8/17/2026 Council Meeting

Meeting Minutes

August 17, 2026, 7:00 PM

9301 Chillicothe Road, Kirtland, OH 44094, US

Pledge of Allegiance and Prayer

The meeting was opened with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a prayer.

Roll Call

Present: Council Member Ziegler, Council Member Haymer, Council President Fenstermaker, Council Member Grazia, Council Member Symonds, Council Member Schulz Absent: Council Member Smolic

Reading and Approval of:

Minutes of July 13, 2026 Work Session

> Motion to adopt the minutes of the July 13, 2026 Work Session was made by Council Member Symonds and seconded by Council Member Grazia. The motion carried 6-0.

Minutes of July 13, 2026 Council Meeting

Prior to the vote on the July 13, 2026 Council Meeting minutes, Council Member Schulz requested two amendments: the correction of a resident's first name from "Cat" to "Kat" Torok, and the correction of a resident's address for Lynn McCormick to 8391 (from 839191).

> Motion to amend the minutes of the July 13, 2026 Council Meeting to reflect the stated corrections was made by Council Member Schulz and seconded by Council Member Ziegler. The motion carried 6-0.
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> Motion to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2026 Council Meeting as amended was carried 6-0.

Department Reports

Fire Department

Chief Killeen submitted his formal written report and presented the finalized Standard Operating Guideline (SOG) for downed power lines for Council review. He reported that a severe motor vehicle accident occurred the previous Sunday and commended the civilian bystanders who rendered immediate first aid, as well as the Fire Department crew, mutual aid response from Willoughby Hills and Chester Fire Departments, and assistance from the Police and Service Departments. When asked, the Chief indicated the injured party from the accident was progressing in the right direction.

Chief Killeen also reported that the new ambulance is scheduled for delivery at the beginning of September. Additionally, the department has finalized a partnership with the Red Cross to implement a cost-free smoke detector program for families in need. The program will also make specialized equipment available for the hearing impaired, including bed shakers and strobe lights. This information will be published on the city's Facebook page and website. It was clarified that this program covers smoke detectors only, and that the department is separately working with Enbridge to develop a carbon monoxide detector program.

Police Department

Chief Fisher reported the following:

National Night Out was a success. Officer DeWolf coordinated the event, and Sergeant Petric documented it; video is available on Facebook.

Soft Interview Room is complete. The Chief encouraged council and the public to visit. The project was made possible through financial support from Kirtland Kiwanis and the Kirtland Community Council, contributions from Nova Terra Construction Company and Synergy Salons, and physical labor from Rich Lowry, Kent Packer, Mary Sams, James Gilchrist, and Sherry Scott. Officer Atterbury managed the project.

Motorcycle Accident Update: Officer DeWolf received a message from a friend of one of the injured parties confirming she is doing well, though she has a long road to recovery.

Canine Unit: Detective Scott completed his electronic detection dog training and has returned to Ohio. A swearing-in ceremony is anticipated at the next council meeting. The canine is dual-trained to detect digital media and electronic devices (including submerged cell phones, flash drives, and hard drives) and to serve as an emotional support animal, complementing the new trauma-informed interview room. The dog was awarded through the Secret Service and is one of approximately nine in the state of Ohio, and the only one in Lake County.

Photo Enforcement: Chief Fisher thanked residents who attended the Q&A forums on speed enforcement. A speed survey is underway at no cost to the city, conducted by a company subcontracted through Site Stream. Data will be presented to council once available.

Schools Back in Session: Residents were reminded to exercise extra caution around school zones, crosswalks, and school buses.

Grants: The Chief and Lieutenant LaTurner have completed three grants and are currently working on two additional technology-focused grants for software and equipment.

Hunting Season: The department is working to transition hunting permits from paper to digital format. Officer Walsh will manage this process; inquiries can be directed to him at the department's main number.

E-Bike Vehicle Ordinances: Work with the prosecutor continues and is nearly complete, though grant submissions have taken precedence due to time sensitivity.

City Hall Security: Following a shooting involving a city employee in North Olmsted, the department has begun reviewing security upgrades at City Hall. ID Solutions has assessed access and door controls at the police department, and bids are being awaited for presentation to the Mayor.

Monthly statistical reports were also distributed.

Service Department

Mr. Fornaro thanked the service team for their continued work during the summer recess. Asphalt repairs are underway, with over 100 tons completed in recent weeks. Work has been conducted in the Timber Creek and Berkshire Hills areas, on Ledgewood and Rockwood, with Hidden Valley anticipated by end of the week. He also confirmed that the 101G paving project is on schedule to begin in early September, and the cape seal project is on schedule to begin in early October. In response to a council inquiry, Mr. Fornaro confirmed that a section of Hobart Road's northbound shoulder near the culvert is marked for repair and will be included in the 101G paving work.

Engineering

Mr. Courtney provided the following project updates:

Kirtland-Chardon Road (Sperry of East Corporation Line): Work is expected to begin the week of September 4 and will take approximately 45 days to complete. Because of the nature of the project's funding, Mr. Courtney noted he is not involved in the construction oversight and directed questions to Mr. Fornaro.

306 Sewer Extension: The team is working through culvert conflicts and adjusting the project profile, while continuing to work through EPA guidance documents in preparation for the funding application.

Wissner Stacked Wall: SME has completed the sheet pile wall design, accompanying plans are complete, and a draft bid book is under review. A draft cost estimate has been prepared with a construction cost of approximately $395,000, including a 10% contingency. Mr. Courtney indicated he would like to get the project out to bid this year, with bids potentially opening in September, though construction would likely not begin until spring if not awarded this fall. He described the construction scope as removing approximately 150 feet of roadway, driving steel sheet pile in front of the failing wall, removing the old wall, and backfilling with engineered fill before restoring the road. One-way traffic cannot be maintained during construction.

Slope Failures (Wissner and Regency): Both slopes were surveyed by drone on August 12. Data has been processed and a review meeting is scheduled for Wednesday. The data will then be provided to SME for analysis and repair recommendations.

10899 Tibbetts — Grading Violation: The owner's grading plan and development plans were approved by Planning and Zoning on July 30. Construction has begun and was reported to be progressing well upon a recent site visit.

Finance Department

Mr. Slapnicker reported that the July end-of-month financial reports have been distributed. The GAAP conversion financials have been filed with the state, and the audit is progressing — auditors are expected back on-site the following week. He noted that as fall approaches, the city will be entering its renewal season, including health care coverage with broker NFP; the current county consortium agreement expires at year's end. Mr. Slapnicker also reported that he attended the City of Kirtland's tax budget hearing before the county budget commission that morning, which he described as going very well. The certification of tax rates from the county is expected in September.

Law Director

Mr. Lallo had no formal report. In response to a council inquiry regarding short-term rental legislation, Mr. Lallo indicated that Planning and Zoning is expected to reevaluate the issue, as that is where any changes to the ordinances would originate. He noted no new statewide legislation on short-term rentals has gained traction, but was not certain of the current status.

Mayor's Report

Mayor thanked Chief Fisher for organizing two respectful and informative public forums on the potential use of speed cameras in the city. The Mayor emphasized that no legislation has been introduced and no decision has been made, and that the process remains in the information-gathering stage.

The Mayor noted that the new Zoning Administrator, Mr. Yaney, is performing well. Planning and Zoning members have expressed appreciation for the improved organization and quality of materials being provided. The Mayor thanked residents for their patience during the transition period.

The Mayor thanked the Police and Fire Departments for their response to the prior Sunday's accident, acknowledged Councilman Schultz for keeping the council informed as the accident occurred near his residence, and thanked the Service Department for their work through a particularly hot and humid summer.

In response to Council Member Schulz's inquiry, the Mayor indicated that the water drainage issue on Crary Road requires follow-up with Mr. Fornaro and Mr. Courtney, and acknowledged that a response is still owed to the affected homeowner. Regarding zoning violations on North and South Locust, the Mayor stated that Mr. Yaney's current focus has been on getting the department organized through the initial BZA and zoning meetings, and that enforcement follow-up on the Locust Drive matter will be addressed subsequently.

Standing Committee Reports

The Council President noted that a Parks and Recreation Standing Committee report update had been presented earlier in the evening. Council Member Schulz noted that coordination with the Police and Fire Committee is ongoing and that a Site Stream PowerPoint presentation had been distributed to all Council Members, with a request that all members review it.

Correspondence

The Council President reported receipt of correspondence from the Department of Commerce regarding a liquor license application for TCE Kirtland Hall LLC, 9290 Chillicothe Road. The Law Director confirmed that, absent any objection from council, no action is required.

Public Comments Matters Not on the Agenda

Julian Aldom, a senior at Kirtland High School, presented his Eagle Scout project proposal to create a new paver base for the artillery cannon at the Kirtland Veterans Memorial. Council Members and the Mayor expressed strong support. The Mayor praised Julian's composure and encouraged parents and scout leaders, noting that Eagle Scout presentations from Troop 286 are consistently impressive.

Jessica Dhami, 8392 North Locust Drive, addressed the council regarding a matter affecting residents of North and South Locust Drive. She stated that numerous residents on the street received zoning citations arising from a single complaint, and presented a petition signed by a substantial majority of her neighbors requesting that the city consider adopting a multi-complaint threshold for non-safety-related aesthetic zoning violations. She noted that many residents are long-term homeowners, some elderly, and expressed concern about the burden of citations based on the preferences of a single complainant. The petition was accepted for the record and the Law Director indicated it would be forwarded to the Zoning Administrator and Planning and Zoning for consideration of any potential ordinance changes.

Michelle Graneto, 10871 Tibbetts Road, expressed continued concern about sediment and erosion control compliance at the neighboring construction site at 10899 Tibbetts Road. She reported that sections of the silt fence are overflowing or knocked down near the stream, and that mounds of excavated dirt are being moved outside the silt barrier. She had attended the August 10 Planning and Zoning meeting and visited the Lake County Soil and Water office, where she received conflicting information about inspection responsibilities.

Mr. Courtney clarified the process: Lake County Soil and Water performs routine site inspections, as confirmed by a visit from a county inspector the previous Friday. If violations are identified and not corrected after successive notices, enforcement responsibility transfers to the city. Mr. Courtney advised Ms. Graneto to direct future communications to him directly, copying the Lake County Soil and Water office.

Old Business:

Public Comments on Matters of Old Business

No public comments were offered on matters of old business.

New Business:

Public Comments on Agenda Items of New Business

No public comments were offered on matters of new business.

Council Comments:

The Council President reiterated thanks to Chief Fisher for organizing the two public forums on speed camera options held earlier in the week. He thanked the Council Members who attended.

Continuing Concerns:

Karla Kosack, 9858 Alpine Drive, asked whether the speed enforcement discussion was limited to speed cameras or included other surveillance technology such as flock cameras. The Council President confirmed that discussions have been strictly limited to speed cameras within the school zone and downtown area, and that flock cameras have not been discussed. He noted that Councilman Schulz livestreamed both forums on Facebook and that summaries would be shared.

Ms. Kosack also raised a question about the recent speed limit reduction on Kirtland Road near the country club; the Council President clarified that this change was made by the City of Willoughby, not the City of Kirtland.

Ms. Kosack further inquired about the purpose of the new canine unit. Chief Fisher explained that the dog is trained to detect digital storage devices and electronic media, and also serves as an emotional support animal for trauma victims utilizing the new interview room.

Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn was made by Council Member Ziegler and seconded by Council Member Schulz. The motion carried 6-0. The meeting was adjourned.

President of Council

Clerk of Council