CUYAHOGA FALLS CITY COUNCIL
Minutes of the Council Meeting

October 26, 2026

Call to Order: Mr. Balthis at 6:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Mr. Ashton, present; Mr. Balthis, present; Mr. Brillhart, present; Mrs. Cebula, present; Mr. DeRemer, present; Ms. Loza, present; Ms. Nichols-Rhodes, present; Mr. Siegferth, present; Mrs. Spinner, present; Mr. Stams, present; Ms. Willis-Guarneri, absent

Invocation: Moment of Silence for Shannon Dorn

Pledge of Allegiance: Ms. Loza

Approval of Minutes: The minutes of the October 12, 2026 Council Meeting were approved as written.

Reports and Communications: A letter received from Mayor Walters dated October 20, 2026, regarding his appointment of Terry Mader to the Civil Service Commission.

A Notice received from the Ohio Department of Commerce, Division of Liquor Control regarding New Permit Number 10018805-1 to 130 Broad Boulevard Events LLC, 130 Broad Boulevard, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, 44221

New Legislation
(First Reading)

Temp. Ord. A-84 (Planning & Zoning)
An ordinance accepting the Planning Commission's recommendation for a conditional zoning certificate for the construction of a Clean Express car wash facility located at 581 Howe Avenue, and declaring an emergency.

Temp. Ord. A-85 (Planning & Zoning)
An ordinance accepting the Planning Commission's recommendation for the vacation of a portion of Elmwood Trail right-of-way at 3rd Street between Parcel No. 0215287 and Parcel No. 0208109, and declaring an emergency.

Temp. Ord. A-86 (Finance)
An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an amendment of Contract No. 9127 with the Utility Workers' Union of America, Local 399, and declaring an emergency.

Temp. Ord. A-87 (Finance)
An ordinance amending Ordinance No. 104-2025, authorizing the Mayor, as Director of Public Safety, to enter into a contract or contracts for the purchase of annual requirements for certain

services, materials, supplies, and equipment for use by the Fire Department during 2026, and declaring an emergency.

Temp. Ord. A-88 (Finance)
An ordinance establishing annual appropriations of money for the current expenses, capital expenditures and other expenses of the City of Cuyahoga Falls for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2027, and declaring an emergency.

Temp. Ord. A-89 (Public Improvements)
An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, according to law, for the purpose of raising street light poles in the median of State Route 8, and declaring an emergency.

Temp. Ord. A-90 (Public Affairs)
An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to execute an intergovernmental agreement with the County of Summit for direct indictment services, and declaring an emergency.

Temp. Ord. A-91 (SEE)
An ordinance authorizing Advanced Solar Products, Inc. to replace CS Energy as the engineering, procurement, and construction (EPC) partner to CEP Renewables, LLC for the 20 MW AC solar array located at the Hardy Road Landfill, and to provide the required performance bond and payment bond for the solar project, and declaring an emergency.

Mr. Brillhart moved to recess Council to conduct a meeting of the Committee-of-the-Whole, second by Ms. Nichols-Rhodes. Motion passed, voice vote (10-0). Council recessed at 6:36 p.m. and reconvened at 6:38 p.m.

Reports of Special Committees

Mr. Balthis moved to confirm Mayor Walter's appointment of Terry Mader to the Civil Service Commission, second by Mr. Brillhart. Motion passed, voice vote (10-0).

Executive Session

Mr. Brillhart moved to dissolve into Executive Session to discuss matters relative to security arrangements and emergency response protocols for a public body or public office, second by Ms. Nichols-Rhodes. Roll Call: Mr. Ashton, Yes; Mr. Balthis, Yes; Mr. Brillhart, Yes; Mrs. Cebula, Yes; Mr. DeRemer, Yes; Ms. Loza, Yes; Ms. Nichols-Rhodes, Yes; Mr. Siegferth, Yes; Mrs. Spinner, Yes; Mr. Stams, Yes. Motion passed, voice vote (10-0). Council dissolved into Executive Session at 6:39 p.m.

Mr. Brillhart moved to dissolve out of Executive Session, second by Ms. Nichols-Rhodes. Roll Call: Mr. Ashton, Yes; Mr. Balthis, Yes; Mr. Brillhart, Yes; Mrs. Cebula, Yes; Mr. DeRemer, Yes; Ms. Loza, Yes; Ms. Nichols-Rhodes, Yes; Mr. Siegferth, Yes; Mrs. Spinner, Yes, Mr. Stams, Yes. Motion passed, voice vote (10-0). Council dissolved out of Executive Session at 6:56 p.m.

Miscellaneous Business

Mr. Chris Biasella, 2230 Providence Boulevard, Cuyahoga Falls, said he is a lifelong resident with more than 15 years of experience in finance, risk, compliance, and governance. He reviewed the City's Flock automated license plate reader (ALPR) program and found approximately $296,000 in funding commitments under agreements from 2023 and 2025.

While acknowledging that ALPR technology may support law enforcement, he requested clear information about its cost, effectiveness, privacy protections, and oversight. In September, he requested the police department's ALPR policy and records showing how the system had been searched and audited. He received the policy three weeks later but was told that the requested records did not exist or were not maintained. His follow-up question remains unanswered:

- Does a documented evaluation of the Flock program exist? If so, where can residents access it?
- If not, will the City conduct and publicly document a review before entering another contract term?

Mr. Biasella requested a transparent evaluation and an official response so residents can assess the evidence supporting the program.

Mr. Jordan Carson, 623 Broad Boulevard, Cuyahoga Falls, opposed the City's use of Flock AI-powered ALPR cameras. He said the 26 cameras collect information about residents' movements, raising Fourth Amendment concerns discussed in cases including *United States v. Kyle*, *Carpenter v. United States*, and *Chartier v. United States*. He also expressed concern that a private corporation stores the data and may disclose or sell it upon request without a warrant.

Mr. Carson stated that available evidence does not clearly establish that ALPR cameras improve policing efficiency and that efficiency should not override constitutional protections. Citing cases of misuse and misidentification nationwide, he requested that City Council:

- Commission an independent audit of Flock data access and use during the past year and publish the results.
- Suspend the police department's use of Flock data until the audit is complete.
- Decline to renew the contract when it expires in January.
- Reject replacement technologies that raise similar constitutional concerns.

Council recessed at 7:03 p.m. and reconvened at 8:43 p.m.

Reports of Council's Standing Committees

(Third Reading)

Planning & Zoning:

No Report.

Finance & Appropriations:

Temp. Res. A-79
A resolution accepting the amounts and rates of taxation as certified by the Summit County Budget Commission, authorizing the necessary tax levies, certifying such authorization to the County Fiscal Officer, and declaring an emergency.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes moved to adopt Temp. Res. A-72, second by Mr. Brillhart. Motion passed, voice vote (10-0).

Temp. Ord. A-82
An ordinance authorizing the Director of Public Service to enter into a contract or contracts, without competitive bidding, with Virginia Transformer for the purchase of a substation transformer, and declaring an emergency.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes moved to adopt Temp. Ord. A-82, second by Mr. Brillhart. Motion passed, voice vote (10-0).

Public Improvements:

No Report.

Public Affairs:

No Report.

Community Development:

No Report.

Schedule of Committee Meetings

Planning & Zoning:	November 2, 2026, at 6:30 p.m.
Finance:	November 2, 2026, at 6:35 p.m.
Public Improvements:	November 2, 2026, at 6:40 p.m.
Public Affairs:	November 2, 2026, at 6:45 p.m.
Community Development:	November 2, 2026, at 6:50 p.m.
SEE	November 2, 2026, at 6:55 p.m.

Ms. Nichols-Rhodes moved to excuse the absence of Ms. Willis-Guarneri, second by Mrs. Spinner. Motion passed, voice vote (10-0).

Mr. Brillhart moved to adjourn, second by Ms. Nichols-Rhodes. Motion passed, voice vote (10-0).

Meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

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Russ Balthis, Council President

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Dana M. Capriulo, Clerk of Council