

THE CITY OF FREMONT, OHIO
Journal of Council
June 4, 2026

The regular meeting of Fremont City Council was called to order in the form prescribed by The General Rule of Council. President Jamie Hafford called the meeting to order. The following members answered roll call: Weiss, Ruiz, Otte, Briggs, Elder, Liebold, and Sleek. The agenda was set.

First reading of an ordinance authorizing the Safety Service Director to amend the Position Classification Plan to change the Legal Secretary Position to Administrative Legal Assistant and declaring an emergency. Mr. Melle explained the changes that were made to present council with the revisions and to suspend rule 4. On a motion to suspend rule 4 by Sleek, seconded by Weiss. Motion passed 7 yeas votes. On a motion to adopt by Weiss and seconded by Otte, motion passed 7 yeas votes. Ord. 2026-4299

First reading on an ordinance to authorize the expenditure and direct the Safety Service Director to enter into a contract with Buckeye Excavating & Construction Inc. in the amount not to exceed \$221,110.00 for the South Washington Sanitary Sewer Project, and declaring an emergency. Mr. Frost as council to suspend rule 4. On a motion to suspend rule 4 by Ruiz, seconded by Briggs. Motion passed 7 yeas votes. On a motion to adopt by Elder and seconded by Weiss, motion passed 7 yeas votes. Ord. 2026-4300

First reading of a resolution conducting a five-year review and amending Section 4.0 of the application for the Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) attached and approving continued operation in specified public areas of Fremont. Mr. Melle explained the resolution stating times are being adjusted and asked council to suspend rule 4. Ms. Bilger explained why they are extending times to incorporate Farmers Markets and events downtown. Mr. Liebold stated that amendments need to correct the parameters on the resolution. Liebold made a motion to accept the amendments to add the Backstage Lounge, seconded by Elder, motion carried 7 yeas votes. On a motion to suspend rule 4 by Elder, seconded by Liebold. Motion passed 7 yeas votes. On a motion to adopt by Weiss and seconded by Liebold, motion passed 7 yeas votes. Res. 2026-2252

First reading of a resolution authorizing the approval and issuance of a warrant for payment of \$5,623.00 to Sandusky County Sheriff, and declaring an emergency. Mr. Frost explained that this was a bill from the sheriff office that was received after the fact and asked council to suspend rule 4. On a motion to suspend rule 4 by Elder, seconded by Sleek. Motion passed 7 yeas votes. On a motion to adopt by Liebold and seconded by Elder, motion passed 7 yeas votes. Res. 2026-2253

President Hafford took a moment to talk about the council's float in the 4th of July Parade. She spoke to Angie Morelock from Vanguard and the students have graciously volunteered to design a float and decorate it. It will have 911, first black president, ice, and Hurricane Katrina representation along with several other events during that era. Fremont Community Theater will be celebrating their 72nd season and will have a trailer. Weiss and Briggs volunteered to hold the era banner during the parade.

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Committee Reports

Danielle Briggs – Stated that registration for the parade are still open, She also announced that the community calendar is full and active and the pool is open at the Rec. center.

Kristine Weiss – Stated that GLCAP is still publishing that they see have availability for those that may need repairs for home improvements, please contact the organization.

Jim Sleek stated that the new car wash on Oak Harbor road is up and running. He suggested that the community check it out.

Elected Officials

Ken Frost mentioned that it is PTSD Month. He stated that being a veteran it is important for others suffering to seek help. Mr. Frost also mentioned that the Hayes Ave. and Buckland are completed.

Holly Elder echoed Mr. Frost about the roads and the great job that was done.

Kristie Bilger, Downtown Fremont passed out flyers for Downtown Fremont and the events that are coming up. She stated that there was a donation from Moonshine Entertainment for 6 new picnic tables that will be used at the Amphitheater. She publicly thanked Steve Stotz and the city for all their help with landscaping and upgrades for downtown.

Chief Wensinger stated that applications for new recruits have closed and they are very happy with the number of applicants. He encourages residents to register transportation with the two wheels with the department. There was a small discussion concerning ebikes and electric scooters. He was asked about bicycle patrols still in effect and he stated yes.

Public Comments

Sharon Mitchell 1300 Croghan Street. Mrs. Mitchell had a presentation concerning the changes to Birchard Park. She research the upgrades from the city for the parked and stated she had a petition that over 325 people signed and packets to council. She would like the park preserved and maintained as a green grass park and presented recommendations to obtain that status.

Pam Kindle asked if the rendering that she saw from the park is already a done deal. Mr. Gross stated that it is. He stated the improvements that will take place and answered the questions that Mrs. Kindle asked.

Jim Weiss 1106 Birchard Ave. He commended the Chief for meeting with the citizens who made a presentation at the Laws, Rules, and Ordinances meeting. He spoke about plans for the improvements for Birchard Park and that many are much needed. He commended the city for their plans for the future of Birchard Park.

Cassandra Tucker shared the NAACP Juneteenth celebration at Rodger Young Park on June 20th from 1 – 5 p.m. She encourage everyone to come out and celebrate.

Mrs. Mitchell wanted to read the petition for community members to hear: “We citizen who use Birchard Residential Park petition the City of Fremont to keep the grounds, trees, and green. Keep parks safe for families and children. Keep all adult structures and activities, including narrow paths or sidewalks near the edges of the park. No buildings near this park’s center. No French ditch or drain. Let shallow seasonal water stand. Safe, low cost and maintenance. Keep perpendicular parking along the east and west sides of the street aimed and curved. No in the park parking. Don’t endanger children who play the park’s main users. No alcohol consumption ever.

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Mr. Elder mentioned that Mr. Grahl's son Ethan was 4th in Pole Vault at State Track and Field meet. He also mentioned that Fremont Ross would be taking 18 athletes this weekend, which included the Division II recorded holder in hurdles, Mason Englund.

Motion to adjourn by Sleek, second by Liebold. Meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Council Clerk

Council President