

THE CITY OF FREMONT, OHIO
Journal of Council
February 5, 2015

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 Pro Tem of Council Angie Ruiz 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 January 15th were approved.

Mr. Gross suggested that the Vanguard presentation and the recognition of the Police Department be moved prior to agenda item number 1. Moved by Gross and seconded by Michles. Motion passed 7 yeas votes.

Superintendent Greg Edinger presented information on the Vanguard Sentinel Career Center. He stated that the Business Management Program competed in Regionals with 20 students qualifying for the next level. The Skills USA organization has also competed in a national competition. He stated that they will be offering career tech course 7 – 12th grade. On Saturday February 21st and 28th they will host a Winter Camp for the younger student to have a hands on experience for ages 4 through 12. The Career Center received an excellent grade card containing 3 A's and one B. The graduation rate is 98% from the center with 88% getting placed in their fields. Several council members asked Superintendent Edinger questions pertaining to the career center and expansion. President Pro Tem Ruiz thanked Mr. Edinger for his presentation.

Mayor Ellis presented Chief Wiersma who relayed several stories of heroism and great work effort from the following Police Department members: James Burkin, Peter Bush, Sgt. Anthony Emrich, Lester Daniels, Micahel Kennedy, Justin Halker, Christian Ortolani, and George Dorsey. Mayor Ellis read a Proclamation to the Fremont Police Department commending and thanking the entire police force for professionalism, cooperation, and team work.

Third reading of an ordinance authorizing the Mayor and the Safety Service Director to enter into an extension to the Sanitary Sewage Collection and Treatment Agreement between the City and the County through June 30, 2015 and declaring an emergency. On a motion to adopt by Kreilick, seconded by Knisely. Motion carried 7 yeas votes. (Ord. 2015-3754)

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 position of Foreman at the Water Treatment Plant and declaring an emergency. Mr. Ward explained that the position has always been there but has not been implemented. On a motion to suspend Rule #4 by Koebel, seconded by Gross. Motion carried 7 yeas votes. On a motion to adopt by Knisely, seconded by Michles. Motion carried 7 yeas votes. (Ord. 2015-3735)

Second reading of an ordinance adopting the recommendation of the Planning Commission to re-zone parcel 34-60-00-0431-02 in the City of Fremont from "i-1" Light Industrial District to "b-2" General Commercial District.

Second reading of a resolution authorizing the Mayor to apply to the Natural Resource Assistant Council for a Green Space Conservation Grant in an amount up to \$825,000.00 from the Clean Ohio Fund and declaring an emergency. Mayor Ellis stated that he met with several groups that voiced their support for the purchase of the River Cliff Golf Course. He stated that the group was unable to quantify what could actually be done with the property. Several members of the council questioned the Mayor on the specifics with the property. Mayor Ellis asked the council if the uncertainty was a deterrent to continue with the application. Mr. Gross stated that the amount of money that would be removed from the Walsh Trust Fund was a concern of his and the uncertainty. Mrs. Ruiz concerns were the flood plain and she did not think it was a good idea at this time. Mr. Michles concerns were the lack of a working design. The Mayor stated that he wished to withdraw the item. On a motion to remove agenda item #4 and #5 by Gross and seconded by Mr. Michles. Motion passed 6 – 1. The items will be withdrawn.

First reading of an ordinance authorizing the Safety Service Director to advertise for bids for the purchase of equipment, construction projects, street and bridge materials and repairs, and yearly supplies and services, and declaring an emergency. Mr. Michles stated that he would like to address the language of ordinances brought before council that contain more than one item. He would like to

THE CITY OF FREMONT, OHIO

Journal of Council

see the items separated and not lumped together. Mr. Gross said that he would address the Council President and schedule an LRO meeting.

First reading of an ordinance to authorize the expenditure and direct the Safety Service Director to enter into a contract with Synagro Central, LLC, in an amount not to exceed \$422,400.00 for disposal of treated sewage sludge, and declaring an emergency. Mr. Lamson asked that the committee suspend Rule #4 so the department could move forward on the contract. On a motion to suspend Rule #4 by Knisely, seconded by Stout. Motion carried 7 yes votes. On a motion to adopt by Knisely, seconded by Michles. Motion carried 7 yes votes. (Ord. 2015-3736)

First reading of a resolution authorizing the Mayor to file an application for submission to the Ohio Department of Transportation for a 2015 Small City Program Grant and declaring an emergency. Mayor Ellis stated that this grant would finance the repaving of West State Street from the city boundaries to Old Oak Harbor Road.

First reading of a resolution authorizing the approval and issuance of a warrant for payment of \$3,450.10 to the Sandusky County Sanitary Engineer, and declaring an emergency. Mr. Grahl stated this was an annual invoice the city gets from the County Sanitary Engineer for services provided. On a motion to suspend Rule #4 by Knisely, seconded by Gross. Motion carried 7 yes votes. On a motion to adopt by Kreilick, seconded by Stout. Motion carried 7 yes votes. (Res. 2015-1947)

Liquor License Transfer for Da Pittstop LLC. Mrs. Dorothy Taite 3138 Christine Lane Oregon, Ohio. Mrs. Taite requested permission to move her establishment from State St. to Garrison St. The council showed no objections.

Committee Reports

Community Partnership Committee - Chairman Knisely thanked Superintendent Edinger for his report on Vanguard.

Finance and Labor Committee – Chairman Michles nothing this evening.

Government and Economic Development Committee – Chairman Stout reminded everyone of the Charrette of the February 21st and 22nd. She invited everyone to stop by and participate.

Laws, Rules, and Ordinances Committee – Chairman Gross would like to have an LRO meeting on ordinance wording. This meeting will take place at the next council meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m.

Recreation Committee – Chairman Koebel would like to have a presentation on the Rec. Department on March 5th. By Director Molly Bauman. He reported that Mr. and Mrs. Fred Recktenwald donated \$500 to an event called Chill with a Cop skate. The event will be February 22nd. Sign up for the upcoming baseball and softball events are taking place. Also the recreation department is offering health classes for Home Schooled students.

Utilities and Traffic Committee – Chairman Kreilick nothing to report this evening.

Citizens Service Committee – Chairman Ruiz congratulated all the officers who were recognized this evening for their outstanding work and pride in their position with the Fremont Police Department. She stated that on more than one occasion she has been asked to aid the department with translation for non-English speaking detainees. Each incident was above approach on the way the police conducted themselves.

Council Comments

Mr. Koebel stated that the reason the President Leake was not in attendance was because he was one of the Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year Nominee; and he congratulated him on that accomplishment. He also inquired about the priority phones for the Safety Service Director and the Mayor as discussed at the last council meeting. He would like that to be brought before council as soon as possible. He read a statement concerning Mayor Ellis accusations of several council members of collaboration with the Sandusky Register and the recent articles concerning the Police Department. He wanted everyone to understand that he had no contact with the Register and he was disappointed in the Mayors accusations against him. He stated that he was the Mayors biggest supporter when he was first elected and he was asked by the Mayor to serve on the commission. He asked the Chief of Police and Safety Service Director if

THE CITY OF FREMONT, OHIO

Journal of Council

he had ever treated them without respect or poorly; both said he had not. He did not appreciate the Mayor calling his character into judgment.

Mrs. Stout nothing this evening.

Mr. Gross also thanked the officers who were recognized this evening. He stated he was confident that the police department does an excellent job. He also thanked all the city workers for the work that they do especially with all the snow removal.

Mrs. Ruiz stated she agreed with Mr. Gross statements. She stated that The Sandusky Register only presents negative things about our city and that no should contribute anything to help sell their paper.

Mr. Knisely thanked the Mayor, Safety Service Director, the Police Chief, the Fire Chief and anyone he did not mention by name for the wonderful job that they do for the city of Fremont. He also stated he was very proud to be a member of city council.

Mrs. Kreilick stated she had respect for all the statement that were made and that by working together, being positive and moving ahead. She also echoed sentiments towards the Police Department. She stated she may not be in attendance at the next meeting due to the fact they are expecting a new grandchild.

Mr. Michles also objected to the Mayors accusations. He stated that he commented on the third article in the Register that said no one was above the law and he believed the majority of the Police Department protect and serve the city of Fremont. He also stated that if problems arise they should be looked into. Mr. Gross asked if the committee had a mission statement and the Mayor said it was an ordinance passed by council and would provide the council with a copy of it.

Elected Officials' Comments

Mr. Grahl echoed the sentiments of thanking the Police Department and the laborers that work for the city. He also thanked the Sugar Beet Company for allowing the city to dispose of the snow downtown in the open space.

Mayor Ellis stated he stands by everything he said in the letter. He stated that he provided the council with the initial email he received from the register concerning racism in the police department and what his reply was. He would like to move ahead with a Citizen Police Group to talk about issues relating between the department and the community. He believes this group would be a very effective means to establish communications between the Police Department and the community.

Department Heads

Mr. Ward said he had been asked how the snow removal process worked. He had been questioned about the city, the county and the state roads. He stated that the city trucks are used to plow snow and to haul it. He wanted the council to know that not only does the street department work to remove snow or respond to city emergencies, but other departments pitch in too and they are doing the best they can with the heavy snow that has fallen in the past couple of days. Mr. Michles wanted to know if we could rent trucks to help with removal. Mr. Ward stated if it was necessary to contract out to plow or haul snow we could, he believes the department is doing an excellent job.

Mr. Lamson nothing to report this evening.

Chief Foos stated that they have 58 candidates interested in the fire department. The exam will take place at the Rec. Center.

Chief Wiersma stated he is very proud of his department.

Mr. Sanchez stated that he also appreciated the effort of the police department and that the probation department works hand in hand with the police department.

Public Comments

Dolores Burel 501 North Brush Street Fremont, Ohio. Mrs. Burel stated that she believed the citizen of Fremont should be able to address their concerns without being told you cannot say anything negative. She relayed an incident that happened to her several years ago when she was coming from a revival in Sandusky and she was stopped by the police. The policemen at that time stated that they smelled alcohol on her. She stated that she has never drank alcohol in her life. She stated that one experience with the police was a bad one. Had she not had another policemen vouch for her, the reputation she had established in this community would have been destroyed. She did make a complaint and it was

THE CITY OF FREMONT, OHIO
Journal of Council

looked into and addressed. Her point being, the action of one officer left that negative taste with her. She believes issues like this should always be brought to the surface and they cannot be shoved under a rug. Issues need to be talked about and worked out together. She believes that the commission was a great thing and just because you are receiving negative publicity it is not reason enough to disband it and replace it with another group.

C.J. Burel comments were Downtown Fremont.....he stated that we need to revitalize Fremont. He feels that a lot of things missing and he would like to have the city address the revitalization of the downtown. Chief Wiersma addressed Mrs. Burel and apologized for the experience she had with the department.

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 9:35 p.m.

Clerk of Council

Council President Pro Tem