

ORDINANCE REVIEW COMMITTEE
August 7, 2025 | 4:00 p.m.

Mayor Fischer called the meeting to order at 4:01 P.M.

ROLL CALL: Mayor Fischer, Mayor Pro Tem Casey, Council Member Staudt

ALSO PRESENT: Victor Cardenas, City Manager
Thomas Schultz, City Attorney
Cortney Hanson, City Clerk
Charles Boulard, Director of Community Development

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

ORCM 25-08-12 Moved by Casey, seconded by Staudt; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:

To approve the agenda as presented.

AUDIENCE COMMENT: None

MATTERS FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Approval of minutes from June 23, 2025:

ORCM 25-08-13 Moved by Casey, seconded by Staudt; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:

To approve the Ordinance Review Committee meeting minutes from June 23, 2025.

2. Discussion on Ordinance Amendment 25-81.26 regarding parking on narrow streets and in special places.

City Attorney Schultz explained the proposed ordinance language would be applicable across the whole city. There were some modifications based on the last discussion at ORC, but the important thing to remember is that the roadway has to be available for free movement of traffic and for emergency vehicles. Member Staudt recommended adding in garbage trucks as a type of vehicle that must be able to pass. City Attorney Schultz said they moved away from the term "narrow streets" because it wasn't defined and updated it to be any street less than 24 feet wide. It also authorizes the City Engineer to post signage. Mayor Fischer said there is a problem with vehicles parked across the road from the end of driveways and they should have language that addresses that. Mayor Pro Tem Casey expressed concern that this would have a negative impact across the city but agreed there was a public safety issue that needed to be fixed. Mayor Fischer suggested that they consider prohibiting parking across the road from the end of a driveway on roads that are less than 24 feet wide.

ORCM 25-08-14 Moved by Fischer, seconded by Casey; CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY:

To recommend Ordinance Amendment 25-81.26 to City Council incorporating the changes discussed.

3. Discussion on ordinances as they relate to pickleball and proximity to residential areas.

Mr. Boulard explained that there are 4 known locations where pickleball is locating with the City of Novi. This issue was before the Committee because two residents spoke during a Council meeting about their tennis courts being turned into pickleball courts. One resident lives 800 feet away from the courts and the other is 147 feet away. The Code Compliance team has only received one complaint. He explained that the zoning ordinance doesn't differentiate between the types of sports played on courts, but there are noise limits in the zoning ordinance and Chapter 22 of the City Code. He said there is a device to register the decibel level, but it is very expensive. Mr. Boulard said ordinances in other communities deal with the distance of these types of recreational amenities to homes. He said they could consider time frames as well as distance, but then the police would have to enforce that. Mayor Fischer questioned if they should do something to prohibit this from occurring moving forward. Mayor Pro Tem Casey said she would like to be proactive but wasn't sure what the right combination was because distance isn't the only factor. City Attorney Schultz said they would look at other ordinances from other communities. Mayor Pro Tem Casey asked to see if any other community was able to accurately measure the sound of pickleball in decibels.

4. Discussion on a potential ordinance amendment related to Boards/Commissions.

Clerk Hanson explained there was a Council Goal to review and update the current board and commission structure. The memo provided in the packet explained a potential ordinance amendment that would establish a single, standardized appointment and term start date for as many boards, commissions, and committees as possible. Mayor Fischer said the whole point to changing this was to streamline the process and asked if there could be interview videos instead of in person during a Council meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Casey said she loved the idea, and it would make it easier for staff and residents if there was a set time. People wouldn't have to be constantly looking for an opening. She said she liked the idea of video interviews, especially if they can be accepted at any time of year. Then, when there is a vacancy, they can pull from the group of applicants, even if they applied after the annual appointment date.

City Attorney Schultz clarified this process would take two steps. First it would be an ordinance to say that all appointments start on a certain date and then they would have to amend Council Rules. Member Staudt suggested appointments occur after a City Council election. He added that he was not opposed to aligning the terms to one time but wants people to be able to apply if there is a vacancy and only pull from the last round of appointments. Mayor Pro Tem Casey said she liked the plan and felt it would also streamline the onboarding process.

5. Discussion on a potential amendment to Chapter 16, Garbage and Refuse.

City Manager Cardenas said the current ordinance only allows the City to charge the bid prices for trash hauling, but there have been additional expenses due to storms that have to be paid for by the General Fund. Mayor Fischer said there is no balance for those extra costs, but it would be good to have for when they want to offer those additional services like tree limb pick-up or additional hazardous waste days. City Attorney Schultz said that would be a user fee. They agreed to discuss the topic at a future meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

Recorded by: Cortney Hanson, City Clerk