



Council Minutes – Special Meeting

Tuesday, June 23, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Spalding called to order the New Albany City Council Organizational Meeting of June 23, 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, 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	P
CM Kasey Kist	P
CM Matt Shull	P
CM Andrea Wilttrout	P

ADDITIONS OR CORRECTIONS TO THE AGENDA

NONE

OPEN CITY COUNCIL SEAT CANDIDATE INTERVIEWS

John McClelland

Regarding his history and involvement with New Albany, Mr. McClelland stated he'd been a resident of the school district since 2000 and a resident of New Albany since 2015. All of his kids had graduated from the New Albany Plain Local Schools (NAPLS). He had served on the NAPLS school board since 2013 and had been reelected 3 times. About half of that time, he served as vice president or president. The school board handled a lot during his time including: a levy failure – he was proud to be part of the leadership team that led the school back; the pandemic – where they worked to build consensus to get things done; the development of the Campus Master Plan and the passage of a bond levy; and the hiring of 2 superintendents – where he stressed importance of building great leadership. His accomplishments were as part of a team and as a leader of the team. This opportunity was to lead in a different way and as part of a new team. Regarding what he would change or improve about the city, he answered that he didn't have "an axe to grind." He wasn't there to promote one group, agenda, or neighborhood. This was about building consensus around the issues that were important and to move forward. Council operated well and worked to build consensus, as he did on the school board. Understandably, there were decisions people didn't always like. You had to rely on principle and work to find common ground with people that you agreed and disagreed with, and come to a decision that would be in the best interest of the entire community. Regarding what would be his top 3 priorities as a council member, he thought the biggest upcoming challenge was replacing City Manager Joseph Stefanov. Change happened - construction, development, and traffic. The new city manager would be the person to take on these issues. The city had been fortunate to have City Manager Stefanov. Mr. McClelland described choosing leadership for NAPLS; the process of finding the leader was critical. Other issues facing the city included continued growth of the community and the city center; adding services, business, and restaurants that residents said that wanted while maintaining the small-town feel.

Regarding what he regarded as the role of city council, Mr. McClelland viewed council's role as similar to the school board. Council set the agenda, vision, mission, and brought in the right team to support it. Council was

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responsible for the decisions and actions. They were ambassadors for the city, for the community. Council's role was to listen and help people understand their concerns were heard. It was having a strong city manager and city staff to fulfill the tasks and provide oversight to ensure the administration was executing the vision responsibly. New Albany City Council did that well. He hoped to do that as a council member. In closing, Mr. McClelland was grateful for the opportunity to serve; he would love to bring his experience, dedication, and collaborative mindset to council. His kids were all NAPLS graduates now. There was a lot of transition happening in the community. With the appointment of the new superintendent and leadership team, and the approval of the campus master plan, now was a good time to make the transition to council. The city would be going through a lot of the same things as the school board, and he could bring a lot to the table and continue to lead as the community grew.

Tricia Segnini

Regarding her history and involvement with New Albany, Ms. Segnini stated she had been in New Albany for over 20 years. She had been on the board of The New Albany Links Homeowners' Association (HOA) since 2015 and the president of the HOA for over 8 years. She was recently reelected as HOA president, a position she had to campaign for each year. She had organized town halls, public events, a park re-opening, and created and wrote a newsletter for The Links community. It was important to have different touch points because not everyone was on social media. She was appointed to the Parks and Trails Advisory Board and had participated in the US 62 Corridor Focus Area Committee. Council Member Kist praised her participation as an organizer for the The Links in the Hamlet at Sugar Run process. She described the process as an education and she appreciated seeing the community come together. Council Member Wiltout recognized that after the project was approved, Ms. Segnini worked to make sure that what could be improved was still improved. Ms. Segnini stated the approved project was better than how it started. Regarding what she would change or improve about the city, she answered that she loved New Albany and couldn't think of one particular thing. Serving on the HOA board, there was always a communication gap about how the governing body arrived at a decision and the decisions that were made. As much communication as possible was key. The city was doing a much better job, she'd noticed, since the hamlet. She pointed to the city newsletter. She wanted more of that. There was a little hesitation out there - a wonderful residential community to balance with the commercial side. We needed to be as transparent as possible. Any time the city could improve on that was appreciated - help people understand the process. How did a development just appear when it didn't just appear? It was on the agenda, there were meetings and opportunities to provide feedback. Regarding what would be her top 3 priorities as a council member, she would uphold the city's strategic plan and governing documents that dictated the decisions being made - seeking to understand before decisions were made, listening to pain points and to folks that weren't happy and improve, and working with her co-workers.

Regarding the role of city council, Ms. Segnini described reading through the overview of what job entailed. It mirrored everything she did with the HOA. One didn't just get up there and make decisions; it was not that easy. There was contracting, budgeting, prioritizing projects, listening to constituents, staying objective, and making the best decision for the community as a whole. As a council member, attending meetings and public events, being visible, and being approachable were important. Speak to the people in the room that challenge you. We always end up coming out better because of it. She didn't know all of the ins and outs, but she was very aware of what happened behind the scenes and what it was have to have discussions with the team as it affected other people. One couldn't respond to social media; but one could be aware of it and fix it. Regarding her written statement of ensuring equitable and proportionate representation on city council, she thought it was important to recognize that most, if not all, of the construction was happening north of the country club communities. She thought there should be at least 1 person on city council, and any of the city boards, from that area. She would like to fulfill that role; she felt she had a good read on what the community did and didn't want. She felt it was

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different when one lived it and drove by that area every day. In closing, she thought being a member of city council was a good fit. In the past, folks had suggested that she run for city council. When she saw this opening, this felt like the right time, a step she was ready to take. She could bring a new perspective, a good network, and good support to the table.

Kirk Smith

Regarding his history and involvement with New Albany, he felt this was the culmination of 9 years of work. At Founders Day in 2017, he saw council members in the parade and he sought out Council Member Shull. He expressed interest in being on council. Council Member Shull encouraged him and discussed it with him at length. Mr. Smith described being appointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA). He was active in the community and coached little league sports. As part of his involvement with the hamlet discourse, he ran for council in 2023. It was a great experience to knock on 800 doors and meet so many people. For this position, in the last 30 days, he had met with each council member one-on-one. He met with the police chief, department heads, and the city manager. He asked what department heads needed, and they said the right replacement for the departing city manager and talked about the importance of culture. One saw culture everywhere in the city. He loved the culture. He had 3 kids and the city was a gift to be passed on to the next generation. Regarding what he would change or improve about the city, seeing how the city embraced social media, he wanted to see more instantaneous polling – a different ways to poll citizens, use geo-tracking to make sure they were in the market, have them answer 3 or more questions. He would add more interaction and have people feel they were a part of a continuous feedback loop. The technology was there. Council Member Wiltout asked what kind of questions Mr. Smith would ask citizens. Mr. Smith answered, as an example, that when city was preparing to shut down SR 605, he would solicit ideas for that spot. Or what a resident would set as a priority. How do you like leaf collection? How is our communication with you? Another improvement would be to go on the public information offensive. There was so much good going on but it seemed like the city was reacting to bad things. He described the power lines going up by Upper Clarenton. What could city communicate in advance to get on a communication offensive? Regarding what would be his top 3 priorities as a council member, on council, it was all about the growth and how we wanted to manage and handle the growth. There was so much going on right now and the city needed to manage it properly. Communicate that. He was living 1/10 of a mile from the hamlet; he would bring an extra set of eyes on that project as it developed. He would add that to the improvements he mentioned above.

Regarding what he saw as the role of city council, Mr. Smith responded it was to be the front door for most citizens, be a sounding board, be a connection point into the city. In the charter, there were other responsibilities - enforcing laws, creating laws, budgeting, the day-to-day work. But people wanted to feel like they could stop and have a conversation with you. Regarding his BZA attendance and time constraints, he apologized for letting council down. Council appointed him and he wasn't able to fulfill his commitment. He described how his company changed their technology in January of 2024 and ported over 12,000 401(k) plans representing \$20 billion. It took four to six weeks to start seeing problems. He was asked to take over the account management of 10 national TPA firms and that led to 18 months of non-stop travel. This stabilized about a year ago. From the 10 firms, he was down to 4 firms and had control over his schedule. He would still have to miss the occasional meeting for travel, but it was not the same as before. In closing, Mr. Smith read excerpts from his written application statement. If selected, council was demonstrating understanding, showing confidence, and showing partnership. Former Council Member Fellows lived north of SR 161 and so did he. When he ran in 2023, he came in first or second in the northern boundary precincts: E, F, and G. Council's constituency was all residents, but there was something to be said for where people were and what they went through. Further, it wasn't just what one said, but how one made people feel. He felt more energized and excited for the city after all of his meetings with council. He asked that council consider him and stated he would be honored to have their vote.

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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. Council Member Wiltout seconded and council voted with 7 yes votes to go into executive session at 7:23 pm.

Mayor Spalding moved that council come out of executive session and resume the regular meeting. seconded and council voted with 7 yes votes come out of executive session and resume the regular meeting. Council resumed the regular meeting at 8:10 pm.

OTHER BUSINESS:

Appointment to City Council

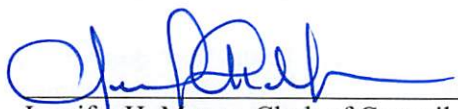
Mayor Spalding appreciated the opportunity to hearing from the qualified candidates who expressed interest in being appointed as a member of council. Mayor Spalding moved to appoint John McClelland to the vacancy for city council effective June 30, 2026. Council Member Wiltout seconded and council voted with 6 yes votes to appoint John McClelland to the vacancy effecting June 30, 2026.

Mayor Spalding thanked the candidates for their interest and their support of the community. Being a council member was hard work and council was grateful for folks who were willing to step up and take on that responsibility. He noted other council members interviewed multiple times before getting the chance to serve and encouraged applicants not to give up.

ADJOURNMENT:

With all scheduled matters attended to Mayor Spalding moved to adjourn the special meeting. Council Member Shull seconded the motion and the June 23, 2026 special meeting was adjourned at 8:12 pm.

ATTEST:


Jennifer H. Mason, Clerk of Council


Sloan Spalding, Mayor

7/7/26
Date