CITY OF FAIRBORN
COUNCIL WORK SESSION
February 2, 2026, at 5:00 p.m.
Fire Training Room

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

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Bertles, Gebhart, McNamee, Penrod, and Taylor

CITY COUNCIL RETREAT PLANNING

Mike Gebhart, City Manager, explained there is not a lot on the agenda. They were originally going to talk about having the results back from the water rate survey, but those were not ready. Since the consultant hasn't finalized those yet, he thought we could go through and talk about topics for the retreat. He passed out the tentative retreat outline and the only thing that was firm was the 8:30 a.m. to 9:15 a.m. for Power Clean Ohio doing a presentation. They will always do the Council Goals and the Mission Statement. They will always do a Finance Update. Right now, department reports from each director are going to take about 10-15 minutes, but those can be significantly shortened. He asked for items to add to the agenda and the following suggestions were discussed:

- Mayor Kirkpatrick asked if Emily Gay could discuss ides of expanding social media ideas. He discussed Channel Five running the Fairborn Parade so many times. He would like to see 5 and 6 become more interactive. He would like to see department videos on that channel and maybe open that up to organizational groups.
- Mr. Gebhart stated when he worked for the City of Kettering, they did a lot of programming for their public access channel, and he would like to see some things borrowed from them. Every spring the Chief Plans Examiner would go out with code enforcement and pick a house the city owned and visually tell you what a code enforcement officer looks for at a house. Things like driveways and sidewalks that aren't maintained, ill kept gutters, shutters falling off, tarps on roofs for five years. They made a little 15-minute video. Centerville and Kettering used to do morning shows that were 5-minute department reviews.
- Mayor Kirkpatrick would love to see those on the City website.

- Mr. Gebhart discussed the Fairborn in Five videos that are on the You-Tube channel. He would like to see the Council meetings loaded to the You-Tube channel as well.
- Deputy Mayor Reaster stated she does like the short clips recently, like the loading of the salt trucks. It is important to see what the workers are doing. She suggested Terry Adkins explain the high-archy of roads.
- Councilman Dodd would like the Planning Department to provide an **update of what projects have been approved** or under construction. Deputy Mayor Reaster agreed those would be good clips for Facebook as well.
- Mr. Gebhart suggested publicizing the swearing ins of officers and firefighters.
- Councilwoman Stanton would like Emily to discuss the **newsletter subscription rate.**
- Councilwoman Stanton suggested videos of what each volunteer board does.
- Mr. Gebhart would like to do two Leadership Academies per year and potentially have 40 people every year that might be interested in serving on boards.
- Councilwoman Stanton suggested a virtual option for the Leadership Academy
- Mr. Gebhart agreed Civic Engagement would be a good topic for the Retreat.
- Mayor Kirkpatrick would like **250th anniversary activities** to be discussed during the Retreat. He would also like the **Sister City initiative** to be discussed during the Retreat.
- Deputy Mayor Reaster would like to touch on Council's engagement with staff. She thinks it is important that staff feel supported and heard. She would like to see a refresher on the Chain of Command, roles, and expectations. **A City Council 101 type event.**
- Mike McNamee, City Solicitor, stated he is slated for the 9:15-10:15 slot – Charter Review and Charter Review Committee, identifying where we can clean up the Charter. Rules of Council Review.
- Jon Moeggenberg will provide a **Code Enforcement update** at the Retreat.
- Councilwoman Chess asked if Fair Housing could be included. Mr. Gebhart stated our Fair Housing coordinator has given her resignation and is moving to the Base. We will double back on affordable housing at a work session once the team is back together.
- Councilwoman Chess stated there is a deed for a non-profit organization to help address housing for the homeless at night.
- Councilwoman Stanton discussed Habitat for Humanity requirements.
- Deputy Mayor Reaster discussed the children in the schools who are considered homeless as they are surfing from couch to couch.
- Councilwoman Stanton asked if there is still a social worker available to the Police that responds when necessary.
- Councilman Allen would like to see a **City** mission/vision statement developed.
- Mayor Kirkpatrick would like to see a Parks and Recreation brochure outlining the activities available. Councilman Dodd explained the Parks Foundation has a pamphlet.
- Mr. Gebhart discussed the potential of an improved YMCA. An update will come in April. That may be a work session topic in April or May.

CITY MANAGER COMMENTS

Mike Gebhart, City Manager, stated the City learned on Friday that they are now a certified Sol Smart Silver City for those that want to explore solar panels. It means that our Building Inspection staff has that specialized training. They were under a timeline crunch as it is not funded after February 1, 2026.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council had no further comments.

ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Mayor Reaster moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilman Dodd seconded. Yeas, six: Reaster, Dodd, Allen, Chess, Stanton, and Kirkpatrick. Nays, none. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

MAYOR

CLERK, CITY OF FAIRBORN