

# THE CITY OF FREMONT, OHIO

## *Journal of Council*

*October 2, 2014*

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, Koebel, Kreilick, Michles, Ruiz, and Stout.

The minutes for council meeting held on September 18th were approved.

First reading of a resolution Fremont City Council finds it is in the best interest of the city to conduct an auction on October 25, 2014 and declaring an emergency. On motion to suspend Rule 4 by Kreilick, seconded by Knisely, motion failed 5 yeas votes to 2 no votes. Michles and Koebel voted no.

First reading of an ordinance to authorize the expenditure and direct the Safety Service Director to enter into a contract with Baker Bonningson Realty & Auctioneers, Inc. for the city auction on October 25, 2014 and declaring an emergency. On motion to suspend Rule 4 by Knisely, seconded by Gross, motion failed 5 yeas votes to 2 no votes. Mr. Michles and Mr. Koebel voted no. Questions were asked to the Mayor by Michles and Koebel regarding the Ballville Dam reports. A discussion was held. The Mayor asked Koebel if he and Michles intentions were to vote no on all Suspend Rule 4 in the future. Koebel stated that it depended on the situation.

### Committee Reports

Community Partnership Committee - Chairman Knisely nothing to report

Finance and Labor Committee – Chairman Michles thanked Mr. Grahl for the monthly financial reports and stated that citizens could review the reports in the Auditor's office.

Utilities and Traffic Committee – Chairman Kreilick nothing to report

Government and Economic Development Committee – Chairman Stout reported that the city had received a letter from Mr. Howard Schlegel seeking annexation for the farmland along Fangboner Road that stretches from the commercial development along Route 53 and the Kmart store on Route 19. The Mayor and others will begin meetings soon with Mr. Schlegel to determine a course of action. She also stated that invitations have been sent to city leaders and business owners to be a part of the Fremont Community Economic Development Council. The first meeting will be on Friday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m. at Terra's Conference Center. At that meeting they will announce the four chairs of the committee's that will be established to guide the city efforts on Leadership, Youth Involvement, Wealth Retention, and Entrepreneurship. Bill Auxter has agreed to chair the Entrepreneurship Committee and Tim Cullen agreed to chair the Youth Involvement Committee. Mayor Ellis and Economic Development Director Joe Smith will be attending training in Columbus in implementing this committee structure. The training is being organized by WSOS, which received a grant to implement what is called the Hometown Competitiveness Program for Rural Economic Development. She thanked the people at WSOS who have worked hard to help Fremont to serve members of our community. She also stated she attended the Farm to Table Dinner and that there was fabulous food and well attended event. Last but not least, she reported that Business owners and those interested in downtown development met with a representative from Heritage Ohio, who led the organization through the process of identifying the goals of the organization. The meeting was to strategically help downtown merchants, businesses and landowners who are seeking to rejuvenate the downtown economy.

Laws, Rules, and Ordinances Committee – Chairman Gross hoping to have a full report for the council at the next meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup>. He will be meeting with Economic Development Director Joe Smith and the Safety Service Director Bob Ward.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Chairman Koebel reported on the activities that are taking place with the Rec. Department. One of the programs taking place this Saturday will be a Walk Run Roll against Bullying Event.

Registration is from 8:00 – 8:45 a.m. with the price being \$12 for adults and free to youth up to the age of 18.

Citizens Service Committee – Chairman Ruiz stated she spoke with Chief Wiersma and he stated that there had been a rash of break-ins lately. She reminded the citizens to be cautious and remember to lock your doors. Report any suspicious activities to the Police Department.

### Elected Officials' Comments

Mayor Ellis nothing to report

Mr. Grahl nothing to report

Chief Foos reported that next week is National Fire Prevention Week. Free smoke detectors are available at the Fire Station if anyone is in need of one. Mr. Michles asked the Chief about the Jackson Annex progress. He stated that the owner was given a citation on September 23<sup>rd</sup> and that a public nuisance report was filed against the property. At this point, the city can go in and help get the property cleaned and the cost would be applied to the property owner's taxes. Mr. Melle stated that he attended the Farm to Table Event and it was great. He also stated that the city holds an auction every year and he stated that although it had never been brought before city council in the past he felt that the item needed to be. He plans to get the information to the council earlier next year.

Mr. Smith introduced Don Atkinson who will be working on the annexation of Fangboner Road. He also stated that he will be working with the Toledo Design Center to help develop some items for the Downtown Area. He would like to donate money to the organization and will bring it before the council.

Mr. Ward stated that he believed that the city auction would have to be postponed since the Suspend Rule 4 was not approved at tonight's council meeting. The reasoning behind asking for the suspension was to give ample time for advertisement of the auction. He said that Michael Van De Laar had completed his project at the reservoir and encourages citizens to go out and view. He reiterated Mr. Gross's statement about the zoning changes that will be made on certain streets.

Chief Wiersma nothing to report.

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Public Comments

Fred Burel 1222 Alger voiced his opinion of the changes being proposed for Alger Street with the parking. He stated that parking is already bumper to bumper on the street and that there are 3 designated handicapped parking spaces on the west side of street and what will be done with those spaces. His comments were taken into consideration and he was directed to bring his concerns to Mr. Ward who will look into the parking issue.

Sarah Babione 315 Bidwell questioned if anyone was living in the Jackson annex because she passed by with and heard voices and loud music. Chief Foos ensured her that the property owner and his family were the only ones that were in the building. She also stated that cars continue to not stop at the sign next to her building. President Pro Tem Ruiz told her that Chief Wiersma would look into that issue.

Council Comments

Mr. Michles had concerns on water rates and the continued increase. He questioned the water rate structure and addressed the mayor on issues with several reports he cited. Discussion on rate models and repayment of loans was held between himself and the Mayor addressing the issues.

Mrs. Kreilick wanted the citizens to know that there will be two more Farmers Markets on October 4<sup>th</sup> and October 18<sup>th</sup>. She encouraged citizens to attend the Hayes Center's Civil War Event this weekend.

Mr. Knisley thanked the administration of Fremont for their patience and all that they do.

Mr. Gross questioned the mayor on an email that he received pertaining to Judge Sherck and his presence on the panel meeting next week. The mayor stated he spoke with the facilitator and he felt the Judge would represent the Save the Dam Committee in the best way and get information to the public. He also voiced his disappointment on the last council meeting and questioned who had authority to allow Judge Sherck to give a 25 minute speech. He felt it was an embarrassment to the council on the tone and disrespect directed at the representatives from NWH. Mrs. Kreilick stated that she authorized Judge Sherck to speak. It was her judgment call and she apologized if he was not in agreement with that decision.

Mrs. Stout thanked the administration for the work that they do, and said what a pleasure it was to work with Mr. Smith.

Mr. Koebel thanked Mrs. Gegorski for her fast response on getting the Baker Bonningson contract to the council. He addressed Mr. Gross, and stated that he does not text or return emails to anyone. He wanted it made clear that Mr. Gross misspoke when he said the emails came from him.

Mrs. Ruiz stated her hopes were that legislation would be put in place after the October 8<sup>th</sup> public forum concerning the Ballville Dam. She stated a beautification meeting will be held next Tuesday at 6:00 p.m. She stated that Terra had a grand opening for the restaurant they are opening. She stated that she appreciated Mrs. Martin's efforts and the job she is doing since becoming a part of city council. Mr. Knisely agreed.

There being nothing further to come before council, on motion to adjourn by Knisely seconded by Gross, motion carried 7 yea votes. Meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.

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Clerk of Council

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Council President Pro Tem