

THE CITY OF FREMONT, OHIO

Journal of Council

September 17, 2015

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 Dallas Leake called the meeting to order.

The following members answered roll call: Knisely, Michles, Stout, Kreilick, Gross, and Koebel. Council member Ruiz was absent.

First reading of an ordinance amending appropriations within General Fund 101 and Probation Incentive Grant Fund 240, and declaring an emergency. Mayor Ellis explained that money in section 1 for a new server for the city. Mr. Daniel Sanchez explained the Probation Grant Fund usage and programs available with the grant. Mr. J.C. Welch the City's IT Manager explained the need for the server. On a motion to suspend Rule #4 by Gross, seconded by Stout. Motion carried 6 yes votes. On a motion to adopt by Knisely, seconded by Gross. Motion carried 6 yes votes. (Ord. 2015-3784)

First reading of a resolution accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the County Auditor (City Council) Mayor Ellis asked council to refer to the memo from Mr. Grahl. On a motion to suspend Rule #4 by Knisely, seconded by Gross. Motion carried 6 yes votes. On a motion to adopt by Knisely, seconded by Stout. Motion carried 6 yes votes. (Res. 2015-1957)

First reading of an ordinance to adopt Chapter 172 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Fremont, Ohio regarding Municipal Income Tax. Mayor Ellis introduced Janet Schroeder and she explained the necessity of the ordinance and why it needs to be changed now. She explained the State is trying to make the municipalities consistent with one another. On a motion to suspend Rule #4 by Michles, seconded by Knisely. Motion carried 6 yes votes. On a motion to adopt by Knisely, seconded by Stout. Motion carried 6 yes votes. (Ord. 2015-3785)

Committee Reports

Community Partnership Committee - Chairman Knisely announced at the next meeting Superintendent of Vanguard Mr. Greg Edinger will present information on the school.

Finance and Labor Committee – Chairman Michles nothing to report this evening. However he would like to speak to Mr. Grahl about the tax changes and how it will affect the city.

Government and Economic Development Committee – Chairman Stout deferred to Mr. Smith who informed the council that hopefully the council will be voting on the creation of a revitalization district for the city of Fremont. This ordinance would allow for the creation of new liquor license at an affordable price. He explained that 75% of the profits would have to come from food with 25% coming for the sale of liquor. Mr. Smith believes this will be a major effort to the revitalization of the downtown area in the city of Fremont.

Laws, Rules, and Ordinances Committee – Chairman Gross nothing to report.

Park and Recreation Committee -- Chairman Koebel reported NCAA Under Armour Sponsored AAU tournament will be held at the Rec. Center September 25th and 26th. The 3rd Annual Walk against Bullying will be held on October 3rd. Punt, Throw and Kick will be September 20th ages 6 to 15. Contact the Rec. Center for events going on.

Utilities and Traffic Committee - Chairman Kreilick nothing to report.

Council Comments

Mr. Michles commented about the Supreme Court decision on the Ballville Dam. He stated that court votes 7 to 0. He stated that gives the citizens of Fremont a right to voice their opinion at the polls. He would like to have the ruling of the Supreme Court entered into the minutes. A hard copy will be included in the City's stored file.

Mrs. Kreilick nothing to report.

Mr. Knisely encouraged the voters to take the Ballville Dam down. He stated that it will cost our citizens a lot of money, water rates would go up, and business would leave the city.

Mr. Gross wanted to bring notice to Margaret Adams, a lifelong resident of Fremont who suffered a terrible accident from a bike accident. There is a benefit dinner to be held for Margaret at the Fremont Alliance Church on September 26th from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. He also wished Timmy a Happy Birthday. He echoed Mr. Koebel's comments about Northcoast Showtime Basketball Tournament. He gave his thoughts and prayers to Mrs. Ruiz as she dealt with her family emergency. His last comment was about the dam. He asked that the voters be educated on the facts of the dam and what's in the best interest of the city of Fremont is to remove the dam.

Mrs. Stout thanked the city departments with all that has been going on and personally thanked Mrs. Schroeder for her work in the Tax Department. She also stated she believed that the dam should come down.

Mr. Koebel gave his condolences to Stevie Martin on the loss of her mother. He congratulated Jim White as the acting Chief of Police, and he recognized John Thunder Lewis for attendance at the council meeting. He also asked that we be aware of students on bikes and a Happy Birthday to Timmy. He said that he called Mr. Ward on several yards that people complained about and beautified a number of streets quickly.

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Elected Officials

Mr. Melle nothing this evening.

Mrs. Elder reported that the Ohio Supreme Court held session at Fremont Ross. It was a great lesson for adults and students to watch the law at work. She thanked the school for doing such an excellent job of hosting the event.

Mayor Ellis thanked Janet Schroeder for the work she did on the tax law and keeping track of it and the potential losses the city may occur. He also thanked the city Departments that worked at the Fair Booth. He personally thanked Tim Wasserman for the Sunset picture and Alex from WSOS for the Diversity Wall. Trick or Treat will officially be held on October 31st. He thanked Dr. McCaudy and staff did a great job on hosting the event. He spoke on the quality of questions that the students posed to the Supreme Court judges; the court was very impressed with their visit. After the session the Sandusky County Bar Association and the Hayes Presidential Center hosted a luncheon for the Judges. Mayor Ellis thanked John Lewis for his service and dedication to the Rec. Center. He then read a letter from John that was sent as a resignation letter.

Department Heads

Chief Foos nothing to report.

Chief White nothing to report.

Mr. Ward spoke about the sink hole on Hamon St. has been repaired. The 6th street project is still being worked on. He reported in about two weeks the concrete portion of the project should be completed at the end of October. He also reported that they did receive complaints of rusty water from residents on Gibson Street. The main reason was that the Walnut Street Tower was down. He reminded citizens that the brush pickup begins next week. He elaborated on Mr. Koebels statements about the lawns. He did not take all the credit for the work being done and stated the Zoning Department, and Mr. Fredericksen got the work done.

Mr. Sanchez thanked City Council for suspending Rule 4 on the Grant funding for the Probation department. He also stated that he attended the Supreme Court session and that it was an excellent experience.

Mr. Smith nothing additional to report.

Mrs. Schroeder nothing to report.

Mr. Fredericksen wanted people to know that the Christy Building is coming down and will be demolished soon.

Public Comments

John Lewis 125 St. Paul Drive #5 he wanted the citizens to know the real reason why he left the Rec. Department. He felt that his integrity was attacked by the Finance Committee. He felt that his character was put into question when they accused him of wanting to use the facilities for free. It both hurt and angered him. He asked Mr. Koebel to read a statement that he prepared.

Jerry Snodgrass 722 Carmel Drive Mr. Snodgrass made a comment on the basketball tournament Mr. Koebel mentioned. He stated that it was well attended, but the biggest complaint was that there was no concession stand. People needed to leave the tournament just to get something to eat, he hoping that the next tournament at the Rec. will accommodate the spectators. He then went on to give John Lewis praises for the work that he did at the center. He stated that he cares a lot not only for the children, but for the older patrons as well.

Mr. Koebel read a letter that John Lewis penned concerning his reason for leaving the Rec. Department. Mr. Leake asked that communication should be left open with Mr. Lewis if everyone is heaping praises on Mr. Lewis that

Larry Tullis 715 Fourth St. He also praised Mr. Lewis on his accomplishments. He posed the question to the council as to what was happening to the community.

President Leake stated that the CRC meet and settled a dispute between the residence of Bidwell and Bikers Club. He thanked the Police Department and the Safety Service Director for attending and stated that if allowed, the Commission works well with what it is charged to do. Concerning the dam, President Leake stated that all he ever wanted done was the democratic process be done. He is happy with the process and will live with the decision of the citizens once the votes are in.

Mr. Koebel stated that the CRC meeting at 5:30 p.m. on September 29th at the Rec. Center is open to the public.

On motion to adjourn by Knisely, seconded by Gross, motion carried 6 yes votes. Meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.