

# City of Trotwood

3035 Olive Road  
Trotwood, Ohio 45426  
937.837.7771  
[www.trotwood.org](http://www.trotwood.org)



## Meeting Minutes - Draft

**Monday, November 17, 2025**

**6:30 PM**

**Budget Workshop**

**Trotwood Community and Cultural Arts Center  
4000 Lake Center Drive, Trotwood, Ohio 45426**

### **City Council**

*Mayor Yvette F. Page  
Vice Mayor Tyna R. Brown, Ward 4  
Council Member Bettye L. Gales, Ward 1  
Council Member Martha H. Clark, Ward 2  
Council Member Milton J. Pearson, Ward 3  
Council Member Rhonda C. Finley, At Large  
Council Member Denise Moore, At Large  
Clerk of Council Kara B. Landis*

**I. Call to Order**

Mayor Page called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Mayor Page led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**III. Roll Call**

Clerk Landis took Roll Call.

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** City Manager Quincy Pope, Clerk of Council Kara Landis, Deputy City Manager Stephanie Kellum, Assistant to City Manager Jamaica White, Finance Director Chris Peeples, Assistant Finance Director Julie Kilbarger, HR Generalist Gwen Fou, HR Generalist Portia Hill, Marketing Coordinator Charles Wheeler, Planning and Development Director Tyler Hauck, Fire Chief Rick Haacke, Deputy Fire Chief Chad McInturff, Police Erik Wilson, Captain Mark Ecton, Income Tax Supervisor Sue Bowman.

**VISITORS PRESENT:** Robert Kelley, Jeff Moore, and Marcus Roll.

**IV. Approve the Agenda**

Mayor Page requested a Motion to approve the Agenda. A Motion was made by Vice Mayor Brown, seconded by Council Member Gales, and the Motion CARRIED by the following vote:

**Aye:** 7 - Council Member Gales, Council Member Moore, Council Member Clark, Council Member Finley, Council Member Pearson, Vice Mayor Brown and Mayor Page

**V. Special Presentations**[PR13-25](#)

Presentation of the 2026 Proposed Annual Operating Budget  
(10-minute presentations)

Police Department  
Fire and Rescue Department  
Public Works Department  
Finance Department  
Planning and Development Department  
    Planning and Development Division  
    Planning and Zoning Division  
    Code Enforcement and Inspection Division  
Recreation Department  
Personnel Department  
City Manager  
Mayor and Council

**Attachments:**     [PR13-25 Presentation](#)

City Manager Pope gave his opening remarks, announcing that the 2026 General Fund Budget is balanced. He shared that the City's bond rating has been upgraded by Moody's Investor Service and any negative outlook has been removed; further, the City received the State Auditor's Award with Distinction in recognition of excellence in financial reporting and transparency. He announced that the City is 100% recovered from the 2019 Memorial Day tornadoes, with new construction underway at Woodland Hills that is expected to be open in early 2026. He stated that the Industrial Park is thriving, bringing approximately 600 new jobs with an average annual salary of \$67,000.00.

City Manager Pope thanked City employees who worked hard to develop the budget, specifically Finance Director Peeples and Assistant Finance Director Kilbarger. He then reviewed the details of the Expenditure and Revenue Budgets, stating that the Cost of Living Allowance, or "COLA", shown on each budget center aligns with the union's negotiated wage increase of 4%, as the City has always awarded the same increase to all employees. City Manager Pope stated that estimated resignations and retirement payouts, and rising health care costs, increase the FY 2026 budget by another 8%.

City Manager Pope stated that there are some anticipated challenges with the Fire and Rescue Department's FY 2026 budget due to recent actions at both the federal and state level. He explained that the department is funded solely through property tax revenues and state-proposed reductions to inside millage would directly impact their essential services. He went on to say that certain funding programs at the federal level have been frozen or not renewed. City Manager Pope stated that all of these actions have a direct impact on the Fire and Rescue Department, as five positions are currently supported through federal grant funds, and without the continuation of such funding, the department is not able to sustain those positions in the FY 2026 budget. He shared that the City's goal is to convert these grant-funded positions into the

City's part-time staffing model; the City is not just letting people go. He asked everyone to write their local senator and congressman so that they better understand the impact of their actions.

City Manager Pope stated that the City will continue to provide quality services while allowing the City to maintain the unencumbered general fund reserves at approximately \$5 million, representing a four-month operating carryover.

Some highlights from the presentation:

**POLICE DEPARTMENT:** Police Chief Wilson presented the Police Department's budget and explained that because the department was restructured by reallocating the deputy chief position to a captain position, there is a reduction in the administration budget and an increase in the patrol budget in order to fund the new position.

Council Member Finley asked about funds allocated for drug education and if that would be enough. Chief Wilson explained that the amount budgeted is the cost to run the intoxilyzer machine. Council Member Finley then commented about no funding for community policing. Chief Wilson stated that community policing is part of the administration and patrol budgets. Council Member Finley asked about cyber security and if funds should be increased to address those types of issues. Chief Wilson stated that cyber security for the City would be handled by Mr. Peebles and the City's IT contractor. Mayor Page then advised that on the December Agenda, Council will see legislation adopting a cyber security policy, which will include a brief executive session on the topic.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Fire Chief Haacke mentioned the impact of the loss of grant funding and reiterated that the goal is to convert those employees to part-time positions, a pathway to a full-time position as future attrition occurs. Chief Haacke explained that the retention portion of the SAFER grant is the program that was removed; however, he was told that it may reopen, but the revised program would not cover 100% of the expense. Chief Haacke also stated that additional grants will be pursued.

**PUBLIC WORKS:** Operations Supervisor Johnny McCluskey presented the proposed FY 2026 budget for the Public Works Department. Council Member Finley asked Supervisor McCluskey if there was a surplus in the line items that were not increased. Supervisor McCluskey confirmed that to be correct.

**FINANCE DEPARTMENT:** Finance Director Peebles reviewed the Finance Department's proposed budget. Council Member Moore asked about refuse collection and if the current contract is expiring. Mr. Peebles confirmed that the contract with Rumpke will expire in 2026. Council Member Moore asked how long the City has contracted with Rumpke. Director Peebles stated that he believes Rumpke has provided services for the City for around 13 years, and its because they have been the winning bid each cycle. An unknown speaker mentioned Waste Management, to which Director Peebles responded that they no longer do residential pick-up, only commercial. He shared that some nearby communities have contracted with Republic; however, they would have to submit a bid when the RFP is posted. Council Member Moore asked about the length of the contract. Director Peebles stated contracts have been for three years, with three one-year renewal options. Council Member Moore commented that it would be reasonable to believe that rates will increase with

a new contract. Director Peeples explained that the cost has increased each of the last three years; however, the increase has not been passed on to residents, so any increase will be significant. Director Peeples stated that they will be meeting with Council to determine whether or not they want to pass the increase on to residents, or if the City should try to absorb the additional expense. He went on to say that the City has covered a lot of increases over the years, including water and sewer rates and refuse collection. Director Peeples shared that the industry now suggests that small annual increases such as 1 - 2% is best so residents don't incur such a big increase at one time. He explained that around 2013, the City incurred a 45% water rate increase spread over five years, but the City agreed not to collect the last year's increase of 9%. Director Peeples went on to explain that around 2008, the City wasn't receiving payments for utility bills and was running huge delinquencies that were eventually assessed. He believes people's financial health has increased because more people are paying their bills and tax collection is now around 98%.

Council Member Finley asked about the increased budget for construction. Director Peeples explained that included in the FY 2026, is the cost to convert the former Madison Township Fire Station on Olive Road to a records center. He shared that the renovations will include asbestos remediation, and it will need new mechanicals to control the humidity. He stated that this line item also covers routine improvements such as replacing a heating and cooling unit.

Council Member Finley asked if the current records center is no longer being utilized and if it could possibly be sold. Director Peeples explained that it would be Council's decision to sell the building; he then asked Chief Wilson if they use the building for training and Chief Wilson said his department does not use the current records center for training purposes.

Council Member Finley then said she would like to know the increase to the TIF in the industrial park. Director Peeples advised that the two new buildings are not in the TIF, only Equipment Share; however, the two future buildings recently approved by Council will be in the TIF. Director Peeples stated that he would like to expand the TIF because there is going to be continued growth in the industrial park. He explained that TIF funds could be used to install new infrastructure more suitable for new construction.

**PARKS AND RECREATION:** Council Member Finley asked about the decrease in funds for Operating Materials from 2025. Coordinator Wheeler advised that those funds were reallocated to Contracted Services because that is the account most of the expenditures are paid from.

**CITY MANAGER:** Council Member Finley asked for clarification on funds in the Strategic Initiatives line item. City Manager Pope explained that this account covers expenses such as the resident communication initiative, the strategic plan, and the new digital message board.

Council Member Moore mentioned changes in the Professional and Consultant Services. Deputy City Manager Kellum explained that \$5,000 was simply reallocated to Other Contracted Services; the total operating budget is the same.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL:** Mayor Page presented the Mayor and Council's budget, explaining that in addition to the 4% COLA increase for staff, the budget includes an increase for the Ward representatives based on legislation approved by Council upon the recommendation of the Compensation Board. She added that there are no changes to the operating budget.

## **VI. Adjourn**

There was no further discussion about the FY 2026 budget, and Mayor Page confirmed all minds were clear. She commended City Manager, Deputy City Manager, and City staff for doing the City's work on a thin budget, and she thanked Clerk of Council Landis for all she does.

Mayor Page adjourned the meeting at 7:20 p.m.