

**LANCASTER, OHIO****REGULAR MEETING**

January 5, 2026

**PRAYER****PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President Porter led Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CALL TO ORDER**

President Porter called the meeting to order at approximately 6:00 p.m., in Council's Chambers.

**ROLL CALL**

The following members of Council were present:

Mr. Ailes, Mr. Bizjak, Mr. Carr, Ms. Cohen, Mrs. Hoop, Mr. Knisley, Mr. Ogg, Mr. Schoonover, Ms. Smiley, and Mr. Sollie.

President Porter asked that the record reflect that ten (10) members are in attendance tonight.

**APPOINTMENTS**

Mr. Bizjak made a motion to appoint Mr. Corey Schoonover as President Pro-Tem of Lancaster City Council, seconded by Mr. Sollie. After no discussion, the motion carried.

Mr. Bizjak made a motion to appoint Anitra Scott as Council Clerk of Lancaster City Council, seconded by Mr. Schoonover. After no discussion, the motion carried.

Mr. Schoonover made a motion to appoint Becky Tener as Council Clerk backup of Lancaster City Council, seconded by Mr. Bizjak. After no discussion, the motion carried.

President Porter made the comment that council normally does not appoint a back for the clerk, however in the case of an absence, emergency or a vacation, having a back up for the clerk would be a good idea.

**COMMITTEE RE-ORGANIZATION**

President Porter announced that President Pro-Temp Schoonover will be reaching out to all council members to discuss appointments to the committees.

Council Member Schoonover has requested that all returning council members contact him to indicate whether they wish to remain on their current committees or be reassigned to new ones. His goal is to finalize the committee roster ahead of Monday's Council Meeting to ensure the assignments are ready for collective discussion.

President Porter announced that during Monday's regular council meeting, he intends to request a motion to go out of the regular order of business. This procedural shift is specifically designed to allow the council to vote on and formally accept the new committee assignments.

President Porter emphasized that every council committee, without exception, is vital to the effective operation of the city. He urged all council members to recognize the inherent value of every assignment, regardless of the specific department or focus. Furthermore, he issued a call to action for members to fully commit themselves to their roles, stressing the need for everyone to "dig in" and work diligently in every capacity to which they are appointed.

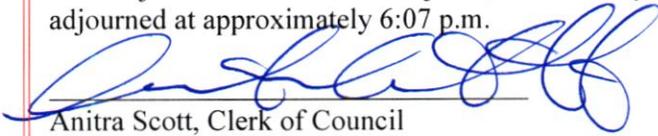
Council Member Schoonover reminded council members that because previous legislation to restructure the committee system failed, the committees will remain the same as the prior year. He noted that with ten council members and only nine committees, some assignments may require a chair and a co-chair to accommodate everyone. Consequently, members should keep this existing structure in mind when submitting their preferences for the upcoming term.

#### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There were no requests for the Executive Session this evening.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Bizjak made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Knisley. Motion carried. The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:07 p.m.



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Anitra Scott, Clerk of Council