



City of Lakewood City Council

Council At Large
Sarah Kepple, President
Thomas R. Bullock III
Angelina Hamilton Steiner

Ward Council
Kyle Baker, Ward 1, Vice President
Bryan Evans, Ward 2
Cindy Strebig, Ward 3
Cindy Marx, Ward 4

Noticed 09/10/25

PUBLIC NOTICE – COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Committee of the Whole will meet Monday September 15, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium at Lakewood City Hall, 12650 Detroit Ave. The meeting is open to the public.

The meeting will be livestreamed on the City's website at the following link:

www.lakewoodoh.gov/councilvideos

PUBLIC COMMENT PROTOCOL (Updated 4/2025)

The public is invited to comment on agenda items by submitting a written comment in advance of the meeting using the eComment platform available [HERE](#). New users must create an eComment account. Committee Chairs may also accommodate in person public comment.

The agenda is as follows:

Approval of the minutes of the September 12, 2025 Committee of the Whole.

Communication from Law Director Vargo regarding Opioid Litigation Settlement. (*referred to COW 9/2/25*)

RESOLUTION 2025-44 - A RESOLUTION to take effect immediately provided it receives the affirmative vote of at least two thirds of the members of Council, or otherwise to take effect and be in force after the earliest period allowed by law, authorizing the Mayor or her designee to enter into agreements to participate with other communities and the State of Ohio in the settlement of opioid claims against various companies (the "Settling Defendants"). (*referred to COW 9/2/25*)

Sarah Kepple, Chair
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Individuals with disabilities who require accommodations for participation in meetings must request accommodations at least 3 business days ahead of the scheduled meeting. Contact Michelle Nochta at (216) 529-5906 michelle.nochta@lakewoodoh.net.



City of Lakewood
Department Of Law

Ernest E. Vargo, Director
Jennifer L. Swallow, Chief Assistant Director
Jeffrey Crossman, First Assistant Director

(216) 529-6030 | law@lakewoodoh.gov

August 27, 2025

Lakewood City Council

Re: Opioid Litigation Settlement

Dear Council President Kepple and Members of City Council:

Please find attached a proposed resolution that will authorize the City of Lakewood to enter into continuing settlements regarding the opioid litigation. The City would be just one of numerous municipalities in the State of Ohio to be party to the settlements.

Along with those other municipalities, the City is currently party to settlements with various distributors, wholesalers, and retailers in national class actions regarding the opioid crisis. The proposed resolution will authorize similar settlements against other entities in the production and distribution chain at such time as those recurring settlements are negotiated and presented by national counsel.

The settlements are contingent on a requisite percentage of political subdivisions agreeing to opt in or participate in the settlements.

The City will receive a portion of the settlement funds according to the formula set forth in the OneOhio Memorandum of Understanding. Determination of these amounts depends in part on the participation level, which is not yet known.

As with the settlement funds previously received, the City intends to use the expected additional funds for strategies to abate the opioid crisis.

We look forward to addressing any questions. Thank you.

Very truly yours,

Ernest Vargo
Law Director

RESOLUTION NO. 2025-44

BY:

A RESOLUTION to take effect immediately provided it receives the affirmative vote of at least two thirds of the members of Council, or otherwise to take effect and be in force after the earliest period allowed by law, authorizing the Mayor or her designee to enter into agreements to participate with other communities and the State of Ohio in the settlement of opioid claims against various companies (the “Settling Defendants”).

WHEREAS, Lakewood has been notified of litigation with various Settling Defendants who are subject to nationwide opioid litigation; and

WHEREAS, these notifications are for various class actions and continue to come in through outside counsel that is managing this litigation on behalf of Lakewood and various other entities; and

WHEREAS, as there is no room for individual negotiations in a class action lawsuit and in the interest of efficiency, Lakewood would like to agree to participate in all class actions unless otherwise recommended by outside counsel and is agreed to by the Law Director; and

WHEREAS, as set forth in Section 2.12 of the Third Amended Charter of the City of Lakewood, this Council by a vote of at least two thirds of its members determines that this resolution is an emergency measure and that it shall take effect immediately, and that it is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, property, health and safety, and to provide for the usual daily operation of municipal departments in order to receive and make these settlement funds available as soon as possible; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE CITY OF LAKEWOOD, OHIO:

Section 1. The Mayor or her designee is hereby authorized to enter into any necessary agreements to participate with other communities and the State of Ohio in the settlement of opioid claims against various companies (the “Settling Defendants”) as recommended by outside counsel and approved by the Director of Law.

Section 2. It is found and determined that all formal actions of this Council concerning and relating to the passage of this resolution were adopted in an open meeting of this Council, and that all such deliberations of this Council and any of its committees that resulted in such formal action were in meetings open to the public, in compliance with all legal requirements.

Section 3. This resolution is hereby declared to be an emergency measure necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, property, health, safety and welfare in the City and for the usual daily operation of the City for the reasons set forth and defined in the preamble to this

resolution, and provided it receives the affirmative vote of at least two thirds of the members of Council, this resolution shall take effect and be in force immediately upon its adoption by the Council and approval by the Mayor; otherwise, it shall take effect and be in force after the earliest period allowed by law.

Adopted _____

Sarah Kepple, President of Council

Maureen M. Bach, Clerk of Council

Approved _____

Meghan F. George, Mayor