

City of Deer Park City Council Municipal Building Meeting June 16th, 2025

Mayor Donnellon opened the meeting at 7:00 PM with the Pledge of Allegiance followed by the Invocation. Mayor Donnellon asked for a moment of silence for the passing of Thomas McGrath former Police Officer of the Deer Park Police Department and for Steve (Smittle) Smith, retired public works employee.

Clerk of Council read the roll. Tom Camp, Kathy Downs, Mark Feldhaus, Neil Kelly, Natasha Kohorst, Chris Westmark, Mayor Donnellon are all present.

Approval of Minutes:

Mr. Camp made a motion to accept the minutes from the June 2nd council meeting and the June 10th Special Council meeting; Ms. Downs seconded the motion. Motion carried. Ms. Kohorst abstained from the vote for June 10th minutes.

Ryan Farhr was sworn in as Lieutenant of the Deer Park Police Department by Mayor Donnellon.

Public Comment:

Chris White 4248 Duneden has lived in Deer Park for 2 years, has no children and wants to support the Deer Park school district.

Rachel James 4412 Redmont. She is a parent with children in the school district, she believes the schools are the heart of our community. She feels the council is not supporting the schools. She discussed a Facebook post made by Ms. Westmark council member. She believed the post had misleading on the Deer Park School Levy. She felt it was negative and inaccurate. She stated unverified rhetoric can be damaging. She stays in Deer Park because of the schools. She stated since Blue Ash rd. has few businesses the city is still a great place to be because of the schools. She said the city compares itself to a Mayberry type place and the schools should be part of that. She understands there are state issues with school funding, so the local community needs to support the schools. Ms. James said she would include Ms. Westmark on any information she receives about the schools. Mayor Donnellon reminded the public that social media posts made by any council member are their personal beliefs and do not represent the city council as a whole.

Laura Boercherding 7817 Lake Avenue, she is a public-school teacher for Cincinnati Public Schools. Her children attend Deer Park Schools, she doesn't spend much time online or likes to talk in crowds but when she heard some of the things posted on Facebook, she felt she needed to speak. Deer Park schools are what brought her to the city to live, since Deer Park doesn't have a lot of business the taxes fall to the residents, schools are important.

Carl Marshall 3827 O'Leary spoke on behalf of his sister who has 3 children in the schools, he is also friends with Ms. Westmark, he stated he felt Ms. Westmark's post was trying to show the Deer Park schools were funded in the past. He stated the city does a good job with funding and grants. He thinks Deer Park Schools are ok, not excellent. He knows several home school children are more ahead, he went to Deer Park schools, but he feels like they are "off": Ms. Westmark has a degree in education, so she knows what she is talking about. He thinks everyone should keep an open mind and keep the negativity down online.

Ms. Westmark wanted to address some of the public comments, she stated all her information came from the Hamilton County Auditors' website, not Chat GPT and per \$100,000 property value with passing multiple levies it could cost taxpayers an additional \$365 per year versus what they pay now. She believes city would be #2 in total taxes in Hamilton County. She stated that residents could go to the school board meeting the next day to hear what the school board was discussing regarding the levy. During her comments, Ms. James interrupted a few times, and Mayor Donnellon asked her to let Ms. Westmark speak, the conversation started going back and forth, getting out of hand, so Mayor Donnellon gaveled a few times and ended the public comments.

Standing Committee Reports

Legislative and Finance Committee Chair Chris Westmark

May Income Report- City is over \$85,655 Ms. Westmark made a motion to accept the report; Mr. Feldhaus seconded the motion. Motion carried.

May JEDZ report- city earned \$ 8,711 in May. YTD \$56,800, Ms. Westmark made a motion to accept the report, Mr. Kelly seconded the motion, motion carried.

May JEDD report, the city earned \$52.74 YTD \$228.05 Ms. Westmark made a motion to accept the report, Ms. Kohorst seconded the motion, motion carried.

May Fund report- everything is balanced, Ms. Westmark made a motion to accept, Mr. Camp seconded the motion, motion carried.

Safety Committee Chair Tom Camp:

Mr. Feldhaus presented the May Police report, 911 citizen calls for service, 16 offense reports, 32 arrests, the complete report is available online

Mr. Camp presented the May Fire report, the district had 317 calls for service, and Deer Park had 8. YTD Deer Park YTD has had 427 calls for service. Mayor Donnellon congratulated Mr. Camp on his work on the Memorial Day parade.

Public Works Committee Chair Kathy Downs

The Community Center Parking lot work will begin around July 7th-14th, the rain has been the delay, the work is supposed to be completed by the festival. The city did catch basin work on Richmond costing \$3,000. If it

had been contracted out it would have cost the city \$10,000. Mr. Kelly asked about the specific steps of the parking lot process and Dr. Jetter stated he is meeting with Jurgenson Thursday to discuss the project.

Park Board Committee Chair Mark Feldhaus

The party in the park was cancelled due to the rain. The next event is scheduled for June 28th, the Gamut band. Thank you to Players with Pride, and friends of Chamberlin Park, and the park board for the Lights being installed up on the backside of tennis courts for the festival. Anyone interested in volunteering to work at the festival should contact Amy Jawroek.

Correspondence & Miscellaneous: none

OLD BUSINESS: none

NEW BUSINESS:

The Outstanding Citizenship award was presented to Ken and Ann Brookbank for the continued efforts to help the city and all they do to support.

The Annual Beautification award applications will be available online or at the city office. The award will be presented Saturday at the festival.

Dr. Jetter and Mr. Kelly discussed HB 355 and House Bill 96. House bill 335 takes authority from the city and schools. Mr. Kelly called Representative Thomas's office and discussed the concerns. Discussion ensued. It will cost the city over \$500,000 and the local school lots of money. Ms. Westmark called Representative Thomas as well on the budget fund and HB 335.

Clerk ready by title only: Resolution 2025-05 A resolution opposing HB 335 and urging the Ohio General Assembly to reject legislation that eliminates inside millage and transfers local budgetary authority to county budget commissions.

Mr. Kelly made a motion to pass the resolution, Ms. Westmark seconded the motion Roll call vote: Mr. Camp – yes, Ms. Downs- yes, Mr., Feldhaus- yes, Mr. Kelly- yes, Ms. Kohorst- yes, Ms. Westmark- yes; Mayor Donnellon- yes, motion carried.

Special Announcements & Reports from Other City Official.

City Manager: there was an error in our fireworks ordinance, it is being corrected. The Budget draft will come out this week and will be sent to council. A meeting this week on Phase 2 on Blue Ash rd. I am still working on funding,

Solicitor – none

Mayor: Thank you for coming to the meeting and Thank You Mr. Brookbank and best wishes to you wife.
Thank you all for coming to share your opinions.

Schedule:

July 4th, 2025, Independence Day, City Offices Closed.

July 7th, 2025, 6:30 PM Tax Budget Hearing in Council Chambers

July 7th, 2025, Council Meeting 7:00 PM in Council Chambers

Events:

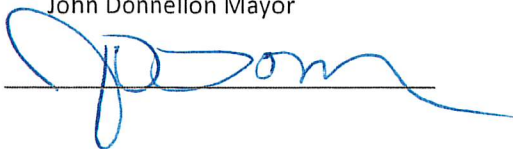
June 9th, 2025, meet n Greet at Deer Park Public Library 7 pm

June 17th, Block Watch Meeting moved to Silverton Fire Station 7 PM topic will be fire safety

July 15th Block Watch Meeting at Silverton Fire Station 7PM

Mayor Donnellon made a motion to adjourn the meeting, Ms. Kohorst seconded the motion, motion carried.
Meeting Adjourned at 7:57 PM

John Donnellon Mayor



Angie Tegenkamp Chachoff Clerk of Council

