CITY OF FAIRBORN
JOINT CITY COUNCIL, FAIRBORN CITY SCHOOLS AND BATH TOWNSHIP MEETING
July 27, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.
Fairborn High School
1523 Commerce Center Blvd.

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

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT

Adkins, Gay, Gebhart, McNamee, Roman, Taylor, and Williams.

Everyone rose for the pledge of Allegiance and a moment of silence.

Bath Township, Fairborn City Schools, and the City of Fairborn each called their roll.

Bath Township provided their update.

CITY OF FAIRBORN UPDATE

City Manager's Report – Mike Gebhart, City Manager

- Discussed the ClearGov transparency portal allowing residents to see the City's revenues and expenditures, past budgets, current budgets, contractor payments, demographic information, sustainability information which will be up and running with 2026 information by the end of the year.
- New space on website to provide information for roadway projects

Economic Development Update – Mike Gebhart, City Manager

- Arden Place Phase Six consisting of 26 new single-family homes by Fisher Homes. Hillside Meadows Section Six consisting of 47 new single-family homes by Ryan Homes off of Armstrong Road. They continue the infill housing lot program. They are in process of awarding 4 of those vacant lots for new single-family home construction. There are 20 lots remaining. PLK Development is underway with 200 luxury units. Valle Greene Senior Housing is near Menard's and Kroger's and will have 70 affordable units for 55 years and older. Green Oakes assisted living facility will be off of Exchange Court with 120 units with four stories with 95,000 square feet.

- Commercial Development includes the 7 Brew on Skyhawk Court across from the current Middle School. Also, they are working on redevelopment at Broad Street and Main Street. Staff has applied for an Economic Redevelopment Grant for the former Legion site. This project would feature 104 market rate units, three or four stories high.

Public Safety Update – Ben Roman, Police Chief

- Current staffing is at 51 of 55 officers. Dispatch is fully staffed with one in training.
- Community engagement includes July 3rd and 4th events, Blue Grass and Brew, the Sweet Corn Festival, Lunch with Law Enforcement in June, and other events.
- Safety City was held in June with an attendance of over 80 participants,
- Currently hosting Police and youth together camp partnering with local law enforcement officers this week.
- Technology – new cruiser design, new K-9 Handler position and BRINC Drone as First Responder Program was discussed.
- Crime trends are posted online. In the first quarter he would say part one and part two crimes are down. They have responded to roughly 20,500 calls for service. They are on pace for 50,000 calls for service.

Public Safety Update – Ryan Williams, Fire Chief

- 2026 Strategic Initiatives focus on Vision, Health and Safety and Customer Service
- Community Engagement includes Fire prevention and education program for our K-12 students, adults, business, and Senior Citizens (nearly 8,000 contacts every year), Smoke detector and CO detector giveaways and installation, Safety Net/Loc Boxes, Community CPR and First Aid Training, Safe Sleep/Crib giveaways and installation-Specifically in collaboration with Fairborn FISH for car seats – gave away 70 car seats at the last event, Touch a Truck/Public Safety in the Park Event in October, Responded to over 7,000 calls for service annually.
- Risk Reduction and Training: Joint Active Threat training for a second year in a row with PD/Command staff involvement, Fire and EMS continuing education hours for every employee, with over 6,000 continuing education hours logged last year.
- Future Opportunities: Additional Staff coming on board to bring us to full staffing levels, Cadet Program with 25 currently involved, the new ladder truck includes the Fairborn City Schools "F" and Township branding, Command Trailer grant received in the amount of $220,000 which requires no matching funds.

Civic Engagement Update – Emily Gay, Communications Manager

- Citizens Academy is back for year two. It is eight weeks and starts September 3, 2026, and goes through October. It will be on Thursday nights from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Currently there are 7 spots available. Please see her if you would like to sign up or go to the website to sign up.

Mike Gebhart, City Manager, acknowledged Andy Taylor and Lexy Nick for the National Wildlife Federation Habitat Community Project program. They are also very helpful with that and the Tree City USA Program. He thanked the schools for their help on that.

Mayor Kirkpatrick reviewed past and future events:

- July 11, 2026, was the second annual UFO Festival at the DoubleTree Hotel. Last year there were 120 people in attendance and this year there were 400 from all over the United States.
- Last Friday was the final Free on Friday Concert at the Atherton Amphitheater at Community Park
- Upcoming events include the following events:
    - August 7, 2026, Bluegrass and Brew at Main Street Commons from 4:00 to 10:00 p.m.,
    - August 15-16, 2026, is the Sweet Corn Festival at Community Park from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, and 11:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Sunday,
    - September 18, 2026, is the Hairborn event from 4:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the Main Street Commons,
    - September 19, 2026, is the Air Force Marathon which brings 5,000 additional runners through Downtown Fairborn from 7:30 a.m. to about noon.
    - September 20, 2026, is the Chamber of Commerce Car Show with 300 cars anticipated.
    - October 16-18, 2026, is the Halloween Festival from 4:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. on Friday, Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. and Sunday typically goes from about noon to 6:00 p.m.
    - December 4, 2026, is the Hometown Holiday downtown.
    - This Saturday is the annual Christmas in Action Day,
    - Every other month Breakfasts with the Mayor continue which are put on by a local citizen. He thanked the School and City employees who participate in those. The next one is scheduled for Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. at the Senior Center.
    - Two different groups are looking into revitalization programs for downtown. One is called Small Nation.

Councilman Allen added to the events list that there is a Back to School Backpack opportunity this weekend. This is the fourth weekend they have done this and it will be on August 1, 2026, from 11:00 to 1:30 at Emmanuel Ministries, Abiding Christ Lutheran, and Kingdom Purpose Church. They will be handing out in upwards of 500 backpacks and school supplies for kids. On August 17, 2026, is Back to School Haircut Monday where kids can receive free haircuts at Fairborn United Methodist from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Fairborn City Schools provided their updates to include the Superintendent's Report, Treasurer's comments, and the Directors' Reports.

BOARD MEMBER/COUNCIL COMMENTS

Bath Township members made their comments.

Councilman Allen stated it is great to hear of all the awesome things happening in the City. It doesn't get that way without work and grinding through it. Every day, there are challenges which they work through one step at a time. He greatly appreciates the leadership and the collaboration. He asked that deployed members be kept in everyone's

thoughts and prayers. Several people are deployed from Wright Patterson Air Force Base, from the 445th and from Springfield. Having served whether it was short notice or scheduled or planned, it is always challenging for the families left behind. He asked that they are considered every single day.

Deputy Mayor McCubbins thanked everyone for the invitation for the fifth year in a row. He thinks one of the single-most important things they can do is collaborate with our neighbors. With that collaboration one of the things they have seen out of that is in the last census it was announced Fairborn was the fastest growing City in Greene County for this past year and the fifth fastest growing City in the State of Ohio with a 2.2 percent growth rate. It stands to reason that the school enrollment would have increased because of that. He believes they will still see some growth as we develop. The collaboration in this room between the Schools and Township and the City has helped that become to fruition and that is what it is all about. His main concern as a City Councilmember has always been the safety and security of our citizens. Some of the things on the forefront on Council's mind is the data centers. Although they have not put a moratorium on it, they are talking about it right now. Something else that is near and dear to him is the ever-increasing popularity of vapes and seeing if there is anything they can do about that as a City to get a little bit of control over that. For those not familiar with the Five Points area there are probably 10 shops located within that mile of the Intermediate School. It is disheartening and concerning for our youth. Another concern of his is the property tax momentum that is taking place in the State of Ohio and what we are going to do if that goes away. Lastly, he thanked the first responders who always keep the City safe.

Councilwoman Stanton thanked the Bath Township Trustees for hosting the meeting. She wanted everyone to consider adding Wright State University to this meeting. She is not sure if it is a good fit or not as they are not elected and the officials in the room are elected. It is a thought for next year if people like that idea. Environmental sustainability is very important to her, and she thanked the schools for the three teachers that are on the Fairborn Environmental Advisory Board. They do a great job, and they remain dedicated and make a huge difference. The City became a SolSmart certified City which means the City reviewed their processes and they have best practices in place. There is a Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum level. The City is at the Silver level. The teachers helped with the Tree City, USA initiative. One part of that is to have an Arbor Day celebration and they go out and work with the Base and participate with the celebration at the Base. The National Wildlife Habitat Community is taking a part of your property, whether it is your parks, City or School buildings or actual residential home and cutting a little part of it out for wildlife. The goal is for the City to do all of the parks. She stated with data centers we are all using AI so she is curious if there is anyway to do it very sustainably so she is curious if they do a moratorium if they couldn't find out what the right way is to do it, so it is not a public nuisance or a safety issue or environmental issue. Maybe somehow, we could contribute to that and work with the City to have a prototype of the best practice one. She thanked everyone who attended the meeting.

Mayor Kirkpatrick welcomed all the attendees at the meeting. Fairborn is a team community. If everyone is not aware we have a new Base Commander – Colonel Jason Okumura and new Base Command Chief, Chief Master Sergeant Jason Vollmer and they are a big part of our community also. He thanked Bath Township for hosting. He stated we have the best school system, park system and Police and Fire services. He thanked everyone for being a part of this.

Fairborn City School Board members made their closing comments.

Mike Gebhart, Fairborn City Manager, proposed doing a State of the Community address next year in the late fall at the High School in lieu of scheduling the next meeting for Monday,. July 26, 2027. They have discussed this possibility with Beth at the Township. Amy Gayheart, School Superintendent, agreed that would be a good idea. There were no objections mentioned to the change. Kassie Lester agreed it would be a good idea. Mr. Gebhart stated they would work on a couple of dates and then come back with what works best for everyone.

Mike McNamee, Fairborn City Solicitor, requested Mayor Kirkpatrick entertain a motion to excuse Councilwoman Chess, Councilman Dodd and Councilwoman Reaster's absence from the meeting. Deputy Mayor McCubbins made the motion. Councilman Allen seconded. Yeas, four: McCubbins, Allen, Stanton and Kirkpatrick. Nays, none. Mayor Kirkpatrick excused them from the meeting.

Bath Township and Fairborn City Schools adjourned their portions of the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Deputy Mayor McCubbins moved to adjourn the Council meeting. Councilwoman Stanton seconded. Yeas, four: McCubbins, Stanton, Allen and Kirkpatrick. Nays, none. Motion carried. Mayor Kirkpatrick adjourned the meeting at 6:38 p.m.

MAYOR

CLERK, CITY OF FAIRBORN