

THE CITY OF FREMONT, OHIO

Journal of Council

February 16, 2012

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, with President James Weaver presiding.

The following members answered: Knisely, Kreilick, Leake, Marker, Nalley, Root and Ruiz.

The minutes of the February 2, 2012 meeting were approved with two corrections. Marker noted that he had provided the wrong date of the Recreation Advisory Board and Leake corrected the minutes to say that the Economic development was at the Birchard Public Library – not the Hayes Center.

Third reading of an ordinance authorizing the approval and issuance of a warrant of payment of \$927.84 to Ohio CAT and declaring an emergency. On motion by Root and seconded by Marker to adopt, motion carried 7 yea votes. (Ord.2012-3573)

Second reading of an ordinance authorizing the use of and a limitation on blanket purchase orders of \$5,000 quarterly.

Second reading of a resolution authorizing the approval and issuance of a warrant for payment of \$11,500 to Al Baumann Chevrolet-Buick Inc., and declaring an emergency.

First reading of a resolution authorizing the mayor to enter into an agreement with Sandusky County concerning a court feasibility study and declaring an emergency. This study will address the pros and cons of combining the county courts currently located in Woodville and Clyde and relocating the courts in Fremont. After a question from Leake regarding cost to the city, the mayor shared that the only cost will be employee time and other such in-kind costs. On motion by Root, seconded by Knisely, to suspend Rule 4, motion carried 7 yea votes. On motion by Nalley and seconded by Marker to adopt, motion carried 7 yea votes.

First reading of a resolution authorizing the mayor to submit an application for a Local Government Innovation Fund grant, and declaring an emergency. On motion by Marker and seconded by Root to suspend Rule 4 motion carried 7 yea votes. Leake asked the mayor to explain the grant and the mayor responded that it is the grant that will address the county courts issue he addressed in the earlier resolution. On motion by Root and seconded by Marker to adopt, motion carried 7 yea votes.

First reading of the city's 2012 budget as proposed by the mayor. Nalley advised that there will be future meetings scheduled for budget discussions.

First reading of a resolution supporting the mental health levy on the March 6 ballot in Sandusky County, and declaring an emergency. On motion by Root and seconded by Nalley, motion carried 7 yea votes. Melanie White, a member of the levy committee, addressed council members, thanking them for their support of the levy. She also explained the needed for the levy, providing statistics on the costs to the local community of dealing with mental illness. Josie Setzler, president of Sandusky County NAMI, also addressed the council and thanked the members for their support of the levy. Jim Wise of Firelands Counseling Services also addressed the council and explained the needed for the funds that can generated from the levy. On motion by Root and seconded by Marker, motion carried 7 yea votes.

First reading of a resolution for a transfer of funds for 2012.

Approval of appointment of Joyce Huntley as the new clerk of council. President Weaver thanked Council members Kreilick, Root, and Nalley for working on the committee to review the applications for the position and interviewing three candidates from which Huntley was selected to be recommended to council for the appointment. Under discussion, Leake and Marker recommended positive votes for Huntley. On motion by Nalley and seconded by Marker, motion carried 7 yea votes.

Committee reports:

Citizens' Service – Chair Angie Ruiz reminded everyone that the next Block Watch meeting will be March 6 at the Fremont Rec Center.

Community Partnership – Chair Tom Knisely stated that he plans to meet with the local school superintendent then report out at the first council meeting in April.

Finance & Labor – Chair Nalley stated that the next committee meeting to review the budget will be February 23 at 6:30 p.m. Nalley said that council has received January's financial reports from Auditor John Lauer. He noted that Moody's has rated the City of Fremont as Aa2 and asked Lauer to explain the meaning of such a rating. Lauer explained that such a rating allows the city to refinance its debt, which could result in savings of up to \$1 million.

Government and Econ. Development – Chair Leake reported that he plans to meet with Economic Development Director Mike Jay about preparing a presentation for a future council meeting.

Laws, Rules & Ordinances – No report.

Parks & Recreation – Chair Marker recommended that Phil Colson be appointed to fill an open seat on the Advisory Board. On motion by Marker and seconded by Knisely, motion carried 7 yeas votes.

Utilities & Traffic – Chair Kreilick announced that there will be a tour of the Water Pollution Control Center (WPCC) on Monday, February 20 at 6:30 p.m. There, a consultant will make a presentation on the needs of the WPCC expansion.

Council comments:

Councilman Leake congratulated Rec Director Marc Glotzbecker on his award as well Joyce Huntley, who was in the audience, on her appointment.

Councilwoman Kreilick thanked Downtown Fremont Director Angie Morelock for her Downtown Annual Report and for the great job she's doing in downtown Fremont.

Councilman Knisely announced that, due to a prior commitment, he will be absent for the next council meeting.

Councilman Marker thanked council members and the community as a whole for their support of him and his family since his son was burned in a house fire.

Councilman Nalley noted that the letter he received from American Electric Power (AEP) regarding the aggregation did not have the city's logo as promised, and he asked the mayor to comment on that omission and the program. The mayor explained that residents have until March 9 to opt out of the program. That is, if residents do not want their electricity from AEP they should let AEP know by March 9. If they do nothing, they will automatically be included. He displayed the envelope with the letter sent to homes in the city and encouraged residents not to discard before reading it. He also explained that information on the program is on the city's website. He also said that he will have a Coffee and Conversation on Friday, February 24, at the rec center where he will discuss the aggregation program. Information is also being sent to the media as well as flyers are included in utility bills mailings. In addition, AEP will hold public meetings on the topic. Nalley reiterated that residents who do not respond to the mailed letter will automatically be included and will see a 9% discount over two years in their AEP bills. Root added that taxes and fees will be included in the bills.

Law Director Jim Melle thanked the council for its support of the mental health levy, since funding for mental illness treatment is important to the community.

Auditor John Lauer noted that it was former Auditor Fred Recktenwald who positioned the city so that it could get the Aa2 rating from Moody's. He said all the credit for the good rating should go to Recktenwald.

Mayor Jim Ellis reminded all about the local NAACP's scholarship dinner on Saturday, February 25. He also announced the appointment of 13 residents to the city's Community Relations Board. They are: Robert Atkins, Jim Fails, Lee Guardiola, Mike Koebel, John Lewis III, Ed Lindsey, Scott Phillips, Sister Christine Pratt, Al Reyes, Trish Reyes, Violetta Rhea, Dr. Randy Rhom, Lee Wagner, Crystal Walker, Police Chief Tim Wiersma and the Safety Service Director. The mayor also noted that State Rep. Rex Damschroder will have a forum at Terra Community College's Building B on March 8 at 7 p.m. on the topic of Internet Cafes.

WPCC's Director Jeff Lamson said he was looking forward to the tour on Feb. 20 and encouraged all council members and the public to attend.

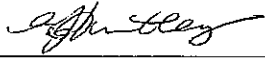
Marc Glotzbecker thanked everyone for their congratulations and said the award was more for the community than for an individual.

Chief Wiersma said that Police Officer Belinda Rosenberger saved a life of a mentally-challenged person on Jan 15 by talking to the person and de-escalating the incident during a tense, two-hour situation. She was presented with an

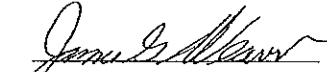
award for her efforts where NAMI representatives Setzler and White along with Firelands' Wise congratulated her. Rosenberger thanked everyone, especially Officers Ken Buechle and Tony Emrich.

In public comments, White noted that signs for the mental health levy were available in the lobby for anyone to take to their homes for posting.

There being nothing further to come before council, on motion by Root seconded by Ruiz to adjourn. Motion carried 7 yea votes. Adjournment at 8:26 p.m.



Clerk of Council


Council President