

THE CITY OF FREMONT, OHIO
Journal of Council
February 19, 2015

The regular meeting of the Fremont City Council was called to order at 7:40 p.m. on February 19, 2015 in the form prescribed by the General Rules of Council. President Pro Tem Angie Ruiz called the meeting to order.

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

Minutes for the Council meeting of February 5, 2015 were amended and approved.

Council heard the first reading of an ordinance to make appropriations in the amount of \$106,114,541.00 for expenses and expenditures for the 2015 fiscal year January 1 thru December 31 for the city of Fremont, State of Ohio and declaring an emergency.

President Pro Tem asked council if there were any items that needed to be removed from the agenda and council voted to remove items two and three:

Item two was the second 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. Councilman Gross motioned to remove the item; seconded by Councilman Michles. Voting in the affirmative were Michles, Knisely, Gross, Ruiz, Stout, and Koebel. (Res. 2015-1948)

Agenda item three was the second reading of a resolution authorizing the Mayor to file an application for submission the Ohio Department of Transportation for a 2015 Small City Program Grant and declaring an emergency. Councilman Knisely motioned to remove the item; seconded by Councilwoman Stout. Voting in the affirmative were Michles, Knisely, Gross, Ruiz, Stout, and Koebel.

Voting in favor of the new agenda were Ruiz, Koebel, Stout, Gross, Knisely, and Michles.

The third reading of an ordinance adopting the recommendation of the Planning Commission to rezone parcel 34-60-00-0431-02 in the City of Fremont from "i-1" Light Industrial District to "b-2" General Commercial District. Councilman Knisely motioned for a vote; seconded by Councilwoman Stout. Voting in the affirmative: Michles, Koebel, Knisely, Ruiz, Gross, and Stout. (Ord. 2015-3757)

Mayor Ellis informed council that the updated worksheet provided in the budget includes new program grants, expenditures and revenue. The mayor also said that the budget contained in the ordinance is virtually the same as the temporary budget. The mayor also said that the promotion of a current employee to foreman in the Water and Sewer Department will allow the City to save tax payer dollars by being able to internally perform pipe repairs and improvements. The streets and parks departments are also saving budget dollars by cooperating on projects and sharing equipment.

President Pro Tem Ruiz then introduced Kristie Bilger, the Executive Director of Downtown Fremont, Inc. to address the budget request of \$10,000.00 for the organization. Ms. Bilger said that her organization is focused on helping to lead the economic development for downtown so it will become a vibrant and thriving heart of the city. Bilger said her organization is cooperating with the city this weekend to hold a brainstorming session with the Toledo Design Center to develop new ideas for downtown development.

Mayor Ellis said the city's contribution to Downtown Fremont, Inc. is in addition to contributions from several private sector organizations that will help fund the full time position of Executive Director.

During Committee Reports Councilwoman Ruiz announced there would be a public hearing on March 19 at 7:15 p.m. to discuss the relation of alley off of Ohio Ave.

As chair of the Community Partnership Committee, Councilman Kniesely had nothing new to report.

As chair of the Finance Committee, Councilman Michles thanked City Auditor Grahl for the monthly budget reports.

As chair of the Government and Economic Development Committee, Councilwoman Stout reminded the public that everybody is invited to the Downtown Fremont Charrette to be held at the Strand Theater this coming Friday and Saturday.

As chair of the Laws and Rules Committee, Councilman Gross said that the 7:15 meeting this evening produced a healthy discussion about the city's budget and expenditures.

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As Chair of the Parks and Recreation Committee, Councilman Koebel announced that at the March 5 City Council meeting, Molly Bauman will make a presentation on the Recreation Center. He also reminded the public that there are still two positions available on the Recreation Board and anybody interested in the position should contact Ms. Bauman or Councilman Koebel. He also said reported there are several upcoming events at the Rec Center, including registration for summer Little League baseball. Other events include Chill With the Cops on February 22nd from 12 to 2; A Stein Hospice program on March 4th from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.; and the Home Show on March 6th, 7th, and 8th.

As chair of the Citizen Services Committee, Councilwoman Ruiz said there was nothing new to report.

During the reports by Department directors there was nothing new to report.

During Council comments, Councilman Michles thanked city workers for working in such tough weather conditions. He reminded citizens that there are still icy sports on sidewalks and parking lots.

Councilman Kniesely said that that work by city employees during such terrible weather conditions has made him very proud to be associated with the city.

Councilman Gross said he would like to echo Councilwoman Stout's invitation to the public to participate in the charrette this weekend. He said there is a growing sense of excitement that change is coming for downtown Fremont. He also thanked city employees for working long days with little sleep. Councilman Gross also noted he was glad to see Timmy back in the audience after being involved in a recent accident.

Councilwoman Stout said that in her neighborhood there are two streets that were recently changed to allow parking on only one side and that this has worked wonderfully for snow removal. She also noted that the Water Department has done a beautiful job cleaning the alleys.

Councilman Koebel expressed his condolences to President Leake upon the death of his mother.

During the Mayor's comments, Mayor Ellis noted that the title of the land adjacent to Birchard Public Library was transferred last week to the library from Fremont City Schools. He also thanked city employees for their work plowing the streets and for replacing frozen water pipes and meters. The Mayor reminded citizens that leaving a slight flow of water from a faucet helps prevent pipes from freezing.

The Mayor also noted that the February is National Teed Dating Violence Prevention Monday, as declared by President Obama. He said the Sandusky County Domestic Violence Prevention Task Force has made after school presentations and sponsored the Silent Witness Program at the Stand.

During Public Comments David Baine (no address given) said a recent article in the Wall Street Journal reported on the three year drought in Santa Barbara, California that required the city to refurbish a desalinization plant to supply water to the region. Mr. Baine said that Fremont area residents should take note of the experiences in California when this area makes decisions about the water, the City Reservoir and the removal of the Ballville Dam.