

**City of Fairfield Minutes
Regular Meeting of City Council
June 8, 2026**

Council-Manager Briefing

None.

Business Meeting Call to Order

Mayor Miller called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Prayer/Pledge of Allegiance

Councilmember Meyers led in prayer and Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call

Councilmembers present included:

Councilmember, 1st Ward Leslie Besl
Councilmember, 2nd Ward Dale Paullus
Councilmember, 3rd Ward Debbie Pennington
Councilmember, 4th Ward Adam Kraft
Councilmember, At-Large Tim Meyers
Councilmember, At-Large Matt Davidson

Councilmembers excused included:

Councilmember, At-Large Gwen Brill

Councilmember Meyers, seconded by Councilmember Paullus, moved to excuse Councilmember Brill. Motion carried 6-0.

Agenda Modifications

None.

Executive Session Requests

None.

Special Presentations

1. Mayor's Youth Commission Year End Presentation

Members of the Mayor's Youth Commission presented a brief overview of their events and accomplishments for the 2025-2026 school year. See attached slides.

2. Brenda Davenport, Community Crafters Crafting Community

Brenda Davenport invited Mayor, Council and Senior Staff to participate in the Reading with Friends events hosted by Community Crafters Crafting Community.

Citizen Comments

None.

Council Reports

Councilmember Besl reported that an income tax study was done, and the report was distributed to Mayor and Council. She has requested a briefing in July to go into more detail about the findings.

Councilmember Pennington announced that Public Work will hold an open house tomorrow to discuss plans for River/Groh/Chateau roundabout and multi-use path from 5-7 PM at the Community Arts Center.

Councilmember Kraft reported that Parks & Recreation has hosted two concerts at Village Green so far this year and both were well attended. He also noted that the Art Gallery opened June 5 and Yoga on Green & Dancing on Green have begun, and there are many more upcoming events planned for the summer.

Councilmember Meyers reported that a restoration company was hired for fire hydrant restoration this summer, so that work will begin in the coming weeks.

Public Hearing(s)

1. 2027 Tax Budget Hearing

Mayor Miller opened the public hearing at 7:20 PM. Clerk Wilson read the meeting notice. There were no comments or questions. Mayor Miller closed the public hearing at 7:21 PM.

Approval of Minutes

1. Regular Meeting Minutes - May 26, 2026

The Regular Meeting Minutes of May 26, 2026 were approved as written and submitted.

Old Business

1. Public Works - Councilmember Debbie Pennington

- a. Ordinance accepting public improvements and releasing the maintenance and performance bonds for Emerald Lake Section 4 (High Point Court).

Councilmember Pennington presented the third reading of this ordinance. Councilmember Debbie Pennington, seconded by Dale Paullus, moved to adopt. Motion carried Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0.

ORDINANCE NO. 70-26. APPROVED 6-0.

New Business - Motion to Read All New Business by Title Only

Councilmember Besl, seconded by Councilmember Kraft, moved to read all New Business by title only. Motion carried 6-0.

1. Community & Public Relations - Councilmember Matt Davidson

- a. Ordinance to amend Section 170.01 of Chapter 170, Environmental Commission of Ordinance 166-84, the Codified Ordinances of Fairfield, Ohio relative to Environmental Commission membership.

It is recommended that City Council adopt an ordinance to amend Chapter 170, Section 170.01 to eliminate the requirement for a minimum number of members of the City of Fairfield Environmental Commission (currently set at nine members). Suspension of the rules is requested to allow amendment to be in effect for upcoming Environmental Commission meeting, scheduled for July 1st, 2026.

Councilmember Davidson presented the first reading of this ordinance. Councilmember Matt Davidson, seconded by Tim Meyers, moved to suspend second and third readings. Motion carried Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0. Councilmember Matt Davidson, seconded by Tim Meyers, moved to adopt. Motion carried Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0.

ORDINANCE NO. 71-26. APPROVED 6-0.

2. Development Services - Councilmember Gwen Brill

- a. Ordinance affirming the designation of the Community Improvement Corporation of Fairfield as the City's agency for development in the City and authorizing a grant of \$375,000 to be made to the Community Improvement Corporation of Fairfield for public purposes, and declaring an emergency.

The Community Improvement Corporation of Fairfield ("Fairfield CIC") was established in 1967 and reorganized in 2022 to facilitate real estate-related projects within the City. The Fairfield CIC assists the City by prioritizing and executing projects within the Route 4 corridor, the Town Center, and other targeted areas for development.

The Fairfield CIC has requested a grant from the City to allow the organization to complete project implementation. Approval of this ordinance would affirm that the Fairfield CIC can act as a development agency on behalf of the City and provides a grant of \$375,000 from the Transformative Economic Development (TED) Fund and Downtown Development Fund.

Councilmember Meyers presented the first reading of this ordinance. Councilmember Tim Meyers, seconded by Matt Davidson, moved to suspend second and third readings. Motion carried Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0. Councilmember Tim Meyers, seconded by Dale Paullus, moved to adopt. Motion carried Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0.

ORDINANCE NO. 72-26. APPROVED 6-0.

3. Public Safety - Councilmember Dale Paullus

- a. Ordinance to authorize the City Manager to execute the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Application and Agreement for personal protective equipment (PPE) for all firefighters and declaring an emergency.

It is recommended that the City Council authorize the City Manager to execute an Assistance to Firefighters (AFG) grant application for financial assistance through FEMA. This project is estimated at approximately \$300,000 in 2026 dollars based on a proposal from Fire and Fleet 911 (May 2026). This proposal seeks AFG funding to purchase 71 additional sets of firefighting turnout gear to address the increasing cancer risk among firefighters. The department's emergency responses have steadily risen, exposing personnel to carcinogens, which are known to contribute to the high incidence of cancer in firefighters. This highlights the need for a second set of personal protective equipment (PPE) to reduce these exposures, comply with NFPA 1851 guidelines, and ensure operational readiness. It emphasizes the significant long-term health benefits of this investment, which will improve firefighter safety, comply with national standards, and enhance the department's ability to deliver effective services while reducing the financial and emotional costs associated with occupational cancer. The proposal aligns with the department's mission to prioritize firefighter health and safety and supports broader efforts to mitigate cancer risks in the fire service. If approved, FEMA would fund 90% of the project cost; the City would be responsible for the remaining 10%.

Councilmember Paullus presented the first reading of this ordinance. Councilmember Dale Paullus, seconded by Matt Davidson, moved to suspend second and third readings. Motion carried Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0. Councilmember Dale Paullus, seconded by Adam Kraft, moved to adopt. Motion carried Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0.

ORDINANCE NO. 73-26. APPROVED 6-0.

4. Finance & Budget - Councilmember Leslie Besl

- a. Resolution adopting the tax budget of the City of Fairfield, Ohio, for the fiscal year beginning January 1, 2027 and submitting the same to the Butler County Auditor and declaring an emergency.

In accordance with ORC section 5705.28, each taxing authority must pass a resolution adopting a tax budget prior to July 15 and submit such tax budget to the County Auditor.

The tax budget requires the City to estimate revenues and expenditures for funds, which derive revenues from real and personal property taxes. The City of Fairfield has two funds, which derive money from property taxes: the General fund and Fire/Paramedic Levy fund. Detailed schedules for these funds have been included in the tax budget.

Councilmember Besl presented the first reading of this resolution. Councilmember Leslie Besl, seconded by Matt Davidson, moved to suspend second and third readings. Motion carried Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0. Councilmember Leslie Besl, seconded by Debbie Pennington, moved to adopt. Motion carried Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0.

RESOLUTION NO. 10-26. APPROVED 6-0.

- b. Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 148-25 entitled "An Ordinance to make estimated appropriations for the expenses and other expenditures of the City of Fairfield, Ohio, during a period beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2026."
- Contractual Appropriations: \$375,000 total (\$375,000 CIC Grant (Development Services))

Councilmember Besl presented the first reading of this ordinance. Councilmember Leslie Besl, seconded by Matt Davidson, moved to suspend second and third readings. Motion carried Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0. Councilmember Leslie Besl, seconded by Debbie Pennington, moved to adopt. Motion carried Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0.

ORDINANCE NO. 74-26. APPROVED 6-0.

- c. Ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 148-25 entitled "An Ordinance to make estimated appropriations for the expenses and other expenditures of the City of Fairfield, Ohio, during a period beginning January 1, 2026, and ending December 31, 2026."
- Non-Contractual Appropriations: \$120,966 (see below for description)

Councilmember Besl presented the first reading of this ordinance. Councilmember Leslie Besl, seconded by Matt Davidson, moved to suspend second and third readings. Motion carried Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0. Councilmember Leslie Besl, seconded by Matt Davidson, moved to adopt. Motion carried Yes 6, No 0, Abstained 0.

ORDINANCE NO. 75-26. APPROVED 6-0.

\$10,000 - Firebird Drive Metroparks Trailhead Parking Lot (Development Services)

\$36,171 - Water Division-Raw Water Well #7 Pump Rebuild (Public Utilities)

\$67,100 - Purchase of SCBA compressor (Fire)

\$7,695 Parks CAC Replacement Copier

Meeting Schedule

Monday, July 13: Council-Manager Briefing, 6:00 PM; Regular Meeting, 7:00 PM

Monday, August 10: Council-Manager Briefing, 6:00 PM; Regular Meeting, 7:00 PM

Monday, September 14: Council-Manager Briefing, 6:00 PM; Regular Meeting, 7:00 PM

Clerk Wilson read the meeting schedule.

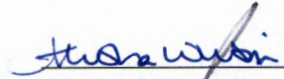
Executive Session of Council (if Needed)

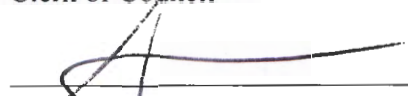
None.

Adjournment

The Regular Meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM.

ATTEST:


Clerk of Council


Mayor's Approval

Date Approved: 7/13/26

A Year in Review...

The 25-26 Mayor's Youth Commission

