9/9/2026 Council Meeting

Meeting Minutes

September 9, 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 Haymer, Council Member Smolic, Council President Fenstermaker, Council Member Symonds, Council Member Schulz.

Absent: Council Member Grazia and Council Member Ziegler.

Swearing-In K9 Beacon

Chief Fisher introduced Detective Jake Scott of the Kirtland Police Department, who provided background on the department's acquisition of K9 Beacon, an electronics detection dog. Detective Scott explained that in 2024, the department began aggressively investigating crimes against children and, during a significant case, called upon a neighboring agency's electronics detection K9 Indiana Bones. That dog located a concealed cell phone that had been missed by all personnel on scene, contributing to a conviction resulting in a 20-year prison sentence. That experience demonstrated the value of such a specialized tool and prompted the department to pursue its own electronics detection canine.

Detective Scott and Beacon completed their team training. K9 Beacon was trained to detect chemicals present in electronic devices including cell phones, computers, and storage devices.

Detective Scott noted that Beacon's role extends beyond evidence searches. She also serves as a comfort animal.

Council members inquired about community donation opportunities, and Detective Scott confirmed that contributions of food, toys, and supplies are welcome, with an Amazon wish list to be made available.

The oath of office for Canine Beacon was administered.

Reading and Approval of:

Minutes of August 17, 2026 Work Session

A motion to adopt the minutes of the August 17, 2026 Work Session was made by Council Member Smolic and seconded by Council Member Schulz. The motion carried 5-0.

Minutes of August 17, 2026 Council Meeting

A motion to adopt the minutes of the August 17, 2026 Council Meeting was made by Council Member Schulz and seconded by Council Member Smolic. The motion carried 5-0.

Department Reports

Fire Department

Chief Killeen reported that his report had been submitted to Council. The new ambulance has been completed and is reportedly in route for delivery.

Council President inquired about the status of the new fire engine. Chief Killeen confirmed that the chassis has not yet been assembled. He explained that the body is being built at a separate facility. Council President expressed frustration with the lack of progress updates, noting that the city had paid over $250,000 as a down payment and questioned the likelihood of the current delivery date being met. Council directed Chief Killeen to compile a full timeline of the fire truck order and provide it to Council. Council Member Schulz suggested that the Law Director send a formal letter to the manufacturer. Chief Killeen acknowledged these concerns and agreed to gather the documentation.

Chief Killeen also reported that storm damage from recent weather events was minimal.

Police Department

Chief Fisher reported that the department has begun publishing a monthly statistics report, which will also be shared publicly on Facebook.

Chief Fisher thanked Superintendent VanArnhem for inviting Kirtland Police and Fire to participate in a staff training day focused on student safety. He further reported that a speed study conducted in the school zone has been completed and will be distributed to Council. Preliminary data revealed nearly 51,000 vehicles passed through the study area over 4.5 days, and Chief Fisher indicated that a speed issue is evident from the initial findings.

Chief Fisher also announced that Coffee with a Cop at the Senior Center is scheduled for October 7th at 9:00 AM.

Council Member Schulz asked about the acronym "TTA" appearing in the published report; Chief Fisher clarified it stands for Target Traffic Enforcement Area and acknowledged it should be defined in future publications.

Service Department

Director Fornaro thanked the service team for their recent work and had no formal report. He requested that a Service Committee meeting be scheduled with affected residents to discuss the upcoming cape seal (chip seal with micro surface overlay) program, planned to begin in October on seven city roads. After discussion, the meeting was set for September 19th at 9:00 AM, to be held in conjunction with the existing Coffee with Council event. A letter will be sent to residents on affected streets, and the specifics will be shared through social media.

Director Fornaro reported brush pickup is tentatively scheduled for October & November.

Director Fornaro also reported the completion of road patching work on Ledgewood, Rockwood, Hidden Valley, Timber Creek, and Berkshire, totaling nearly 400 tons of material. He also noted some aggregate berm washout on Hobart Road and indicated that paving of those berms is planned.

Engineering

Engineer Courtney provided the following project updates:

Kirtland-Chardon Road: The original start date of September 8th was not met by the contractor. An updated start date is pending.

Mill and Fill Pavement Repairs: Work on various streets was expected to begin the following day.

Route 306 Sewer Extension: A meeting was held with Lake County on August 27th to discuss project funding and tap fees. Survey work is complete, and a preliminary plan review with the county is anticipated within the next one to two weeks.

Wisner Road Stacked Wall: Construction cost estimate is approximately $395,000, including a 10% contingency. Resolution 26-R-50 on the evening's agenda addresses MOU funding with the county. Bid advertisement is anticipated for late September or early October.

Slope Failure Projects (Regency Woods Drive & Wisner Road): Survey and base plans have been completed and provided to SME. The slope stability analysis for Regency has been received; the Wisner analysis is expected shortly. A meeting with SME will follow. Resolutions 26-R-48 and 26-R-49 on the agenda authorize funding for SME's work on these projects.

2027 Culvert Replacement Project: Two culverts are planned for replacement — one at 8122 Euclid-Chardon Road and one at 7755 Eagle Road. Resolution 26-R-51 authorizes an MOU with the county to fund the engineering design.

10899 Tibbets Road: Construction is well underway.

Finance Department

Finance Director Slapnicker reported that the State Auditor's office was recently on-site conducting the 2025 audit. The process is proceeding well, with an anticipated completion date of September 15th. Upon finalization, the audit report will be distributed to Council and posted to the city website.

Senior Center

Julia Dewolf provided an update:

Membership has grown to 550, with 88 new non-resident members and 52 new resident members gained this year. Popular programming includes line dancing and bus trips to events such as Blossom Music Center, Guardians games, mystery lunches, and an upcoming Christmas market in December.

Support Our Seniors Pancake Breakfast: The 8th Annual event is scheduled for Sunday, September 13th (Grandparents Day). Tickets are $10 in advance and $12 at the door, with $5 tickets for children. Raffle baskets will also be available.

Upcoming City Events:

- September 20th – Shamrock Shuffle
- October 10th – Community Shred Day, Community Center, 8:30–11:00 AM
- October 24th – Halloween Town Center Fall Festival (replacing Trunk or Treat), City Hall, 4:30–7:30 PM. Community organizations and businesses interested in participating may contact the Community Center office.
- November 7th – Mayor's Action Network Senior and Veteran Yard Cleanup. Seniors and veterans in need of fall yard assistance may call the community center to register.

Law Director

Law Director Lallo had no formal report but requested that Council convene in executive session at the end of the meeting to receive an update on pending litigation. He asked that the executive session be held after continuing concerns and prior to adjournment.

Mayor's Report

There was no Mayor's report this evening.

Standing Committee Reports

Council Member Schulz announced a Police and Fire Standing Committee meeting scheduled for Monday, October 5th at 6:00 PM. The topic will be a review and discussion of the results of the speed study and school zone speed study.

A Service Committee meeting was confirmed for Saturday, September 19th at 9:00 AM to discuss the cape seal and chip seal process road maintenance program for the current year.

Correspondence

No correspondence was presented.

Public Comments Matters Not on the Agenda

No public comments were offered.

Old Business:

Public Comments on Matters of Old Business

No public comments were offered.

New Business:

Public Comments on Agenda Items of New Business

No public comments were offered.

First Reading — 26-O-45 (Mayor Potter)

26-O-45 An Ordinance authorizing the City of Kirtland to enter into a lease to purchase agreement for one (1) used Vactor 2115 Plus Combination Sewer Cleaner Mounted on a Freightliner SD114 Cab & Chassis as shown in Exhibit A from A&H Equipment, and declaring an emergency.

A motion to waive the three readings was made by Council Member Smolic and seconded by Council Member Haymer. The motion carried 5-0.

A motion to declare an emergency and adopt was made by Council Member Smolic and seconded by Council Member Symonds.

Discussion ensued about the life of the vehicle, storage, and the cost of a new vehicle.

The motion carried 5-0.

First Reading — 26-O-46 (Mayor Potter)

26-O-46 An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 26-O-42 relating to the appropriations for the year 2026.

A motion to waive the three readings was made by Council Member Smolic and seconded by Council Member Schulz. The motion carried 5-0.

A motion to adopt was made by Council Member Schulz and seconded by Council Member Smolic. The motion carried 5-0.

First Reading – 26-R-47 (Mayor Potter)

26-R-47 A Resolution Amending Resolution No. 24-R-41 amending the contract of the City of Kirtland's Full-Time Finance Director Louis Slapnicker, and declaring an emergency.

Council Member Schulz inquired about the timeline of the Finance Director's potential engagements.

A motion to waive the three readings was made by Council Member Smolic and seconded by Council Member Symonds. The motion carried 5-0.

A motion to declare an emergency and adopt was made by Council Member Smolic and seconded by Council Member Symonds. The motion carried 5-0.

First Reading - 26-R-48 (Mayor Potter)

26-R-48 A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to retain the services of SME for geotechnical evaluation services for the Wisner Road Retaining Wall Slope Failure Project at 10157 Wisner Rd and declaring an emergency.

Finance Director Louis Slapnicker clarified that while the original memorandum of understanding had authorized the geotechnical evaluation, it had not specifically named SME. This legislation was for consistency and procedural thoroughness.

A motion to waive the three readings was made by Council Member Smolic and seconded by Council Member Symonds. The motion carried 5-0.

A motion to declare an emergency and adopt was made by Council Member Smolic and seconded by Council Member Symonds. The motion carried 5-0.

First Reading – 26-R-49 (Mayor Potter)

26-R-49 — A Resolution authorizing the Mayor to retain the services of SME for geotechnical evaluation services for the Regency Woods Drive Slope Stability Evaluation and declaring an emergency.

A motion to waive the three readings was made by Council Member Smolic and seconded by Council Member Schulz. Motion carried 5-0.

A motion to declare an emergency and adopt was made by Council Member Schulz and seconded by Council Member Smolic. The motion carried 5-0.

First Reading – 26-R-50 (Mayor Potter)

26-R-50 — A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Board of Lake County Commissioners through the Lake County Department of Utilities, Stormwater Management Division, relating to funding and/or prefunding for the Wisner Road Stacked Wall Repair, and declaring an emergency.

A motion to waive the three readings was made by Council Member Smolic and seconded by Council Member Schulz. The motion carried 5-0.

A motion to declare an emergency and adopt was made by Council Member Smolic and seconded by Council Member Symonds. The motion carried 5-0.

First Reading – 26-R-51 (Mayor Potter)

26-R-51 — A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Board of Lake County Commissioners through the Lake County Department of Utilities, Stormwater Management Division, relating to funding and/or prefunding for the engineering cost of the 2027 Culvert Replacement Project, and declaring an emergency.

A motion to waive the three readings was made by Council Member Smolic and seconded by Council Member Symonds. Votes: Haymer – Yes, Smolic – Yes, Fenstermaker – Yes, Symonds – Yes, Schulz – Abstain. The vote did not meet the 5 affirmative votes for quorum required to pass thus the resolution advanced to second reading.

First Reading – 26-R-52 (Mayor Potter)

26-R-52 — A Resolution confirming the appointment of Steve Yaney as the Zoning Inspector for the City of Kirtland, and declaring an emergency.

A motion to waive the three readings was made by Council Member Smolic and seconded by Council Member Symonds. The motion carried 5-0.

A motion to declare an emergency and adopt was made by Council Member Smolic and seconded by Council Member Symonds. The motion carried 5-0.

Council Comments:

No council comments were offered.

Continuing Concerns:

No public continuing concerns were raised.

Adjournment:

Motion to enter executive session to discuss pending litigation was made by Council Member Schulz and seconded by Council Member Smolic. The motion carried 5-0.

Council exited executive session and adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

President of Council

Clerk of Council