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Committee meetings

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Summary

- An issue in Akron right now is the Lincoln-Mill Redevelopment Plan, a proposed 39-acre area on the east edge of downtown Akron, that will include the construction of a new [polymer pilot facility](#). The facility will “enable academic researchers, small and start-up companies and existing industry to make initial scale-up quantities of novel polymers to evaluate real-world performance, demonstrate commercial value and attract investment.”
- Another issue in the city is the release of a [62-page preliminary report](#), “Civic Assembly on Housing 2026,” which includes the findings of [Unify Akron’s first Civic Assembly](#). The assembly was made up of a group of local residents who spent the past few months looking at housing challenges and solutions in Akron.

Follow-Up Questions

What are you left wondering? Ask up to 3 of your own follow-up questions...

- What entity will manage the new polymer pilot facility: the University of Akron, the city or another group?
- How will the city consider and/or implement the findings in Unify Akron’s

preliminary report on local housing?

Notes:

Find the council committees agenda and other materials for this meeting [here](#).

Watch the committee meetings [here](#) (Planning and Economic Development) and [here](#) (Budget and Finance, and Housing and Neighborhood Assistance).

These committees did not meet this day: Parks and Recreation; Rules; Public Service, Public Utilities and Green; Public Safety; and Health and Social Services.

Planning and Economic Development Committee

The meeting began at 1 p.m. with a roll call. Committee Chair Donnie Kammer (Ward 7) and Vice Chair Sharon Connor (Ward 10) were present with all committee members in attendance: Bruce Bolden (Ward 8), Tina Boyes (Ward 9) and Johnnie Hannah (Ward 5).

The committee unanimously approved previous meeting minutes.

In new legislation, [the committee discussed](#):

- [An ordinance](#) approving the Lincoln-Mill Redevelopment Plan.
 - According to city documents, the proposed 39-acre area is located on the east edge of downtown Akron. The plan includes the construction of a new polymer pilot facility on Lincoln Street adjacent to the existing [National Polymer Innovation Center](#).
 - The facility will “enable academic researchers, small and start-up companies and existing industry to make initial scale-up quantities of novel polymers to evaluate real-world performance, demonstrate commercial value and attract investment.” The site is currently being prepared for construction of the new facility.
 - The ordinance was unanimously moved to the consent agenda to be voted on at City Council’s June 15 meeting. A public hearing on the topic also is scheduled for June 15;
- [An ordinance](#) authorizing Mayor Shammass Malik to enter into an agreement with The Community Hall Foundation Inc., doing business as [Akron Civic Theater](#), for professional services relating to [Lock 3](#), and for the [Neighborhood Concert Series](#) produced through the city’s Recreation and Parks Division.
 - Deputy Director of Economic Development Sean Vollman answered

- questions from the committee.
- According to city documents, the services provided by Akron Civic Theater at Lock 3 will include “the promotion of city-wide events, contracting with musical acts, purchasing of beverages, other operational support including the lease of space, and other related matters.”
 - The contract will cost the city \$900,000 for operational and logistical components for Lock 3 events and \$135,000 for marketing efforts and concert programming support for the Parks and Recreation Department’s Neighborhood Concert Series.
 - The ordinance was unanimously moved to the consent agenda to be voted on at City Council’s June 15 meeting; and
 - [An ordinance](#) authorizing the sale of three vacant City-owned parcels on Copley Road to [Angels Land Here LLC](#), a daycare facility, and determining this property is not needed for public use.
 - Vollman, Planning Director Kyle Julien and Frederick Wheat, from the city’s integrated development department, answered questions from the committee.
 - The sale of the 1/3-acre property will allow for an expansion of the existing daycare business and the addition of more parking spaces.
 - The ordinance was unanimously moved to the consent agenda to be voted on at City Council’s June 15 meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:12 p.m.

Budget and Finance Committee

The meeting began at 3 p.m. with a roll call. Committee Chair Phil Lombardo (Ward 2) and Vice Chair Linda Omobien (at-large, joining online) were present with committee members Bolden and Boyes in attendance. Committee member Fran Wilson (Ward 1) was absent.

The committee unanimously approved previous meeting minutes.

[Council then discussed two pieces of old business:](#)

- [An ordinance](#) authorizing the mayor to execute an intergovernmental agreement with Summit County for animal control services provided by the Executive’s Division of Animal Control for a two-year term, from Jan. 1, 2026 to Dec. 31, 2027, with two options to renew for an additional two-year term.
 - According to city documents, in the past, the county’s Division of Animal Control has provided the city with “safe, reliable, humane animal

impoundment services.”

- The agreement with Summit County will cost the city \$1.5 million annually.
- More details on “Contracted Animal Housing and Overflow Capacity” can be found [here](#).
- The committee voted 3-1 (with Lombardo voting no) for a favorable report and to suspend the rules, moving the ordinance to full city council for discussion and a vote. (The ordinance passed 9-4, with Greer, Hannah, Kammer and Lombardo voting against it, during the full council’s regular meeting later this day); and
- [An ordinance](#) authorizing the mayor to enter into a \$100,000, three-year contract with West Publishing Corp., a subsidiary of Thomson Reuters Business, for a case management and database system for the Akron Citizens’ Police Oversight Board and the Office of the Independent Police Auditor.
 - According to city documents, this case management solution would “streamline operations.”
 - The ordinance originally passed May 5 for a contract with Verint Americas Inc., but it was not entered into.
 - The committee asked for time for further discussion.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Housing and Neighborhood Assistance Committee

The meeting began at 3:41 p.m. with a roll call. Committee Chair Bolden and Vice Chair Eric Garrett (at-large) were present with committee member Connor in attendance. Committee members Hannah and Wilson were absent.

The committee unanimously approved its May 11 meeting minutes.

With no old business or new business to discuss, [the committee heard a presentation](#) from seven delegates of [Unify Akron’s first Civic Assembly](#) and Unify America’s Chief of U.S. Democracy Leagues Morgan Lasher.

- The presentation was not listed on the agenda.
- The delegates spoke about their experiences serving as members of this group.
- The Assembly’s 62-page preliminary report, “Civic Assembly on Housing 2026” can be found [here](#).

The meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

The regular council meeting was scheduled to begin at 6:30 p.m. later in the evening.

The next committee and regular council meetings will be June 15.