

THE CITY OF FREMONT, OHIO
Journal of Council
November 20, 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 Dallas Leake called the meeting to order.

The following members answered roll call: Ruiz, Stout, Gross, Knisely, Koebel, Kreilick, and Michles.

The minutes for council meeting held on November 6th were approved.

Mr. Michles made a motion to lay on the table item number 2 and seconded by Mr. Koebel. Motion failed 4 no votes to 3 yea votes.

Third reading of an ordinance to authorize the expenditure and direct the Safety Service Director to enter into a contract with Toledo Design Center for planning services, conducting a Charrette, and developing design proposals for Historic Downtown Fremont and declaring an emergency. Mr. Smith said that the Charrette will be held on February 20th and 21st at the Strand Theater. On a motion to adopt by Stout, seconded by Knisely. Motion carried 7 yes votes. (Ord. 2014- 3741)

Third reading of an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to proceed with the process of removing the Ballville Dam and declaring an emergency. On a motion to adopt by Gross, seconded by Knisely. Ann Keefe from Ohio Sierra Club stated the club still had concerns about the silt, sediment and sand behind the dam. She is asking that an amendment be attached to the ordinance concerning the Water Quality Standards before the sediment is released.

Mark Chudzinski Old Plank Road stated he believed there is a third option which would be to open the flood gates. The dam would no longer hold back water, would be an ice control structure, and a real test if the reservoir will supply ample water to the city. He believes it will save the city millions of dollars.

Mark Montgomery Board of Trustees Whitman Grove Conserve District echo the Sierra Club statement believing the silt ramification is significant.

Fred Snyder 754 Elmer Road. He asked the council to make a decision on fact and not speculations. The decision will have real economic impact on the city.

Mike Dukeshire 1755 Celek Drive asked that before making the decision council consider what experts have already stated. They have stated that in a one year and 7 months more silt goes over the dam that is settled behind it. There hasn't been any damage to date.

Jim Sherek wanted to rebut Mr. Dukeshire's statement. He said the silt behind the dam represent 10 years of buildup. He is asking that the council consider what damages will this have on the marsh lands and what is the risk over the next 20 years?

Tim Newman stated that the water rates would increase to \$200 per household. Mayor Ellis stated he and the Auditor believed it would have no effect on the current water rates. Mr. Newman stated that the decision should be reconsidered and the economic impact it will have on our citizens.

Mr. Michles concerns are all the assumptions in all the professional reports concerning the walleye going upstream and that the ice structure will work. Questioned why the Army Corp. of Engineers expertise was never used once the Mayor took office. He believes that since the beginning of the conflict is has always been about the removal of the dam and not the repair and never fairly evaluated.

Mrs. Kreilick stated that plans to go ahead with something without taking in the concerns usually don't have a good outcome.

Mr. Koebel asked Mr. Melle if an amendment to the item could be added as the Sierra Club suggested. Mr. Melle stated he needed to check to see if the motion could be made.

Meanwhile President Leake stated that the decision was a hard one and he hoped that it would all work out. From the beginning it has always been about the removal and not the repair of the dam. He stated his option would be to do nothing that would put a hardship or financial burden on the citizens of Fremont.

There was a five minute recess. Mr. Melle returned and stated that a motion could be made by Mr. Koebel for the amendment. Mr. Koebel made a motion to have a grid study done on the update of the silt and the water quality before removal of the dam. Seconded by Mr. Michles. The Mayor made a statement about the amendment. He said that the issues have been thoroughly reviewed. He stressed these are not new issues that keep getting brought up. He urged the council to vote no on the amendment. The amendment motion failed 3 yea votes to 4 no votes. Motion carried 4 yea votes to 3 no votes for the removal of the dam. (Ord. 2014- 3742)

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First reading of an ordinance adopting the recommendation of the planning commission to re-zone inlot 0110-00 in the City of Fremont from “b-1” – Central Business District to “r-o” – Residential Office District.

First reading of an ordinance amending the pay scale for all part-time, intermittent, temporary, seasonal and interim employees, and boards and commissions of the City of Fremont, and declaring an emergency.

First reading of an ordinance authorizing the repayment of an advance of \$9,355.50 from Criminal Justice Fund 255 to Municipal Income Tax Fund 201, and declaring an emergency. Mr. Grahl stated that will reimburse expenses.

First reading of an ordinance adopting the recommendation of the Planning Commission to re-zone inlots 0050-01, 0051-00, and 0052-00 in the city of Fremont from “b-2” – General Commercial District to “r-2” – Mixed Residential District.

First reading of an ordinance amending appropriations within Street Maintenance Fund 222, and declaring an emergency. On a motion to suspend rule #4 by Gross, seconded by Knisely. Mr. Grahl stated that item #7 and item #8 is related to new snow plow truck. This truck would replace a 13 year old truck. Motion carried 7 yea votes. On a motion to adopt by Knisely, seconded by Ruiz. Motion carried 7 yea votes. (Ord. 2014-3743)

First reading of an ordinance authorizing a fund transfer in the amount of \$139,725.00 from Municipal Income Tax Fund 201 to Street Maintenance Fund 222, and declaring an emergency. On a motion to suspend rule #4 by Knisely, seconded by Michles. Motion carried 7 yea votes. On a motion to adopt by Knisely, seconded by Ruiz. Motion carried 7 yea votes. (Ord. 2014-3744)

First reading of an ordinance authorizing the Safety Service Director to amend the Position Classification Plan and the Employee Compensation Plan for non-union employees to include the Salaried Position of full time Executive Assistant to the Mayor and declaring an emergency.

First reading of an ordinance to make temporary appropriations in the amount of \$106,418,722.00 for expenses and expenditures for the 2015 fiscal year January 1 thru March 31 for the city of Fremont, State of Ohio and declaring an emergency. Mayor Ellis stated this is the proposed temporary budget for next year. The Mayor stated that Department heads have done a great job of keeping cost in control. Mr. Grahl will make necessary changes and present the final budget in April.

First reading of an ordinance appropriating \$75,000 awarded to the city through the CDBG Grant to Ohio CDBG Fund No. 260, and declaring an emergency. On a motion to suspend rule #4 by Ruiz, seconded by Stout. Motion carried 7 yea votes. Mr. Ellis stated some of the grant monies would be used for repair on Dickinson Street and community housing. On a motion to adopt by Kreilick, seconded by Gross. Motion carried 7 yea votes. (Ord. 2014-3745)

Committee Reports

Parks and Recreation Committee – Chairman Koebel reported that the skating rink is now open. The department has many Winter Programs in place, if interested please call the Rec. Department at 419-334-5906.

Government and Economic Development Committee – Chairman Stout reiterated the Charrette to be held on February 20th and 21st at the Strand.

Citizens Service Committee – Chairman Ruiz complimented the Police Department, Sandusky County Sheriff Department, and Ottawa County Sheriff department on a job well done on recent burglaries. This effort was made possible by an observant citizen concerning a strange vehicle. Mrs. Ruiz stated this is what Block Watch is all about.

Laws, Rules, and Ordinances Committee – Chairman Gross is continuing to work with the Safety Traffic Committee. He will continue to work with Mr. Smith on Economic Development.

Community Partnership Committee - Chairman Knisely reported he had nothing this evening.

Utilities and Traffic Committee – Chairman Kreilick reported she had nothing this evening.

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Finance and Labor Committee – Chairman Michles thanked Mr. Grahl for his monthly financial reports and asked that a work session be held at the next meeting, December 4th, at 6:30 p.m. concerning the temporary budget.

Council Comments

Mr. Gross commented on the Hayes Ave. project is completed and the roads look much better. In regards to the removal of the dam he believes that he listened to each side and voted the way he did because he believed there was far more information to support the removal of the dam. He believed the repair would put an unnecessary burden on the citizens of Fremont.

Mr. Knisely thanked the gallery for attending and agreed with Mr. Gross.

Mrs. Ruiz announced that the Beautification Committee would be decorating the corner on Sunday. Nominations for best Christmas decorations could be called in. In regards to the dam, she believes her vote for the removal of the dam is for a better future for Fremont. She mentions Mr. Grahl's elaborate statement concerning the cost for both repair and removal of the dam.

Mrs. Kreilick expressed her respect for those in positions to make the decision concerning our citizens. She hoped that in the future respect would be given to all sides when making decisions.

Mrs. Stout thanked the citizens for coming out. Her vote was based on the information she received while attending the meetings and listening to the people in her ward.

Mr. Michles also thanked everyone for coming. He commended the council on continued dialog between the citizens and council on important issues. He stated that he has been very vocal on his disapproval of the dam coming down. History will show which side is correct. He asked that citizens please keep your leaves out the curb area and on their property to not clog up the sewers.

Mr. Koebel stated he believed this issue was city government at its finest. Both sides were passionate in their beliefs and the citizens got a fair shake of stating their sides. He thanked all that came out and were involved.

Elected Officials' Comments

Mr. Melle wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Mr. Grahl stated there is an IRS scam going around and citizens should be careful of any calls they receive.

Mayor Ellis thanked Street Department for a great job after the last storm. He stated that we are spending more money this year on less salt and are supplementing with a product called Beet Heat. November 29th is the Christmas tree lighting Downtown and December 2nd is the Fire Station lighting. With regards to the dam, he knows that decision was tough decision. He believes that most people favor removing the dam. He thanked the council for dealing with three of the largest financial issues in the city's history.

Mr. Ward stated reiterated what the Mayor said about the salt. We will be using 500 tons less this year.

Mr. Frederickson wanted to comment on how much the salt is costing this year. It is over \$100 a ton.

Chief Foos nothing to report.

Chief Wiersma nothing to report.

Mr. Smith stated that on Tuesday the first meeting of the Sandusky County Workforce Alliance was held. They will be holding a conference in the spring concerning the counties 4.7% unemployment rate.

Mr. Sanchez commented on the No Bars Grant. Fremont has used 15,000 days in placing offenders on house arrest and using bracelets to track them. Cost of bracelets is \$15 a day. This is in comparison to \$65 - \$75 a day for placement in the County jail. He also stated that there is a major problem in the county concerning Heron and Opium. There is a Task Force that includes many members of the community and will hold a Town Hall Meeting in May.

Mr. Troy Thatcher stated he was thrilled to see so many past city council officials in the audience.

County Commissioner Terry Thatcher thanked council member for their effort on their decision tonight. He hoped that they get together now that the decision has been made and work together and push forward.

Judge Smith stated Go Bucks.

Public Comments

None

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President Leake wanted council to know that January 1st is on the first Thursday and wanted council to decide if they want to hold a meeting on that night or back to back weeks in that month. Please let him know. He agreed with Commissioner Thatcher that it is not about winning or losing. If you go through the process and it is equable most people and live with the outcome. He has nothing but the upmost respect for the process and really determined to do what is best for the citizens of this community. He agrees that once the people have spoken, it is time to move on. And address some of the other things vital to this community.

There being nothing further to come before council, on motion to adjourn by Knisely seconded by Ruiz, motion carried 7 yea votes. Meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Clerk of Council

Council President