

THE CITY OF FREMONT, OHIO
Journal of Council
April 2, 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 Dallas Leake called the meeting to order.

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

The minutes for council meeting held on March 19th were approved.

First reading of a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a grant agreement with the OSS Solid Waste Management District, and declaring an emergency. Mayor Ellis stated that this was a typical grant agreement that the city enters into each year. The funds are used for the yard waste program, recycling program, and to purchase items such as trash cans in the city. On a motion to suspend Rule #4 by Knisely, seconded by Gross. Motion carried 6 yes votes. On a motion to adopt by Knisely, seconded by Kreilick. Motion carried 6 yes votes. (Res. 2015-1951)

First reading of an ordinance authorizing fund transfers in the amount of \$11,574,676.00 for fiscal year 2015 for the City of Fremont, State of Ohio and declaring an emergency. Mr. Grahl stated that per his letter to council a description of where transfers were going. He asked if there were any questions concerning the transfers. Mr. Koebel raised a question about the income tax fund. Mr. Grahl explained the purpose of the fund. On a motion to suspend Rule #4 by Knisely, seconded by Gross. Motion carried 6 yes votes. On a motion to adopt by Knisely, seconded by Stout. Motion carried 6 yes votes. (Ord. 2015-3761)

Committee Reports

Citizens Service Committee - Mr. Koebel read a statement from Chairman Ruiz. Mrs. Ruiz thank Gary Truman United States Veteran Post 7510 for extending an invitation to her and her family for the Second Vietnam Era Commemoration held on March 28th at Camp Perry to honor the 2.5 million American Soldiers that served in Vietnam. 5800 became war fatalities including Angie's husband. Speakers were featured and information provided to families of Vietnam Vets. On Sunday March 29th the Fremont VFW Post had their commemoration at the Sandusky County Vietnam Memorial. The events help to remember our war heroes.

Community Partnership Committee - Chairman Knisely stated he would have a report in May pertaining to the schools. Finance and Labor Committee - Chairman Michles asked Mr. Grahl if it would be possible to have a committee meeting pertaining to the city's bonds. Mr. Grahl said he would look into it.

Government and Economic Development Committee - Chairman Stout reported that Big Fremont Today kicked off the assessment of the Big Fremont Development with a posting of a survey on the City's website. Fremont area residents are encouraged to participate in a survey regarding four different topics related to community development: Entrepreneurship, Leadership, Philanthropy and Youth Involvement. Survey results will help shape an assessment of the area's strengths and weakness that is being developed by a committee working on the city's Home Town Fremont effort to stimulate community development. Mrs. Stout thanked WSOS for their efforts with Home Town Fremont. She stated that Economic Developer Joe Smith is working with business owners to establish revitalization district in the downtown area. Mr. Smith will be visiting the city of Wooster on April 13th to obtain information on their city's revitalization success. She also announced that Ruth Gegorski had uncovered an ordinance from 1986 that would encourage further investment in historic downtown Fremont. It is Mrs. Stout hope that the CRA discovered in this ordinance will encourage investors in our downtown area. She thanked Mrs. Gegorski and also wished her a happy birthday.

Laws, Rules, and Ordinances Committee - Chairman Gross announced a Laws, Rules, and Ordinance Committee Meeting for May 7th at 7:00 p.m. concerning the chickens that are being housed in the city limits.

Recreation Committee - Chairman Koebel stated that the fundraiser for the Recreation Department employee, Jose Leal, Jr. was a huge success. The event raised over \$3,500 for the family. The department will be holding a Fitness Scavenger Hunt through the Grove on April 11th, April 26th - 9th First Tee at the rec. May 9th Spring Training, June 13th 1860 style baseball at the Hayes Presidential Center. If citizens are interested in any activities sponsored by the Rec. Department feel free to call.

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

Council Comments

Mr. Michles said with the weather getting better please be careful and mindful of children, adult runners and bikers in the area. The Mayor of Woodville asked that Mr. Michles announce a K-9 Law Enforcement Training that will be held in the city of Woodville on May 4th from 8:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. It is continued education to officers dealing with dogs while out on patrol.

Mrs. Kreilick stated there was a transfer of business this week Da Vinci's became the Down Thyme Café. She stated that the Presidential Center is starting a walking club to promote good help. Sign-ups are on April 10th.

Mr. Knisely thanked the city workers for their hard work and dedication. He stated that he was proud to be a resident of Fremont, Ohio. He also wished everyone a Happy Easter.

Mr. Gross thanked Mr. Grahl for his efforts in keeping council informed on transfer items on the agenda. Mr. Gross said through the Auditors efforts to explain items before meetings it provides answer to the questions the council may have. He stated he also enjoyed the fundraiser at the Rec. Department. He also gave credit to the store owners in the downtown Fremont for the Easter Egg Hunt that took place on Saturday. He said that it was a fun relaxing time.

Mrs. Stout thanked the downtown business and Mr. Kern for their efforts with the Bunny Hutch. She also thanked Molly and the staff for the fundraiser at the Rec. She stated that she and her husband were the victims of identity theft on their

taxes this year. She wanted everyone to be cautious and aware of how easy it is for this to happen. Her experience with the Fremont Police Department and reporting the event was very pleasant.

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Mr. Koebel gave his condolences to Mrs. Ruiz on the loss of her brother. Please drive safe with the nice weather. He wished a Happy Easter to the citizens and a Happy Birthday to Mrs. Gegorski.
Mr. Leake read a letter from the Department of Commerce concerning liquor license permits in our municipalities. If there was concerning on any of the establishment in the city and the renewing of their licenses, now was the time to make that known. Mr. Melle stated that council receives this notice every year and we need to show an objection to an establishment before May 4th.

Elected Officials' Comments

Mr. Melle stated that he was a judge at the annual NAACP Martin Luther King Oratorical Competition. He said that it was a wonderful event and it was so refreshing to see our youth and their performances.
Mr. Grahl wanted to keep council apprised about the letter he received from the 6th District Court pertaining to the dam. He will schedule time with Mr. Melle beginning next week to see how the city will proceed.
Mayor Ellis stated he wanted to follow up on what Mr. Grahl statement by saying if the city chooses to respond it will be the first time that the city has had to respond to the complaint. He also thanked Mr. Kerns for the Easter event downtown, 300 children participated. He stated how much he enjoyed the fundraiser at the Rec. Department. Health Department got a 5 year grant which is to access the health of our community. The city hall employees will be participating in this study. Mayor Ellis stated that he received a letter from Jobs Ohio for the city's recognition in the Sites Ohio magazine. He then introduced Kay Reiter the County's Economic Developer. Mrs. Reiter explained that Alkon Corporation is planning on expanding its business and has asked for a property tax abatement of 75% of its new property taxes for 10 years. Alkon is looking to put an 18,000 square foot addition to their property. Along with new equipment, this project is a capital investment of 7.9 million dollars. Alkon currently employees 156 and will be required over the next 3 years to create 20 new jobs. The average pay for the new positions will be \$41,000. They will be looking for experienced hires for the product that they make at an average of \$15 to \$22 per hour. The abatement that they are requesting is for only the new property that they build. Mrs. Reiter stated that it is a good project and asked the council to consider approving this. Mr. Leake asked what would happen if they company does not meet the standards with the abatement. Mrs. Reiter said that there are claw backs in the agreement. If they do not meet the guidelines after being reviewed yearly, the city can vote to end the agreement and they could be required to pay back their abatement. Mrs. Reiter stated that it may be helpful to do at the beginning of the first quarter of the year to do a tax abatement workshop so council could fully understand the abatement process.

Department Heads

Mr. Ward nothing to report.
Chief Wiersma nothing to report.
Chief Foos stated that on April 7th the department along with local law enforcement and county departments will be participating in an Emergency Planning Committee will be conducting a full scale exercise from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Terra Community College. The event would be evaluated by the State.
Mr. Sanchez nothing to report.
Mr. Frederickson nothing to report.
Mr. Smith nothing to report.
Mrs. Bilger nothing to report.

Public Comments

Denny Otte 524 South Wayne Street stated that downtown Fremont is an excellent place to bring in new businesses and restaurants. He suggested that Mr. Smith ask the Executive Director of the Sandusky County Visitor Guide, Peggy Courtney, to go along with his committee for the Wooster visit.

President Leake thanked Mr. Koebel, Mr. Smith, Mr. Melle, and Mr. Michles for their participating and help with the NAACP Oratorical contest. There was a lot of talent on display from kindergarten to high school. He invited those who would like to participate to contact him. CASA will be holding its annual fundraiser event. The event is Dancing with the Stars and he will be participating. He invited those who were interested in tickets to contact him.

There being nothing further to come before council, on motion to adjourn by Knisely, seconded by Gross, motion carried 6 yea votes. Meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.