

THE CITY OF FREMONT, OHIO
Journal of Council
November 2, 2017

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 Pro Tem Ruiz called the meeting to order. The following members answered roll call: Knisely, Koebel, Zilch, Ruiz, Stout, Otto, and Taylor. Minutes from October 19th were approved.

Before the regular meeting readings, Mrs. Ruiz announced that the city has been in reception of an annexation from the Sandusky County Commissioners from Hoty Enterprises for property on SR 53, the annexation will lay on the table for 60-days. All information regarding this annexation can be reviewed in the Engineering/Zoning Office. Mr. Zilch made a motion to add an item to the agenda. Motion seconded by Mr. Knisely. Motion carried 7 yea votes. Mr. Otte made a motion for council to go into executive session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22 (G) (4) preparing for, conducting, or reviewing negotiations or bargaining sessions with public employees concerning their compensation or other terms and conditions of their employment with no Council business to transpire thereafter. Seconded by Mrs. Stout. Motion carried 7 yea votes.

Mayor Sanchez started this evening by recognizing Water Reclamation employees Josh Wehring and Jeff Lamson on their professionalism and awarded them the Mike Piero Employee of the Month Awards. He also recognizes an outstanding young senior football player, Brentton Ollom for his dedication and perseverance to his sport and presented him with a plaque. Mayor Sanchez invited Coach Greg Brown and Tyler Aldrich up in support of Brentton.

President Sanchez asked Mr. Zilch if he wanted to make a statement about the Public Hearings heard before the meeting. Mr. Zilch explained the procedures and asked council to make a motion on the decision concerning the Pit Stops request. After discussion amongst council and a statement from Mayor Sanchez concerning a conversation he held with Mr. Pitts, Mrs. Stout made a motion to uphold the Zoning Board decision recommendation. Motion was seconded by Mr. Knisely. Motion carried 7 yea votes.

Second reading of an ordinance amending appropriations within General Fund 101, Municipal Income Tax Fund 201, Street Maintenance Fund 222, Fines & Forfeitures Fund 253, Water Operating Fund 510 and Sewer Operating Fund 570, and declaring an emergency.

First reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 172 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Fremont regarding Income Tax, and declaring an emergency. Mr. Grahl explained that the new chapter was added a couple of years ago and over the last year the State has made some edits to the law. This ordinance simply is bringing our income tax codified ordinances into agreement that the General Assembly has passed at the state level. Mr. Grahl suggested any questions be addressed to Janet Schroeder, in the Income Tax office.

First reading of a resolution authorizing the Mayor to sign and application with the Sandusky County Park District Commissioners through the Local Park Capital Improvement Grant for Park Improvements and declaring an emergency. Mayor Sanchez stated that the application is under a time restraint and ask council to suspend rule 4. The grant will be used to make continual improvements down at Rodger Young Park and at the Rec. Department, and to purchase AAD units at the park. On a motion to suspend Rule 4 by Mrs. Stout and seconded by Mr. Taylor. Motion carried 7 yea votes. On a motion to adopt by Mr. Knisely and seconded by Mrs. Stout. Motion carried 7 yea votes. Res. 2017 - 2032

First reading of a resolution authorizing the approval and issuance of a warrant for payment of \$169,147.00 to MWH Constructors, Inc. and declaring an emergency. Mr. Grahl explained the warrant is for work that was done on the damn. With all of the pending lawsuits, the city and the contractor enter into a change order. The purchase order had already been closed out and needed the resolution needed to be added back on. Mr. Grahl explained this expense is reimbursable. Mayor Sanchez asked the council to suspend rule 4. On a motion to suspend Rule 4 by Mr. Knisely and seconded by Mr. Otte. Motion carried 6 yea votes to 1 no vote. On a motion to adopt by Mr. Taylor and seconded by Mr. Knisely. Motion carried 6 yea votes to 1 no vote. Res. 2017-2033

Committee Reports

Citizen Service Committee – Chairman Koebel nothing to report.

Finance and Labor Committee – Chairman Otte nothing to report.

Government and Economic Development Committee - Chairman Stout stated that retention and expansion calls have been made to local businesses and they continue to do that to work with the community.

Laws, Rules, and Ordinance Committee – Chairman Zilch nothing more to report.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Mrs. Ruiz commented on the Trunk or Treat at the Rec. Center and the success of the event. Over 1,000 children participated in the event.

Utilities and Traffic Committee- Chairman Taylor nothing to report.

Community Partnership Committee - Chairman Knisely introduced Joe Albrechta who made a presentation to council explaining an upcoming event the American Presidents Film & Literary Festival on October 4th – 7th in 2018. The event is a cooperative project between the R.B. Hayes Presidential Library and Museums, the Learning and Liberty Foundation of the Fremont Public Schools, Fremont Public Schools and a growing number of community organizations and individuals interested in highlighting the unique position Fremont, Sandusky County, Ohio plays in the American Presidency. Through this event our county-wide community will realize economic value, increase national exposure, and enhance the quality of life for our citizens.

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Council Comments

Mr. Zilch reminded citizens to check on the elderly and think about your neighbors and offer a helping hand. Mr. Otto commented on the overwhelming response to the Trunk or Treat event. He mentioned the Christmas Parade coming up and after the parade the Birchard Historical Committee will be holding an event at Meir Park. Mr. Knisely thanked Mr. Albrechta and Chris for their presentation to the council. He congratulated Josh and Jeff for the receipt of their Mike Piero awards and also Brentton Ollom for his perseverance during his football career. He reminded citizens to exercise their right to vote next Tuesday.

Mr. Taylor also echoed sentiments of congratulations to Josh, Jeff, and Brentton on their accomplishments and awards. He congratulated council clerk, Mrs. Martin on the upcoming Grand Opening of her business. He commented on the NAACP Candidate Forum that was attended by all the candidates in the upcoming election. Mr. Taylor stated that the community really has displayed true comradely with the Trunk or Treat Event and the Car Show. He also encourages everyone to vote.

Mrs. Stout congratulated Josh and Jeff. She stated that she appreciated the open house they had at the Water Reclamation Center. She commended Brentton on his accomplishments and encouraged him to speak with Tyler Aldrich. She also commented on the Trunk or Treat event and the tremendous response from the community. Mr. Koebel echoed the congratulations to Mike Piero recipients and Brentton. He commented on the Car Show and the response to that event. The furthest distance to participate in the show was 97 miles with 257 entries coming from 51 towns. He announced that the Veterans Brunch would be held on November 12th beginning at noon. He complimented Kristy Bilger on all of her effort to make Fremont and the Downtown along with Mayor Sanchez.

Mrs. Ruiz also congratulated Mr. Wehring and Mr. Lamson. She also congratulated Brentton on his accomplishments. Mrs. Ruiz relayed an event that she witnessed from the Police Department and the excellent job that they did. She reminded citizens to make sure that smoke alarms are installed. She reminded everyone about Veterans Day and recognized The Party Store and the great work that they do.

Kristy Bilger, Executive Director of Downtown Fremont, Inc. stated the Farmers Market will conclude this weekend with the Harvest Happenings Event. There will be a parade of Clydesdale horses and many other interesting things going on. Kristy stated that she attend a Main Street USA event at the State Capital. She collaborated with many representatives and thought the event was very helpful to her and to making our downtown area the best that it can be.

Elected Officials

Mayor Sanchez thanked Mr. Koebel for his kind words and thanked Coach Brown and Tyler Aldrich for coming to council with such a short notice. He wished everyone good luck on their candidacy.

Mr. Melle nothing to report.

Mrs. Elder made a comment about the NAACP forum. She stated that she always enjoys attending that event and appreciates the NAACP committee for having a well-organized event. She encourages everyone to use their voice and vote. She mentions that it is Open Enrollment for the Affordable Care Act, the enrollment ends December 15th.

Mr. Grahl congratulated Josh and Jeff.

Department Heads

Chief Bliss echoed congratulations to Josh, Jeff, and Brentton. He complimented Coach Brown on coming down on such short notice and joked with the Sheriff that he will be trying to steal him in a couple of years.

Assistant Chief Schneider mentioned the time change and to check your smoke detectors. There are free smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors available at the fire station. He also stated that Kidde is recalling fire extinguisher. The recall involves eight models of Kidde Pindicator fire extinguishers manufactured between August 11, 1995 and September 22, 2017.

Mr. Lamson congratulated Brentton on his accomplishments and thanked the Mayor for the Mike Piero award. Kirsty Bilger handed out the end of the year activity packets. She thanked Mr. Koebel for the kind words. She thanked everyone who attends the last farmer market. She thanked Christy and Mr. Albrechta on their presentation on the upcoming Literary Festival Event. The next big event will be tree lighting on November 24th. The 25th will be Small Business Saturday and reminded everyone to shop small businesses in Fremont. She announced that the Holiday Parade will be held on December 2nd. She mentioned that Downtown Fremont has its open house on December 1st and 2nd. Ms. Bilger congratulated Council Secretary, Stephanie Martin on her upcoming Grand Opening Event on November 5th. The business is located at 1215 W. State Street. The business is called Pun-Kin-Place Celebration Center. Mrs. Martin explained to council what her business entails and she thanked those that helped her along the way. She invited everyone to come out take a look at the new business.

Public Comments

The council then went into executive session. Council returned from executive session.

On motion to adjourn by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Knisely motion carried 7 yes votes. Meeting adjourned at 10:05 p.m.