

**CITY OF SOUTHGATE  
COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
Sept. 2, 2026  
122 Electric Ave**

**Call to Order:** Mayor Hamberg called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm. Mayor Hamberg asked to amend the agenda to add Ordinance 26-16 Amend Waste fee. **Motion/Second: Hartman/Okura. Approved by vote: Aye 6 Nay 0.**

Mayor Hamberg asked for a Motion to open the Public hearing for tax rates. **Motion/Second: Melville/Whitehead. Approved by vote: Aye 6 Nay 0.** City Clerk Barton read the proposed tax rates for 2026. Real property rate is \$0.445 (per 100) and \$0.256 (per 100) for personal property. Last year's rates were \$0.529 real and \$0.435 personal property. Compensating rate is \$0.436 (real) and \$0.251 (personal). There were no comments from the public. **Motion to close the Public hearing for tax rates. Motion/Second: Melville/Okura. Approved by vote: Aye 6 Nay 0.**

**Roll call was taken:** Council Members: Curry, Okura, Messmer, Hartman, Melville, and Whitehead were present. Also present: City Clerk Barton, Police Chief Christmann, Public Works Foreman Stortz, City Attorney Stewart, and Finance Director/Treasurer Edgley. Fire Chief Beatsch was absent.

**Public Comments:** Council Member Okura read the Aug. Green Thumb award winners: 243 Evergreen and 208 W. Walnut St. Jenny Watson from Educate NKY presented a check to the City of Southgate for the \$4,000 grant for the Read Ready Southgate program. Kyle Randall (2429 Alexandria Pk) requested the Flock cameras be put on the agenda for discussion by the public. Wendy Rice (223 Beech) asked who has access to the data from the Flock cameras and asked for discussion on the topic. Pat Sidler (7 W. Walnut) said she was concerned about a data breach with the Flock cameras. Police Chief Christmann talked about the license plate readers and how data is stored and retrieved. He discussed the police portal that will be on the city website sharing policy and procedures regarding the Flock cameras. Jeff Sidler (7 W. Walnut) said it was a useful tool at the local level, but concerned with a private entity like Flock keeping the data safe. Mayor Hamberg said he will refer this to the Safety committee to discuss and they can bring information back to council for discussion.

**Approval of meeting minutes 8/19/26. Motion/Second: Okura/Melville. Approved by vote: Aye 6 Nay 0.**

**Public Works:** Council Member Melville reported that Valley View is about two thirds done with the base on the street. Riegler will finish the top base and then start on Blossom. The lights at the community center parking lot were replaced. Public Works will remove the blacktop at the community center starting on 9/14 before Riegler lays the new surface. The Fire Dept. generator is working at half capacity currently. It needs a new part. Council Member Messmer asked if Buckeye Power could do service inspections more often that they are doing currently. Public Works Foreman Stortz had no report.

**Public Safety:** Council Member Messmer had no report. Fire Chief Beatsch was absent, but Council Member Messmer introduced newly appointed Assistant Fire Chief Ware. He will work with Council Member Whitehead for any needs at the Fire Dept. Police Chief Christmann said an AED has been ordered for the Public Works garage. Officer Mitchell will train Public Works on

how to use it. Chief Christmann reported that Officer Boeschenstein received the Occupant Safety award from the State for seat belt and child restraint enforcement.

**Code Enforcement:** Council Member Curry reported 6 new, 12 abated and 26 open cases. There were \$4,500 fines issued. Code Enforcement Officer Berkley wants to remind residents to trim low hanging branches on trees, especially those hanging over sidewalks.

**Community Relations & Recreation:** Council Member Okura said the next Park & Tree Board meeting on 9/14 is cancelled. There is a garden volunteer day on 9/3, City Wide yard sale is 9/12, Pumpkin Walk is 10/9. The Fire Dept. Stagette is 10/16.

**Public Buildings:** Council Member Whitehead said he will get information on the generators for the Fire Dept. for the next council meeting.

**Finance and Administration:** Council Member Hartman reviewed payables. **Motion to approve the preliminary July financials. Motion/Second: Hartman/Okura. Approved by vote: Aye 6 Nay 0.**

Finance Director Edgley said the budget is around 8% for July. Revenues are low until tax revenue comes in October and November. City Clerk Barton had no report. City Attorney Stewart said she will have the ordinance for no smoking in the city buildings for the next council meeting. Ms. Stewart read the following:

**Ordinance 26-12 Approve lease agreement for financing a project and authorize execution of documents related to the lease (second reading). Motion/Second: Melville/Hartman. Approved by vote: Aye 6 Nay 0.**

**Ordinance 26-13 Establish real & personal property tax 2026 (first reading)**

**Ordinance 26-14 Establish firehouse tax 2026 (first reading)**

**Ordinance 26-15 Establish motor vehicle & boat tax (first reading)**

**Ordinance 26-16 Amend Waste fee (first reading)**

**Order 26-08 Re-appoint Therese Paul & Fred Espenscheid to Parking citation appeal board**

**Old Business:** Mayor Hamberg said there is a tour of the assisted living facility on Sept. 10 for council members and staff.

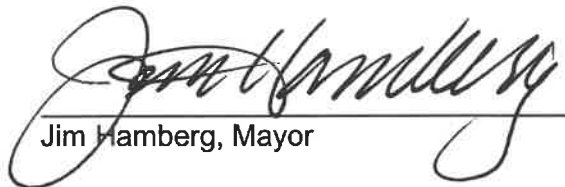
**New Business:** KLC is having a coat drive for the Sept. conference.

**Payment of Vouchers:** Check vouchers #36526-36556 were presented for Council's review.

**Adjournment:** There being no further business, **Motion to adjourn. Motion/Second: Messmer/Curry. Approved by vote: Aye 6 Nay 0.**



Brandi Barton, City Clerk

  
Jim Hamberg, Mayor