

Kirtland City Council Meeting

May 6, 2026

The meeting of Kirtland City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Ron Fenstermaker, Council President. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a prayer led by Ms. Grazia.

Roll Call

Clerk of Council took roll call, the members of Council present were Julie Symonds, Ronald Fenstermaker, Scott Haymer, Joseph Smolic and Sue Grazia. Absent: Matthew Schulz and Eric Zeigler.

The administrative personnel present were Mayor Kevin Potter "Mayor Potter", Public Works Director Joseph Fornaro "Fornaro," City Engineer Douglas Courtney "Courtney," Fire Chief Matthew Killeen "Chief Killeen" Community Center Director Julia DeWolf "DeWolf".

Swear-In Jenna Vanek – Fire Department

Fire Chief Matt Killeen presided over the swearing-in of Jenna Vanek as Kirtland's newest full-time firefighter. Chief Killeen highlighted Ms. Vanek's background as a lifelong Kirtland resident, her bachelor's degree in health sciences from the University of Dayton, her paramedic certification from Lakeland, and her professional firefighter qualification from Auburn Career Center. He noted her rapid progression through the ranks — from Firefighter 3 to Firefighter 2 (engine operator) to a leadership role as Firefighter 1. Mayor Potter administered the oath of office.

Minutes of April 20, 2026 Work Session:

Council President Fenstermaker asked if there was any discussion. There was no discussion. Mr. Smolic moved to approve the Work Session Minutes as presented, with the second by Ms. Grazia. **ROLL CALL: MOTION CARRIED 5/0/0 (VOTING YEA: SYMONDS, FENSTERMAKER, HAYMER, GRAZIA, and SMOLIC. VOTING NAY: NONE.)**

Minutes of April 20, 2025 Council Meeting as Amended

Council President Fenstermaker asked if there was any discussion. There was no discussion. Mr. Smolic moved to approve the Council Meeting Minutes as presented, with the second by Ms. Grazia. **ROLL CALL: MOTION CARRIED 5/0/0 (VOTING YEA: SYMONDS, FENSTERMAKER, HAYMER, GRAZIA, and SMOLIC. VOTING NAY: NONE.)**

Department Reports

Fire Department

Chief Killeen noted that his formal report had been submitted earlier to Council and offered to answer questions. No questions were raised. Council President Fenstermaker thanked the Chief and excused him and his team.

Police Department

Police Chief Fisher was not in attendance.

Public Works/Service Department

Mr. Fornaro opened by thanking his team for managing a demanding two-week period that included soccer, baseball, and heavy grass-cutting due to persistent wet weather. He reported that improvements to the South Cemetery entrance are underway, including the planting of trees and shrubs, with concrete scheduled to be poured the following day to allow two-way vehicle access. Mr. Fornaro also announced that the Public Works Open House is scheduled for Friday, May 15, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., and asked council members to help promote the event. In response to a

question from Council President Fenstermaker, Mr. Fornaro reported that the new truck has been in service since its arrival.

Engineering Department

Mr. Courtney provided updates on active projects:

Kirtland-Chardon Road Paving: The ODOT pre-award meeting is scheduled for May 19, 2026. Letters of interest for a construction management and inspection firm were received on May 4, 2026, and the city is awaiting a cost proposal from the selected firm, QCI. Once QCI is under contract, Mr. Courtney expects to bring a recommendation for award to the June 1, 2026 council meeting. He also noted that the city's share of the approximately \$500,000 project is estimated at \$135,000.

Mayor Potter asked about the status of resurfacing Route 6. Mr. Fornaro explained that ODOT has moved away from a fixed 12-year cycle and now schedules rehabilitation based on Pavement Condition Index (PCI) ratings.

Road Program — Cape Seal: Mr. Courtney referenced the work session discussion regarding a cape seal program on several city streets this year. Mayor Potter subsequently elaborated on this program under his report.

306 Sewer Extension: Additional fieldwork is being collected on sewer extensions to the south, east, and west within the RB zoning district, and plans are being updated accordingly.

Wisner Wall: Mr. Courtney and Mr. Fornaro reviewed the 50% design plans with SME on April 30, 2026. An updated set of design plans was received this afternoon (May 6, 2026), and work is continuing to advance the project.

Recent Slope Failures: SME has submitted proposals for initial field testing, slope stability analysis, and repair recommendations for two slope failures: one at 10001–57 Wisner Road and another on Regency Woods Drive. The combined cost for this initial analysis is approximately \$47,000. These costs have been submitted to Lake County Stormwater for pre-funding, with legislation expected at the May 18, 2026 meeting. Mr. Fornaro confirmed there was no change in conditions as of Monday. Council President Fenstermaker asked about the timeline for repairs; it was noted that after council passes legislation, the matter must go back to the Lake County Commissioners for an MOU before work can begin.

On the estimated cost of repairs, Mayor Potter suggested the slope failures could cost upward of \$250,000 and potentially approach the \$400,000 range of the Wisner Wall project. Mr. Courtney noted that, similar to the Wisner Wall, a sheet pile wall approach would likely be used to avoid triggering Army Corps of Engineers permitting, which would result if contractors needed to work within the stream channel.

10899 Tibbets: The city is still awaiting revised plans from the applicant for a possible Planning and Zoning review at the June 8, 2026 meeting.

A council member recommended that following significant rainfall events, city staff proactively monitor the Eisenhower area given last year's drainage issues. Mr. Courtney reported that following the most recent rain event, he visited the area and spoke with the resident on the south end who had previously experienced the worst flooding; she indicated she had no issues this time.

State Route 306 Sewer Extension: Preliminary plans and estimates are being updated to extend the sewer line along south Euclid-Chardon Road and east and west of Chillicothe Road to serve all properties within the RB zoning district at the four corners area.

Wisner Wall: SME provided a 50% design plan sent on April 9, 2026 which is currently under review. Noting that this pertains to the stacked wall section.

Finance Department

Finance Director Slapnicker was not in attendance.

Assistant to the Mayor and Senior Center Coordinator

No formal report was submitted. Ms. Julia stated she was available for questions. No questions were raised.

Law Department

Law Director Lallo was not in attendance.

Mayor's Report/Announcements

Mayor Potter congratulated Jenna Vanek on her appointment and recognized her family's deep roots in Kirtland. He also thanked Council President Fenstermaker, Councilmen Smolic and Haymer, and Mr. Fornaro for their participation in a Service Department Committee meeting, at which a recommendation was made to enter into an agreement for a chip and cape seal program covering approximately 3.15 miles of city roads. Legislation is expected at the next council meeting.

Mayor Potter took the opportunity to provide public context for the road program. He emphasized that chip and cape seal is a maintenance tool — not a rehabilitation or full paving — designed to extend road life by three to five years. He noted that the city has employed a variety of tools in recent years, including full-depth repairs, crack sealing, and 101GS partial repairs, and expressed enthusiasm for the addition of cape seal as the topcoat following the chip application.

Council President Fenstermaker followed with a frank assessment of the city's road funding situation. He noted that 27 roads in Kirtland are currently rated at a failed status, with an estimated \$7 million needed for rehabilitation. He stressed the need for a dedicated funding mechanism, stating that without one, spending \$600,000 to \$1 million annually on roads — while necessary — is insufficient to address the backlog.

Several Councilmembers reinforced the point that the \$7 million figure is a moving target — as existing roads continue to deteriorate, the total cost of repair only grows. He directly connected the need for a road levy to the public's concern about road conditions, noting that the city has diverted general fund dollars away from other needs in order to address roads and that this cannot continue indefinitely without dedicated funding.

Mayor Potter confirmed that the pavement condition report was not updated this year due to funding constraints, but that the existing report remains available on the city's website.

Standing Committee Reports

- Police & Fire Standing Committee Minutes April 6, 2026

Motion to approve the Police & Fire Standing Committee Minutes of April 6, 2026, was made by Councilman Smolic and seconded by Councilman Haymer. The motion carried.

Correspondence

No correspondence was reported.

Public Comments on Matters not on the Agenda

George Brewer, 10555 Crary Drive, addressed council regarding a stormwater runoff complaint. Mr. Brewer described a situation in which two uphill neighbors have downspouts directed toward his property, causing flooding of his garden, shed, the side of his house, and his trees. He stated that one neighbor recently had dirt hauled in — approximately 10 truckloads — which he believed altered the natural drainage pattern, and another neighbor's removal of ground cover exposed

previously hidden runoff. Mr. Brewer indicated he has been working with Mr. Fornaro and that letters were sent to the neighbors citing city code violations. He asked what his next steps would be.

Mr. Fornaro explained that there is approximately 40 feet of side yard involved and a legal issue as to whether an ordinance is being violated, since the downspouts, while not ideal, are not discharging directly onto Mr. Brewer's property. Mr. Fornaro further stated the city's law director, Matt Lallo, has been contacted regarding the matter, for a legal opinion. Council President Fenstermaker advised Mr. Brewer that the next step is to await the law director's response and that council and staff will continue to look for ways to assist.

Renee Centa, 7813 Eagle Creek Court, raised several general concerns. She inquired about the Kirtland-Chardon Road paving project and whether Regency Woods Drive would be repaved or receive a cape seal. She also engaged in an extended dialogue with Council President Fenstermaker, Mayor Potter, and Councilman Haymer regarding the city's road funding history. Key points from the discussion included:

Ms. Centa also asked about the city's noise ordinance for landscaping equipment. It was explained that the ordinance permits operation Monday through Friday from 7:00 AM to sunset, and on weekends from 9:00 AM to approximately 6:00 PM.

She asked who is responsible for trimming trees near power lines. Councilman Symonds reported that she had recently met with a representative from the Illuminating Company, which is responsible for line clearance trimming. The city is in the rotation for trimming this year, with work expected between now and September/October. She noted that the trimming is done for safety, not aesthetics, and that residents are not always pleased with the results.

Finally, Ms. Centa relayed her husband's concern about potholes at the border of Waite Hill and Eagle Road, near the centerline. Mr. Fornaro acknowledged the issue.

Old Business

Public Comments on Matters of Old Business.

No public comments were made on old business matters.

New Business

Public Comments on Agenda Items of New Business.

No public comments were made on new business matters.

Second Reading

26-R-23

(Mayor Potter)

A Resolution authorizing participation in the ODOT Road Salt Contracts Awarded in 2026.

Mr. Smolic moved to **waive the third reading**, with the second by Ms. Symonds. Council President Fenstermaker asked if there was any discussion. There was none. **ROLL CALL: MOTION CARRIED 5/0/0 ROLL CALL: MOTION CARRIED 5/0/0 (VOTING YEA: SYMONDS, FENSTERMAKER, HAYMER, GRAZIA, and SMOLIC. VOTING NAY: NONE.)**

Mr. Smolic moved to **adopt**, with the second by Ms. Symonds. Council President Fenstermaker asked if there was any discussion. There was none. **ROLL CALL: MOTION CARRIED 5/0/0 (VOTING YEA: SYMONDS, FENSTERMAKER, HAYMER, GRAZIA, and SMOLIC. VOTING NAY: NONE.)**

Council Comments:

Council President Fenstermaker thanked the residents who attended and acknowledged the seriousness of both the stormwater and road funding concerns raised during public comment.

Continuing Concerns:

There were no continuing concerns reported.

Adjournment:

Mr. Smolic moved to adjourn, with the second by Ms. Grazia. The motion of Council passed by unanimous vote and the meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.



President of Council



Clerk of Council