

6/1/2026 Council Meeting

Meeting Minutes

June 1, 2026, 7:00 PM

9301 Chillicothe Road, Kirtland, OH 44094, US

Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer

The meeting was called to order with the Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer.

Roll Call

Present: Council President Fenstermaker, Ms. Symonds, Mr. Schulz, Mr. Haymer, Mr. Smolic, Mr. Ziegler

Reading and Approval of:

Minutes of May 18, 2026 Work Session

Motion to adopt was made by Councilmember Schulz and seconded by Councilmember Smolic. The motion carried.

Minutes of May 18, 2026 Council Meeting

Motion to adopt was made by Councilmember Smolic and seconded by Councilmember Schulz. The motion carried.

Department Reports

Fire Department Report

Fire Chief Killeen reported that the delivery date for the Rosenbauer fire engine has been pushed back to May 30, 2027. The delay is attributed to the unavailability of the Cummins engine, as the manufacturer is transitioning from the L9 to the X10 model and neither is currently available, which is holding up the chassis manufacturing process. The previous estimated delivery had been March of 2027.

In response to a question from council, Chief Killeen noted that the department is preparing to expand its smoke detector program and will have more details to share soon.

Police Department Report

Lieutenant LaTurner reported that the department is working with Law Director Lallo to finalize legislation related to e-bikes and golf carts. A follow-up meeting is planned once Chief Fisher returns.

Council President Fenstermaker raised a concern about an unplated trailer that has been parked on the corner of Route 306 for approximately two years, adjacent to Kirtland Food Mart. The Lieutenant indicated the owner of the trailer is believed to be known and agreed to follow up regarding the lack of plates. Council President Fenstermaker requested the matter be addressed directly with the owner.

Service Department Report

Service Director Fornaro opened by commending his team for their spring preparation work, noting that flowers, banners, and flags are up and that the downtown and veterans memorial look well-maintained.

Regarding pending legislation related to 101G road work, Director Fornaro explained that funds have been appropriated through prior legislation and the road plan, that the work is being conducted pursuant to 101G and therefore does not require formal bid solicitation, and that he holds the authority to contract the matter under Council Resolution 22-R-56. He stated that for transparency and audit purposes, he was requesting council pass the relevant motion that evening. The motion passed.

A question was raised regarding what funds were used for work on the Kirtland Library drive and parking lot. Director Fornaro and Council President Fenstermaker clarified for the record that the Kirtland Library drive and parking lot was not repaved but rather seal coated, and that the funds used were not city funds.

Engineer Report

Kirtland Chardon Road Project: Two pieces of legislation are on the agenda — Resolution 26-R-30 for construction inspection and administration services with Quality Control Inspections, Inc., and Resolution 26-R-31 to award the contract to Geauga Highway Company. Engineer Courtney noted that ODOT's fiscal year is closing and that signed legislation needs to be transmitted to ODOT the following day, making emergency passage necessary.

2026 Road Program: Previously discussed.

Route 306 Sewer Extension: The EPA confirmed a \$2,000,000 grant for the project. A guidance document has been provided and the city must formally apply to receive funding. Engineer Courtney has reached out to the county, as the county is expected to ultimately own and operate the sewer. A coordination meeting with the county is anticipated within the next one to two weeks.

Wisner Road Stacked Wall: Updated plans have been reviewed by both Engineer Courtney and Director Fornaro. SME and the City will meet to finalize plans, prepare final estimates, and develop bid documents so the project can proceed to bid.

Additional Slope Failures (Wisner Road and Regency Woods Drive): SME has been authorized to perform subsurface investigations, prepare slope stability analyses, and provide recommendations for both sites.

Senior Rec Center

Julia reported that the Senior Center is preparing for an "America 250" cookout event on July 14th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The event will feature police and fire personnel grilling, as well as the King Cone ice cream truck.

She also reminded council and the public that the Friends of the Library Gazebo Concert Series begins the following evening, with the Chardon Polka Band performing. Police and fire will also be grilling at that event, accepting donations. The full concert schedule has been posted to the city calendar and on Facebook.

Law Department

Update provided. Discussion ensued regarding the appointment of the Clerk of Council Resolution 26-R-32. Discussion ensued regarding Crary Lane.

Mayor's Report

Mayor Potter thanked Lieutenant Colonel Robert Umholtz for his remarks at the Memorial Day ceremony. The mayor described the speech as focused on the theme of community and its formative role in shaping citizens and service members.

The mayor also referenced the 101G road work, thanking council for moving it forward. He additionally noted that the appointment of Louis Slapnick as Clerk of Council was on the agenda and expressed his hope that council would approve it.

Standing Committee Reports

A standing committee report from the Service Committee was noted, related to the previously approved cape seal. No further committee reports were presented.

Correspondence

Council President Fenstermaker noted no correspondence had been received since the last council meeting.

Public Comments Matters Not on the Agenda

Jesse Styles — Republican Nominee, Ohio House District 57

Jesse Styles, residing at 10286 Longview Drive, Kirtland, introduced himself to council as the Republican nominee for Ohio House District 57. He noted that he and his family have been proud Kirtland residents for five years. Mr. Styles stated he is the founder of North Star Towers and that he owns the cell tower behind City Hall, and is currently working with the administration on a potential second project in Kirtland.

He expressed his intention, if elected, to focus on substantive policy issues including energy and tax policy, and assured council that his door would remain open to the city. He noted that his business office has relocated to Lake County, increasing his local availability.

In response to questions from council, Mr. Styles provided an update on the pending cell tower project in Waite Hill, noting that North Star Towers had been released from a related lawsuit and that the village's unanimous approval remains in place, though a court process is still ongoing. He also addressed a question about the existing tower behind City Hall, confirming his company is responsible for maintenance of the vertical structure and the surrounding area, and invited council to contact him with any site concerns. He reiterated his openness to hosting city communications equipment on the tower if budget allows.

Rocky Harriman — 10899 Tibbetts Road, Kirtland (Property Owner)

Rocky Harriman, currently residing at 23413 Clifford Drive, North Olmsted, addressed council regarding his property at Tibbetts Road and the difficulties he has experienced in obtaining a grading permit for a driveway.

Mr. Harriman noted that he and his wife had originally intended to make the Kirtland property their permanent home, splitting time between Ohio and Colorado, but that the experience has changed those plans. He has since retained legal counsel, who has been in contact with Law Director Lallo.

Key points raised by Mr. Harriman included: a scheduled on-site meeting with engineers, his attorney, and city staff that was not attended.

City Engineer Courtney clarified for the record that Mr. Harriman does not currently hold a grading permit and therefore is not permitted to perform any grading work on the site. He noted that Mr. Harriman had previously been issued a conditional use permit for a bridge over a riparian area, and that work beyond the bridge was performed without a permit. Engineer Courtney further clarified that Mr. Harriman is required to maintain sediment and erosion controls in the interim.

Council President Fenstermaker acknowledged the frustrations expressed but noted that with legal representation on both sides, many of the matters are being addressed outside of council's direct authority. Council encouraged Mr. Harriman to have his attorney forward relevant materials to Law Director Lallo and to work toward a formal meeting.

Councilmember Schulz raised a question of whether the grading permit code should be reviewed and streamlined, as it was noted to be complex and potentially outdated. City Engineer Courtney agreed that a review and cleanup of that section would be a worthwhile undertaking.

Old Business:

Public Comments on Old Business:

Andy Loncar appeared before council to present renderings for the proposed development at 9213 Chillicothe Road (Loustown Village), noting this was the second hearing on the matter. Units are anticipated to be priced around \$500,000. An HOA will manage mowing and landscaping. Council President Fenstermaker thanked Mr. Loncar for his continued investment in the City of Kirtland.

Second Reading — 26-R-26

A Resolution approving the Final Development Plan for 9213 Chillicothe Road as approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission, and declaring an emergency.

Motion to waive the three readings was made by Councilmember Zigler and seconded by Councilmember Smolic. The motion carried. Motion to declare an emergency and adopt was made by Councilmember Zigler and seconded by Councilmember Smolic. The motion carried.

Second Reading — 26-R-29

A Resolution pursuant to Section 5705.19(h) of the Ohio Revised Code submitting to the electors of the City a question of providing for a renewal of the current levy of 0.85 mill for five years for Community Senior Citizen and Recreational Facilities and Programs, outside the ten-mill limitation.

Motion to waive the three readings was made by Councilmember Smolic and seconded by Councilmember Schulz. The motion carried. Motion to adopt was made by Councilmember Smolic and seconded by Councilmember Schulz. The motion carried.

New Business:

Public Comments on Agenda Items of New Business

No public comments were offered on new business items.

First Reading — 26-R-30

A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to retain the services of Quality Control Inspections, Inc. as the construction inspection and construction administration services for the LAK Kirtland Chardon Road Project, and declaring an emergency.

Motion to waive the three readings was made by Councilmember Smolic and seconded by Councilmember Symonds. The motion carried (Schulz abstained). Motion to adopt and declare an emergency was made by Councilmember Ziegler and seconded by Councilmember Symonds. The motion carried (Schulz abstained).

First Reading — 26-R-31

A Resolution accepting the bid of Geauga Highway Company for its work on the LAK Kirtland Chardon Road Pavement Project, and declaring an emergency.

Motion to waive the three readings was made by Councilmember Smolic and seconded by Councilmember Symonds. The motion carried (Schulz abstained). Motion to declare an emergency and adopt was made by Councilmember Zigler and seconded by Councilmember Smolic. The motion carried (Schulz abstained).

First Reading — 26-R-32

A Resolution appointing Louis Slapnicker as Clerk of Council, and declaring an emergency.

Council engaged in discussion prior to voting. Councilmember Schulz raised several concerns, including: the key-person risk of one individual holding two city positions simultaneously (Finance Director and Clerk of Council), such that an absence would create a gap in both roles; the appearance of overlap in compensated duties, particularly when Mr. Slapnicker attends council meetings in both capacities; the absence of any formal posting or interview process for the position, given that the Clerk of Council is a council employee; and an ambiguity in the legislation's second "whereas" clause regarding an hourly rate for work performed during council recess, which he felt should be clarified.

Councilmember Symonds cautioned against the use of the phrase "double dipping," noting it carries a negative connotation. It was clarified that Mr. Slapnicker would be performing two distinct roles and that the arrangement is similar to other dual-role situations within the city, including the mayor serving concurrently as safety director. Mayor Potter expressed confidence in Mr. Slapnicker's capacity, citing his seven to eight years of dedicated service to the city, and noted that the idea had been discussed even prior to the previous clerk's tenure. It was noted that in Lyndhurst, Finance Director Mary Kovalchik had served as Clerk of Council.

Council President Fenstermaker stated for the record that he had spoken with both the mayor and Mr. Slapnicker prior to the meeting and that he supported the appointment.

Council suggested that, given the appointment runs only through the end of November, a check-in with the Clerk should be built into the calendar to assess how the arrangement is working. Council President Fenstermaker agreed, emphasizing the importance of clear expectations for each role.

Motion to waive the three readings was made by Councilmember Smolic and seconded by Councilmember Haymer. The motion carried (Schulz no vote). Motion to declare an emergency and adopt was made by Councilmember Smolic and seconded by Councilmember Haymer. The motion carried (Schulz no vote).

First Reading — 26-O-33

An Ordinance authorizing the City of Kirtland to enter into a contract to purchase one (1) Brinex Advantage Brine Maker and all ancillary equipment from Henderson Products, Inc. and declaring an emergency.

Motion to waive the three readings was made by Councilmember Symonds and seconded by Councilmember Smolic. The motion carried. Motion to declare an emergency and adopt was made by Councilmember Schulz and seconded by Councilmember Symonds. The motion carried.

Council Comments:

Councilmember Schulz requested a post-meeting discussion with the Council President and Law Director to examine amending Ordinance 26-O-9 regarding the rules of council.

Councilmember Symonds raised the matter of establishing a time limit for public comments, noting that the city currently has no formal mechanism to limit the length of individual public remarks. She proposed legislation allowing for a general guideline of three to five minutes per speaker, without the intent of cutting off speakers. Council President Fenstermaker directed Law Director Lallo to draft appropriate legislation on the matter.

Discussion also briefly touched on the possibility of revising the overall agenda format.

Continuing Concerns:

No formal continuing concerns were raised beyond those addressed under Council Comments.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made and seconded. The motion carried unanimously.


Clerk of Council


President of Council