

THE CITY OF FREMONT, OHIO
Journal of Council
March 3, 2016

The regular meeting of Fremont City Council was called to order at 7:30 p.m. in the form prescribed by the General Rules of Council. President Hafford called the meeting to order.

The following members answered roll call: Knisely, Otte, Ruiz, and Zilch. Council member Koebel, Stout, and Taylor were absent. The minutes for council meeting held on February 18th were approved.

Second reading of an ordinance to make appropriations in the amount of \$64,751,878.00 for expenses and expenditures for the 2016 Fiscal Year January 1 thru December 31 for the City of Fremont, State of Ohio and declaring an emergency.

Second reading of an ordinance amending appropriations within Revolving Loan Fund 265 and declaring an emergency.

Second reading of an ordinance authorizing fund transfers in the amount of \$13,529,224.00 for Fiscal Year 2016, for the City of Fremont, State of Ohio and declaring an emergency.

First reading of an ordinance accepting the proposal of the Ohio Rail Development Commission (ORDC) for modification of the traffic signal at the intersection of State and Front Street. Mr. Fredericksen explained to council what the project was to install preemptive signals that control the railroad gates and timing of the signal for safety for the pedestrians and citizens. The project will install poles with signal arms to give a cleaner look to the intersection. The city's responsibility will be to help the Railroad Commission administer the project.

First reading of a resolution authorizing the Mayor to prepare, sign, and enter into a contract for submission to Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) for Recreational Trails Program Funding 2016 and declaring an emergency. Mr. Fredericksen informed the council that the city would like to apply for a grant that will asphalt the surface around the trail going around the reservoir.

First reading of a resolution authorizing the Sandusky County Park District to file an application with the State of Ohio for participation in the Local Grant Innovation Fund (LGIF) Program as lead applicant and the City of Fremont as collaborative partner and declaring an emergency. Mr. Fredericksen introduced Mr. Paul Tecpanecatl with the Poggemeyer Design Group to speak about the program and what the grant application entailed. The grant asks that the city becomes a collaborative partner along with Sandusky County Park District, Sandusky County, Downtown Fremont, Terra State, Rutherford Hayes Museum, Sandusky County Health, and the Regional Planning Commission. This is a \$50,000 grant that will take a look at the North coast Inland Trails and connecting all those collaborating. The grant is due March 21st.

First reading of a resolution whereby Fremont City Council finds it is in the best interest of the city to conduct an auction on May 7, 2016 and declaring an emergency.

First reading of a resolution authorizing the Mayor to file an application for submission to the Ohio Development Services Agency for the Local Government Safety Capital Grant Program and declaring an emergency. Mayor Sanchez explained that the grant is a maximum amount of \$100,000 and that the city will be applying for this grant to obtain body cameras and tasers for the police department and updating a paging system for the fire department. Currently the fire department is relying on the phone system for contacting firefighters, the grant will allow for an in house station paging system that allow the personnel to respond immediately for an emergency.

Council received a Trex Liquor License for Bamboo Steakhouse & Sushi Inc. The application was discussed at a previous council meeting by Mr. Melle. Council showed no objections to the application.

Committee Reports

Citizen Service Committee - Chairman Ruiz reported that Fremont Block Watch will be held on March 14th at the St. Paul's Church beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Community Partnership Committee - Chairman Knisely is working on getting several of the local schools, tech centers, and college to come to council to update us on activities at the various schools.

Finance and Labor Committee - Chairman Otte reported that a Committee meeting was held prior to the regular meeting to discuss the city's budget.

Laws, Rules, and Ordinances Committee - Chairman Zilch stated there will be a LRO meeting on March 18th at 6:30 p.m. for a presentation from the Energy Special Improvement District. He stated that it is a way for the city to hopefully start saving some money.

Park and Recreation Committee - Chairman Koebel was not present, but Mr. Knisely invited everyone to attend and support the Home Show that will be held this weekend at the Rec. Center.

Department Heads

Mr. Myers nothing this evening.

Assistant Chief Schneider nothing additional this evening.

Mr. Fredericksen nothing additional this evening.

Kristy Bilger Downtown Fremont Executive Director 315 Garrison St. Kristy updated the council on the great turn out on the spring update for the downtown area that was held on February 25th. She stated that Ruth Ann House did a great job at explaining what WSOS was hoping for the new building. Kristy passed out a power point presentation of the update and also stated if anyone needed additional information to please contact her. She also passed out a flyer about the Easter Bunny making an appearance on March 26th for story time at Riley's Closet downtown then pictures with the Easter Bunny afterwards.

Elected Officials

Mayor Sanchez thanked Kristy Bilger for her all her hard work. Mayor Sanchez stated that there will be a public hearing on March 15th from 7:00 – 9:00 p.m. at the Neil Center on the campus of Terra State concerning the supplemental EIS report for the Ballville Dam. The public has the opportunity to come in and ask questions about the report. Mayor Sanchez then congratulated the Fremont Ross Girls Swim Team for placing 6th at State. He also congratulated sophomore Lamonte Chapman for winning his first meet and continuing his quest for a state championship. He then references the IT issues the city is experiencing. A meeting was held with Perry Pro Tech, Paul Grahl, Ken Myers, Judge Hart and a few other city employees. They discussed what the issues were and will continue to address them. Judge Hart is willing to help the city out of a special project fund through the court because the issues have a direct impact on the court. He is gracious that Judge Hart has stepped up to help the city with those issues.

Mr. Grahl stated that last month the city received notice from the State that loans associated with the WPPC project and the reservoir interest rates are being reduced. This will save the city approximately 3 and one half million dollars. Although this is not an immediate savings, over the life of the loans until 2032 for the reservoir and 2046 for the WPPC project. He stated 3 million dollars is still 3 million dollars whether we are paying or our kids are paying it is a great savings.

Mrs. Elder nothing to report.

Council Comments

Mrs. Ruiz elaborated on her Block Watch announcement and stated there will be a guest speaker Mr. Tim Wise from the Firelands Counseling and Recovery service. She encourages everyone to attend.

Mr. Knisely stated he attended the presentation on the 25th and it was very exciting to hear about all the changes happening in downtown Fremont. He encourages everyone to support the downtown and to keep up the great work.

Mr. Otte also thanked Kristy and Tom for the great work at the presentation on the 25th. He also attended the meeting this morning, and he is also excited about the great things happening and returning to a vibrant downtown that it once was. He also mentioned the Art & Music Festival that is happening at the Strand Theater. The schedule will be online and on Facebook. Mr. Otte recently met Ms. Chari Mullen who is in charge of Mommas House. It is a mentoring organization for young people located across from the library. She asked that she come before council and speak to make the citizens aware of the opportunities she is trying to afford the youth of our community and for people to help her mission.

Mr. Zilch stated once again that we are closer to the light at State and Wood being completed. He also read the invitation from the NAACP concerning the Scholarship Fundraiser being held on March 19th at the VFW located on Birchard Ave. The fundraiser begins at 6:30 p.m. and the cost per ticket is \$35. Guest speaker will be Tashlai McKinstry a local Fremont Ross Graduate. She is currently the Principal at the Rise & Shine Academy in Toledo, Ohio.

Public Comments

John Havens introduced himself and asked for your support in his bid for County Commissioner.

Scott Miller also introduced himself and asked for your support as he runs for County Commissioner.

Assistant Chief Schneider invited everyone to attend the Firehouse Challenge for the American Red Cross Fundraiser on March 18th at Anjulina's from 6 – 10 p.m. Eight local departments will be competing against each other. Cost is \$25 per a person or a table of eight for \$160.

Mrs. Hafford recognized Parker Inks from Fremont, Ohio as on the top two Youth Volunteers in Ohio. Over 2,900 youth participated in the program and Parker represents the Best of Americas Youth.

On motion to adjourn by Mr. Knisely, seconded by Otte, motion carried 4 yes votes. Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.