Camera had mistaken a vehicle for a stolen car. She was concerned about who would be liable if a resident was falsely accused of a crime and suffered undue distress.

Jennifer Arida (664 Sandra Drive) acknowledged that this was her fourth appearance before Council. She revealed that Flock is an AI-powered mass governmental surveillance system. Ms. Arida had concerns that the cameras would store and aggregate the location data of everyone into a searchable database that could be used to track movements, travel history, and pattern of life. She added that the cameras do not require a warrant to access the information. Ms. Arida further explained that all the data was directed into one centralized database owned by a private third-party tech company. She declared that the cameras violate both fourth and fifth amendment rights. She reasoned that the government was not concerned about potential inaccuracies with the system due to qualified immunity, which protects government officials from personal liability. Ms. Arida relayed that she was circulating a petition to end qualified immunity in the State of Ohio. She concluded by asking community members to attend a walk in Medina Square in support of Christion Olson whose life ended two years ago. She felt that a cover-up was involved in the death of Christion Olson.

Noah Rodriguez (19264 Briarwood Lane, Strongsville, Ohio) informed that he had been in government work and worked with electronics for a long time. He disclosed that AI systems were insecure and that the City does not have control over data stored on third-party servers. He remarked that police from other states and cities could access the data. Mr. Rodriguez added that entrances to parks, playgrounds, and indoor swimming pools have been surveyed by Flock Cameras. He pointed out that the country was founded on individual rights and liberties. Mr. Rodriguez concluded that the City should take a second look at everything that is going on with Flock.

Ben Prochaska (5095 Rolling Ridge Drive, Medina, Ohio) shared that Flock's data is not closed circuit and that he did not trust Flock's statement that footage would be deleted after 30 days. He noted that the police do not have access to Flock servers and do not own or control the cameras. He explained that Flock has a technology called Vehicle Fingerprint that makes a profile of a car as well as a program called Freeform which allows users to search for characteristics on people. They also have a database called Nova in which they are able to link a vehicle passing by a camera to its owner as well as others connected to that individual. According to Mr. Prochaska, Nova compiles information from credit bureaus, social media, marriage licenses, property records, and campaign finance records. He quoted Peter Thiel who provided early venture capital to Flock, as having said, "I no longer believe that freedom and democracy are compatible." Mr. Prochaska cited that in April 2026 a public records request revealed that Flock employees accessed cameras and watched children's gymnastic rooms, playgrounds, schools, and community centers in Georgia. He then gave several examples of situations where he felt Flock had been dishonest. Mr. Prochaska informed that the Flock data was easy to hack. He did not feel the surveillance system was very American.

Lucas Merkel (131 Falmouth Court) noted that the public must have a way of verifying that the data collected by the Flock Safety Cameras was only accessed for authorized and legitimate law enforcement purposes. He added that a public records request had been filed requesting three standard reports that were readily available through the Flock portal (network log, audit log, and event log). These audits track who logs into the system, what the search is for and why. He did not feel it was highly classified information. Mr. Merkel mentioned that his request was denied by the City's Law Department and the Administration, claiming this would constitute creating a new record. He asked that guidelines be in place mandating that any and all audits performed be downloaded and retained as permanent municipal records.

Katie Zywica (19264 Briarwood Lane, Strongsville, Ohio) stated that she did not think a public records request should be necessary to see the audits or confirm compliance. She asked the City to publish the City of Brunswick's rules for employee access, data sharing settings, list of outside agencies with access, safety compliance, audit procedures, and how they are notified of any misuse. She worried that victims of domestic abuse, minors, witnesses and anyone whose safety relies upon keeping their routines and locations private, be taken into consideration. She clarified that the Institute of Justice had 21 officers confirmed to have used the system to stalk romantic partners. She further shared that other agencies create back doors which leaves the system vulnerable to being hacked. Ms. Zywica relayed that misuse of the system may not be detected in an audit, not be reported, or could be deleted. She then asked that the City of Brunswick publish an engineering review not conducted by Flock that shows that installations are crash-worthy, safely located, and that any pole set in concrete will not cause death or serious harm. She urged the City to deactivate and remove the cameras immediately.

Unfinished Business There was none.

New Business Mr. Delsanter recognized recent Brunswick High School graduate, Miles Hansel, as he prepares to begin his career in the U.S. Navy.

Mr. Hanek announced that he will be the next City Manager and Safety Director in the City of Brunswick in 2027. He thanked members of the community and everyone for their support. He conveyed that he understood the scope and depth of the responsibility the position brings. Mr. Hanek declared he cared deeply about the community he grew up in. He shared his intention to use all of his professional skills to work hard for the future of the Brunswick community, while continuing the high standards for transparency and responsibility City Manager DeForest demonstrated. Mr. Hanek divulged he was ready to meet the challenge and felt having the ability to further serve the community was awesome. He added that he would be resigning from politics prior to taking on his new role in April. Mr. Hanek revealed that the filing deadline would be in February. He would be happy to meet with anyone looking to serve on City Council in Ward 2. It was his hope that the best and brightest would want to serve the City. Mr. Hanek remarked that he would do everything he could to ensure that Brunswick was one of the best communities in the State and in the country.

Mr. Smith commented that he thought Mr. Hanek would do well in the new role. He thanked Sheila Watson and her crew for a successful parade. He also mentioned that Bike Medina County would hold its next ride on July 16 at Seville United Methodist Church at 6:15 p.m. with the ride beginning at 6:30 p.m. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. Participants were asked to wear helmets and have blinking lights on their bicycles. He concluded with the Oaks Family Care Center's important fundraiser on July 24 at Hope Church featuring comedian Jonnie W. Tickets were \$35 per person with 150 tickets remaining.

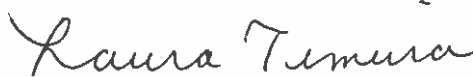
Mrs. Piper revealed that on August 3, Ace Molar would be performing from 6-8 p.m. at the Recreation Center. This will be the last concert in the Three's Company concert series. The Back to School Rally will be held at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church on Pearl Road on August 6 from 5-7 p.m. Free backpacks full of school supplies will be available to students.

Mr. Witsaman recognized Aquamaster Disaster Response Team who had their ribbon cutting on Thursday. He added that for more than 17 years they have been helping northeast Ohio families and businesses recover from water, fire, mold, and stormwater damage with fast, professional and passionate service. He congratulated them on their ribbon cutting.

Adjournment Nicholas Hanek moved to adjourn, seconded by Joseph Delsanter. Roll Call - Ayes - 7, Nicholas Hanek, Joseph Delsanter, Michael Abella Jr., Keith Kuczma, Tim Smith, Kristy Piper, Nate Witsaman. Nays - 0. Motion Carried.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Laura Timura, MMC
Clerk of Council



Mayor Ron Falconi

July 27, 2026

Adopted