

THE CITY OF FREMONT, OHIO
Journal of Council
November 19, 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 Leake called the meeting to order.

The following members answered roll call: Ruiz, Stout, Gross, Knisely, Koebel, Kreilick, and Michles. The minutes for council meetings held on November 5th were approved.

First reading of an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a lease for the following described property (the Tree Farm Property) pursuant to Revised Code Section §721.03 and declaring an emergency. Mayor Ellis explained that it is the property off of St. Rt. 19 that is a lease property.

First reading of an ordinance amending appropriations within General Fund 101, Municipal Income Tax Fund 201, Mandatory Fines Fund 252, Fines & Forfeitures Fund 253, DOJ Equitable Sharing Fund 254, Water Deposits Fund 520, Sewer Operating Fund 570, and Demolition Security Fund 713, and declaring an emergency. Mr. Gross asked if the Demolition Security Fund was related to the Clauss Property. Mr. Grahl explained the fund was a holding fund for insurance companies when property in Fremont involved in a house fire and the city holds the money until the Fire Department signs off on the property and the funds can be released to the property owner.

First reading of an ordinance revising sewer rates beginning January 1, 2016 and declaring an emergency. Mayor Ellis stated that the council had the actual rates attached to the ordinance. The increase for 2016 is 3% and 6% for water user. A rate of 3% for larger water users has been proposed. The Mayor would like to build up the water fund. Mr. Michles questioned the several loans coming due and the effect it would have on the increase rates. The Mayor explained his view.

First reading of a resolution authorizing the approval and issuance of a warrant for payment of \$3,032.30 to Cutter Green, LLC, and declaring an emergency. Mr. Grahl explained that expenses that were made and that the purchase orders were not approved before the work was done. He requested a Rule 4 so that the bills could be paid. Mr. Grahl explained that expenses that were made and that the purchase orders were not approved before the work was done. He requested a Rule 4 so that the bills could be paid. On motion to suspend Rule 4 by Mrs. Ruiz and seconded by Mr. Knisely. Motion carried 6 yea votes to 1 no vote. On motion to adopt by Mr. Knisely and seconded by Mrs. Ruiz. Motion carried 6 yea votes to 1 no vote. (Res. 2015-1961)

A resolution authorizing the approval and issuance of a warrant for payment of \$6,627.00 to Aqua-Line, and declaring an emergency. On motion to suspend Rule 4 by Mr. Knisely and seconded by Mrs. Ruiz. Motion carried 6 yea votes to 1 present vote. On motion to adopt by Mr. Knisely and seconded by Mrs. Kreilick. Mr. Michles asked Mr. Ward if it would behoove the city to try to fix all leaks at one time. Mr. Ward explained the council could approve an ordinance of that nature if they chose to. Motion carried 6 yea votes to 1 no vote. (Res. 2015-1962)

First reading of a resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign an agreement with Oriana House, Inc. that began July 1, 2015 and will be terminating June 30, 2017 and declaring an emergency. The Mayor explained that it was the Grant that was discussed earlier and requested suspension of Rule 4 to get the resolution signed. On a motion to suspend rule 4 by Mr. Gross and seconded by Mr. Knisely. Mr. Koebel questioned the dates of October date on the actual resolution. Mr. Melle stated that the date would have to be modified when the resolution is signed. The motion failed 4 yea votes to 3 no votes.

First reading of an ordinance to make temporary appropriation in the amount of \$107,557,488.00 for expenses and expenditures for the 2016 Fiscal Year January 1 thru March 31 for the City of Fremont, State of Ohio and declaring and emergency. Mayor Ellis explained that the council had the appropriations in the ordinance he provided the council with spreadsheets and

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memo discussing the proposed temporary budget. Because of the tax law changes, he believes the city will begin to loose income which will increase stress on the Income Tax Fund. He suggested that the council take the time to look over the material and perhaps have a committee meeting to have a question and answer period about the budget. Mr. Michles said he received a State house report and would like to have a discussion. Mayor recommended to the council that we agree to demolish the Clauss property. Chief Foos and Mr. Tuckerman discussed the property and it was more financial sense to remove the buildings.

Design Review Committee Appeal. Mr. Scott Tucker owner of M&J Antique 427 W. State Street asked to council to reconsider the Design Review Committees decision on the sign that is on the side of his building. He explained that the sign was located at the Rec. Department for a number of years and he decided to hang it on the side of his building. He did attend the meeting and wished he had spoken up before leaving the building. He stated that he is a patriot and believed that the red, white, and blue colors were not offensive to people. Fran Gernhart, Chairman of the Design Committee stated that at the meeting Mr. Tucker said that he would cooperate with the committee's decision and take down the sign. She also stated that Mr. Tucker had not obtained a zoning permit to place the sign. She stated that the colors where not in coordination with the existing colors of the building and hard to read. She stated that Mr. Tucker is more than welcome to redo his color scheme and reapply for the application for approval. Shawn Kern who is also on the committee explained that every exterior changes on any building in Historic Downtown needs to go through the Design Committee. Several members suggested that Mr. Tucker go and speak with the committee and try to work together. Martin Jay voiced his opinion that although Mr. Tucker may have not obtained the permit as he should have, the council was there to represent the citizen of Fremont. He said Mr. Tucker is a good businessman and that he needs that deserves a response to his appeal. On a motion to uphold the Design Committee decision by Mrs. Ruiz and seconded by Mr. Gross. The council voted 4 yea votes to 2 present and 1 abstain vote to uphold the Design Committee Decision.

Committee Reports

Citizen Service Committee – Chairman Ruiz reported there will be a Block Watch meeting on the December 14th at the St. John's Church at 7:00 p.m.

Community Partnership Committee - Chairman Knisely stated Dr. McCaudy would report to the council during the first of the year.

Finance and Labor Committee – Chairman Michles there will be a committee meeting on December 3rd to discuss temporary budget and report he received from the State concerning tangible personal property tax beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Government and Economic Development Committee – Chairman Stout nothing to report this evening.

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

Park and Recreation Committee – Chairman Koebel reported that the Rec. Department is offering an event called Silver Sneakers for Senior Citizens. He reported that the Ice Rink is in full swing, and Elks Lodge 169 Hoops Shoot will be held December 13th at the Rec. Center.

Utilities and Traffic Committee - Chairman Kreilick nothing to report.

Council Comments

Mr. Michles nothing this evening.