

ASHBURN CITY COUNIL MEETING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2025

6:00 PM/ 88/88

- 1.) Call to Order by Mayor Pro Tem Andrea Pierce.
- 2.) Moment of Silence and Invocation led by Council Members Jonathan Perry & Mayor Pro Tem Andrea Pierce
- 3.) Pledge of Allegiance led by Mayor Pro Tem Andrea Pierce
- 4.) Roll Call led by City Clerk and Interim City Manager Amanda Hill

- Council Member John Burgess- Present (via phone)
- Council Member Corey Jordan- Present
- Mayor Pro Tem Andrea Pierce- Present
- Council Member Sheldon Smith-Present
- Council Member Jonathan Perry-Present
- Mayor Sandra Lumpkin- Absent

Guests Included: Turner County Schools Superintendent Christy Wray, Turner County Elementary School Resource Officer Ben McCurdy, City Attorney Representative Mr. Washington standing in for Mr. Denmark, Ben Baker, Sami Mastrario, Public Safety Director Richard Troutman, Jan Winter, Larry Hall, Officer Kendrick, Shylinski Smith, Edythe Washington, Howard Jordan, Lt. Charles Jordan Jr., Sasha King

- 5.) Mayor Pro Tem Andrea Pierce requested a motion to approve the 10-4-25 Agenda. Council Member Jonathan Perry offered a motion to approve the agenda, Council Member John Burgess offered a second; all in favor, Aye; any opposed none, motion carried. (Ayes- Burgess, Jordan, Smith, Pierce, Perry)
- 6.) Mayor Pro Tem Andrea Pierce requested a motion to approve the minutes for the September 4th, 2025, Regular Meeting. Council Member John Burgess offered a motion to approve the minutes for the September 4th, 2025, Regular Meeting; Council Member Corey Jordan offered a second, all in favor, Aye; any opposed none, motion carried. (Ayes- Burgess, Jordan, Smith, Pierce, Perry)
- 7.) Mayor Pro Tem Andrea Pierce invited Turner County Elementary School Resource Officer, Ben McCurdy and Turner County Schools Superintendent, Christy Wray, up to the podium to discuss the implementation of flashing lights in the school zone on two of Ashburn's streets. Officer McCurdy began by stating the benefits of the flashing lights in school zones. He listed several implications such as facilitating community awareness of students and crossing guards on the roadway, serving as a clear law enforcement tool and accident prevention and providing a sense of security for parents with children attending school. Lastly, he stated, "Although costly, the lights will be a positive step toward school safety". Superintendent Wray supported McCurdy's stance on the increase in overall safety that the flashing lights will provide. She informed the council that, "The school's streets don't have sidewalks and up to 50 students navigate these busy streets daily. The lights will alert drivers to slow down. For both streets, the lights will cost \$15,000." Council Member Jonathan Perry questioned, "What will the city's financial contribution be?" Superintendent Wray responded, "The school system does not own the city's streets. So, we are coming to you all as the managers of the city's streets." Council Member John Burgess asked, "Why is it just the city's responsibility? The city is in the county so why can't they help?". Superintendent Wray responded, "That's actually our next stop." In closing, both guest speakers thanked the council and returned to the gallery to take their seats.
- 8.) Mayor Pro Tem Andrea Pierce introduced the next topic; the strip of land that the city owns on Harrison Ave (Parcel A05-144). More specifically, the issue at hand is that people want to purchase the land. Mayor

Pro Tem Pierce stated that if the council chooses to sell, the land will need to be advertised first. Then, the bids will be sealed, and the property will go to the highest bidder. At the time of this meeting, the decision to sale has not been made. After a short period of silence, Council Member John Burgess stated, “the Turner County Downtown Development Authority would have to be the one to sell the land, not the council. The Development Authority doesn’t have their board established.” Council Member Sheldon Smith asked the City Attorney’s representative, Mr. Washington, “Is the city exempt from adverse possession?” Council Member Sheldon Smith explained his concern stating, “The city has neglected the strip of land. The property owner of the adjacent lot has been maintaining the property.” Mr. Washington responded saying, “Since the owner of the adjacent lot hasn’t put any structures on the land or paid the taxes, he cannot adversely possess the land.” Mr. Washington further advised the council to discuss selling the land in executive session.

- 9.) Mayor Pro Tem Andrea Pierce introduced the next topic, changes to the resolution of the water bill incentive program. The resolution as of October 2nd, 2025, is as stated; during the period of October 2025 through September 2026 a utility bill payment incentive program will be implemented. The selected citizen who paid their bill in full on or before the 15th will be rewarded \$10 in monetary funds out of the participating city council member’s personal funds. The customer service representatives shall oversee the process, ensuring fairness, transparency, and accurate bookkeeping of the money awarded. The program is to end during September of the following year unless otherwise extended at will of the city council. Council Member John Burgess inquired about which council members were voluntarily participating in the program. Mayor Pro Tem Andrea Pierce responded by listing every council member except Jonathan Perry, who opted not to participate.
- 10.) Mayor Pro Tem Andrea Pierce introduced the next item on the agenda, the Business License FLEX Program. After a brief silence, Council Member Corey Jordan asked, “How old do you have to be to get a business license? Is there an age limit?” City Attorney representative Mr. Washington responded, “The program is for high school students. So, if they are in high school the program is for them.” Council Member Jonathan Perry suggested making a motion to draw up a mock business license for the FLEX program. Council Member Corey Jordan offered a motion to draw up a mock license for the FLEX Program; Council Member John Burgess offered a second, all in favor, Aye; any opposed none, motion carried. (Ayes- Jordan, Smith, Pierce, Perry)
- 11.) Mayor Pro Tem Andrea Pierce addressed the final point on the agenda by requesting a motion to add Ms. Jan Winter to the Planning and Zoning Board. Council Member Jonathan Perry offered a motion to add Ms. Jan Winter to the Planning and Zoning Board. A second motion was not offered. all in favor, Aye; (Jordan, Smith, Pierce, Perry) opposed; Council Member John Burgess. Mayor Pro Tem Andrea Pierce requested a motion to approve the entire Zoning and Planning Board: Ben Baker, Angela Tye, and Jan Winter. Council Member Corey Jordan offered motion to approve the entire Zoning and Planning Board; Ben Baker, Angela Tye, and Jan Winter; Council member Jonathan Perry offered a second motion, all in favor, Aye; any opposed; Council Member John Burgess, motion carried
- 12.) Mayor Pro Tem Andrea Pierce requested a motion to close out regular session and go into executive session to discuss personnel under 50-14-3 (b) (2). Council Member Corey Jordan offered second, all in favor, Aye; any opposed none, motion carried. (Ayes- Jordan, Smith, Pierce, Perry) and the gallery was cleared at 6:18 p.m.
- 13.) Mayor Pro Tem Andrea Pierce welcomed everyone back into the gallery and requested a motion to hire Ms. Tanita Norris as the new City Manager. Council Member John Burgess offered a motion with a second from Council Member Sheldon Smith. A roll call vote was requested.

Council Member John Burgess- YES

Council Member Corey Jordan- NO

Mayor Pro Tem Andrea Pierce-YES

Council Member Sheldon Smith-YES

Council Member Jonathan Perry-NO

Mayor Pro Tem Andrea Pierce requested a motion to hire interim city manager, Ms. Amanda Hill, as the new City Manager. Council Member John Burgess offered a motion with a second from Council Member Corey Jordan. A roll call vote was requested.

Council Member John Burgess- YES

Council Member Corey Jordan- YES

Mayor Pro Tem Andrea Pierce-YES

Council Member Sheldon Smith-YES

Council Member Jonathan Perry-NO

Mayor Pro Tem Andrea Pierce announced interim City Manager Ms. Amanda Hill as the new City Manger for the city of Ashburn. Mayor Pro Tem Andrea Pierce thanked everyone in attendance and requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Council Member John Burgess offered a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Council Member Corey Jordan offered a second.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

City Clerk

Approved this 6th day of November 2025

Mayor