

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES
TUESDAY
MARCH 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 7:03 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ATTENDEES

All members of Council in attendance with the exception of Mr. Overstreet.

All members of the Administration in attendance with the exception of Fire Chief Kovacic.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Regular Council Meeting Agenda – March 24, 2026

MOTION: Mr. Gulley motioned to approve the Regular Council Meeting Agenda for March 24, 2026. Ms. Krajnyak second.

ROLL CALL: Yeas unanimous.

Motion carried. Agenda approved.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: Mr. Meyers motioned to approve the Minutes from the Regular Council Meeting of March 10, 2026. Ms. Kostelnik second.

ROLL CALL: Yeas unanimous.

Motion carried. Minutes approved.

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

ROLL CALL: Yeas unanimous.

Motion carried. Minutes approved.

MOTION: Mr. Gulley motioned to approve the Minutes from Ordinance Committee Meeting of March 10, 2026. Ms. Kostelnik 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 April 14, 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 to approve Liquor License transfer #10013668-1 from A & MZ Brothers Inc. dba Sunoco Food Mart to AAA&P LLC located at 33945 Vine Street Eastlake, OH 44095.

MOTION: Mr. Gulley motioned to approve. Mr. Meyers second.

ROLL CALL: Yeas unanimous.

Motion carried. Motion approved.

COMMUNICATIONS & PETITIONS:

Public Hearing for Legislation 03-24-(01):

Mr. Grear comes before Council. He says this is the 6/7th time he has been here. Planning approved the rezoning. He is trying to move this process along if we are going to rezone it or continue on as industrial. He needs answers so we can move it forward.

No one speaks in favor of the rezoning application.

In opposition:

Amy Ray, an owner of a lot adjoining this lot, comes to speak. There are 4 houses on her culdesac that are by this property. Her understanding is that there is a minimum of 30 residents supposed to be put there. That is a lot of people to pack into a small area. They are a quiet area. If this plan goes through, this destroys all of the privacy to her back yard and to her family she is trying to raise. If this was single family or 3-4 houses, that may be a different story. The idea of so many people and losing so much privacy is very dear to her. She does not want that.

Joe Walker, 857 Erie, agrees. His family moved in there 4 years ago. They chose that location and that house because they did not want to live on top of everyone else. There are plenty of houses with tons of neighbors, he didn't want that. His parents live near there as well. He loves the wildlife. He understands the City needs to grow and the community needs to develop. There is a customer out there for a multi-family house. There is nothing like that around here. He understands that a big ugly block building can go there too. He is asking Council to change it to single family. Maybe 10 houses, half an acre each. A lot more foot traffic. It's a quiet neighborhood. Bringing in 30 different families from other locations is not a good idea. He understands you

want to look out for future residents, but look out for current residents of Eastlake. Don't step on those residents.

Helen Collins, 36565 Garrets Cove, has been out of the state for a few months so she is not super up to date. She is in the culdesac. She is not sure if the property is where the houses are or the adjacent wooded area next door. If it includes both of those, we are talking about taking away her back yard. She enjoys the scenery. If she has a big building with apartments or condos, or whatever multi-family consists of, she's not sure, it is affecting her neighborhood. We need to be clear on it before voting.

Tracy Peterson comes and asks if this will be Section 8 property or higher market?

No one else wishes to speak on the opposition.

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 ECDC meeting at 5:30. First, they have to move some meeting times. The next meeting will be April 7 at 6:00 p.m. The May meeting is May 5th at 6:00. June 16th at 6:00 p.m. We are planning on moving meetings thereafter to the 3rd Tuesday of every month at 6 p.m. Plant Swap May 16th at 10:30 a.m. Heads up to Chief Werner, they will be asking about the juvenile diversion program because that has been helpful in the past. Director Rubertino, they will also contact you to make sure they are all set up for the event. He also spoke to Council President Semick about getting together an online application because they need new members. We will be working on that so we can post it online and anyone that wants to serve on ECDC he encourages you to attend the upcoming meetings and see if you're a good fit.

No questions.

Mr. Semick reports on the Port Authority. The boat race has been bumped to 2027 due to conflicts within the racing organizations. CRWP obtained a grant for removal of invasive species at the park. They have also been assessing the boat ramps. The handicap ramp needs some work and the supplies have been bought. Boat Parade and Blessing June 13th, will have more details. He informed the Port that the City is willing to reimburse \$25,000 for fall dredging to make sure the river is in shape for the winter.

RECOGNITION OF THE PUBLIC: 1/2 hour, 3-minutes per person

Tracy Peterson asks about the rats. She was here 2-3 weeks ago. The response was maybe your neighbors have unkept yards. They do not. She suggests that we check with Lorain, Bay Village, other cities along the Lake to see if they have a rat problem. If not, what they are doing to prevent that issue. 4 weeks ago when she was here, there was something about an increase. The comment was that we did it because Willoughby did it. Can you clarify? Also was anything resolved between Ms. Krajnyak and Ms. Kostelnik?

Ms. Schindel says that is the sewer for sewer charges. It involves more businesses. When they have special items for when they need treated.

Mr. Semick says it was geared more towards businesses?

She says yes but mostly restaurants because of the grease.

Mr. Semick says if you see rats and are noticing them, please reach out to the Health Department and your Council person.

Mr. Menn says he did speak to the home owner after last meeting. He really doesn't have an answer why the rats are showing up in new locations. What we tell them is the same old story, pick up trash and dog feces, don't feed the birds, etc. The Health Department hands out a pamphlet like we do. They stopped doing anything more than that 4-5 years ago too. He gets a lot of calls. We do try to respond to the yards that are unkept. That doesn't always mean that's where the rats are coming from. Like the lady said, no woods or problems there and they are still seeing them. They are doing the best they can, he doesn't know what the answer is.

Mr. Semick says as far as Ms. Krajnyak and Ms. Kostelnik, there is no answer for that yet.

Ted Andrejewski said he was going to come last meeting, but he had the flu. First, the nonsense he is hearing about trying to dispose of Chris. She was elected by the people of Eastlake, 1500 some votes. Only the people of Eastlake can remove her, not 6 members of Council taking away the people's right to vote her in. He wants to address the Council to look at the City Charter. Look up the word recall. Any one of the four Ward Councilmen this year can be recalled. The three at large and the Mayor can be next year. He saw a recall when he was Mayor. Whether you win or lose a recall, it will always be on your record. If you remove a Council person who was voted in by the people, you will be subject to recall. It's not that hard to do. There are other people interested in this subject. Be careful, people voted her in, only the people can vote her out. Next topic, he is very disappointed in the new Mayor. He told people if he was elected Mayor, his wife would resign. He has nothing against Ms. Kostelnik, but when a person makes a promise to the people and doesn't keep it, it's not a good look. The appointment of Mr. Rubertino as service director, he is now double dipper. Which means he is collecting pension from State of Ohio and full salary and benefits from the City of Eastlake. There must be

people in the department capable of doing that job, why did you appoint one of your buddies from when you worked together as service director? Not a very good start.

Becky Overberger, was here two weeks ago. She has some questions. She tried to review the video from 2 weeks ago meeting. What is going on? We look like a poor City. You can't hear people talk. No one. We should be professional. Most of you were elected, don't you care what people think of you guys? We are not trash. We should look professional to these people. Do you want residents involved? Then let them hear what you're saying. She is not having a problem with the rats, thank god. She has a dog. But what did we used to do in the 70s and 80s? If she recalls correctly, did we put things in the sewers? She thinks so. Not us as residents, that's what our tax dollars went to. If you guys give a shit about the residents, let's show them you care. That's all she keeps hearing about are the rats. She spoke to the Mayor. Why can't anyone answer questions when they come up and speak?

Mr. Semick says he is not a fan of addressing questions off the cuff, he would rather research them to give a better response.

She says that she understands that, but when can we have a meeting where we have questions and answers? He spoke off the cuff when he was getting elected. We need answers and with everyone just sitting here and not responding, we are not getting answers. To residents, it looks like we are doing nothing. She just spoke to the Mayor a couple days ago. We need to start working together. Otherwise, this City will fall and people will start leaving.

She ran out of time to speak.

Donny Dewitt comes to speak to Council. She made a point about the video and the fact no one can hear it. He showed people his speech from a few week's ago and no one could hear what he said. He volunteers to donate a couple Bluetooth speakers if that would help the City. So we can hear exactly what was being said so no one has a problem understanding or hearing the questions.

Mayor Kostelnik says we are working on a quote right now for the speaker system to go directly to the camera. He has been in office for 3 months. They upgraded the telephone system. They're working on the website. They are working to be better and more transparent, but it takes time, and he asks for patience.

No one else wishes to speak.

LEGISLATION PROPOSED:

03-24-(01)

RESOLUTION NO.: _____
Requested by: Planning Commission
Sponsored by: Administration

A Resolution authorizing the rezoning of Parcel # 34-A-015-0-00-022-0, physically address 950 Erie Rd., to be rezoned from M-1 Industrial to R- MF Multi-Family. (3.220 Acreage), and declaring an emergency.

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

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

Mr. Semick clarifies that this means this will go to two more readings to give Council more time to do their research and assess their feelings on it.

LEGISLATION PENDING:

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.

Item was placed on Third Reading. First Reading 2/24/26. Second Reading 3/10/26.

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

ROLL CALL: Yeas unanimous.

Motion carried. Legislation approved.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS:

Mayor Kostelnik thanks everyone for coming out tonight. We will not meet again before Easter, so happy Easter. The Eastlake Baseball league pancake breakfast is at VFW March 29 from 8-11 am. There will be egg hunts at 8:30, 9:30, 10:30. Opening day for the Captains will be April 2 6:35 p.m. EQ Basin work on Forest Drive has begun, Lakeshore bridge work has begun. City offices will be closed on Good Friday April 3rd. Happy Easter to all, open for questions.

Ms. Krajnyak asks if the quote is the \$3000 one that was already checked out a year ago or is it a different one?

Mayor Kostelnik says it is not \$3000 so he is unsure what she is referring to.

Chief Werner says last year Council approved to upgrade the 911 system to Next Gen. He is happy to report that the installation and change over will be done next week. The timing is actually pretty good. The wind and storms actually took out their 911 system. We have been relying on Willoughby and Central to take their 911 calls. By next week that should be changed over and up and running. We did also swear in a new auxiliary officer.

CBO Menn says a couple weeks ago we had a lot of rain. He always gets comments when new houses are being build and people wonder why that house is so high off the foundation. Because when they build in a flood zone now, these are the regulations. He knows for a fact one gentleman was concerned he had to build his house so

high, but I'm sure he's thanking us now. If people have concerns, call the building department and they will explain it. The other thing with this planning commission item that was on tonight. When it originally came to us, he suggested it go in R district. It was discussed to go RMF because that is what DeMilta is zoned. So if Demilta goes away, it is zoned RMF. When things come to him first, his job is to try to get things done with new construction for businesses and houses. Then he sends it to a board and it is up to the boards to make the decision. He has not vote and no skin in the game. If the residents are speaking and they are not comfortable with the initial plan, maybe the developer or someone else will hear that and come in with something different.

Mr. Meyers says he thinks maybe some of the residents are under the misconception that if this passes, the plan will move forward by the developer, but just to clarify, if this was rezoned, they would have to submit plans for approval, then go to planning with those plans, and then go to Council right? It would be what building and planning allows. It still has to go through the whole process.

Mr. Menn says if it gets rezoned and someone wants to build something. They go to him. Say it's new construction for a commercial building. That would go to Planning only. If it's a housing development or something that has been talked about, it goes to Planning and then Council. We are in the early phases, just talking rezoning only. If that gets passed, he is assuming Mr. Grcar would then take the next step to see if he can get something built there. It would go to him, then Planning, then Council. It's a long way away. What this gentleman wants to know before he goes any further, is does he have a shot at rezoning or will it stay as is? The plan is a whole nothing ball game.

Service Director Rubertino wants to say that currently they are doing spring clean up through the City and pot hole repairs as well as multiple issues with the Captains Stadium prior to opening day. We are trying to make sure that everything is up to status quo. He responds also, that he did 6 years in this City as Service Director unblemished. There is nothing that says he cannot do this job, he is qualified. He would rather speak to the former Mayor personally. He does not get insurance through the City.

Mr. Andrejewski says he never said he was unqualified, he said he was a double dipper.

Mr. Rubertino says you want to put this on public forum with no basis.

City Engineer Meluch had a call with ODOT last week. The beam placement is going along nicely so hopefully it gets completed this week which would end the nightly lane closures. The Mayor already addressed the other projects so he is just open for questions.

Finance Director Schindel says thank you for your support on the budget. Open for questions.

Law Director Klammer asks if the liquor license was approved. There was a refile of a workers comp case. It shouldn't cost the City anything. By way of explanation, what you heard on the rezoning it is a good opportunity for residents to understand the process. If you do it by emergency, it waives the 3 readings and the reading in full which would require the council clerk to read the whole document word for word. After the 3 readings are waived, then it is subjected to a vote to approve. Today it failed to pass waiving the 3 readings. This gives the residents two more chances to attend the meetings and hear about it. As far as Mr. Rubertino goes, we hear this often. If you work at GM and retire with a pension and then you go to Home Depot or own their own business, people receive their pension because they did their time with their former job. We are fortunate to have him in the City. It is not dissimilar to what other retirees do. It is not illegal and it doesn't cost the City any money.

Mr. Gulley says March 29 is National Vietnam Veterans Day. He says welcome home.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:48 p.m.



MIKE SEMICK, COUNCIL PRESIDENT

APPROVED: 4/14/26

ATTEST: 

ALYSSA MORAN, CLERK OF COUNCIL