

THE CITY OF FREMONT, OHIO
Journal of Council
December 4, 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 20th were approved.

Second 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.

Second 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.

Second 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.

Second 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.

Second 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.

Second 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.

Liquor License transfer from Howie's Tavern to Tim's Bar. Council showed no objections.

Committee Reports

Citizens Service Committee – Chairman Ruiz nothing to report.

Community Partnership Committee - Chairman Knisely introduced Mr. Tim Cullen who reported on Bishop Hoffman Catholic Schools. Mr. Cullen stated that the mission of the school is to reach and teach the mind, body, heart and soul of each child attending to bring them closer to God. The school is teamed up with the Diocese of Toledo and University of Notre Dame for curriculum. The school has started a technology cohort this year where teachers meet and make proposals for future initiatives in technology. The school has received full and system wide accreditation through May 2020. The Ohio High School Volleyball Coaches Association recognized the BHCS Varsity Volleyball team for outstanding academic achievements with an overall team GPA of 3.61. The school is recognized as one of the top 50 private schools in Ohio by NICHE. He is very proud that the students at the school have raised over \$6,000 for charities. On December 18th the students will deliver items for the Community Outreach Program for needy families. If anyone is interested in donating to the program they can call the high school. Superintendent Cullen wished everyone a blessed holiday season.

Finance and Labor Committee – Chairman Michles thanked Mr. Grahl for his presentation at the work session before the regular meeting.

Government and Economic Development Committee – Chairman Stout nothing to report this evening.

Laws, Rules, and Ordinances Committee – Chairman Gross nothing to report this evening.

Recreation Committee – Chairman Koebel reported that the skating rink is now open. He reported that Big Brother and Big Sisters are looking for volunteers. The Elks of Fremont is having a Hoop Shoot Sunday December 14th beginning at 1:00 p.m. at the Rec. Center.

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

Elected Officials' Comments

Mr. Grahl nothing this evening.

Mayor Ellis thanked Superintendent Cullen for his presentation. He mentioned the tree lighting ceremonies he attended Downtown and at the Fire Station. He thanked all that were involved. Mayor Ellis said the Save the Dam Committee petitioned for a November 2015 referendum on the council's dam decision needed to be done in April. Ellis cited Ohio Revised Code section 731.30 as the section of law not allowing a referendum. He claimed that statements made that the city did not have to repair or remove the dam, or that the actions would result in higher water rates were false. Mr. Michles challenged the Mayor stating the first article of the constitution as well as the Ohio Revised Code granted citizens the right to petition the government in regards to the dam issue.

Mr. Ward stated that the second round of leave pick up had started. He also stated that the property that ODNR owned does not allow hunting. He stated that there is an Operator Position open at the Water Treatment Plant if interested please contact his office.

Chief Schneider nothing to report.

Mr. Sanchez nothing to report.

Mr. Smith nothing to report.

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Public Comments

Fred Rectenwald 604 McPherson Blvd. asked the question what would happen if the referendum made it to the ballot. The Mayor stated that they would lose \$2 million in grant money. The Mayor stated that the city would then be responsible for paying that money.

Council Comments

Mr. Koebel stated that Bishop Thomas was in Fremont the past weekend and Fremont gave him a warm welcome. Remember that winter sports are in session now, please support our student athletes. He also encourages citizens to shop locally. He stated that the corner of State and Front looks very nice.

Mrs. Stout stated she had a number of phone calls after the dam vote thanking her and the other council member for their approval of the ordinance and treating the situation with dignity and acting like responsible adults.

Mrs. Ruiz thanked Shawn Kerns for the work on the corner. She reminded citizens that Santa Clause will be in the little house in front of the tree downtown. She thanked the Fire Department for their work in lighting the tree in front of their department. She attended the welcoming service for Bishop Thomas. She spoke with several citizens concerning the dam and that they were elected to make an educated vote. The vote has been cast, the ordinance has been passed, and it is time to get on with it.

Mr. Gross commented on the holiday decorations downtown. Thanks workers on the leaf pickup. He asked the question to Mr. Smith and the Mayor if the relationship with business owners or potential business partners been damage by the debates and negative publicity from the issues the city has struggled with the pass couple of months. Mr. Smith said that he had heard from one business owner that was concerned on the actions that had witnessed at a council meeting. Mr. Gross did not want to hinder any economic development by the council actions. He too had calls and messages from citizens thanking him for his yes vote on the dam.

Mr. Knisely asked that those Christmas shopping please shop Fremont and get as much as you can here. Mr. Knisely stated he has had several messages too thanking for his vote on the dam. He is proud to been a council member to vote for the removal of the dam. He stated it is time to quit bickering and move forward.

Mrs. Kreilick acknowledged the private citizens who took the time to decorate our town-Mr. Greg Kuns, Chrissy Alridge, and John Holmes. She also thanked Discover Fremont for the effort they made on the corner. This week begins the Once upon a Christmas Event that features a lot of events for adults and children. Small Business Saturday was last week. She challenges everyone to come into business in Fremont and spend \$10 - \$20.

Mr. Michles thanked the Fire Department for acknowledging the problem with Domestic Violence and decorating their tree in recognition of such. Please remember that holiday season brings stress to a lot of people; please be aware of circumstances that can lead to this problem. He also acknowledges Mr. Juan Garza with the Watershed Coalition was awarded a service award from the organization. It was a very enlightened meeting.

President Leake thanked Mr. Ward and his department for taking care of the tree and sidewalk situation around his residence. Thanked the city and all involved for the improvements downtown, the corner has never looked so nice. He spoke on the phone calls that members of the council acknowledge. He stated that phone calls had been made towards the other side too. He believes in letting the process play out and stated that is the citizens right. He believes that those who accused him of arguing with the public were not fair. He discusses and debates difficult subjects and he will continue to do that. He will continue to do what he feels is best for the citizens of Fremont and to help it improve

There being nothing further to come before council, on motion to adjourn by Ruiz seconded by Knisely, motion carried 7 yea votes. Meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.