



with optional information about communication needs, medical considerations and emergency contacts. The blue color is a clear visual queue to officers that a modified, patient, approach may be needed with this traffic stop. The driver will present the envelope while following standard safety precautions to give officers important context to slow things down, use clear communication and reduce the chance of misunderstanding. This program has three simple, but powerful goals: reduce anxiety for drivers and families; enhance understanding between community members and law enforcement; and improve safety by preventing unnecessary escalation. The program is a state-wide collaboration supported by the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council, local developmental disabilities boards, and law enforcement agencies. Shaker Heights is proud to be part of this expansion to build upon safe interactions, stronger trust and community where everyone feels seen, respected and protected. Chief Hudson stated this is also valuable during accidents when individuals are not able to communicate, for officers to pull information from the blue envelope and hopefully reach an emergency contact listed. He hopes to launch this program within the next few weeks.

Council member Mrs. Moore asked about traffic stops and individuals being taught not to reach for items.

Chief Hudson stated that the messaging will recommend individuals store the envelope above the visor. When individuals are stopped they are told by law enforcement to place their hands at a clock position of 10 and 2 on the steering wheel. When it is above the visor it is safe to grab and hand to an officer.

In response to a question from Council member Mr. Chengelis on whether nearby communities have adopted this program, Chief Hudson stated that officers have seen some of the blue decals on vehicles driving through Shaker.

Council member Ms. Carmella Williams asked how officers currently respond in these situations and if there is training to determine drivers who are autistic or have dementia.

Chief Hudson stated that a number of the officers are Critical Incident Training (CIT) certified, which teaches them to recognize individuals going through a mental health challenge. The Blue Envelope Program is another tool we can add to the tool box.

Council member Mrs. Moore added how much Council appreciates Public Works, Police and Fire/EMS services during the recent big storms, with staff working back to back 12 to 15 hour shifts. Residents often forget in the absence of refuse collection, and continual snowfall, that dedicated public servants render these services. She thanked staff on behalf of Council and reminded residents to also thank the people who provide these public services essential to our safety.

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It was moved by Ms. Bixenstine, and seconded by Mrs. Kaus, that the minutes of the regular meeting of December 15, 2026, be approved as recorded.

Roll Call: Ayes: Mr. Alvarez, Ms. Bixenstine,  
Mrs. Kaus, Mr. Malone, Mrs. Moore,  
Ms. Anne Williams, Ms. Carmella Williams

Nays: None

Motion Carried

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The Mayor asked the Clerk of Council to read into the record public comments received by email or phone on any of the agenda items.

Clerk of Council Mr. Carroll stated that no comments were received on agenda items by email or phone.

The Mayor invited members of the audience and those participating via Zoom the opportunity to “raise their hand” to provide public comment.

No comments were offered.

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**Ordinance No. 26-01, by Mrs. Moore, amending or renumbering multiple sections of Chapters 1211, 1213, 1216, 1220, 1221, 1222, 1223, 1224, 1225, 1230, 1231, 1232, 1233, 1234, 1240, 1241, 1250, 1251, 1252, 1253, 1260, 1262, and 1263; adding new Chapters 1235 (Sections .01-.11) and 1236 (Sections .01-.11); adding new Sections 1253.06, 1262.10, 1263.24, and 1263.26; and deleting Sections 1253.07, 1262.18, and 1263.01, of Part Twelve, Zoning Code, of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Shaker Heights to amend the zoning map and text to rezone the commercial areas along Lee Road and Larchmere Boulevard and update the Zoning Code.**

Planning Director Joyce Braverman stated that this item conveys a recommendation from the City Planning Commission to rezone the area primarily along Lee Road. It was introduced to Council on first reading on January 12, 2026 and is now on second reading for approval of the creation of new CM2 and CM3 commercial districts along Lee Road, south of Chagrin. A few technical changes and corrections were made since its introduction as indicated in the memo distributed for this item. A public hearing and third reading is scheduled for February 9, 2026 with another presentation.

Law Director William Ondrey Gruber stated that more technical changes are expected upon third reading for sections being renumbered.

Council member Mrs. Moore moved to accept the updated amendments to the Zoning Code.

Council member Mrs. Kaus stated that she brought up the issue of marijuana dispensaries within the City during the introduction of these proposed changes, but understands that due to timing for commencing construction it is important to move forward with the zoning changes now. She is still interested in discussing possible changes in the codified ordinances related to dispensaries and neighborhoods affected in the future.

Mayor Weiss stated that this item would remain on second reading.

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**Ordinance No. 26-03, by Mrs. Moore, authorizing the donation of two used rescue squads from the Shaker Heights Fire Department to the City of Maple Heights and the Village of Oakwood, and declaring an emergency.**

Fire Chief Patrick Sweeney stated that this item authorizes the donation of two rescue squads no longer in operational need for the Fire Department. We currently maintain three rescue squads: one at Fire Station No. 1; one at Fire Station No. 2; and a third in reserve for when the other vehicles need repairs or we have an increase in calls. In years' past we would trade in the vehicles which were rotated out of service, but more recently a number of surrounding communities needed equipment so we donated them. Because of challenges with the manufacturing industry due to COVID, etc., it took longer to get our newer vehicle deliveries so we held on to these two longer. We took possession of a 2025 rescue squad a few months ago and in the 2026 capital budget there is funding for another vehicle to be delivered in three years. We are in a good operational position with five rescue squads and able to donate two of them. Neighboring communities have had some challenges: one had a vehicle that caught fire, and another one was in a severe accident. This would help our partners by donating these vehicles without impacting our readiness. On the open market we would probably secure about \$10,000 for each, but there is more value to help neighboring communities who would have to reach out to others to respond to calls when their vehicles are down. When we are out helping other communities by responding to their calls, we are not in Shaker Heights. This is not the first time we have done this. We have donated a squad to East Cleveland and equipment to University Hospitals for their community outreach programs. This item is requested as an emergency with a suspension of the rules so we can move these along as quickly as possible.

Council member Mrs. Moore stated that this item was reviewed and approved by the Safety and Public Works Committee.

Council member Ms. Carmella Williams stated that this item was reviewed and approved by the Finance Committee.

It was moved by Mrs. Moore, and seconded by Mx. Bixenstine, that the rule requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and Ordinance No. 26-03 be placed upon its final enactment.

Roll Call:	Ayes:	Mr. Alvarez, Ms. Bixenstine Mr. Chengelis, Mrs. Kaus, Mr. Malone Mrs. Moore, Ms. Carmella Williams
	Nays:	None

Motion Carried

Moved by Mrs. Moore, and seconded by Ms. Bixenstine, that Ordinance No. 26-03 be enacted as read.

Roll Call: Ayes: Mr. Alvarez, Ms. Bixenstine  
Mr. Chengelis, Mrs. Kaus, Mr. Malone  
Mrs. Moore, Ms. Carmella Williams

Nays: None

Ordinance Enacted

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**Ordinance No. 26-04, by Mrs. Kaus, authorizing a second amendment to the contract with Suburban Maintenance & Construction, Inc. to increase the total compensation by \$50,000 for ongoing fencing rental at the nuisance property known as the Lee-Scottsdale Building, at 3756 Lee Road, and declaring an emergency.**

Building and Housing Director Kyle Krewson stated that this item relates to ongoing protective measures the City installed at 3756 Lee Road after masonry fell from the façade and the building was declared a public nuisance. Council authorized an emergency contract with SMCI in November 2024 in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 and amended the contract in August 2025 to \$150,000 to purchase a pedestrian canopy as a cost saving measure compared to long-term renting; and to continue renting the perimeter fencing at \$3500 for six months. At that time Council was advised that the fencing would likely need to remain in place for several years due to façade conditions and the complications created by the high voltage power lines along Lee Road. That expectation has not changed. Additional canopy rental costs accrued before the August amendment was finalized which reduced the funds set aside in the contract for a long-term fencing rental. This item requests authorization for the amendment to the SMCI contract to increase the not-to-exceed amount by \$50,000 allowing the City to continue renting the already installed perimeter fencing on the same terms previously approved by Council. Funds to cover these costs are already appropriated in the City’s nuisance abatement fund. All costs incurred by the City will be billed back to the owner plus administrative fees. Continued fencing rental is necessary for public safety.

It was moved by Mrs. Kaus, and seconded by Ms. Bixenstine, that the rule requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and Ordinance No. 26-04 be placed upon its final enactment.

Roll Call: Ayes: Mr. Alvarez, Ms. Bixenstine  
Mr. Chengelis, Mrs. Kaus, Mr. Malone  
Mrs. Moore, Ms. Carmella Williams

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Moved by Mrs. Kaus, and seconded by Ms. Bixenstine, that Ordinance No. 26-04 be enacted as read.

Roll Call: Ayes: Mr. Alvarez, Ms. Bixenstine  
Mr. Chengelis, Mrs. Kaus, Mr. Malone  
Mrs. Moore, Ms. Carmella Williams

Nays: None

Ordinance Enacted

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**Ordinance No. 26-05, by Mrs. Moore, authorizing the purchase of backflow prevention valves repair services and replacement valves from Brakefire Inc. dba Silco Fire and Security at a cost of \$62,188, and waiving public bidding, and declaring an emergency.**

Public Works Director Ramona Lowery-Ferrell stated that there are many factors which keep the water supply safe such as the water system integrity control, that reduces the water within buildings that could flow back into our distribution system. Every year we are required by law to have the 31 backflow devices inspected in each of our buildings. As our infrastructure ages, more have failed and require either a repair or replacement. This item requests Council waive competitive bidding due to the emergency nature of the contract to complete the 2025 backflow maintenance as quickly as possible, and to increase the contract to \$62,188. This item is requested as an emergency with a suspension of the rules.

Council member Mrs. Moore stated that this item was reviewed and approved by the Safety and Public Works Committee. A question was asked about whether the backflow preventers were breaking down more rapidly, but these are facility issues that have to be addressed on an ongoing basis.

Council member Ms. Carmella Williams stated that this item was reviewed and approved by the Finance Committee.

Council member Ms. Bixenstine asked whether it would make sense to do a request for proposals (RFP) since this is an ongoing issue.

Director Lowery-Ferrell explained that there was an inspection that was done through competitive bidding, but at the time we did not have funding. We always first attempt to make repairs but when that is not possible, we replace them. We don't have time to go back out to bid again because these repairs are time sensitive.

Law Director William Ondrey Gruber stated that the recommendation going forward is to follow a bid process. If it is under \$50,000 we can do it with an RFP, but if it's for multiple years and greater than \$50,000 it would require formal bidding.

It was moved by Mrs. Moore, and seconded by Mr. Chengelis, that the rule requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and Ordinance No. 26-05 be placed upon its final enactment.

Roll Call: Ayes: Mr. Alvarez, Ms. Bixenstine  
Mr. Chengelis, Mrs. Kaus, Mr. Malone  
Mrs. Moore, Ms. Carmella Williams

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Moved by Mts. Moore, and seconded by Mr. Chengelis, that Ordinance No. 26-05 be enacted as read.

Roll Call: Ayes: Mr. Alvarez, Ms. Bixenstine  
Mr. Chengelis, Mrs. Kaus, Mr. Malone  
Mrs. Moore, Ms. Carmella Williams

Nays: None

Ordinance Enacted

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**Ordinance No. 26-06, by Ms. Carmella Williams, accepting a proposal and authorizing a personal, professional consultant contract with Partners Environmental, Safety and Engineering, in the total not to exceed amount of \$45,250, for the City Safety Assessment Project, and declaring an emergency.**

Public Works Director Ramona Lowery-Ferrell stated that in September we distributed a request for proposals to provide services to develop and help implement a health and safety assessment of all of the City facilities. The general scope of the project is for the consultant to provide safety professionals who can provide onsite assessment, develop standard operating procedures (SOPs), and inspection forms that will be used when inspections are conducted by City staff on a bi-annual basis. Three consultants responded to the RFP using the quality based selection process and staff reviewed each of the proposals. Based on the pricing, services and prior experience Partners Environmental, Safety and Engineering was chosen to perform the City safety assessment in the amount of \$42,500. This item is requested as an emergency and as a suspension of the rules in order to proceed with the much needed projects.

Council member Mrs. Moore stated that this item was reviewed and unanimously supported by the Safety and Public Works Department.

Council member Ms. Carmella Williams stated that this item was reviewed and supported by the Finance Committee. There was a discussion about the number of buildings and use of function of the buildings.

It was moved by Ms. Carmella Williams, and seconded by Mrs. Moore, that the rule requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and Ordinance No. 26-06 be placed upon its final enactment.

Roll Call: Ayes: Mr. Alvarez, Ms. Bixenstine  
Mr. Chengelis, Mrs. Kaus, Mr. Malone  
Mrs. Moore, Ms. Carmella Williams

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Moved by Ms. Carmella Williams, and seconded by Ms. Moore, that Ordinance No. 26-06 be enacted as read.

Roll Call: Ayes: Mr. Alvarez, Ms. Bixenstine  
Mr. Chengelis, Mrs. Kaus, Mr. Malone  
Mrs. Moore, Ms. Carmella Williams

Nays: None

Ordinance Enacted

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**Ordinance No. 26-07, by Ms. Carmella Williams, authorizing a personal services contract with Chagrin Valley Dispatch to provide employment services for the Crisis Assistance and Local Linkage (CALL) Program in the cities of Shaker Heights, Cleveland Heights, University Heights, Richmond Heights and South Euclid for a period of one year, and declaring an emergency.**

Law Director William Ondrey Gruber stated that the FirstCALL program is for crisis assistance operated by the City of Shaker Heights on behalf of five communities that have worked together for years as part of a joint dispatch center before joining the Chagrin Valley Dispatch. This item requests authorization for a contract with Chagrin Valley Dispatch (CVD) to provide employment services for the program in order to replace the contract currently held with Recovery Resources that expires May 15, 2026. They have been hiring professionals and peer support specialists in the five cities. In October 2025 they announced they would conclude all of their direct services and programming and go out of business this summer. They would like to transition their services by the end of February. CVD provides space for a staff person from FirstCALL onsite in the dispatch center and we have discussed having them taking over this contract to provide the employment services and handle payroll. Their executive committee agreed to move consideration for the proposal to the CVD Council in February. This item requests authorization from Council to move forward should CVD agree so that we may immediately start the transition from Recovery Resources.

Council member Mrs. Moore stated that this item was reviewed and unanimously supported by the Safety and Public Works Committee. Their main concern was whether costs would increase and if certain programs would be able to be incorporated, like the Blue Envelope Program.

Council member Mrs. Carmella Williams stated that this item was reviewed and unanimously approved by the Finance Committee. They discussed the aspects of the program that had been handled by Recovery





Roll Call: Ayes: Mr. Alvarez, Ms. Bixenstine  
Mr. Chengelis, Mrs. Kaus, Mr. Malone  
Mrs. Moore, Ms. Carmella Williams

Nays: None

Motion Carried

Moved by Mr. Alvarez, and seconded by Ms. Bixenstine, that Ordinance No. 26-09 be enacted as read.

Roll Call: Ayes: Mr. Alvarez, Ms. Bixenstine  
Mr. Chengelis, Mrs. Kaus, Mr. Malone  
Mrs. Moore, Ms. Carmella Williams

Nays: None

Ordinance Enacted

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**Ordinance No. 26-10, by Mrs. Moore, authorizing the execution of Then and Now Certificates by the Director of Finance and the payment of amounts due for various purchase orders, and declaring an emergency.**

Finance Director John Potts stated that typically this time of year we issue a number of Then and Now Certificates for amounts over \$3,000, mainly because the finance system closes at the end of the year and departments are not able to enter invoices when they come in. This item is requested as an emergency with a suspension of the rulers so the transactions and payments may be sent.

Council member Ms. Carmella Williams stated that this item was reviewed and unanimously approved by the Finance Committee.

Council member Mr. Alvarez asked why these need a separate appropriation.

Director Potts stated that the Ohio Revised Code requires that when there is an expenditure, a requisition and purchase order with the appropriate approvals must exist prior to the invoice. When the financial system is closed at the end of the year staff are not able to create them. When expenditures are above \$3,000 they require Council approval. The \$3,000 limit with inflation could be higher, but it is the value established by an Ohio Revised Code statute.

Director Gruber clarified that this is not an appropriation. The expenditures are already budgeted but the invoice was received prior to the requisition and purchase order being entered.

It was moved by Mrs. Moore, and seconded by Mr. Alvarez, that the rule requiring ordinances to be read on three different days be suspended and Ordinance No. 26-10 be placed upon its final enactment.



deliveries, or residents. People encroach on his driveway practically every day. There is not a lot of parking in the area so a sign at the US gym directs people to park on adjoining roads. With the proposed renovations there will be a lot more people and even less room to park. The high school is in Hunting Valley where they have 220 acres, so they could build there.

John Burton of 2545 Cheshire Road stated that he thinks the same process taken in evaluating the value and use for the Credit Union building should apply to the lakes. He has not heard about alternatives to draining the lakes other than flooding University Circle. He would like an independent view for what would make sense for the communities, from someone other than Shaker Heights, Cleveland Heights and the NEORSD.

Mary Boyle thanked Council for their service and stated that she met with her neighbors who are concerned about Lower Lake and Doan Brook. She is pleased about the involvement of residents and stated she is working on an effort to create a survey to consider the major issues to better understand the options at the community level. She believes that will be helpful to everyone.

A resident from Kendall Road stated that he attended a lot of the meetings about Shaker Lakes. He hopes Council will pause to weigh everything.

The Mayor asked the Clerk of Council to read into the record public comments received by email or phone on other items.

Clerk of Council Mr. Carroll stated that no comments were received on other items by email or phone.

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There being no further business before Council, the Mayor adjourned the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

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DAVID E. WEISS, Mayor

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MATTHEW CARROLL, Clerk of Council