

THE CITY OF FREMONT, OHIO

Journal of Council

August 6, 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: Otte, Briggs, Elder, Sleek and Liebold. Elder made a motion to excuse councilwomen Ruiz and Weiss from the meeting, seconded by Sleek. Motion passed 5 yea votes. Minutes from previous meeting and the agenda were approved.

First reading of a resolution authorizing the approval and issuance of warrant for payment of \$5,600.00 to Peters Used Equipment Inc., and declaring an emergency.

First reading of a resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor (City Council)

First reading of a resolution authorizing the approval and issuance of a warrant for payment of \$3,607.40 to Firelands Regional Medical Center, and declaring an emergency.

Committee Reports

Danielle Briggs – Announced that Adult Softball, Youth Flag Football, Volleyball, and Soccer registration is now open with the Rec. Center. Adult exercise registration opens next week, and a reminder to the public the annual building shut down is the week of the Sandusky County Fair. The last day for the pool will be August 23rd.

Jim Sleek commented that the old Wendy's is demolished and they are working on the new building.

John Elder announced that there will be an LRO Meeting beginning at 6:45 p.m. at the next council meeting August 20th.

Department Head Reports

Ken Frost spoke on the progress going on all over town with the construction sites. He is hoping the project on Buckland will be completed next week.

Bob Gross stated that the old Otto & Urban is on schedule for demolition at the end of the month. He stated that there are no plans for that property yet. He mentioned that they have started hanging steel rafters for the second building in the industrial park. The closing on the first building will be held in the next couple of days. Chief Wensinger announced that the first of four hires in 2026 started at today, Grayson Tolland. She will start academy on Monday. Mr. Otte asked the chief about parking citations issued on Wayne Street. A discussion was held concerning the issue.

Jim Melle stated that he passed out a press release of why they had to dismiss the charges involving the sting conducted by DAP. He also stated the way to handle these matters legally is the actual law enforcement through what they call ICAC and done in a professionally trained manner. The manner that the messages on the phone that DAP reset, there was no clear chain of custody to explain who said or text what on that specific night. There was not a strong enough case to proceed.

Public Comments

Robert Noss, 1520 North Street. He commented on the DAP case. He wanted to ask about the public statement released. In his opinion, they thought it brought more controversy and conspiracy to the situation. The statement, in his opinion, made it seem like the prosecutor and the safety service director were not on the same page. He stated perhaps it would have been better to have a discussion before releasing a statement that could be misinterpreted. Mr. Frost thanked Mr. Noss for his advice.

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Councilman Otte ended the meeting with a report from TNR – Trap, Neuter, and Release Program, where feral cats are trapped, taken to a vet, then fixed and released. He stated so far today, they have trapped and neutered 223 cats. The projection from the committee is that would approximately reduce the population by 500 cats. There are about 15,000 cats the counties. Mr. Otte asked the prosecutor if there was an ordinance that would prosecute citizens from using pellets guns and such on strays. Chief Wensinger said there is an Ohio Revised Code, but citizens should call the police if they see activity like that happening. He also if there was a facility that cats can be stored before they are released. If anyone is interested in donation to the committee, they have post box #238 at the UPS store on State Street. It can be addressed to Community PAWS TNR Initiative. If you go to their website on Facebook, there is a donation button to help.

Motion to adjourn by elder, second by Sleek. Meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Council Clerk

Council President