

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 of Council Pro Tem Angie Ruiz called the meeting to order.

The following members answered roll call: Gross, Knisely, Kreilick, Ruiz and Stout. Council President Pro Tem stated that minor corrections in spelling had been made to the minutes of the June 19<sup>th</sup> and July 3<sup>rd</sup> meetings. She asked council members if they had any other corrections. None were stated. The minutes were approved and adopted.

The question was raised if council wanted to remove any items from the agenda, none did. The question was asked if council wished to add any items to the agenda. Since there was not a quorum no items could be added. A special meeting will be held on Thursday, July 24, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. Mr. Melle stated only that item could be discussed at the special meeting.

Third reading of an ordinance to authorize the expenditure and direct the Safety Service Director to enter into a change order with the engineering firm Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. for an increase in the project budget amount not to exceed \$11,500.00 for the Ballville Dam Project NEPA compliance in Fremont, State of Ohio, and declaring an emergency. Motion was made by Kreilick to adopt and second by Mr. Knisely. Motion passed 5 - 0 (Ord. 2014-3722)

Second reading of an ordinance amending appropriation within Sewer Improvements Fund 590 and declaring an emergency.

Second reading of an ordinance authorizing repayment of the advance of \$3,700,000.00 from Sewer Improvements Fund 590 to Sewer Operating Fund 570, and declaring an emergency.

Second reading of an ordinance amending appropriations within Sewer Operating Fund 570 and Sewer Improvements Fund 590, and declaring an emergency.

Second reading of an ordinance to transfer \$949,696.05 from Sewer Fund 570 to Sewer Improvements Fund 590, and declaring an emergency.

First reading of an ordinance authorizing the Law Director to send a letter to the Sandusky County Auditor's Office vacating liens on the real estate tax duplicates against parcel no. 34-50-00-0120-00 in the amount of \$3,200.00, against parcel no. 34-50-00-0120-01 in the amount of \$3,200.00, against parcel no. 34-50-00-0120-02 in the amount of \$3,200.00, against parcel no. 34-50-00-0121-01 in the amount of \$3,200.00, and against parcel no. 34-50-00-0121-02 in the amount of \$3,200.00, for a total of \$16,000.00; said letter is contingent upon proof of purchase of the above parcels by Discover Fremont, Ltd. the addresses being 108-110-112-114-116 Front Street, Fremont, Ohio 43420, currently owned by Abdo Industrial Services LLC and declaring an emergency. Mayor Ellis stated that he wanted the council to know that the ordinance was an opportunity to revitalize the downtown area of Fremont and recommended that they approve this ordinance. He thought it was important to give background on the ordinance. He stated that downtown is very important to our city and a priority for economic development. He urged that we encourage and support people as much as we can. He stated that the lien was placed on the property because Abdo, after tearing down the buildings, left the lot in an unsightly manner. The city stepped in and filled the lot with dirt and improved the area as best they were able. The Mayor stated at Mr. Melle's recommendation of placing a lien on the Abdo property and giving the city value to the property. Mayor Ellis stated that there was someone right in our community who has an interest in obtaining the property and developing it. He invited Mr. Tom Kern to the podium. Mr. Kern stated his gratitude to the Mayor and the council for taking in consideration the abatement of this lien. He stated that his grandson Shawn Kern and he were equal partners. They had a view of what they wanted downtown to look like and just wanted to give the council a small snap shot of their vision. Mr. Kern stated their interest in the community as business men and wanted to make things comfortable for both parties. He did not have blue print on what they would have downtown but wanted the council to know that their intention were the beautification and revitalization of the downtown area. The question was raised by Mrs. Ruiz if Mr. Kern's vision included permanent parking for the downtown area. Mr. Kern said that he wasn't opposed to more parking but couldn't really state tonight what would be there. Mrs. Ruiz then asked when he expected to have a blue print of the area and Mr. Kern state within the week or two for a short term plan. Mr. Knisely stated that he had known Mr. Kern from the beginning of his business career and appreciated and supported his efforts in this endeavor. Mrs. Kreilick also stated she appreciated Mr. Kern's effort to our downtown revitalization, and stated she was ready to work hand in hand.

#### Committee Reports

Community Partnership Committee – Chairman Knisely nothing to report.

Government and Economic Development Committee – Chairman Stout again thanked Mr. Smith and the Mayor for continuing to put together a nice Big Fremont Plan. It is having a positive impact on the community.

Law, Rules, and Ordinances Committee – Chairman Gross reminded the council of the committee meeting on August 7, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. to continue discussion on the fees for the Internet Cafe. He encouraged everyone to attend and come up with ideas as to what is best for Fremont.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Mrs. Stout read a statement from the Park Director Molly Bauman. Credit card and transactions are up and running and stated that so far they are experiencing positive reactions to this. Battle of Fort Stephenson July 27<sup>th</sup> and July 28<sup>th</sup> which will include a basketball tournament. Splash and Jam Event free to the first 250 on July 26<sup>th</sup>. Mrs. Stout encouraged everyone to check out the fun things that are happening in the community with the Parks Department.

Utilities and Traffic Committee – Chairman Kreilick nothing to report.

Citizens Service Committee – Chairman Ruiz met Officer Dorsey and K-9 Officer Woody. They will be presented in council in the future.

THE CITY OF FREMONT, OHIO  
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Council Comments

Mrs. Kreilick expressed gratitude and appreciation for Mr. Kern's effort's that they have already made in downtown and looked forward to a bright future.

Mr. Knisely stated he was also very supportive of Mr. Kern and that he believed he and his grandson would be a positive influence on the community.

Mr. Gross thanked Mr. Kern for his presentation and stated that he was most excited about the plan because he felt something would be done immediately if the abatement is approved. That would leave an immediate impact on the city and the long term vision of what the downtown area would become was exciting. He stated that he believes things would be happening with the next year or two for the downtown area. Next he wanted to wish Chief Wiersma a Happy Birthday. Mr. Gross encouraged citizens to attend the Fort Stephenson Battle basketball game. He stated that a lot of good teams would be there and recognizable women coaches would be in town for the event.

Mrs. Stout thanked the Parks Department and the Zoning Department in being very helpful on a couple of issues in her ward. And she is also hopeful of the revitalization plans for the downtown area and thankful for Mr. Kern efforts.

Mrs. Ruiz stated that she appreciated Mr. Kern efforts and after listening thought it was a very good investment for the city of Fremont. Hoping that it will attract some different stores into the area. She commented on the Fourth of July parade that it was very well attended and she enjoyed the parade.

Elected Officials' Comments

Mr. Melle stated that council had received the letter from the Supreme Court regarding the Wasserman case that had been pending. The City was successful in their endeavor, and he was glad it was over.

Mr. Grahl wanted to thank the Kerns for their effort and their realistic view for developing the downtown area. He attended the Farm to Table event, that was very well prepared and attended. The Event accomplished its purpose of getting people to come to the downtown area.

Mayor Ellis agreed with Mr. Grahl about the Farm to Table event. Thanked Mr. Kern and believed that the endeavor would be fun. The Mayor announced that we have a new Zoning Director Dick Cook who was a formal police captain he welcomed him aboard. The house on Hayes Ave. and May St. will be coming down finally. The Health Department has issued the condemned papers needed. Ballville Dam Project need two permits filed to proceed. One is a Section 404 which allows the discharge silt down the river. The other is a Section 401 that permits States to review the proposition: There will be a public hearing regarding the Ballville Dam Project's latest report on August 21<sup>st</sup> 6:00 p.m. at the Neeley Center. He wanted Council to be aware it is a council meeting day also. He stated that there will be a court reporter there to record public comments and that his office would be placing a public notice in the Saturday paper. He commented on the Dignity & Respect Event that will be held August 9<sup>th</sup> in the downtown area. The event will include lots of health screenings, kid games, and wellness events. It is an opportunity to promote community spirit and teach respect for one another. The event is in collaboration with WSOS and the City. On the same day Terra College will be hosting a 3-3 basketball tournament at Roger Young Park. He commented that he wanted feedback from Council on updating the Christmas Decorations for the City. Mr. Knisely thought it would be a good investment. Mrs. Ruiz said she would like to see better lighting and thought it was a good idea. His final statement was that he would be on vacation next week.

Mr. Smith was impressed with Mr. Kern's planned improvements for the downtown area.

Chief Wiersma was disappointed Mr. Gross wouldn't be singing Happy Birthday to him....the gallery broke out with the song.

Assistant Fire Chief Snyder stated that the new ladder truck should be ready and accepted for the Department by August 6<sup>th</sup>, if everything is done to specifications.

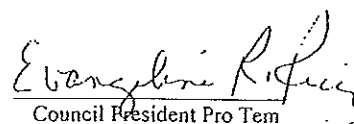
Public Comments

Jim McGrady South Wood Street. Mr. McGrady advertised his publication about Bill Stein "Mr. Fremont" and his collection of Fremont Memorabilia. Mr. McGrady would like to find a permanent place for the collection from Mr. Stein he stated that Fremont Incorporated is trying to come up with a way to preserve the collection. He would like to have as many people as possible to help him with this endeavor. He would like to make Bill's dream come true.

Mrs. Ruiz stated that she had found memories of Mr. McGrady from earlier real estate years and that Mr. McGrady was recently in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade and was a veteran.

There being nothing further to come before Council, on motion to adjourn by Knisely seconded by Gross, motion carried 5 yea votes. Meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

  
Clerk of Council

  
Council President Pro Tem