

Executive Summary: Committee as a Whole Meeting **Date:** June 25, 2026

Attendance: Councilpersons Camara, Grant, Martin, Paessun, Pinter
Fiscal Officer Wilcheck, Mayor Southard, Chief Delp

Key Discussion Topics & Decisions

2027 Tax Budget Review

Fiscal Officer Jeff Wilcheck presented the preliminary **2027 Tax Budget**, emphasizing that it is not the final appropriated budget but a statutory filing required for property tax justification and participation in county local government fund allocations.

Budget Assumptions

- Property Tax Revenue Estimate: **\$500,500**
- Local Government Fund Estimate: **\$60,000**
- Wage Increase Assumption: **4%**
- General Expenditure Increase Assumption: **3%**
- Healthcare Cost Increase Assumption: **10%**

Important Dates

- Public Hearing: **July 9, 2026 at 6:15 PM**
- Budget Adoption Deadline: **July 15, 2026**
- Filing Deadline with County Budget Commission: **July 20, 2026**

Action Item

Council is expected to consider approval of the tax budget on July 9.

Pool Bathhouse Replacement Project

The majority of the meeting focused on finalizing the design and cost considerations for the proposed pool bathhouse/concession facility.

Current Status

- Estimated project cost remains approximately **\$653,000**
- Original project schedule contemplated:
 - Bid advertisement in July
 - Contract award in July/August
 - Construction beginning August/September
 - Reopening with pool season in May 2027

Council Discussion

Members reviewed revised architectural concepts and debated:

- Addition of a **covered breezeway** between building sections
- Potential use of **pre-manufactured roof trusses** to reduce costs
- Evaluation of ADA requirements versus optional design features
- Need for detailed breakdown of required versus discretionary expenses
- Review of concession stand licensing requirements and associated infrastructure
- Possible alternatives to reduce overall project cost while maintaining functionality

Direction Given

Council generally favored:

- Comparing the current preferred design with a revised version incorporating a breezeway
- Requesting additional cost-saving alternatives from the architect
- Receiving itemized estimates before making a final design decision

Next Steps

- Fiscal Officer Wilcheck will meet with the architect (Brandstetter) to review alternatives and possible cost reductions.
- Revised pricing options will be brought back to Council for consideration.

Storm Sewer CCTV Program & Infrastructure Maintenance

Council discussed a proposal from the village engineers regarding CCTV inspection of storm sewer infrastructure.

Key Financial Information

- Engineering services estimate: **Approximately \$51,000**
- Scope includes:
 - Project planning
 - Engineering specifications
 - Bid package preparation
 - CCTV inspection program development

Concerns Raised

Council members expressed concern over:

- Engineering costs associated with inspection planning
- Existing backlog of sewer repair recommendations exceeding **\$200,000**
- Need to remain compliant with Ohio EPA requirements
- Funding limitations for previously identified repairs

Action Items

- Review Maplewood area concerns during project scoping.
- Ensure future project planning addresses both new and previously identified repairs.

Capital Projects Updates

Kilbourne Pathway Project

- Engineering task order expected shortly.
- Remaining work will be funded using previously issued bond proceeds.
- Bond proceeds must be expended by **May 2027**.

Northlake Court Improvements

- Bid package has been completed and is ready for advertisement.

MS4 Wetland/Stormwater Project

- Bid documents are prepared and nearing release.
- Staff evaluating best methods for public advertisement and contractor outreach.

Water, Sewer & Stormwater Utility Discussion

Council discussed:

- Rising utility rates
- Resident concerns regarding increasing water and sewer costs
- Columbus utility surcharges for customers outside city limits
- Future need to revisit utility rates due to ongoing infrastructure demands

Revenue Sources Discussed

- General fund transfers
 - Water and sewer surcharges
 - Stormwater (ERU) fees generating approximately **\$60,000–\$70,000 annually**
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Pool Operations Update

Concession Revenue Performance

Comparison of June 1–15 operations:

Period Revenue

2025 Approximately \$2,001

2026 Approximately \$2,401

Results

- Concession sales increased approximately **\$400 year-over-year**
- Increased usage attributed in part to daycare groups utilizing the facility

Council noted the need to evaluate whether revenue growth is due to increased volume or recent price adjustments.

Pool Engineering Consultant

Council was informed that:

- The contract with consultant **Kurt Carmen** has been executed.
 - The consultant has already:
 - Visited the pool site
 - Met with staff
 - Reviewed existing plans
 - Begun work under the agreement
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Charter Commission Update

Council received a report on the Charter Commission's first meeting.

Organizational Actions

- Brady Oxender elected Chair
- Brian Wolfe elected Vice Chair
- James Akers elected Secretary

Current Status

- Commission currently has **11 members**
- Goal is to expand membership to **15 members**
- Weekly Tuesday meetings are planned

Legal Services

- Cross Brown Cott Givens was selected as legal counsel.
- Estimated legal expenses discussed at approximately **\$30,000**, subject to further clarification.

Timeline

The commission aims to complete its work by late September to allow sufficient time for:

- Council review
 - Required readings
 - Ballot placement deadlines
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9. Basketball Courts / Removal of Hoops

Council discussed concerns surrounding recently removed basketball hoops.

Background

- Hoops had already been considered for temporary removal during prior discussions related to maintenance and safety concerns.
- Recent incidents and reports prompted additional discussion.
- Multiple versions of events surrounding a reported incident have circulated.

Key Points

- All basketball hoops have now been removed.
- No decision has been made regarding permanent removal.
- Council members emphasized the need for verified facts before taking further action.

Action Item

A dedicated **Safety Committee meeting** will be scheduled to:

- Review available information
 - Hear from police leadership
 - Discuss appropriate next steps before considering reinstallation
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10. July Meeting Schedule Adjustments

Confirmed

- July 9 tax budget hearing and meeting will proceed.
- July 16 will become:
 - Work Session: **6:00 PM**
 - Council Meeting: **7:00 PM**

Tentative

- July 23 meeting remains on the calendar for now but is expected to be canceled if no urgent business arises.
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Summary of Major Action Items

1. **Approve and file 2027 Tax Budget by statutory deadlines.**

2. **Finalize pool bathhouse design and obtain alternative pricing options.**
 3. **Advance CCTV storm sewer engineering scope and address repair backlog.**
 4. **Advertise Northlake Court and MS4-related projects.**
 5. **Monitor utility rate pressures and future funding needs.**
 6. **Continue pool consultant review and planning activities.**
 7. **Support Charter Commission timeline and legal services review.**
 8. **Schedule Safety Committee meeting regarding basketball court concerns.**
 9. **Implement July meeting schedule modifications.**
- Meeting Adjourned by Motion and Voice Vote.**

Jeffrey Wilcheck, Fiscal Officer

Tiffany Southard, Mayor