CITY OF FAIRBORN
COUNCIL MEETING
May 19, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.
Council Chambers

COUNCIL MEMBERS	Present	Absent
Dan Kirkpatrick, Mayor	☒	☐
Clint Allen, Councilman	☒	☐
Sylvia Chess, Councilwoman	☒	☐
Adam Fritzsche, Councilman	☒	☐
Rodney McCubbins, Councilman	☒	☐
Mary Reaster, Deputy Mayor	☒	☐
Tana Stanton, Councilwoman	☒	☐

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Gay, Gebhart, McNamee, Riggs, Taylor, and Wellbaum

Everyone stood for the Pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Deputy Mayor Reaster moved to approve the May 5, 2025, Work Session Meeting Minutes. Councilman Allen seconded. Voice Vote. Motion carried. Mayor Kirkpatrick declared the minutes approved as written.

Councilman McCubbins moved to approve the May 5, 2025, Regular Council Meeting minutes. Councilwoman Stanton seconded. Voice Vote. Motion carried. Mayor Kirkpatrick declared the minutes approved as written.

OLD BUSINESS

ORDINANCE 9-25 TO APPROVE CURRENT REPLACEMENT PAGES TO THE FAIRBORN CODIFIED ORDINANCES.

Councilwoman Chess motioned to read Ordinance 9-25 for the second time by title only. Councilwoman Stanton seconded. Voice Vote. Motion carried. Mike McNamee, City Solicitor, read Ordinance 9-25 by title only.

Julie Taylor, Clerk of Council, explained that Walter Drane has completed the updating of the codified Ordinances. This update is through April 3, 2025. The cost of the update was $7,095.89 and includes the editorial fee, 195 changed pages, updating the internet, and

shipping and handling fees. This update also includes changes to the Traffic and General Offenses sections passed by state law. Staff recommends approval of Ordinance 9-25.

Mayor Kirkpatrick opened the public hearing.

Mayor Kirkpatrick closed the public hearing.

Council had no questions.

Councilman McCubbins moved to waive the rule requiring that Ordinances be read on three separate occasions and Ordinance 9-25 be read for the third time by title only. Councilman Fritzsche seconded. Yeas, seven: McCubbins, Fritzsche, Allen, Chess, Reaster, Stanton, and Kirkpatrick. Nays, none. Motion carried. Mike McNamee, City Solicitor, read Ordinance 9-25 by title only.

Councilman Allen moved to adopt Ordinance 9-25. Deputy Mayor Reaster seconded. Yeas, seven: Allen, Reaster, Chess, Fritzsche, McCubbins, Stanton and Kirkpatrick. Nays, none. Motion carried. Mayor Kirkpatrick declared Ordinance 9-25 duly adopted.

NEW BUSINESS

ORDINANCE 11-25 MAKING SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS TO THE APPROPRIATIONS BUDGET OF THE CITY OF FAIRBORN, STATE OF OHIO, AND AUTHORIZING TRANSFERS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2025, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Deputy Mayor Reaster motioned to read Ordinance 11-25 for the first time by title only declaring an emergency. Councilman McCubbins seconded. Voice Vote. Motion carried. Mike McNamee, City Solicitor, read Ordinance 11-25 by title only declaring an emergency.

Matt Wellbaum, Assistant Finance Director, reviewed the adjustments included in the legislation. Staff recommends approval of Ordinance 11-25.

Councilwoman Stanton asked if they would try for the grant again next year for the one that they did not receive this year. Mr. Wellbaum stated he did not think it was in the CIP submissions for this year. He suggested the question be posed to Terry Adkins.

Mayor Kirkpatrick stated if we are not going to go for the grant will that create any issues or problems. Mr. Wellbaum responded not that he believed so. He thinks it was budgeted with the thought that it would probably not come through, but they had to appropriate it to even apply for the grant so that is why it was in the original budget.

Councilman Fritzsche moved to approve Ordinance 11-25 declaring an emergency. Councilman McCubbins seconded. Yeas, seven: Fritzsche, McCubbins, Allen, Chess, Reaster, Stanton and Kirkpatrick, Nays, none. Motion carried. Mayor Kirkpatrick declared Ordinance 11-25 declaring an emergency duly adopted.

ORDINANCE 12-25 AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF SURPLUS PARCELS OWNED BY THE CITY OF FAIRBORN KNOWN AS 125 W. MAIN STREET AND ITS ADJACENT PARCELS TO THE FAIRBORN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION (FDC).

Councilwoman Stanton motioned to read Ordinance 12-25 for the first time by title only. Councilman Allen seconded. Voice Vote. Motion carried. Mike McNamee, City Solicitor, read Ordinance 12-25 by title only.

Mayor Kirkpatrick set the public hearing of Ordinance 12-25 for Monday, June 2, 2025.

ORDINANCE 13-25 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF NOTES IN THE MAXIMUM PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF $1,760,000, IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PAYING THE COSTS OF IMPROVING THE CITY'S PUBLIC ROADWAY SYSTEM.

Councilwoman Chess motioned to read Ordinance 13-25 for the first time by title only. Councilwoman Stanton seconded. Voice Vote. Motion carried. Mike McNamee, City Solicitor, read Ordinance 13-25 by title only.

Mayor Kirkpatrick set the public hearing of Ordinance 13-25 for Monday, June 2, 2025.

RESOLUTION 13-25 A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF FAIRBORN CITY COUNCIL APPROVING A FOUR-YEAR EMPLOYMENT AGREEMENT WITH CITY MANAGER MICHAEL E. GEBHART, COMMENCING JANUARY 2, 2024, AND CONTINUING THROUGH JANUARY 1, 2028.

Councilwoman Reaster motioned to read Resolution 13-25 for the first time by title only. Councilman Allen seconded. Voice Vote. Motion carried. Mike McNamee, City Solicitor, read Resolution 13-25 by title only.

Mike McNamee, City Solicitor, stated as Council knows Mike Gebhart was retained effective January 2, 2024, following the departure of Rob Anderson and at that time Council approved a two-year employment agreement. Mike has served the City well as both the Assistant City Manager and City Manager and Council has recognized his contributions and has directed the City Solicitor to assist in drafting the contract to increase Mike's term to four years. There were other revisions to the contract that he believes Council has reviewed. The Mayor has been in contact with City Council. He provided a quick highlight of some of the revisions to the new agreement. First, it is the term of the agreement. Mike is like anyone else; he wants to know that he has a job. The two years were short, but he was interested in showing what he could do. As part of that the term has been increased to four years, with a bit of a wrinkle too. It is an evergreen provision such that it remains at four years so when one year falls off another year adds on to the agreement. You couple that particular provision with the severance provision located in Section 1 of the contract. Section 10 of the contract is a severance provision and Mike can be terminated by a super majority of City Council members without cause. As part of that, this is the checks and balances on the four-year term, but it is not unusual

in the City Manager business. There is typically a severance that ranges from one to two years and in this particular provision Mike has requested that the severance be nine months. Other additions to the contract or revisions to the contract include Vacation/Sick Leave. The contract reflects that Mike can carry over 80 hours of sick leave/vacation leave if he does not use it. He could also sell 10 days back and then use Vacation to the City twice a year. This is included in Section 5. Section 7c that pertains to his deferred compensation. The original agreement required that the City contribute to a deferred compensation fund 10% to Ohio Deferred Compensation Fund for all of 2024. For reasons that are not clear that contribution was never made so there is a little catch up that needs to be had. Section 7c reflects that and there are 10 pay periods in 2025 that also needs to be "caught up". Section 7c contains the language for catching that particular provision up. Other compensation issues – Section 13 there is not increase in compensation save except the 3 percent COLA that the bargaining units have received so a 3% COLA was for this year which was started being received. There will be 3% in 2026 and 3% in 2027 so of course it is at Council's discretion to increase that compensation if they deem fit.

The last item that was revised is Section 16 Residency. The contract still highly encourages Mike to secure a residence in the City of Fairborn. He is very intent on doing that. He advised Mr. McNamee that he has a couple of houses that he is looking at, but it is not mandatory that he live within the City limits. Mr. McNamee stated he would be happy to field any questions,

Councilman Allen asked is there a time frame for the payback of the catch-up amount. Mr. McNamee stated he believed it would be a lump sum payment in 2024 and the same for 2025 and then it will be made for each pay period after that. Mr. McNamee stated it could have put Mike into a higher tax classification but making the contribution this way he believes it will minimize that impact. But it will still have an impact on him. Councilman Allen asked about the clause on residence in the City. In his opinion he believes that it is a fair clause considering the market and the challenges with family and other things that go into that. He says that because as a prior military member there were some restrictions on whether they could live off base, on base, and if you are off base, if you were leadership you needed to move on base. All of that caused a lot of frustration and problems and undo financial stress and strain. He went through some of that himself, so he understood that. Mr. McNamee stated it is fair, and it is pretty typical in these types of contracts as well.

Deputy Mayor Reaster had nothing to add.

Councilwoman Chess stated Mr. McNamee did a good job.

Councilman McCubbins asked if it was standard for the 80 hours of carry-over because it seems kind of low. Mr. McNamee stated he could not comment on that one to be honest. The only other comment Council McCubbins had was that he appreciated the simplicity of the contract. As someone who has read a lot of federal contracts, he appreciates the simplicity of this one. Mr. McNamee stated if it is not clearly understood then he is not doing his job. He appreciated Mr. McCubbins' comment.

Councilwoman Stanton stated it initially was a two-year contract and now we are extending it before the two years are up, but that is because they all have confidence in Mike Gebhart that he is doing a great job. They are happy to lock him in for longer. Mr. McNamee stated it works for both parties and that is what is important. He reviewed it from the City's perspective not because he works for the City Manager. These are all pretty typical and he thinks they are well deserved as far as Mike Gebhart goes.

Mayor Kirkpatrick thanked Mike McNamee for the job he did in putting this contract together. He also thanked Mike Gebhart for the job he has done since he has been the City Manager. He has been a pleasure to work with. He was very open and available, and he thinks the contract reflects Council's confidence in him. He thanked him for his efforts.

Councilwoman Reaster moved to adopt Resolution 13-25. Councilman McCubbins seconded. Yeas, seven: Reaster, McCubbins, Allen, Chess, Fritzsche, Stanton and Kirkpatrick. Nays, none. Motion carried. Mayor Kirkpatrick declared Resolution 13-25 duly adopted.

RESOLUTION 14-25 AUTHORIZING THE APPROVAL OF THE PRELIMINARY PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT MODIFICATION PLAN TO ALLOW FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE 251,293 SQUARE FOOT MIDDLE SCHOOL AND ASSOCIATED ATHLETIC FIELDS ON PARCEL NO. A02000200480000500.

Deputy Mayor Reaster motioned to read Resolution 14-25 for the first time by title only. Councilwoman Stanton seconded. Voice Vote. Motion carried. Mike McNamee, City Solicitor, read Resolution 14-25 by title only.

Kathleen Riggs, City Planner, reviewed the owner, applicant, zoning, and aerial maps. The site is located east of 675, south of Garland, west of Trebein and north of Dayton Yellow Springs Road. She provided a view of the overall site, including the bus drop off, staff and bus parking. This building is approximately 152,000 square feet. There are three access drives on the site. The southernmost access point is for the Middle School. The middle access drive is for student drop off. This will also be the main access for anyone visiting the school. She reviewed the area in peach for faculty and staff to park in as well. The buses will enter the southernmost point and then go back to their drop-off location on the west side of the building. Students will access through an entrance along that west side. It is similar to the bus drop off for the high school, The buses will then turn around and exit out the southern access drive. The total amount of parking space is approximately 220 spaces. She reviewed the overall site including the common area and the basketball court. There will also be three playing fields on the southernmost portion of the site. She reviewed the landscaping plan. She reviewed the elevations of the school.

She provided a brief overview of the floor plans of the school. The Middle School schedule for 2027 will be 7:50 a.m. to 2:35 p.m. while the High School starts from 7:15 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The hours are staggering, and this should alleviate some of the traffic issues. There has been a traffic study in conjunction with the Middle School. Engineering staff is currently reviewing the traffic study and also evaluating area sidewalks and have

currently submitted for grants for infrastructure and sidewalk improvements associated with these schools that are at this location. They will provide further updates as they receive information from those grant applications. Area intersections will continue to be evaluated, and timings of those lights could be adjusted if those changes are warranted. They will continue to evaluate that on a yearly basis because they know some of those traffic patterns do shift a little and then they will act accordingly based on what comes from those evaluations. The City's Emergency Services staff have also reviewed these plans and are supportive of the submittal. This application based on their general view of criteria is supported and does meet the intent of our zoning code. They also feel that regarding the development impact on the adjacent area all the potential impacts have been reduced to the best of their ability. The school is really a natural fit in a residential neighborhood as well as where it is located closer to those office commercial uses. Planning Board did recommend approval at their May 13, 2025, meeting with a couple of conditions due to the Traffic Study not being reviewed at that time. The sidewalk will also extend all along the property. Staff recommends approval of Resolution 14-25.

Councilwoman Chess asked the capacity of the building and the estimated student population for 2027. Ms. Riggs stated she did not know the estimated student population. This school was built to accommodate the students for this community, so she is going to trust that the school knows the population that they need to meet. Councilwoman Chess asked the student capacity. Ms. Riggs stated she did not know the student capacity at this particular site. Looking at the student numbers was not a part of the approval, but they have built this school to accommodate the current population and somewhat in the future. She thinks they are doing the best they can do with the funding that they received.

Councilman McCubbins asked where the stormwater would be going. Ms. Riggs stated the stormwater pond is on the western side of the site. He did not think what was on the high school property would accommodate this one as well. Ms. Riggs stated the site is a little over fifty acres and this is thirty acres, so it is much bigger than where they are now.

Councilwoman Stanton stated she drives down Maple near the Primary School a lot and there are times of the day when the parents are going through the drop off route. She does not know if it is one of our Police officers or if it is like the school Resource Officer, but she sees them out there having to direct traffic because it gets so backed up. She is just wondering about the traffic at the new Middle School. Is there more room left? Do they anticipate an issue like that here or is that what the traffic study is going to point out. Ms. Riggs explained that staff does not predict that there is going to be an issue. Engineers for the school built this site in the best fashion that they could to make sure they can accommodate stacking vehicles. In front of the school the lane should be sufficient for those dropping off students. They feel comfortable that this will be successful. Councilwoman Stanton asked if that was part of the pending traffic study. Ms. Riggs stated she has not read the traffic study. She does not believe the traffic study was so focused on site. It did focus somewhat on site to make sure this site could accommodate the faculty and staff and for those students dropped off. She thinks they were really looking at those interchanges and how these access points interact with Commerce Center and how Commerce Center interacts with Garland and Garland interacts with Trebein. She believes it was a broader view.

Councilwoman Stanton asked if the review of the traffic study could result in changes does that mean like the lengths of the time at the intersection of Dayton Yellow Springs and Commerce Center Blvd. Ms. Riggs stated it could be that it is one of the intersections that they do evaluate, and she thinks they have made changes at that intersection to account for the traffic congestion associated with the High School when they first started. They do evaluate all the intersections throughout the City if there is a problem, but they have evaluated that to make some timing changes with the lights. It seemed to help the traffic flow a little bit smoother. Councilwoman Stanton stated the High School put in one or two electric car chargers. She wondered if there is any car charging for staff on site. Ms. Riggs stated she was not sure.

Councilman Allen stated this is solid work. He appreciates the Planning Board putting the hooks in on this end to make sure the traffic study is considered as we continue to move forward.

Deputy Mayor Reaster wanted to comment on Sylvia's question about the capacity of the building. The school district only has a certain number they can budget for based on the state. The state dictates how big you can build your school even though we know that we are growing as a City. That is a big bone of contention not only with Fairborn but other districts as they continue to grow and build new schools. Their hands are tied based on what the state tells them they can do in their funding. This is more directed as a City question and not necessarily at this site specifically. We do not have sidewalks that go from National Homes into this area. Is that something we are looking at in the future because it is a short distance for those students? Ms. Riggs stated it definitely is, and they do realize that it is actually one of the locations that they have applied for a grant for some funding for those sidewalk improvements. They are evaluating sidewalks in the area to make sure that the neighborhood, especially Garland, is the easiest access point that goes underneath 675 so all the students on the east or west side of Maple and even off of Funderburg would utilize that access. It is a priority for us. They are waiting to hear back on the grant applications and if those don't work out then they will go to plan B. That is not the only alternative.

Mayor Kirkpatrick thanked Deputy Mayor Reaster for asking the sidewalk question because that was high on his list as the City manager knows. He lives near there and he watches the kids coming out of the High School and the few walkers or bike riders on Garland where there are no sidewalks. The extension before you get to Marchmont, they definitely get that fixed with sidewalks and bike paths. He is also glad to hear about the traffic study. In his neighborhood several of his neighbors commented they were concerned about the traffic when the High School opened. Fortunately, that has not turned out to be a big problem like they thought it might be. So, hopefully, this will also. He thinks this is the first time the Middle School and the High School are going to be next to each other so there will be a lot more traffic. It is good to hear there are staggered start and stop times for both schools. He thanked Ms. Riggs for clarifying the location of the retention pond. He discussed the Middle School groundbreaking occurring at 4:30 p.m. tomorrow.

Deputy Mayor Reaster moved to adopt Resolution 14-25. Councilman Fritzsche seconded. Yeas, seven: Reaster, Fritzsche, Allen, Chess, McCubbins, Stanton, and

Kirkpatrick, Nays, none. Motion carried. Mayor Kirkpatrick declared Resolution 14-25 duly adopted.

RESOLUTION 15-25 A RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF FAIRBORN CITY COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A NON-BINDING MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING REGARDING A SITE DEVELOPMENT LEASE IN COLLABORATION WITH GREENE COUNTY, BATH TOWNSHIP, AND SYNERGY CRC, LLC.

Councilwoman Stanton motioned to read Resolution 15-25 for the first time by title only. Deputy Mayor Reaster seconded. Voice Vote. Motion carried. Mike McNamee, City Solicitor, read Resolution 15-25 by title only.

Mike Gebhart, City Manager, stated this is unchartered water for all of us. This has to do with the enhanced use lease or EUL on federal property. This particular property is along National Road near Area B. It is 23.5 acres, and they will actually carve out this acreage and move the fence, so it is outside of the secured area. Ultimately, what would be built here are five office buildings that would support efforts at the base. This is the first time that Wright Patterson has done this. There are EULs for other bases throughout the country, both Army, Air Force and Navy. They are not super prevalent but it is something that has come out in the last decade or so that could happen. Again, it is the lease of the land for 50 years and there is a renewable portion of it that after the 50 years it can be renewed again. What makes this interesting is this is outside of the Base, so this becomes Bath Township. Where before it was federal land, it really wasn't under the jurisdiction of anyone other than the Department of Defense and the federal government. So now this has been moved into Bath Township. The township is growing a little bit. Normally you don't see a township grow and their borders have been set since the early 1800's when the state was surveyed. It is an incredibly unique situation so there are a lot of questions that come with it. Because Bath Township doesn't have the means to no fault of their own to provide some of these services.

Synergy is the developer on this site. Synergy contacted the City of Fairborn, Greene County and Bath Township to work through who might be able to aid them on this site. When he talks about assistance, it is services for example, Fire, EMS, Policing, Building Inspection, Zoning, Water, Sanitary Sewer, and Engineering issues. So, as Mike McNamee stated this is a non-binding MOU. What this allows us to do is explore the possibilities of cooperation to provide services to that site. If at some point it is deemed that this is just not going to work for the lack of another term if the City would not break even or lose money we could back out of this no questions asked. To give an example, currently we provide Fire and EMS to Bath Township so we would continue to provide Fire and EMS via the contract but the contract doesn't specifically include additional areas so we would need to work through that and see what the best avenue is to either amend that contract or do something else that would allow us to provide Fire and EMS services to that area. We think the Greene County Sherriff will take care of the Policing. There is some discussion of the City of Fairborn providing Building Inspection where Greene County would need to allow us through a written agreement to provide that service instead of Greene County building inspection. Bath Township would provide zoning. The City of

Fairborn has been asked to provide water and sanitary sewer and then Engineering services would need to be decided between Greene County Engineering, which represents Bath Township and the City of Fairborn Engineering. Staff is requesting authorization just to continue to have discussions with all parties, Greene County, Bath Township and Synergy, about how Fairborn might fit into this plan. This is a concept that Congressman Turner and the rest of the Ohio delegation is interested in seeing how this plays out and we want to be the best possible partners while not giving up anything or it being a financial burden on our residents.

Mike McNamee, City Solicitor, picked up on some of Mike's comments that the project itself is going to be for about $420,000 to fix 600,000 square feet of triple A, high end, research, engineering development type office space. Even though it is not within our taxing jurisdiction, things of that nature the ripple effect will certainly impact Fairborn. There has been a lot of conversations with the developer and Greene County and Bath Township and one thing the City has made crystal clear is we want to be a team player, but we also want to make sure that for the services we are providing and that includes personnel, infrastructure, repairs and maintenance, Fire and EMS and building inspection, we are not going to lose money on this deal. We want to be fairly compensated, and that language is contained throughout and made crystal clear to everyone in this Memorandum of Understanding. Again, the first three words are this non-binding Memorandum of Understanding. That said it is a very exciting project and there is a lot at stake. Fairborn is needed in this, and the Resolution and Memorandum of Understanding is respectfully before Council for approval.

Councilman Fritzsche stated they had a quick conversation and one of the other challenges they mentioned was that their agreement was exempt from collecting any kind of income tax as well. Is that correct? Mr. McNamee responded he did not know. The jury is still out on that one. He raised a good point and in terms of the proposed funding for these efforts income tax is probably off the table, whether it is legally off the table or not he does not know. The developer and the federal government made it pretty clear. It is going to be through a TIF and/or a JEDD or a combination of both. Those are the financing vehicles that they are looking at. The developer is paying for all of the hard costs of the infrastructure improvements, and the developer is not getting paid first. It will be a split proration of the proceeds. All of the services are paid for, then the developer gets the balance for his infrastructure. Those are all kinds of details that still need to be worked out. Mr. McNamee has gone through the details of the agreement and Bath Township, Greene County and Synergy, has signed the agreement.

Councilman Allen thinks it is good all parties come to the table with equal footing trying to understand what is right. Trying to make the right decisions and no one is left holding the bag to speak. This is a dicey situation. They have never done it before. He appreciates Mr. McNamee and Mr. Gebhart leaning into and trying to figure it out. We know and have seen the example of the decisions where we are not sure who has what. A prime example of that is over by Wright State University, the area where the soccer fields are located. He is pretty sure with the folks they will have in the room along with the fact we are trying to support the war fighters and support the base and show that we are good partners, we will figure this out.

Deputy Mayor Reaster had nothing to contribute.

Councilwoman Chess and Councilman McCubbins had no questions or comments.

Councilwoman Stanton asked if the facility would be considered SCIF. Mr. McNamee replied, no. She asked since it would be in Bath Township, normally, when we have water and sewer in Bath Township they pay a higher rate. So that would apply? Mr. McNamee stated the short answer is yes, specifically referenced in the MOU, but that is just for providing the water. That does not mean the infrastructure that is needed to provide that water and the repairs and maintenance needed to provide that water and the funding that is needed to replace infrastructure as it crumbles within the next 30 to 50 years. They have to take all of those components into consideration, and it will be in there.

Mayor Kirkpatrick thinks it is a great opportunity for us and another chance to partner and enhance our relationship with the base and the surrounding communities.

Councilman McCubbins moved to adopt Resolution 15-25. Councilman Allen seconded. Yeas, seven: McCubbins, Allen, Chess, Fritzsche, Reaster, Stanton and Kirkpatrick, Nays, none. Motion carried. Mayor Kirkpatrick declared Resolution 15-25 duly adopted.

CITIZENS COMMENTS

Mayor Kirkpatrick opened Citizens Comments.

Mayor Kirkpatrick closed Citizens Comments.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

Mike Gebhart, City Manager, thanked Council and stated he loves Fairborn, and it has been a great twelve plus years, and he is hoping for another great twelve additional years. He thanked Council again and the also thanked the residents.

He recognized that on Friday, May 9, 2025, the Chamber held its annual banquet. Some congratulations go out and he would like to thank Kurt and Jeannine at the Chamber for the banquet. It was a great time. He congratulated Captain Mark Stannard from the Police Department. Mark will be retiring at the end of this month after three decades of service to the citizens of Fairborn. Mark received the City of Fairborn Service Award. Logan Sorrells, one of our Lieutenants, received the City's Public Safety Employee of the Year Award and then Gary Johnson received the Jack Huelsman Civic Award for his leadership and guidance for the Fairborn Civic Band for almost three decades. Mrs. Donna Johnson spoke up and responded this is his 29th year. Those were the awards directly affecting the City and the highest award the Chamber gives out being the Jack Huelsman Civic Award.

He thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for the annual Dr. Michael Horton Fishing Derby, Saturday, May 10. It was well attended, and it was not raining. He also sent a thank you to Fairborn Little League and Marilyn McCauley for inviting us to their

Opening Day celebration. The 9th and 10th were jammed packed. He noted in the weekly memo that the Fairborn Police Department's new Blue Envelope Program has begun. Those are available to residents to come to the Police Department and pick up free of charge for those motorists who have communication issues this allows for some forms to be filled out that they can carry with them and if by chance they are pulled over by an officer they can hand that to the officer so the officer can understand whatever communication challenges they might have. It is a great program that came out in the last two weeks.

The July 3rd Block Party and the 4th of July Parade applications are available on the City website under the Recreation Department. As the Mayor mentioned they are looking forward to the groundbreaking tomorrow at 4:30 at the new Middle School. He also wanted to follow up in observance of the Memorial Day Holiday that the City offices will be closed on the 26th but Public Safety will be on their normal schedule.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Councilwoman Chess stated the Chamber Banquet was very nice and the highlighted people who received awards were commendable. She asked everyone to be safe.

Councilman McCubbins stated Mike Gebhart is being modest because he forgot to mention that he too received an award Friday night. Mike was given the President's Award by the Chamber President for his outstanding contributions to the City. Our own Mayor Dan Kirkpatrick was given the award for Greene County Career Center Educator Award. He congratulated both of them. We will not be meeting again before school is out so he wanted to give a shout out to remind everyone that school is going to be out real soon and a lot of children will be out and about so keep your eyes on the road for those kids. It is also motorcycling season. They see you and sometimes you don't see them so please pay special attention that you are not running those guys over and don't blow your grass in the road. That creates a hazard for our motorcyclists.

He has said many times that education is the cornerstone for us to understand what is going on in the City. Tonight, Council was privileged to receive a rapid-fire financial education on bond issues. He thanked the Finance Department for putting that together. With that said he reiterated to everyone that a lot goes into the decisions to say yes, and to say no, when these Ordinances and these Resolutions come before us. They are not taken lightly, and they don't rubber stamp things. They take the time to get educated on whatever the issue is. The latest issue they made a vote on came after several years of the developer working with the City of Fairborn to make the solution work. We thought it was going to work for the City of Fairborn hence they voted yes. He mentions this because he is disappointed with the media attention this got the day after the vote. It was all negative. He is ok with the negative media attention because they gave their side of the story, but what is disappointing is the picture that it painted Fairborn in a negative light and that does not represent what our City is and what we are all about and the decisions they make up there. They care deeply about this community, hence the reason they serve. He said also if you have questions about what goes behind the decisions that they make send them an email or call Julie Taylor and leave your name and number and they

will call you back. They will meet with you one on one. They will be more than glad to sit down and talk to you and explain details to you if that is something they desire. So, you can get more than what you are possibly getting out of these meetings. As Mike Gebhart had said one of his goals is to be transparent and Council is just as transparent as long as the law allows.

Councilwoman Stanton agreed with everything Councilman McCubbins said about that. She also encouraged people to ask questions and give input before and ask questions afterwards. Definitely feel free to do that. She thanked those who came to the meeting tonight.

Councilman Fritzsche had nothing additional to add.

Councilman Allen appreciates Mr. Gebhart and how he manages the City. As the Mayor has already mentioned that we have full confidence in him and the directors that are on board. We have a professional staff as evidence of the certification that was received last week from one of our Engineers. He is proud as with everyone else here. He is proud to serve the City in this capacity. He wanted to mention that last Saturday he got a chance to go to the memorial of former Mayor Essie Tackis. It spoke volumes of how people who have given of themselves in the service of the City. There were a lot of kind words that were expressed about Mrs. Essie Tackis and how she served in the Lions Club and the Rotary Club. Not only just on City Council and where she was the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and City Council Member. He appreciated her family recognizing her and then giving them an opportunity to share a thought or two. He thanked Ellen Slone at the Senior Center for putting it on and other community members for attending. It just speaks volume of the care that people put into the City. It sticks and no one ever forgets that. He saw a note today that talked about the Healthy Heroes Program. We are taking care of our employees with Healthy Heroes. There is nothing like having a workout mate to help encourage you to help workout and eat healthily. He thinks that is a good tool for living right and giving people encouragement. He got a chance the other day to look at the Amphitheater. It is a fantastic addition with the cover. He encourages everyone to take a look at how it is set up. Lastly, Memorial Day weekend is coming up. This is the first official mark of summer, and the BBQ grills start going.

Deputy Mayor Reaster stated most of her bullet points have already been covered. She highlighted the things that have not been covered. She did have the opportunity to attend the prayer breakfast at Soin. It was an incredible opportunity. The pastor that gave his testimony definitely had the allergies in full affect in the room. It was truly incredible. She is thankful to have been witness to that. Lastly, schools are almost out, and athletics are winding up. She stated the Fairborn Middle School girls are MVL champions with an undefeated season that went up against Greenville Green, the toughest competitor all season long and came out with a win at the very last second. Lady hawks Track and Field came out with an MVL Championship as well. We have an incredible school system, and we have incredible students. Anytime you have the opportunity to get out and support them, whether it is the two young gentleman who sit on the corner of Jefferson selling lemonade or it is school sports or Jazz Fest, whatever the case may be, when you have the opportunity to support these kids it is our duty and our right and privilege to do that because they are the future of this community and this country.

Mayor Kirkpatrick thanked Clint Allen for bringing up Essie Tackis. She was a tremendous human being and did all kinds of things for this community. He had the opportunity over the last six months to speak with her over the phone four or five times at least. She was living down in Florida and talked about how she loved this community and was planning to come home for some of the 75th anniversary activities. Essie is home now permanently. It was an honor to be at her event on Saturday. If you knew Essie, you knew that she was a very special person.

Earlier on Saturday he had the opportunity to work with the Fairborn Military Veterans Coalition. They did their first Adopt A Highway Clean up on State Route 235. What amazed him was the one-mile distance they picked up fifteen large black plastic bags full of trash alongside our roads. It is great that they did that but unfortunate that they needed to do that. Why were there fifteen bags worth of trash alongside one of our State Routes in the City of Fairborn? His message to folks is to please stop littering. We should not have to pick up trash like that. Most of it was right around the on and off ramps to 675, but the fact that there was that much trash in that short distance they should not have to be doing that. The part of that he wanted to say along with that is if you are working with a group, whether it is a community group, a school group or youth group there are lots of other opportunities for a group to Adopt a Highway. If you go to the City website, just punch in on the search bar Adopt a Highway and it will show you the areas that are available if your group would also like to Adopt a Highway. It is a great thing to have a clean City. Councilman Allen also mentioned the Atherton Amphitheater there are a lot of events coming up there this summer. There is a big Youth Program coming up. You can see advertisements for that. There is also going to be the Free on Friday events starting soon at the Atherton Amphitheater. A lot of work went into fixing that up and making it better. Please take the opportunity to take a look at that.

Also take a look at Fairborn Memorial Park. It is right here behind the City building. Trim's Tree Service and their group are doing a lot of work to get that park into shape. It is getting close to opening. At the Veterans Memorial they are redoing the bricks and they put up the walls. You will be seeing more etched granite pictures of veterans from the community. The whole park itself is really beautiful. The fountain that will be dedicated to the memory of Alicia Eckhart is bubbling and working. He has seen a number of people walking around the park now. It is going to be a showcase for the Fairborn community. Another event coming up this Saturday and Sunday at Calamityville is the Military Muster. This is an annual event that is put on by the Miami Valley Military History Museum, which is located in downtown Fairborn, but it is a free two-day event, Saturday, and Sunday where you will get an opportunity to see a lot of different military equipment and reenactments. There is an opportunity to fire the cannon every hour as well.

This Thursday is the Chamber Chat for the Chamber members and if you are not a Chamber member Chamber Chats are an opportunity to work and be around other businesses and members of the Chamber. The Chamber Chat this Thursday is going to be at Packy's Sports Bar at the Hope Hotel, and it is being sponsored by the Air Force Sergeants Association and the Chief's group. Last week they celebrated Arbor Day at the High School with the Environmental Club. They planted a tree the next day in honor of Bob Jurick. He is very active in many activities throughout the Fairborn community.

One of the things they are going to be doing this weekend is honeysuckle removal. They are meeting on Meadowlands Drive at the entryway into the park. Bob Jurick is behind that and the tree that was planted for Arbor Day was done in his honor.

You will be seeing a lot of social media updates coming soon. He thanked Emily Gay, the Communications Manager. She is the one coordinating those updates. You will see better ways to find out what is going on with the City. A lot more visibility with things. Emily is working hard to get those things going.

It has been mentioned about Memorial Day. He explained Memorial Day is about remembering those who sacrificed for the freedoms of our country. It is incorrect to say Happy Memorial Day. Because for those people who are there for Memorial Day it is about those who made sacrifices. Please take that into consideration. There will be Memorial Day events on Monday at the Byron Cemetery in the morning and then at the Fairfield Cemetery at 11:00 a.m. Please feel free to attend both of those ceremonies put on by different veteran groups, but let's remember what Memorial Day is really about and that is to remember those who have sacrificed for our freedoms.

RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Councilman Fritzsche moved to recess into executive session per ORC 121.22 (G) (3) to conference with the City Solicitor for the public body concerning disputes involving the public body that are subject of pending or imminent court action. Deputy Mayor Reaster seconded. Yeas, seven: Fritzsche, Reaster, Allen, Chess, McCubbins, Stanton, and Kirkpatrick. Nays, none. Motion carried. The meeting recessed into executive session at 7:08 p.m.

RECONVENE

Councilwoman Stanton made a motion to reconvene into open session. Deputy Mayor Reaster seconded. Yeas, seven: Stanton, Reaster, Allen, Chess, Fritzsche, McCubbins, and Kirkpatrick. Nays, none. Mayor Kirkpatrick stated as a part of the process of returning from executive session, as Mayor I am certifying that our discussions in executive session were limited to conferencing with the City Solicitor concerning disputes involving the public body that are the subject of pending or imminent court actions as permitted under ORC 121.22 (G) (3). The meeting was reconvened at 7:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Chess made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Allen seconded the motion. Yeas, seven: Chess, Allen, Fritzsche, McCubbins, Reaster, Stanton, and Kirkpatrick. Nays, none. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

MAYOR

CLERK, CITY OF FAIRBORN