



Council Minutes – Regular Meeting

March 17, 2026

Mayor Spalding called to order the New Albany City Council Meeting of March 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, Police Lieutenant Kris Daniels, Development Director Jennifer Chrysler, Public Service Director Ryan Ohly, 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	A
CM Chip Fellows	P
CM Kasey Kist	P
CM Matt Shull	A
CM Andrea Wilttrout	P

Clerk Mason reported that Council Member Shull could not attend due to travel and Council Member Durik was traveling and could not attend because his return flight to Columbus was canceled. Both requested to be excused. Mayor Spalding moved to excuse Council Members Durik and Shull from the council meeting. Council Member Brisk seconded and council voted with 5 yes votes to excuse Council Members Durik and Shull from the council meeting.

ACTION ON MINUTES:

Clerk Mason reported that she fixed the March 3 minutes so that the resolution portion was under Resolutions and Public Hearing and that she corrected that Council Member Durik seconded the motion to adjourn. She made the corrections to the original version for signature. Council adopted the March 3, 2026 regular meeting minutes by consensus.

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA:

NONE

HEARING OF VISITORS:

Mayor Spalding observed that he had seen a few new police officers out on the street. This ceremony provided an opportunity for council to thank the men and women of the police department, and brought in family members of the officers to participate and recognize their service. He thanked the families for their support and recognized the hard work that went into being a police officer. The City of New Albany appreciated and valued the service that the New Albany Police Department (NAPD) provided.

Police Chief Greg Jones stated NAPD hired primarily for character because new recruits could be trained on all other aspects of the job. He described the hiring and training process for the NAPD, which involved 6 months of hiring procedure, 6 months in the police academy, and 15 weeks of field training. The dedicated new recruits made it through both academy and the field training program, when many didn't. The NAPD was very impressed with these individuals for their perseverance and character.



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Promotion/Badge Pinning Ceremony:

Chief Jones introduced Sergeant Michael Cohrs as having served with NAPD for 7 years. He was originally from New Jersey and graduated from Cedarville University. Sgt. Cohrs also served in the Army National Guard and was deployed overseas in 2024. He just returned from leave after having his second child. Mayor Spalding administered the oath of office. Sgt. Cohrs' wife, Janessa, pinned on his badge.

Oaths of Office/Badge Pinning Ceremony:

Chief Jones introduced Officer Jill Peters as a 2024 graduate of the Columbus Police Academy. She was currently a second shift officer and previously owned multiple businesses in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. He recounted that her son Colin was sworn in first and she determined that she wanted to join the NAPD as well. Mayor Spalding administered the oath of office. Officer Peter's husband, Casey, pinned on her badge.

Chief Jones introduced Officer Gabrielle Kamps. Her training was paused to have her son, August, so her training period was a year and a half long. She was a master diver, which was a first in the NAPD. She attended the Columbus Police Academy and graduated in 2025. Mayor Spalding administered the oath of office. Officer Kamps' husband, Brent, with her son, August, pinned on her badge.

Chief Jones introduced Officer Austin Kennedy. He came from the Morrow County Sheriff's Department in 2025. He was also a veteran of US Marine Corps. Mayor Spalding administered the oath of office. Officer Kennedy's mom, Leslie, pinned on his badge.

Chief Jones introduced Officer Randy Lytle, who had started as a dispatcher and a youth pastor before becoming an officer. He graduated from Central Ohio Technical College (COTC). He was a sergeant at Army National Guard. Mayor Spalding administered the oath of office. Officer Lytle's sister, Liz, pinned on his badge.

Chief Jones introduced Officer Jacob Poole as another graduate of COTC in 2025. He also graduated from Capitol University with a bachelor's degree in criminology, where he also played lacrosse. Chief Jones joked that he didn't have a choice in becoming a police officer because he came from a law enforcement family. Chief Jones recognized his dad and brother for their individual service. Mayor Spalding administered the oath of office. Officer Poole's fiancé, Olivia, pinned on his badge.

Chief Jones introduced Officer Matthew Fries, who also attended COTC. He was a graduate of Dublin-Coffman High School and served in the US Marine Corps. Mayor Spalding administered the oath of office. Officer Fries' wife, Ania, pinned on his badge.

Chief Jones thanked all the people who had shown the dedication to become a police officer and their Field Training Officers (FTOs) who spent months training the recruits. The NAPD didn't normally train that many at one time, so this was a challenge. Chief Jones also thanked the mayor, council, and city manager for providing the resources that went into hiring these great individuals. He thanked the families for supporting the officers through every challenge.

Mayor Spalding thanked welcomed the new recruits to the New Albany family.

Proclamation: Recognizing March as Women's History Month – Mayor Spalding read the proclamation aloud. He praised women in leadership, describing the experience of joining council alongside former mayors Colleen Briscoe and Nancy Ferguson. He recognized Council Member Brisk and Council Member Wilttrout. Laura Gallo,

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Vice Chair, Sustainability Advisory Board and Marie Alvarado, Chair, IDEA Implementation Panel accepted the proclamation.

BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:

PLANNING COMMISSION (PC): Council Member Wiltout reported swearing in new PC member Dr. Taru Saigal. The PC unanimously approved the final development plan (FDP) for the Healthy New Albany Food Pantry. The meeting was packed and much community support was shown. Rose Run Presbyterian Church donated half of their lot for the pantry. The pantry would be treated as an accessory structure under the same zoning text as the church, and subsequent uses would be constrained by the same zoning. 2 members of the public came to address traffic concerns on Harlem Road. Planning Manager Chris Christian reached out to both gentlemen to discuss implementing speeding restrictions and/or increased enforcement. The PC approved the Clover Valley East Zoning District. The PC talked about an extension application for a previously approved Planned Unit Development (PUD). A coffee shop came to continue its Final Development Plan (FDP) because construction was required within a 2-year period. New code language would add standards and structure to a PUD zoning request and would allow a 1-year extension under certain conditions. The PC held their organizational meeting and elected Neil Kirby as chair, David Wallace as vice chair, and Bruce Larson as secretary. Sarah Briggs was appointed as the new PC liaison to the BZA.

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

ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD (ARB): Council Member Brisk reported the ARB approved the food pantry application. There was an agreement for new landscaping to screen the parking lot for neighboring residents. Mayor Spalding asked and Council Member Brisk replied that Planning Manager Christian had met with neighbors and found a solution, but it was subject to staff scrutiny to make sure it worked. City Manager Stefanov explained that the city worked with the church and pantry to plant trees within an adjacent park to provide the screening. Council Member Wiltout stated the applicant agreed to all conditions. The ARB approved a Certificate of Appropriateness (COA) for a sign on a custom tailor shop at 21 South High St. The ARB approved a COA for exterior modifications for a private swimming pool, patio, and detached garage at a private residence. Board Member Maletz voted no because he did not see a compelling reason to approve the certificate.

BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS (BZA): No meeting

SUSTAINABILITY ADVISORY BOARD (SAB): Council Member Kist reported the SAB swore in new member Howard Burack. They heard a presentation from John Bailey of the Franklin Soil and Water Conservation District for a stormwater management program. The SAB heard a proposal for the Student Leader in Sustainability grant program. Seeds for the city's pocket prairies had arrived. Most of the plants for James River Park were expected to arrive between May and August. Some seeds would not be available until fall. One species of milkweed was being propagated in-house due to plug unavailability. Spot treatments in the pocket parks would proceed with the season. Bidding was proceeding on the city-wide food waste compost program as a partnership opportunity with SWACO. 2025 food waste diversion data review showed 30% diversion; regional average was around 32%. The SAB wanted to set a new goal as part of a campaign to gather more support for the program. The SAB would be hosting a Spring 2026 waste collection event on April 18 at the Public Service Complex. Volunteers were needed. Marketing was reduced due to the high turnout last year. There would be shredding for sensitive documents and collection of e-waste, and household hazardous waste. The SAB would hold a second e-waste event later in the year, perhaps at a different drop-off location. On June 25 and August 27, the SAB would staff a Farmers Market

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booth to educate residents. A city tree planting and maintenance strategy was necessary, partly due to the QTS donation of 140,000 trees.

INCLUSION DIVERSITY EQUITY AND ACCESSIBILITY IMPLEMENTATION PANEL (IDEA): Council Member Wilttrout reported the IDEA Panel swore in Matthew Freedman, known as the “Fry Out Cancer guy.” The panel discussed the “Far Out Awesome Fire Emoji Lit Fire Intergenerational Event” that would be held on April 7 from 5:30-7 pm. It would be an educational initiative with improv comedy exploring how different generations communicate with one another. The event would be free, but attendees had to register. The IDEA Panel discussed the Community Connectors program, 50% of the city population was now covered by a Connector. The panel was looking to get more Connectors involved with recruiting postcards and yard signs. New residents in neighborhoods with a Connector would receive a gift box which Council Member Wilttrout with a 43054 candle and map. Council Member Brisk stated that, using the QR Code on the map, residents could find freshly updated information about the city. The IDEA Panel received an update from the sensory protection company. Sensory kits were in; they just needed to do the training.

CEMETERY RESTORATION ADVISORY BOARD (CRAB): No meeting.

PUBLIC RECORDS COMMISSION: No meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Mayor Spalding reported that he continued to receive many communications about New Albany’s experiences with datacenters.

SECOND READING AND PUBLIC HEARING OF ORDINANCES:

NONE

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE O-06-2026

Mayor Spalding read by title AN ORDINANCE TO CHANGE THE NAME OF A STREET IN THE CITY OF NEW ALBANY FROM “THIRD STREET” TO “MARKET STREET” BETWEEN EAST GRANVILLE STREET AND MAIN STREET AS REQUESTED BY THE CITY OF NEW ALBANY.

Public Service Director Ryan Ohly stated this legislation renamed a public street in the Village Center from Third Street to Market Street. The city’s capital improvement project that extended Market Street from SR 605 to Third Street was substantially complete. The name change was beneficial due to the continuous route created by the Market Street extension and the redesign of its intersection with East Main Street, also known as US 62. Signage identified the new street extension as an alternate route through the Village Center, and a single street name would improve clarity and navigation. The street name change would result in address changes for 3 residential properties along the west side of Third Street and the United Methodist Church on the east side. All affected property owners had been notified of their new addresses and expressed support.

Council Member Fellows asked if the property owners had to change their titles and if the city was providing support. Director Ohly stated this name change would be recorded with the county auditor, addresses would be officially re-designated, then the residents would be required to change their address. Mayor Spalding believed the process was similar to a move.

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Council Member Kist asked and Police Chief Greg Jones answered that the police department had seen a reduction in accidents at the new intersections. He would provide the new numbers to council via email. Director Ohly added that traffic engineers were on-site studying that intersection. There were new traffic counts, which provided data that would tell city staff if a new stop sign or traffic signal was necessary; neither were warranted for current volumes. A crash warrant required 5 “correctable” crashes in a year. So far, there had been 3 this year. 2 of the crashes occurred before changes to the intersection and were still included in the count - even though conditions and activity had changed. Director Ohly was not sure if the warrant time period was a rolling 12 months or a calendar year.

Council Member Kist asked and Director Ohly described signage and striping that would be done on the new Market Street sometime in April or May when new asphalt could be put down. Temporary flashing stop signs were added going both directions on Dublin-Granville Road alongside larger “crossing traffic does not stop” signs. The new plan was to permanently light up the “crossing traffic does not stop” signs rather than the stop signs. Reports showed that Dublin-Granville Road traffic was stopping. Traffic engineers recommended not lighting both the crossing traffic and the stop signs due to distractions, but Director Ohly would go back to them to discuss this.

Council Member Brisk stated the bigger problem was that people on Market Street who were supposed to drive through the intersection were stopping, which was causing confusion. Director Ohly stated one potential option to improve traffic flow on Market Street would be to remove the brick crosswalks across Market Street and replace them with standard pavement crosswalk markings, so the roadway read as continuous and reduced the perception that the intersection was all-way controlled. This concept would require further evaluation. Council Member Brisk stated she was also hesitant at that intersection, being afraid the Dublin-Granville traffic wouldn’t stop when it was supposed to. Director Ohly explained that once all the construction was done and the road was permanently striped, plus the lit-up signs; he believed driver awareness would increase.

Council Member Kist described wanting to ‘trust but verify’ that Dublin-Granville Road traffic would stop. He frequently rode his breaks through that intersection. Council Member Brisk observed Market Street drivers slow down and hesitate, which made Dublin-Granville Road drivers think it was their turn. Council Member Kist supported illumination of both Dublin-Granville Road facing signs, especially at night. Director Ohly confirmed that the big portable message boards were still up. With all the construction and activity in the area, he was looking forward to lighting the “cross traffic does not stop” signs under the stop signs.

Mayor Spalding set the ordinance for second reading at the April 7, 2026 council meeting.

READING AND PUBLIC HENG OF RESOLUTIONS:

RESOLUTION R-08-2026

Mayor Spalding read by title A RESOLUTION APPROVING AN APPLICATION TO RENEW THE PLACEMENT OF FARMLAND LOCATED IN THE CITY OF NEW ALBANY, JERSEY TOWNSHIP, AND LICKING COUNTY IN AN AGRICULTURAL DISTRICT FOR REAL ESTATE TAXATION PURPOSES PURSUANT TO OHIO REVISED CODE 929.02.

City Manager Stefanov stated that Ag District was not a zoning designation. Intel owned the subject property and was currently using it for agricultural purposes. This land had Current Agricultural Use Value (CAUV) tax status. The property was located in Jersey Township when originally placed in the Ag District, but that designation had expired. New Albany had since annexed the land, so the city had to take action on Intel’s renewal application. To

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be granted AG District placement, the land had to be zoned for agricultural use and used for agricultural production. Once approved, an Ag District was in effect for 5 years.

Council Member Kist asked and City Manager Stefanov responded that the land had to be actively farmed or have cattle or other similar uses. City Manager Stefanov noted other parcels had the same designation.

Mayor Spalding opened the Public Hearing. Hearing no comments or questions from the public, he closed the Public Hearing.

Mayor Spalding moved to adopt the resolution. Council Member Brisk seconded and council voted with 5 yes votes to approve Resolution R-08-2026.

COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

NONE

REPORTS OF REPRESENTATIVES:

- A. Council Representative to MORPC: City Manager Stefanov reported MORPC been awarded a transportation grant to develop 2030-2060 mobility plan. MORPC’s air quality report showed 8 alert days in 2025. Mayor Spalding added that the air quality report presenter explained that the 8 alerts in the 15-county region were all tied to severe weather and Canadian wildfires. City Manager Stefanov reported MORPC’s Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) grant application period would open in late May or early June and close August 28. OPWC funds had helped with 2 recent city projects. MORPC’s Economic Development (ED) board reported implementing a grant for technological assistance for ED programs. MORPC hoped to fund 4-5 communities at around \$100,000 each. Mayor Spalding reported that the Columbus Regional Airport Authority talked about construction progress on the new terminal. The MORPC director’s report included an update on regional housing efforts. MORPC was attempting to find ways for communities to address increased housing needs. MORPC admitted new members, including Sharon Township. Mayor Spalding gave a regional policy roundtable update. Kegler Brown Hill & Ritter, Co. LPA gave an update on efforts to finalize an agreement with the federal government to do defense contracting. MORPC Chief Strategy Officer & Senior Director of External Relations Joe Gerrity gave an update on the statehouse capital bill. There was only one New Albany item; a capital re-appropriation for \$1 million for the Miracle Field. Mayor Spalding thanked Representative Beryl Piccolantonio for working with Miracle League. MORPC’s Sustainability Summit was coming up. MORPC’s Annual State of the Region meeting was this Friday.
- B. Council Representative to Joint Park District (JPD): Mayor Spalding reported that the recreation center was progressing on schedule.
- C. Council Representative to New Albany-Plain Local Schools (NAPLS): Council Member Wilttrout reported that the Auditor of State Award was presented to NAPLS, which was in the top 4% of schools statewide. NAPLS recognized the valedictorian, salutatorian, and national merit finalists. The 2026 valedictorian was announced as Alannah Pryke. There was an update on Campus Master Plan; the city was working with the school on road construction. The elementary school and tech hub were being built at the same time, resulting in cost savings of around \$4 million. The high school tech hub would be constructed from June to December. The Athletic Campus Master plan was underway. The baseball fields may be delayed until March 2028. NAPLS had a large discussion on its capital campaign, seeking

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private and corporate donations for many of these projects. The idea was to engage businesses and individuals who had the means to support schools. NAPLS dedicated the Dr. Ralph Johnson Memorial Grove.

John McClelland, NAPLS School Board, described an existing memorial grove at the school. Recently, students raised funding to improve it with benches and plaques. This year, the goal was additional clean up and the naming as approved by the board.

D. Council Representative to Plain Township: No report

REPORTS OF CITY OFFICIALS:

- A. Mayor Spalding: Mayor Spalding reported being out of the country next week.
- B. Clerk of Council: No report.
- C. Finance Director: Finance Director Bethany Staats referenced the February monthly financial report which she had distributed to council.
- D. City Manager: City Manager Stefanov reported 2 successful meetings with NAPLS’ administration regarding plans for the former Discover site and the elementary school. The city was concerned about traffic circulation and fine-tuning traffic signals and hoped to minimize traffic buildup on Fodor Road.
- E. City Attorney: Mayor Spalding recounted an addition to the Attorney General’s Yellow Book publication reminding public officials not to use apps like Signal to have private communications regarding city business. City Attorney Ben Albrecht concurred.

POLL FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

NONE

POLL FOR COUNCIL COMMENT:

Council Member Fellows expressed his appreciation to the developers who fixed their fence and scrim prior to the last windstorm. He also spoke to the owner of the Lion’s Club who had received a letter from the city and would be working on getting it cleaned up.

Council Member Fellows expressed concern with the Mink Road and Beech Road horse fence line. It was a disaster and did not look good. He asked and Director Ohly answered that the fence was the responsibility of the applicable business park association. Council Member Fellows stated that the litter along the fence line was a problem. Director Ohly responded he would follow up with the association regarding the condition of the fence and would work on getting the litter along the corridor picked up.

Council Member Kist expressed concern regarding the Hamlet at Sugar Run’s commercial piece, which he didn’t want to become an afterthought. He recalled the council discussions about commercial development there. He wanted it to be high-class and an amenity for residents to walk to. The idea behind the hamlet was for it to be a smaller village center and he didn’t want that to become lost. The hamlet was the city’s first foray into mixed-use development. He didn’t know what the city needed to do, but he asked for a

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commitment from the developer that they would focus equally as much on the commercial aspect as the residential. Director Chrysler replied that council would get more of an update as the city continued work with the developer over the next few weeks. The developer was doing more clean-up than advancement lately because of the weather. Staff could work with the developer on giving council a more formal presentation. City staff recently reviewed SR 605 up to Walnut Street and showed it to residents. Director Chrysler did not believe that the commercial piece was put to the side. When a site was under construction, the phasing for each piece was important. There was due diligence for that kind of use. Staff would be able to bring an update to council. Council Member Kist encouraged an update.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Mayor Spalding confirmed that City Manager Stefanov would be taking some time off.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further comments and all scheduled matters attended to, Mayor Spalding moved and Council Member Kist seconded to adjourn the March 17, 2026 regular council meeting at 8:04 pm.

ATTEST:


Jennifer H. Mason, Clerk of Council


Sloan T. Spalding, Mayor


Date