

The City of Fremont, Ohio
Journal of Council
September 21, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

Present: Tony Taylor

Tom Knisely
Mike Koebel
Denny Otte
Rick Zilch
Angie Ruiz

Absent: Kathy Stout

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes for the council meeting held on September 7, 2017 were approved.

BUSINESS

1. Agenda Addition – Agenda Item #4 – 2017 Crack Sealing Program
Motion to add 2017 Crack Sealing Program to the agenda and declaring an emergency.
Motion: Rick Zilch
Seconded: Tony Taylor
Vote: Passed
Knisely – Yes; Koebel – Yes; Otte – Yes; Zilch – Yes; Ruiz – Yes;
Stout – Absent; Taylor – Yes
2. Remarks – Mayor Sanchez
 - a. Mayor Sanchez recognized Pastor C.J. Burel for his 17 years as a pastor, as well as his service to the community, with a proclamation declaring September 21, 2017 as C.J. Burel Appreciation Day.
 - b. Mayor Sanchez called on Chief Bliss to introduce the three new police officers: Sam Lewis, Badge 684; Josiah Britner, Badge 685; and Stacy Robinson, Badge 686. Mayor Sanchez welcomed and congratulated the officers on being hired with the City of Fremont.
3. Thomas Pitts – Owner of Da Pittstop Bar
Mr. Pitts voiced concerns regarding the Zoning Board’s treatment towards him and his plans to build a deck on top of his bar. Mr. Pitts felt that he was asked questions that did not pertain to building specifications, such as questioning his financial ability to afford the project. Additionally, Mr. Pitts felt that he was asked questions that he did not know how to answer, and has received no guidance from the Zoning Board in order to get the information for which they are seeking. At this time, Mr. Pitts will be appealing the Zoning Board’s decision. Additionally:
Mr. Pitts has invited City Council to his bar so that they may get an idea of his plans; Councilman Koebel stated that the city needs to support all business owners, even more so when it comes to minorities and young business owners; Mayor Sanchez stated that he was not aware of the situation with Mr. Pitts, and has since reached out to him after being notified by a resident of the city. Mayor Sanchez has plans to meet with Mr. Pitts and the engineering department to review Da Pittstop’s plans and to address the specific requirements of the Zoning Board.

READINGS

1. Third 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)
Motion to adopt: Tom Knisely
Seconded: Tony Taylor
Vote: Passed
Ordinance 2017-3869
Koebel – Yes; Otte – Yes; Zilch – Yes; Ruiz – Yes; Stout – Absent; Taylor – Yes; Knisely – Yes
2. First reading of a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Revolving Loan Fund agreement with Jeff Fox, DBA Fox’s Painting & Paper, and declaring an emergency.
Discussion: Bob Gross explained to Council the Revolving Loan Fund process. Councilman Koebel asked where the liability lies; Attorney Melle explained that it lies with the business owner, and that if the loan goes into default, the city keeps attempting to collect on the loan. President Hafford asked if liens are placed on properties; Attorney Melle explained that has not happened as of yet, however he has sent out letters that have been effective with the collection process. The letters and loans are attached to the property at the County courthouse.
Motion to suspend Rule 4: Tom Knisely
Seconded: Angie Ruiz
Discussion: Councilman Koebel questioned the rush on the suspension. It was explained that the business is eager to get their loan finalized.
Vote: Failed
Otte – Yes; Zilch – Yes; Ruiz – Yes; Stout – Absent; Taylor – Yes; Knisely – Yes; Koebel – No
3. First Reading of a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Revolving Loan Fund agreement with Gregory and Debra Kohler, and declaring an emergency.
Move to suspend Rule 4: Tom Knisely
Seconded: Denny Otte
Vote: Failed
Zilch – Yes; Ruiz – Yes; Stout – Absent; Taylor – Yes; Knisely – Yes;
Koebel – No; Otte - Yes
4. First reading of an ordinance to authorize the expenditure and direct the Safety Service Director to enter into a contract with Henry Bergman, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$92,450.00 for the 2017 Crack Sealing Program, and declaring an emergency.
Move to suspend Rule 4: Denny Otte
Seconded: Tom Knisely
Vote: Passed
Ruiz – Yes; Stout – Absent; Taylor – Yes; Knisely – Yes; Koebel – Yes;
Otte – Yes; Zilch – Yes
Move to adopt: Tom Knisely
Seconded: Angie Ruiz
Vote: Passed
Stout – Absent; Taylor – Yes; Knisely – Yes; Koebel – Yes; Otte – Yes;
Zilch – Yes; Ruiz – Yes
Discussion: Questions were posed as to why this issue took so long to appear before council, and that it was remarked that the citizens should have an opportunity to speak on the ordinance. Tucker Fredericksen responded that the bidding fell this way due to the ability to schedule jobs that work with potential bidder’s schedules. Mayor Sanchez also responded that this should have been before council sooner, but unintentionally fell by the wayside.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. **Citizens Service Committee – Councilman Koebel**
Nothing
2. **Community Partnership – Councilman Knisely**
The superintendents of Bishop Hoffman and Fremont City Schools will be attending the October 5, 2017 council meeting.
3. **Finance and Labor Committee – Councilman Otte**
Nothing
4. **Utilities and Traffic Committee – Councilman Taylor**
Johnson Control presented an energy audit at their meeting. Councilman Taylor noted that there is no strategic plan in place for capital improvements, which is not good.
5. **Law, Rules, and Ordinances Committee – Councilman Zilch**
The committee reviewed a presentation on the opportunity for Fremont to be the hub for a medical marijuana dispensary. City Council was encouraged to watch the presentation.
6. **Parks and Recreation Committee – Councilwoman Ruiz**
Councilwoman Ruiz spoke about the upcoming “Trunk or Treat” event, to be held at the Recreation Department. Also mentioned: The Mike Piero memorial event; nomination applications are being taken for the Tree & Beautification Commission; finally, the flower baskets on State Street bridge will be changed to fall colors.
7. **Downtown – Kristie Bilger**
 - Kristie provided handouts for the upcoming Farmer’s Market.
 - The Street Play event was successful; volunteers were acknowledged.
 - October 7 Farmer’s Market will host tours of the County Courthouse, Flag Park, the County Jail, Sandusky County Visitors Bureau, and there will be a 1928 firetruck on display.
 - The last Farmer’s Market will be “Harvest Happening.”
 - Scarpetta’s will be opening the week of September 25, 2017.
 - Working with the Health Department to place bicycle racks downtown.
 - The City has received a grant to extend the bike trail from Miles Newton Bridge to Hayes Avenue to Bidwell Avenue to Birchard Avenue to downtown, per Tucker Fredericksen. Additionally, grant monies were received to replace Spieldenner Bridge in 2018 and perform work on Rawson Avenue. Councilman Zilch asked if the Rawson Avenue project will happen this year; Tucker Fredericksen informed the audience that it will, that it is an ODOT project that will happen from the Turnpike to North Street.

DEPARTMENT HEADS/ELECTED OFFICIALS

1. **Ken Frost, Safety Service Director**
Nothing to report, but thanked Johnson Controls for their presentation.
2. **Chief Bliss, Police Department**
Encouraged Council to attend the Mike Piero softball game. Additionally, he asked for prayer for the families of the recent tragedies as well as the police officers.
3. **Chief Foos, Fire Department**
Encouraged attendance at the Mike Piero Softball game.
4. **Mayor Sanchez**
Mayor Sanchez asked Tucker Fredericksen to provide an update on the dam project:
 - The removal process is going well and is on schedule.
 - A notch has been cut in the dam.
 - Approximately 10,000 plus mussels have been re-homed.
 - Lazy River Campground was acknowledged for use of their grounds.
 - Working to clear the exposed sediment.
 - Phase 2 – cut a channel in the bedrock of the river to assure water into the intake structure.
 - A quote was received to clear the trees located on the ice control structures. The wood cannot be burned. A citizen had asked about sawing the wood themselves; the Safety Service Director or City Engineer will look into this matter.

- Sediment will not hurt the pumps at the reservoir.
 - Councilwoman Ruiz inquired about the truck that was pulled from the river; she was advised to speak with the Sheriff's Department.
 - Councilman Taylor remarked how clear the river appears.
 - Sgt. Scully and Sgt. Wensinger were thanked for attending the council meeting.
 - Condolences were offered to the families that suffered loss this past week.
 - Superintendent Detwiler was thanked for attending the council meeting.
 - The Mayor encouraged everyone in attendance to frequent Scarpetta's
5. **Jim Melle, Law Director**
Nothing to report.
6. **Paul Grahl, Auditor**
Nothing to report.
7. **Holly Elder, Treasurer**
Nothing to report.

COUNCIL COMMENTS

1. **Councilwoman Ruiz**
- Congratulated Harbor Mattress on their opening.
 - Pleased with the paving job on West State Street.
 - Excited to see what is to come regarding the dam.
 - Acknowledged Pastor C.J. Burel on his service to the city.
2. **Councilman Koebel**
- Encouraged an ordinance to better regulate brush pick-up, to eliminate the practice of residents cutting down trees and leaving them curbside.
 - There will be a Classic Car Drive on October 21, 2017.
 - Encouraged attendance at the Mike Piero event.
 - Informed council that he had several calls from several residents regarding the fence color at the Garrison. He was concerned that one business was ordered to remove his red, white, and blue sign, but the Garrison's bright green fence was permissible.
3. **Councilman Taylor**
- Thanked Dan Henning for being a good neighbor in the wake of the shooting death of 14 year-old Jaylen Brock.
4. **Councilman Zilch**
- Encouraged council to listen to the presentation on medical marijuana dispensaries.
 - Reminded everyone that all political signs be placed properly and off the right-of-way.
5. **Councilman Otte**
- The bike path will expand to Genoa, and possibly to Rodger Young Park.
 - The Bike Path Committee is looking to have a repair station at Mayor Maier Park.
 - Allison Thomas, Sandusky County Health Department is hosting a workshop that promotes safety for walkers and bicyclists.
 - Thanked Councilman Zilch and Councilwoman Ruiz for their work at the Wayne Street cemetery.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Resident Delores Burel inquired about grant funding for youth initiatives, citing lack of activities for youth, and emphasized that not everyone is into sports. Mayor Sanchez that the city is always willing to look for grants.

Superintendent Jon Detwiler remarked that it had been a tough week and thanked the city for its service and support to the schools. Additionally, he stated that the schools and the city have a great working relationship.

Resident Joseph Branch is involved in a program that is offering alternatives to sports, such as drama and music. More information to come.

Resident Dan Henning acknowledged the police and fire departments for their roles in the recent tragedies. Mr. Henning encouraged love among the community.

ADJOURNMENT

Move to adjourn:

Tom Knisely

Seconded:

Denny Otte

Vote:

Passed

Taylor – Yes; Knisely – Yes; Koebel – Yes; Otte – Yes; Zilch – Yes; Ruiz - Yes