

THE CITY OF FREMONT, OHIO

Journal of Council
September 17, 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, Ruiz, Weiss, Sleek and Liebold. President Hafford announced that we would have public comments before the readings tonight.

She introduced Dean Bliss from the Drug Task Force. He presented the council with information pertaining to the Task Force since its inception in 2016. The operation continues to strive because of the funding it receives. The level was placed on the ballot in 2017 as a .55 mil criminal justice levy that generated about \$697,000. He introduced the three prong approach the force maintains – Enforcement, Education, and Treatment. He stated that they have seized over \$18 million in drugs in our community with over \$12 million being seized last year. The levy is up for renewal this November. He emphasizes the renewal part and stated there would be no additional or new taxes. He asked for the council and the community to support the renewal. Mayor Sanchez applauded the work of the Drug Task Force and all those who have made the endeavor a success.

Next, Tom Kerns made a presentation about Economic Development and the Industrial Park. He spoke about the first spec building being sold, the second spec building close to completion with 14 open interested parties. Mr. Kerns stated that the first building was financed by the county and the \$600,000 has since been transferred back to the county. The possibility of another building going up in the Industrial Park, Mr. Kerns mentioned the lead time for some materials is between 16 to 24 weeks for delivery. Mr. Kerns then called up Ms. Bilger to discuss the upcoming events for Downtown Fremont. She passed out flyers along with commemorative coins from the 250th celebration of the country. She next stated that this weekend was the Sauerkraut October Fest that will host German dancers, the Slovenian Polish German music, along with kid's games ad pageants to name a few things happening. This Farmers Market will be the last one until next June. Ms. Bilger ended her presentation by going over the other October Events that would be happening: A Nightmare on Front Street on Halloween, 4 – 9 p.m., Ghost Stores around the fire pit from Mr. Gilbert.

Mayor Sanchez announced that Jim Sleek with become his appointment to the Downtown Fremont Board. He thanked Mr. Kerns and Ms. Bilger for all their hard work and dedication to the City of Fremont.

Veronica Keller came up to the podium and stated that this was her third time pleading with council to get help on Quail Drive from the speeding cars, the lack of street lights, and posting of street signs. She also made a suggestion concerning holding a contest for beautification of Fremont. Mayor Sanchez thanked her for coming to speak and asked her if she was aware of the Tree & Beautification Commission and asked if she would be interested in becoming a part of it. He stated that councilwoman Ruiz has been a part of the committee and encourage her to speak with her. Mayor Sanchez apologized for not getting the light issue fixed in her neighborhood but stated the city has been doing everything that they can to speak to the company that owns the development complex.

Jason Brown came up to speak and Councilwoman Briggs made it known that it was his birthday. He thin spoke about lighting issue lighting on June Street. There are a lot of deer in the area and he asked how many streets are allowed on residential street. He also asked about sewer laterals. He stated that he is having trouble with his. He asked where his sewer tap is. He wanted what would need to be done to have his own sewer lateral. Mrs. Weiss stated that she had to pay for her own repair and he needed to contact a contractor.

October 1, 2026

President Hafford moved on to council business. She asked if there were any corrections to the minutes from the previous meeting. She asked about the agenda. Mr. Elder made a motion to remove the first item on the agenda, seconded by Jim Sleek. Motion carried 7 yeas votes. Mrs. Weiss made a motion to move into executive session pursuant to Ohio Revised code 121.22 G4. Preparing for, conducting, or reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment with council business to transpire thereafter. Seconded Liebold, motion passed 7 yeas votes.

Re-enter from closed Executive Session.

Second reading of a resolution recognizing the importance of interstate migration, defined herein as the movement of people from other states to Fremont, and immigration for economic development and workforce growth; expression that the City of Fremont, Ohio welcomes new arrivals; and recognizing the value that their work ethic, character, and entrepreneurial spirit add to the community.

First reading of an ordinance authorizing the Mayor and the Safety Service Director to enter into an Employment Contract with the International Association of firefighters representing Lieutenants, Captains, and firefighters of the City Department and declaring an emergency. On a motion to suspend rule 4 by Elder, seconded by Sleek. Motion carried 6 yeas votes. On a motion to adopt by Liebold, seconded by Weiss, Motion carried 7 yeas votes. Ordinance 2026-4309

Committee Reports

Danielle Briggs -. Trunk or Treat registration is also open. It will be held October 24th.

Angie Ruiz – Announced that the Fire department will have an Open House October 7th from 4 to 7 p.m. They will be having tours of the station, greet the firefighters, plus fun for the younger kids and adults too. She asked Chief Wensinger if he had anything to add. He commented on the car show that took place last weekend. He stated that it was well attend. He also stated that the car show made a significant donation to 501.C Giving Birthday, which benefits foster care kids in Sandusky County. He stated the department issued a statement today about Operation Life Boat. This is an operation that the City of Fremont Police Department participated in targeting online predators and this exploitation of juveniles. Cooperating with multi-agency.

Kristine Weiss made a motion to adjourn, Denny Otte seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

Council Clerk

Council President