

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
TUESDAY
FEBRUARY 24, 2026
7:00 P.M.**

The Regular Council Meeting of the Eastlake City Council was held at Eastlake City Hall, 35150 Lakeshore Boulevard. The Meeting was called to order by Council President Semick at approximately 7:21 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ATTENDEES

All members of Council in attendance.

All members of the Administration in attendance.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Regular Council Meeting Agenda – February 24, 2026

MOTION: Mr. Meyers motioned to approve the Regular Council Meeting Agenda for February 24, 2026. Mr. Overstreet second.

ROLL CALL: Yeas unanimous.

Motion carried. Agenda approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Gulley motioned to approve the Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting of February 10, 2026. Mr. Kasunick second.

ROLL CALL: Yeas unanimous.

Motion carried. Minutes approved.

MOTION: Mr. Meyers motioned to approve the Minutes from the Council as a Whole Committee Meeting of February 10, 2026. Mr. Overstreet second.

ROLL CALL: Yeas unanimous.

Motion carried. Minutes approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Meetings Scheduled

Council President Semick stated that the next Council-as-a-Whole Committee Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday March 10, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. The Regular Council meeting will be convened immediately following the adjournment of the Council-as-a-Whole Committee meeting.

MOTIONS

MOTION: Mr. Gulley motions to approve liquor license transfer #10012291-1 from Misty Blue Inc. located at 36219 Vine Street Eastlake, OH 44095 to Bruno Alley Inc. (Jeannes Joynt & Patio) located at 36219 Vine Street Eastlake, OH 44095. Mr. Overstreet second.

ROLL CALL: Yeas unanimous.

Motion carried. Motion approved.

COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance Committee	Mr. Kasunick, Chair Mr. Gulley Mr. Overstreet
Ordinance Committee	Mr. Gulley, Chair Mr. Meyers Ms. Kostelnik
WPCC Committee	Ms. Krajnyak, Chair Ms. Kostelnik Mr. Meyers
Port Authority	Mr. Semick
ECDC	Mr. Kasunick
Recreation Committee	Mr. Overstreet, Chair Mr. Kasunick
Planning Committee	Ms. Kostelnik, Chair Mr. Gulley Ms. Krajnyak

Mr. Kasunick reports on the Finance Committee Meeting that took place tonight. They discussed the proposed budget for the City. The full budget is available to the public for anyone interested. The Finance Committee moved the budget forward to the agenda.

Mr. Semick reports that at the Port Authority Meeting they elected their officers. Most seats remained. They also had a marketing committee meeting. Discussing a boat blessing event. They went over their budget and

discussed dredging the river. They requested an increase from the City for the yearly dredging. He will forward to the administration and Council.

Mr. Kasunick says ECDC met this evening as well. They discussed their draft mission statement. They discussed something of a budget for a few things like plant swap, yard of the year, and the business holiday lantern. Not huge expenses but would like a budget for them and will approach the Mayor about this soon. May 16 2026 is the Eastlake Plant Swap. You can take a plant, leave a plant. They discussed moving the time and date that they meet. It's usually the 4th Tuesday at 5:30 before Council Meetings. This has been a problem because of other Committee Meetings. They also have several vacant seats and they feel that moving it to a time and date later in the day, they may be able to get more interested people. If you have been interested but it's not a convenient time, let them know. They discussed the 3rd Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. Just ideas at this time.

Mr. Meyers asks about the Port Authority increase.

Mr. Semick says they did not have a specific figure in mind.

Mr. Meyers says he thinks they have been at \$10,000 for a long time.

Mr. Semick says yes he was hoping they could give a presentation about it and everything they do for the City and the River.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC: 1/2 hour, 3-minutes per person
No one from the public wishes to speak.

Donald DeWitt, 10461 Briar Hill Drive Kirtland, Oh, comes to speak to Council. He represents his step father and property they own in Eastlake. Considering how this meeting has gone down, as a character witness for this woman, he has known Chris since 1st grade. They are good people. Is she a little out there sometimes on Facebook? Yea, including Ms. Kostelnik's brother who threatened him yesterday on there and then deleted his comment which was posted anonymously. Less than a year ago, he left for Colorado. His step father has been ripped off by prostitutes and drug addicts. He asked Chris to look after him and check on him and she did. His mom was a member of the Blockwatch. Chris made sure his mom was safe. She is a good person. She gets attacked on the page and she defends herself by blocking them sometimes. That is her option and her page. If Ms. Kostlenik, who was supposed to resign, would like to open her page, then she is welcome to. He has been hassled by her family members in the past couple days threatening his career. You guys forgave John and made him the President of Council. You're not all that bright. You didn't read this room, you're not reading the City. Ms. Kostelnik is the one who should resign.

Matthew Richards, 29815 Cresthaven Dr. Willowick, OH 44095, comes on behalf of his wife who was formerly Danielle Evers. She could not be here tonight. He reads a letter from her. Over the last 40 years, her family has had many interactions with people here. Her father was the late Kim Evers. We have cheered on your kids, passed out flyers, and served breakfasts at fundraisers. This has been an eye-opening experience for some of the interactions with Chris Krajnyak. What started as a difference of opinion turned into bold faced lies and attacks by Chris on her Blockwatch page. Initially Kim reached out about the lies, but then she would lash out with threats and more lies publicly on the page. Kim battled with chronic lymphoma, cancer of the blood, for many years. Chris continued to post horrific things about her family. March 6th of 2023, her dad's birthday, Chris posted another vile post about him which led to their family receiving messages about this. A report for

harassment was attempted to be filed. The County Prosecutor went over things and said there have been many other complaints about Chris. They verified that what she was doing was illegal. This speaker ran out of time.

Jane Cosiano, 735 Mannering Rd., comes to address Council on behalf of Chris. Chris is attacked daily but no one looks to see what she does for the residents and the City. She responds to residents from every single ward because their normal Council members don't return email or phone call. She responds to every resident despite her health problems. She puts her heart and soul into this city. Because someone got their feelings hurt, that is currently committing nepotism, that was supposed to resign if her husband got elected? The charges should be a wash. Shame on any of you that are sitting back watching this. See the forest from the trees. Everything that she has done for the City. We are supposed to be called the Crown Jewels... that is a laugh. You're attacking the one person who cares. She can't be bought and she is not a yes man.

Anthony Moisis, who owns Anthony's family restaurant at 34931 Vine Street, lives in Concord. He loves Eastlake. He doesn't think he has ever met anyone up here with the exception of two people. One is the law director Randy and one is Chris. He knew her before she was a politician. He considers her a good friend. He has seen politics here for 27 years. It hurts him inside the way you guys fight and don't get along. He thinks you can do so much better if you put emotions to the side and learn to work together. Learn to have discussion and arguments in closed doors. He tries to stay off social media a little bit. We can all become keyboard warriors at times. It should have never gotten to where it is today. He wants them to learn to work together because the City can be a lot better than it is. This is not a good time tonight. We are not robots and we all think and act differently. With that being said, you guys are all leaders in the City of Eastlake and he believes you can do a lot better than what you're doing here tonight.

Joe Krajnyak, 1278 Waverly Rd, comes to address Council. He wants these people to understand that Mr. Semick set Ms. Kostelnik to have a sheet prepared but not his wife.

Ms. Kostelnik says there was no discussion, she chose to be prepared.

Becky Overberger, an Eastlake resident, comes to speak to Council. She is not a fan of Chris at all. She belongs to the page. She thinks what Council is doing though is wrong. She was elected by the people. She does not understand how Council can make this decision. She references that Ms. Kostelnik spoke about theft in office and no one questioned it. She wants to know what theft is going on.

Mr. Semick feels this is important.

Randy says the first step is just to have outside council review what potentially could be the charges and determine what he/she thinks are approvable with the charter and then draft those documents and present them to Council. That is when all the information and evidence would be presented. That is the procedure.

Becky asks them to clarify who they said was stealing. It was a large amount. It's not proper. Do you have HR? This could very easily be resolved.

Chris Lotollo, a retired police officer and Willowick resident, also is a member of the Blockwatch page. He has seen multiple attacks against Chris. He has seen that it is her personal page and not the property of the City. It is not an official City page and anyone who takes that stand is lying. It is unfortunate that it has come to this. Like so many other things, if you don't like what is being said on a page, then leave it.

Thomas _____, Overlook Drive, says this looks like personal attacks against people and it is sad we have come to this point and are hashing it out at a Council meeting instead of working together under a united cause. We have freedom of speech, but are not free for consequences.

Chris Awn, Quentin Rd, says he is sorry to interrupt this whole proceeding, but this is not his concern this evening. You brought up about the Port Authority, and we do have a problem about the Chagrin River. He was on the Port for over 20 years. We need to get the Commissioners to get behind us to help take care of the River. All this problem started when Gates Mills tore down their dam. Shortly after, Willoughby tore down Daniels. These trees and debris are not coming from Lake Erie. This is what is causing the problems in Eastlake. We are the end of the problem, not the beginning. We need to put pressure on our elected officials, the Commissioners, to help us. All these other Cities should all be putting in something to help us take care of the problem.

Christine _____, Shelton Blvd, knows Chris. The City will lose someone very brave. She is a wonderful person who takes care of the City and the people. She has never seen any of the rest of Council do this. Her grandkids love her and she has always been there for everybody. She can message Chris at any time and she is there.

Tracy Peterson, Lakeshore Blvd, says that Chris has helped her on a few things. One of which was the flags not being at half staff for a fallen local police. She does not appreciate how people are acting on Facebook though. She would like to know what positions are open and would be interested in knowing what she needs to do to be on here.

Kathy Sheridan, 169 Admiral Dr, says the thing with the \$2000 donation for the chairs. She reached out to Chris. She had 5 chairs she was going to donate, but she had to go through some other person to get okay. This is police and fire department that put their lives on the line. Her son was a police officer in East Cleveland. She can't believe she is being stopped. She was going to have someone bring them here.

Mr. Semick says that post was made with no ask for chairs or without the Chief's knowledge. If the Chief wants chairs, he will ask for them.

No one else wishes to speak.

LEGISLATION PROPOSED:

02-24-(01)

ORDINANCE NO.: _____
Requested by: Finance Director Schindel
Sponsored by: Finance Committee

An Ordinance to reappropriate for the expenses of the City of Eastlake, State of Ohio, for the period beginning January 1, 2026 and ending December 31, 2026, and declaring an emergency.

This item was placed on First Reading.

02-24-(02)

ORDINANCE NO.: _____
Requested by: WPCC

Sponsored by: Administration

An Ordinance amending Section 939.26 (d)(3) "Sewer Service Charges" of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Eastlake, Ohio, and declaring an emergency.

MOTION: Mr. Overstreet moved to suspend the rules requiring separate readings and readings in full. Mr. Gulley second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Overstreet, yea. Mr. Gulley, yea. Mr. Kasunick, yea. Ms. Krajnyak, NO. Ms. Kostelnik, yea. Mr. Meyers, yea. Mr. Semick, yea.

MOTION: Mr. Overstreet to adopt. Mr. Gulley second.

ROLL CALL: Mr. Overstreet, yea. Mr. Gulley, yea. Mr. Kasunick, yea. Ms. Krajnyak, NO. Ms. Kostelnik, yea. Mr. Meyers, yea. Mr. Semick, yea.

Motion carried. Legislation is adopted.

02-24-(03)

RESOLUTION NO.: _____

Requested by: Fire Department

Sponsored by: Administration

A Resolution authorizing and directing the Mayor and Director of Finance to accept a Fire Department Training Grant from the Ohio Division of State Fire Marshal for a total of Six Hundred Dollars (\$600.00), and declaring an emergency.

MOTION: Mr. Overstreet moved to suspend the rules requiring separate readings and readings in full. Ms. Krajnyak second.

ROLL CALL: Yeas unanimous.

MOTION: Mr. Overstreet to adopt. Ms. Krajnyak second.

ROLL CALL: Yeas unanimous.

Motion carried. Legislation is adopted.

LEGISLATION PENDING:

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Mayor Kostelnik welcomes the residents to tonight's meeting. As mentioned earlier in the Finance Committee Meeting, the Administration has been extremely busy working on the budget these past couple weeks. He thanks Chief Kovacic for going above and beyond as we had potential for a major flood situation over the past week. We were very fortunate. We monitored the river constantly. The issue this time is that the mouth of the river is frozen. Each flooding incident is a little different and has to be monitored case by case. The ice and water could

not get out because the mouth was frozen. We were very fortunate that everything melted. We did send out the initial reverse 911 call which lets people know the potential is there. We did not have to do the second one which is basically telling people to evacuate. It was touch and go for a while. He is very thankful to report that did not happen. At the same time, the mouth of the river is open but the ice on the lake is right up to the mouth so we are not quite out of the woods yet.

No questions.

Fire Chief Kovacic appreciates Council accepting the grant for the Fire Marshal office as well as the consideration of their needs for the budget.

No questions.

Police Chief Werner says they had two lateral officers start yesterday so that has brought the department up to the 29 officers in budget. To give you perspective with the numbers, in 1995 when he was hired they had 30, in 2004 we had 38, in 2011 we were down to 22. When he took over, they were sitting at 24. We have hired 9 since January of 2025 and lost 4 within that period. We are doing much better than we have been for the past 15 years, but he would love to see more growth. He appreciates the budget considerations that have helped to make that happen.

No questions.

CBO Dave Menn has no report.

Service Director Rubertino has no report, but open for questions.

No questions.

City Engineer Meluch had a meeting with ODOT last week regarding Rt. 91 project. Beams are set to be delivered Mid-March and will require nightly shutdowns for approximately 2 weeks from 8 pm-5/6 am. Both directions shut down. Emergency vehicles will still be allowed through the zone at that time. More info to follow when we have dates.

No questions.

Finance Director Schindel had to leave.

Law Director Klammer says he thinks he has said enough today, but he is open for question.

No questions.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:03 p.m.

MIKE SEMICK, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

APPROVED: 3.10.26

ATTEST: 
ALYSSA MORAN, CLERK OF COUNCIL