

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 Evangelina Ruiz called the meeting to order.

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

First reading of an ordinance authorizing pay increases and modifications to the fringe benefits of elected City Officials for future terms beginning January 1, 2016 and continuing for 2017, 2018, and 2019. Mr. Grahl explained to the council that elected officials had not received a pay increase since 2010. The increase would include a 4% for the first year then 2% thereafter. Mr. Melle stated to council that if the ordinance is to be adopted it need to be suspend Rule #4 on the next meeting or that a special meeting to adopt would need to be held before elections. The Mayor said that he did not wish to receive an increase in pay and recommended that the council make an amendment to Section 5 of the ordinance to exclude that position. Mr. Michles objected to the ordinance stating he thought it was inappropriate when the city didn't have money coming in. On a motion to amend the ordinance by Gross, seconded by Koebel. Motion carried 5 yes votes to 1 abstained vote and 1 present vote.

First reading of an ordinance authorizing a pay increase to the President of City Council, the Clerk of Council, and members of the Fremont City Council for future terms beginning January 1, 2016 and continuing for 2018, 2020, and 2022. Mr. Grahl stated that council has not received a pay increase since 2010.

First reading of a resolution authorizing the Mayor to submit an application to the Board of Commissioners of the Sandusky County Park District for the 2015 Local Park Capital Improvement Grant Program and declaring an emergency. The Mayor informed the council of what the grant would cover for Roger Young Park. On a motion to suspend Rule #4 by Koebel, seconded by Michles. Motion carried 7 yes votes. On a motion to adopt by Knisely, seconded by Gross. Motion carried 6 yes votes. (Res. 2015-1958)

Proclamations for Prostate Cancer Awareness Month & Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The Mayor read proclamations for Prostate Cancer Awareness Month & Breast Cancer Awareness Month. Mr. Michles appreciated the joint proclamation and thought it was a great forum to make citizens aware of what was going on.

Liquor License Transfer for Applebees. The council showed no objection to the transfer.

Committee Reports

Utilities and Traffic Committee - Chairman Kreilick reported that a committee meeting would be held at the next council meeting beginning at 7:20 p.m. concerning a water tap application for Schwann Home Services Inc.

Park and Recreation Committee - Chairman Koebel reported the 3rd Annual Walk against Bullying registration is open and the walk will be held on October 3rd.

Laws, Rules, and Ordinances Committee - Chairman Gross nothing to report.

Government and Economic Development Committee - Chairman Stout stated she and Mr. Smith had a meeting and the new and improved Economic Development website is with the designer right now and will be relaunched soon. She stated that they have been working with the Toledo Design Center and plans for revitalization for downtown Fremont is also moving along nicely.

Finance and Labor Committee - Chairman Michles commented that the city is losing money in revenue sharing. He was concerned that we are not voicing our objection to state legislation.

Community Partnership Committee - Chairman Knisely introduced Superintendent Greg Edinger of Vanguard to inform council of how Vanguard Schools are doing. Superintendent Edinger stated the school year was off to a great start. Every year the school has a theme and this year's is Step Up and Stand Out. The best way to do this is positive attitude for both students and staff. Enrollment is 1,050 students. They offer 34 programs at the school and the top programs are Health Careers, Manufacturing, and Construction Trades, and IT program. They have expanded their Sophomore Program and Adult Education Programs. The school received a grant from the State called the Ohio adult Diploma Program for ages 22 and up. This grant allows adults to receive industry credentials along with their GED. The school received all "A's" on its grade card. Community Service is a big goal at the school, last year 100% participated in some sort of project for community service. Vanguard's Post Program Placement is 96.8%.

Citizen Service Committee - Chairman Ruiz stated that Chief White has been working diligently to revamp Block Watch Program.

Council Comments

Mr. Michles commented about the Dam Issue and the Ballot. He wanted the citizens to know that if they wanted the dam removed vote yes and if they did not vote no. The 27 million repair dollar amount is not an issue on the ballot. He also asked about the upgrade that the council voted on for the IT department since we do not have a director. The Mayor stated that the items are on a case by case basis and that an advertisement has been placed for the open position.

Mrs. Kreilick wanted to acknowledge the final year for the Hayes Presidential Encampment that will be taking place this weekend and also the Farmers Market downtown.

Mr. Knisely complimented the city workers on their fine work of keeping the city up. He also stated that downtown Fremont was looking great.

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Mr. Gross wanted to thank Downtown Fremont Inc. for the effort they put into organizing the Farmers Market. He also wanted to clarify that the "doing nothing" was not an option for the city since we received a notice of violation from the State. He wanted to know what would happen if the citizens vote to keep the dam and the repair the dam ordinance had been tabled indefinitely. Mr. Melle explained that Dam Safety could remove it anyway and put a lien on the city. Mr. Gross wanted to point out that he has 3 reports that all recommended removing the dam. He encouraged the citizens to base their vote on facts.

Mrs. Stout thanked the city department Police Department for their efforts on the recent drug bust that took place. She stated that she would be attending the Sandusky County Economic Development Manufacturing Conference being held at Terra Community College. This conference is being held for all freshmen students in the county. The students will see what is going on in the county and city with the lack of skilled trade workers in the manufacturing field.

Mr. Koebel wanted to recognize the Lytle family and the honoring of Rob Lytle at the University of Michigan game and congratulated the family on Rob's induction into the College Hall of Fame. He asked the Mayor about the effort that was put forth on the removal of the slit behind the dam. The Mayor said that is was the number one issue when looking at the removal. Mr. Koebel then asked if there was ever any grant money looked for to help in the study of the matter. The Mayor answered no that it was determined that the best environmental plan would be to let it go down the river.

Elected Officials

Mr. Melle nothing this evening.

Mayor Ellis read a statement about the public hearing to be held at the next council meeting pertaining to the application to establish a Revitalization District in downtown Fremont. The meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. With regards to the local government funds he wanted the council to know that they talk regularly about the loss of revenue from the city to state representatives. He stated the collection of samples of the sediment is completed and at the labs. He too was excited about the Manufacturing Showcase at Terra. Lastly, he wanted all candidates in the upcoming election to know that the Zoning Commissioner Mr. Cook would begin looking at locations for political signs.

Mrs. Elder wanted to make a reply to Mr. Michles comment about the funding cuts and the lack of local acknowledgement to the matter. She wanted him to know that it is a chronic issue in our state and everyone from the local governments are constantly conversing about the issue. She is also concerned about Mr. Michles remarks about the expense for the removal of the dam. She believes that we are city was given a gift with all the grant money for the removal and his comments' about adding it to property owners taxes was inappropriate.

Mr. Grahl also commented on Rob Lytle accomplishments. He also commented on the book that Rob's son, Kelly wrote concerning his father. The book is entitled To Dad from Kelly. He echoed comments about the police department bust.

Department Heads

Chief Schneider reported that October is fire hydrant winterization program. He also commended the Police Department on the fine job they are doing.

Chief White thanked everyone for the kind words for the Police Department.

Mr. Sanchez nothing to report.

Mr. Ward brush pickup should be winding down. Crews are out doing landscaping for winter and also concrete and curb work.

Public Comments

Kristy Bilger Downtown Fremont Executive Director 315 Garrison St. commented on the Farm to Table event on September 25th. She stated that it was a great event for the city of Fremont. A Farmers Market will be held on October 3rd. They event will feature local authors and drawings of what each building downtown has been used for. Discover Fremont will be having an open house for their apartments that are downtown.

President Pro Tem Ruiz read a statement concerning the dam and her reason for voting for the removal of the dam. Her decision was reached after many hours of research and attending the forums held about the dam removal and the repairing of the dam. She hopes voters will do their own research before Election Day in November. She encouraged citizens to vote yes on the dam.

On motion to adjourn by Gross, seconded by Knisely, motion carried 7 yes votes. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.