



Council Minutes – Regular Meeting

February 17, 2026

Mayor Spalding called to order the New Albany City Council Meeting of February 17, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at the New Albany Village Hall, 99 West Main Street, New Albany, Ohio. Staff attending were City Manager Joseph Stefanov, Deputy City Manager Adrienne Joly, Law Director Benjamin Albrecht, Finance Director Bethany Staats, Police Chief Greg Jones, Development Director Jennifer Chrysler, Planner I Sierra Saumenig, Public Service Director Ryan Ohly, Deputy Public Service Director Steven Mayer, Chief Marketing Officer Josh Poland, and Clerk of Council Jennifer Mason.

ROLL CALL:

The following Mayor/Council Members answered Roll Call:

Mayor Sloan Spalding	P
CM Marlene Brisk	P
CM Michael Durik	P
CM Chip Fellows	A
CM Kasey Kist	P
CM Matt Shull	P
CM Andrea Wiltrout	P

Clerk Mason reported that Council Member Fellows could not attend due to work travel and requested to be excused. Mayor Spalding moved to excuse Council Member Fellows from the council meeting. Council Member Shull seconded and council voted with 6 yes votes to excuse Council Member Fellows from the council meeting.

ACTION ON MINUTES:

Council adopted the February 3, 2026 regular meeting minutes by consensus.

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA:

At City Manager Stefanov’s request, Mayor Spalding moved to add an executive session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22(G)(3) for conferences with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action to item 17 on the agenda. Council Member Shull seconded and council voted with 6 yes votes to add the executive session.

HEARING OF VISITORS:

Jeremy Woelfle, 6474 Cedar Brook Drive, brought Cub Scout Pack 150 to learn about the community and how it worked. The pack went to places all around the community, such as the police and fire departments. City council was one of the most important pieces, and they hoped to observe around 15 minutes of the meeting to see how things were operated.

Proclamation: Recognizing February as Black History Month – Mayor Spalding spoke about the passing of Reverend Jesse Jackson, a significant leader of the Civil Rights Movement. Reverend Jackson’s leadership, vision, passion, and commitment to his cause inspired many. He was a bridge to the past, and a representation of the struggle to bring about equality for all United States citizens. Reverend Jackson not only organized his community and many others, but he also built an incredible foundation, ran for president of the United States, and lead the way for his fellow Chicagoan, Barack Obama, to run for president and

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win twice. We would all mourn and honor his passing. Everyone in attendance took a moment of silence to honor Reverend Jackson’s passing and legacy. Mayor Spalding read out the proclamation.

Marc Minor accepted the proclamation and thanked council on behalf of the African American community for the proclamation and for Mayor Spalding’s touching words on Reverend Jackson. Mr. Minor hoped that we could take the promises and hopes represented in the proclamation forward and live out their true meaning.

Mayor Spalding thanked the community members for attending. It was an honor to remember and pay tribute to the hard work that had been done. There was still much to do, and he looked forward to embarking on that journey together.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

PLANNING COMMISSION (PC): No meeting.

PARKS AND TRAILS ADVISORY BOARD (PTAB): No report.

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (ARB): Council Member Brisk reported the ARB approved the plan for a new fire substation. Everyone was very excited about this plan, and there were comments from board members and residents in support of it. The organizational meeting was held. Alan Hinson was reappointed as Chairperson, John Iten as Vice-Chair, and Jim Brown as Secretary.

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS (BZA): No meeting.

SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD (SAB): Council Member Kist reported the SAB toured the Rumpke Recycling Resource Center and presented the attached slides. This \$100+ million facility was one of the leading recycling facilities in North America, and the board was grateful for the tour. He showed photos of the facility and explained some of the technology used by the crews. Many materials processed in this facility were reused and recycled in New Albany’s Business Park. He thanked Rumpke for investing in the community and being a great business partner. He encouraged residents to sign up for tours. Mayor Spalding gave his compliments to the Rumpke family, some of whom resided in New Albany.

INCLUSION DIVERSITY EQUITY AND ACCESSIBILITY IMPLEMENTATION PANEL (IDEA): Deputy City Manager Joly reported the Souper Supper raised over \$2,300 for the food pantry. Council Member Brisk stated the event had grown and the crowd for the event didn’t fit in the building. A bigger location may be considered. The IDEA Panel worked on this year’s educational activity, perhaps about generational differences, and reviewed the completed welcome boxes to be given out to new residents by the Community Connectors. The panel voted to go ahead with the block party trailer which residents could sign out to organize a block party. The panel held its organizational meeting. Marie Alvarado was elected as Chair, Dr. Brianna Johnson as Vice-Chair, and Courtney Nixon as Secretary.

CEMETERY RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (CRAB): No meeting.

PUBLIC RECORDS COMMISSION: No meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS:

NONE

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SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCES:

NONE

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE O-05-2026

Mayor Spalding read by title AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF NEW ALBANY BY AMENDING THE ZONING MAP TO REZONE 6.350 +/- ACRES OF LAND GENERALLY LOCATED AT THE NORTHWEST INTERSECTION OF STATE ROUTE 605 AND NEW ALBANY ROAD EAST FROM ITS CURRENT ZONING OF “L-GE” LIMITED GENERAL EMPLOYMENT TO “CF” COMMUNITY FACILITIES AS REQUESTED BY SCHORR ARCHITECTS C/O NATHAN GAMMELLA.

Planner I Sierra Saumenig stated this legislation rezoned 6.35 acres of a 12.72-acre parcel from Limited General Employment (L-GE) to Community Facilities (CF) to allow for a Plain Township fire substation. Surrounding uses included the Nottingham subdivision to the north and office/commercial uses to the east, west, and south. The Rocky Fork Blacklick Accord and Planning Commission both recommended approval, and the Architectural Review Board (ARB) approved a Certificate of Appropriateness. The application contained a Final Development Plan, which was required for the CF zoning districts. The site plan demonstrated compliance with required setbacks, building height limitations, and screening requirements. The proposed lot coverage was 18.8%, well below the maximum 75%, and the application met or exceeded all landscaping requirements, including parking lot landscaping, screening, and general site and street tree standards. Section 8 of the city’s design guidelines were applicable to this site. The primary entrance was oriented towards the street, and the architectural materials, roof form, and building massing were consistent with the character and function of a civic building. While the strategic plan identified the site for an employment center, the plan did not establish specific standards. These types of uses were intended to be integrated throughout the community, and the proposed rezoning was consistent with this intent.

Mayor Spalding recognized the township trustees and fire chief who were present. He recognized the New Albany Company for community land donations and Plain Township trustees for working with their architect and reaching out to the surrounding communities to put together a facility that everyone could be proud of.

Council Member Kist asked and Nathan Gamella of Schorr Architects answered there was no traffic signal at the curb cut, but in an emergency, the signals to the north and south would notify oncoming traffic that fire trucks would be exiting. The system would be controlled by a preemption system in the fire station.

Mayor Spalding asked and Mr. Gamella answered that the only entrance/exit was on SR 605.

Council Member Shull asked about mounding and landscaping on the south side of the lot that would separate the remaining 6.7 acres of the lot. Mr. Gamella responded that there would be mounding on west and south sides of the site. Gas lines limited mounding in some spots. They relocated some mounding and landscaping to the northwest side of the site, on the east side of the gas easement, so that traffic could see when a fire truck was exiting.

Mayor Spalding set the ordinance for second reading at the March 3, 2026 council meeting.

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READING AND PUBLIC HEARING OF RESOLUTIONS:

NONE

COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

NONE

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES:

- A. Council Representative to MORPC: City Manager Stefanov reported that MORPC received the Certificate of Excellence in Financial Reporting from the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) for the 37th year in a row. MORPC had a new podcast titled “Growing Better Together,” on which Whitehall Mayor Michael Bivens would be featured. The executive board went to Washington DC for the annual legislative conference, where they met with the central Ohio’s congressional delegation. Municipalities were asked to promote the expansion of MORPC’s weatherization program. The MORPC land use map was being updated, and local governments were asked to provide zoning and planning updates. The MORPC State of the Region meeting was coming up. MORPC also increased membership to 94 municipalities. Regional Data Day was a success with 216 registrants. MORPC was working on the 2026-2026 data agenda, developed by the data committee. MORPC announced working with local defense organizations to encourage a purchasing program to allow local governments to collaborate with defense programs. MORPC traveled to Las Vegas Nevada to look at private high speed rail project. MORPC was updating 2030 regional mobility plan. Mayor Spalding was chairing the Regional Policy Roundtable, which would be developing policy objectives for the next 2 years. Mayor Spalding stated the policy roundtable heard from Brian Lorenz and heard about the capital budget, likely to be more limited than in years past. Township Trustee Ben Collins participated.
- B. Council Representative to Joint Park District (JPD): Council Member Shull reported that the field house was on track to open this year, despite weather setbacks. He received a request to host a pickleball tournament fundraised in July from an individual on Huntington’s Pelotonia team. 100% of the proceeds from this tournament would support childhood cancer research. Mayor Spalding suggested coordinating with a youth bike ride also being planned for July. Council Member Shull noted that the city’s tournament was July 17-19 and he would reach out to the individual to coordinate the event for one of the other weekends in July.
- C. Council Representative to New Albany-Plain Local Schools (NAPLS): Council Member Wiltout reported on school district calamity days. Allotted days were up to the school district, and NAPLS had an agreement with teachers that they would make up any days after 5 snow days at the end of the year. The campus master plan was updated, and the new elementary school was slotted to be done by November 2027. This would be a 20-month build and there would be a groundbreaking ceremony. The Tech Hub would be a 6-month renovation, and that wing of the building would be closed while construction was happening. The bus garage was put on hold while working out land issues. The board discussed the 5-year financial forecast and student discipline. Truancy was down this year There was a small uptick in cell-phone use discipline.
- D. Council Representative to Plain Township: Council Member Durik reported the township conducted the usual business.

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REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS:

- A. Mayor Spalding: No report.
- B. Clerk of Council: Clerk Mason briefly reported on her trip to the Olympics in Cortina, Italy.
- C. Finance Director: No report.
- D. City Manager: Deputy City Manager Joly presented the attached slides with concept drawings of the New Albany Athletic Campus on the former Discover site. This was the product of the effort with the school over the fall, leading up to the site acquisition, in terms of defining what the school, city, and community uses could be. The school district was actively working on the phasing of the project, with baseball and softball fields being up first. The city budgeted a small amount in the capital budget to apply to this project, but the use of that money was up to council discretion. The city hadn't yet done any cost estimating or design.

Council Member Durik expressed concern about traffic flow and parking during large events. Based on the designs presented, there was one way in and one way out of the campus. How would this be managed when large events were taking place? Deputy City Manager Joly replied that they had looked at many different scenarios based on the seasons and which sports would be active at the same time. This was not peak parking, but it was adequate for most overlap in uses, which would be in the spring. The school district was confident in their parking numbers and how those transferred over to this site. The district would also consider approaching landowners of neighboring offices to discuss parking agreements and overflow parking.

Council Member Kist asked and Deputy City Manager Joly answered this campus was not designed to replace the current school stadium. This would be an extra facility to schedule things such as JV, middle school games, and tournament games. Council Member Kist believed the current stadium had a 5,000-seat capacity and some games filled close to capacity. During those times, people parked at the Church of the Resurrection, and some couldn't find parking. Council members didn't want this site to be a huge parking field to accommodate overflow school parking when the stadium filled. Deputy City Manager Joly responded, knowing what happened on Fodor Road, there had been a lot of discussion surrounding parking. The school was discussing overflow parking with surrounding office buildings. They were looking at street parking on New Albany Road East and whether that could be done safely. The driveway to the north was owned by Discover, served their data center, and the land was both private and gated. As of now, the school didn't think they needed it but could explore that in the future.

Mayor Spalding asked and Deputy City Manager Joly answered that the open grass field next to the track was about 2.5 acres.

City Manager Joe Stefanov stated that the city was exploring the SR 605 corridor and pedestrian connectivity, such as leisure trail extensions and changes to lane configurations, to support new development.

Council Member Kist recalled enhancements for the hamlet project in the same corridor connecting to the school campus in order to get kids there safely. Deputy City Manager Joly agreed that the city

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was working on pedestrian safety to make sure facilities existed and to provide easy access and safe crossings. Council Member Wilttrout recalled many conversations about pedestrian connectivity.

City Manager Stefanov stated extensive thought was given to tree rows and naturalized landscaping which didn't exist at the time in order to give the athletic campus more of a park feel. The significance of the trees could not be understated in this project.

Council Member Kist stated that adding to the school's athletic facilities was long overdue. He appreciated the raised mound to watch games from. It would be fun to create community uses that didn't currently exist with this project.

Council Member Wilttrout thought people were looking for places to gather and go to. She had high hopes for what all could fit in the complex. It was important to support the schools, and she recalled the promise to help with the fields to help reduce the tax burden on the public.

John McClelland, member of the NAPLS school board, stated this wouldn't have happened without school board and city collaboration. When the initial bond levy was issued and approved, this land wasn't part of the plan. However, seeing the potential set up many opportunities for the school in the future. He described having to move sports field for the new elementary building, which was the catalyst for this project. The school board wanted to upgrade the middle school stadium, which was currently a grass field. Moving it off campus would enable the school to maintain extra academic space for the future. He described the NAPLS 1 campus structure and the synergies that happened because of this. He thanked council for their input and great partnership.

E. City Attorney: No report.

POLL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

Joel Topolosky, 6204 Calloway Square West in Nottingham neighborhood, expressed concerns about the roundabout construction starting in the first couple weeks of March. SR 605 and Walnut Street would be closed due to this construction, and the detour would be from Harlem Road to Central College Road. There had been several conversations with Franklin County engineers about not closing off Schleppe Road, which led into Nottingham Trace. The city line was right at the edge of Schleppe Road, causing the speed limit to drop from 55 mph to 25 mph. Mr. Topolosky got them to install a "25 mph ahead" sign in the area, because the speed limit sign itself was in the curve and hidden in the summer. He was concerned that traffic would cut through his neighborhood to avoid using Harlem Road and asked for a 4-way stop at the Schleppe Road intersection, which was the first intersection in the neighborhood. Mr. Topolosky expressed concerns about people not stopping at the stop signs. There were lots of electric cars in the neighborhood and many people could not hear them. This, coupled with the fact that the neighborhood did not have crosswalks and residents often crossed wherever was convenient, increased risk of serious accidents. Mr. Topolosky asked if the police department or the city could implement temporary crosswalks and stop signs in the neighborhood while construction was ongoing. He understood what the city was doing and was sure that a police presence would be helpful during the first few days of road closures.

Mayor Spalding stated that the city and county had been working with the township on this project for years. The current configuration of the road did create dangerous conditions. The high speeds of cars in those areas caused accidents to be quite serious. Mayor Spalding was thankful to the Franklin County

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engineers for stepping up to take care of it. The outcome of this project would be worth the inconvenience of the construction. There would be plenty of coordination between Franklin County engineers, Public Service Director Ryan Ohly, and Chief of Police Greg Jones to see what could be done to caution everyone about the traffic changes and an increased police presence when necessary. This would be a priority and Mayor Spalding appreciated Mr. Topolosky bringing the concern to their attention. He invited Mr. Topolosky back as the project progressed.

POLL FOR COUNCIL COMMENT:

NONE

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Mayor Spalding moved that council go into executive session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22(G)(1) for discussion regarding appointment of a public official and pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22(G)(3) for conferences with an attorney for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court action. Council Member Shull seconded and council voted with 6 yes votes to go into executive session at 7:45 pm.

Mayor Spalding moved that council come out of executive session and resume the regular meeting. Council Member Wilttrout seconded and council voted with 6 yes votes to come out of executive session and resume the regular meeting. Council resumed the regular meeting at 8:29 pm.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Council Member Kist stated that there were many applications for boards and commissions and he was grateful for everyone who applied. They were fortunate to have so many qualified individuals apply for these positions.

Council Member Kist moved to appoint Nichole Foreman to the Cemetery Restoration Advisory Board (CRAB) for a term starting March 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2028. Council Member Brisk seconded and council voted with 6 yes votes to appoint Ms. Foreman to the CRAB for the term specified.

Council Member Kist moved to appoint E.J. Thomas to the Community Reinvestment Area Housing Council (CRAHC) for a term starting immediately and ending December 31, 2028. Council Member Brisk seconded and council voted with 6 yes votes to appoint Mr. Thomas to CRAHC for the term specified.

Council Member Kist moved to appoint Howard Burak to the Sustainability Advisory Board (SAB) to complete an unexpired term ending June 30, 2028. Council Member Wilttrout seconded and council voted with 6 yes votes to appoint Mr. Burak to the SAB for the term specified.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further comments and all scheduled matters attended to, Mayor Spalding moved and Council Member Shull seconded to adjourn the February 17, 2026 regular council meeting at 8:32 pm.

ATTEST:



Jennifer H. Mason, Clerk of Council



Sloan T. Spalding, Mayor



Date



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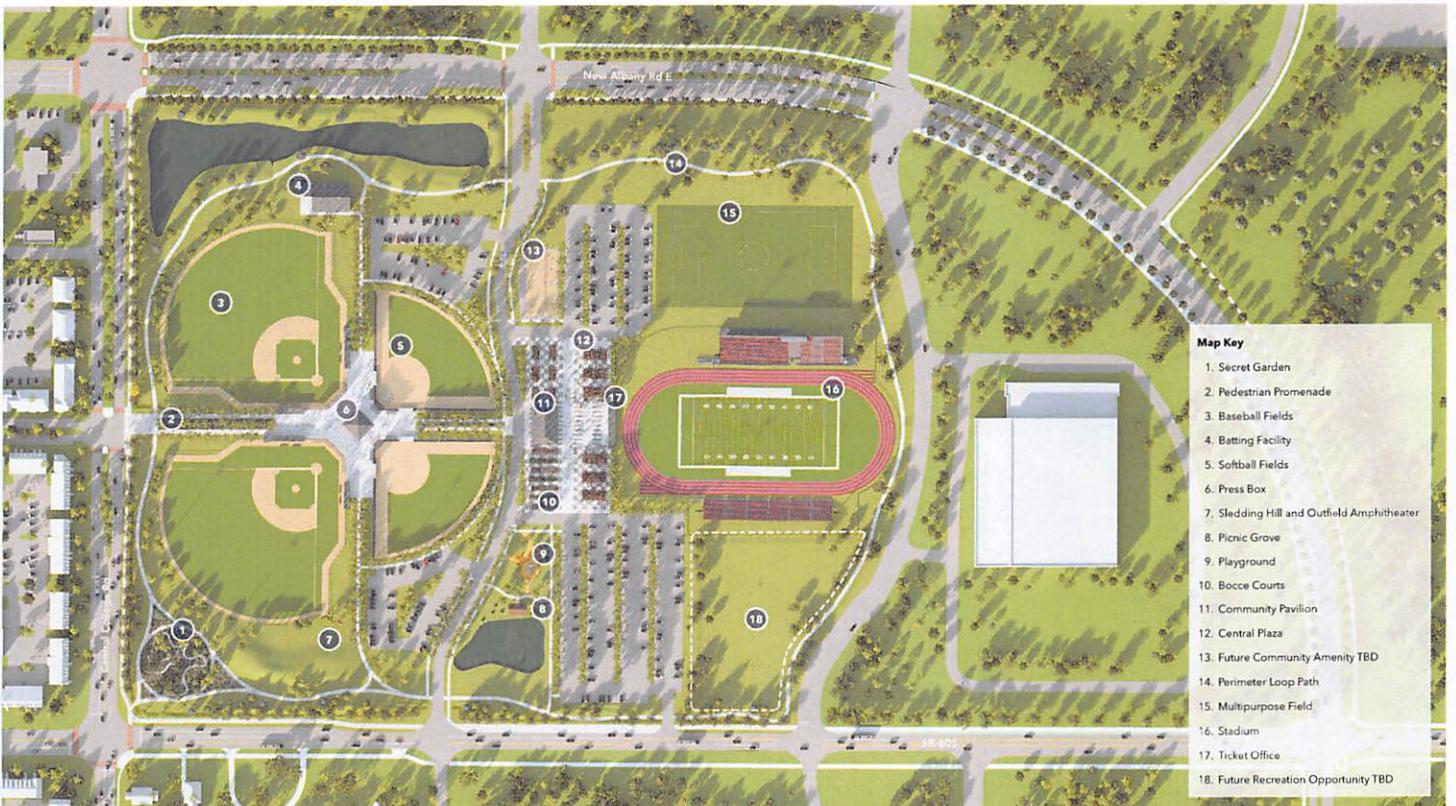


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ATHLETIC CAMPUS

FRAMEWORK PLAN

MKSK
02.03.2026



Map Key

1. Secret Garden
2. Pedestrian Promenade
3. Baseball Fields
4. Batting Facility
5. Softball Fields
6. Press Box
7. Sledding Hill and Outfield Amphitheater
8. Picnic Grove
9. Playground
10. Bocce Courts
11. Community Pavilion
12. Central Plaza
13. Future Community Amenity TBD
14. Perimeter Loop Path
15. Multipurpose Field
16. Stadium
17. Ticket Office
18. Future Recreation Opportunity TBD



View Looking Northwest
New Albany Athletic Campus

02.06.2026



View Looking East
New Albany Athletic Campus

02.06.2026



View Looking Southeast
New Albany Athletic Campus

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