

# THE CITY OF FREMONT, OHIO

## *Journal of Council*

March 21, 2013

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 roll call: Knisely, Kreilick, Leake, Marker, Nalley, Root, and Ruiz.

The minutes of the March 7, 2013 meeting were approved as written and received.

Third reading of a resolution authorizing the approval and issuance of a warrant for payment of \$4,860.00 to S&L Fertilizer Company, and declaring an emergency. On motion to adopt by Root, seconded by Marker, motion carried 7 yea votes. (Res. 2013-1886)

Third 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. On motion to adopt by Marker, seconded by Knisely, motion carried 7 yea votes. (Ord. 2013-3629)

Third reading of an ordinance to make appropriations in the amount of \$30,421,777.00 for expenses and expenditures for the 2013 fiscal year January 1 through December 31, City of Fremont, State of Ohio, and declaring an emergency. On motion by Nalley, seconded by Marker, to amend this ordinance to reflect a corrected amount of \$56,317,872.00, motion carried 7 yea votes. On motion to adopt the amended ordinance by Knisely, seconded by Kreilick, motion carried 7 yea votes. (Ord. 2013-3630) Auditor Paul Grahl explained that the amendment was necessary because at the beginning of the budget process, several funds had reflected \$000s until it was determined the actual amounts of those funds. That accounts for the changed in the total amount. Last year's budget ended at about \$57 million.

Mayor Jim Ellis explained a letter from the Fremont Police Department's union rep that, he said, made several erroneous assertions regarding staffing at the Police and Fire departments as well as assertions that city administrators have lied to residents about spending. Former Auditor John Lauer had publicized information that showed the potential loss of revenue to the city that has led to current deficits. He promised that in the future he will communicate better with city employees so they can understand the reasons for the deficit. Other allegations that the public is in danger because not there will not be enough police officers are available are not true, he said, and explained how the number of police officers needed on a daily basis is calculated. He said the process for 2014 budget begins in August.

First reading of a resolution authorizing the approval and issuance of a warrant for payment of \$19,364.00 to Ohio Water Development Authority, and declaring an emergency.

A presentation by Sandusky County Economic Development Executive Director Kay Reiter explained a project she was seeking support for from city council. The project will be at the west end of Hayes Avenue. She explained that there has been increased activity for projects in that area and, consequently, there's a greater need for better water that what's available from wells. She said there is the possibility of 3 manufacturers with 78 new jobs who want to locate there. Water is critical to these projects and the high iron level in the well water would mean that one manufacturer will have to have water trucked into the plant at tremendous cost. The solution is to have the city extend water to the area. She said she is asking to have the water extended from Michaels Rd to the storage unit area. The 3 manufacturers are each willing to contribute revenues to make the water extension possible. Estimated cost of the project is \$330,000. Sandusky & Ballville township trustees have agreed to contribute \$100,000 each. Jack Zimmerman of Zimmerman Paint did a cost estimate that indicated materials will cost about \$116,000. She said legal fees for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) outlining each entity's responsibilities will be paid for by the county's economic development corporation. There is no cost to the city other than future maintenance of the lines.

### Committee reports

Nalley said that Grahl's financial forms have assisted council to understand the city's finances better. He added that he and other council members feel strongly about having sufficient safety forces available at all time and asked the mayor to update council and what's taking place with safety forces, which the mayor did. He said it's important to look for new opportunities for new financial resources. Council President Jim Weaver thanked Nalley and the Finance Committee for its work on getting the budget finalized.

Leake thanked Reiter for her presentation on the projects in Hayes Avenue's west end.

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Marker said the Rec Board met March 11 and discussed the new dog park which will open shortly.

### Council Comments

Leake thanked the public for its support during a recent family member's death, and for the NAACP scholarship dinner. He said a recent TV show reminded him of the details surrounding the reservoir's construction.

Kreilick commented on the budget saying that as a new council member it's important for her to know that the city's safety services are not comprised in anyway and wants to believe the budget as reflects that. She noted there's a reduction in the mayor's salary in new budget, and thanked him for that and for eliminating the vehicle allowance. She added that that's a good example of leadership.

Knisely thanked Root for his service on council and the community.

Nalley reported that the Tree & Beautification Committee will meet on April 2 at 7 p.m. at the Rec Center, and thanked Reiter for her presentation, and Root for his service.

Marker also thanked Root for his service.

Ruiz thanked the mayor, Nalley and dept. heads for their work on the budget, and thanked Root for his service.

Root reported that the gas and service line inspection mailing residents have received are good saying they should schedule the inspection since it's a safety issue. He said the fixed rate other gas companies are offering residents is too high. He thanked Reiter for a good presentation. He said this meeting is his last council meeting – after 16 yrs of service to the community. He said it's too difficult to do his day job and council's work, so he's stepping down as of March 31. He commended Nalley for his time, and thanked all dept heads, council, and others for their support during his tenure.

Grahl reported that he revamped financial reports and hopes it provides good information for council members. Regarding the budget, he said this was the first big project he tackled since being appointed auditor. He realized that it's important to have good communication among everyone. He thanked Root though he worked only four months with him.

Treasurer Holly Elder thanked all involved for their work on the budget and transparency to the public. She said she thinks the public appreciates it, and thanked Root or his role as a community watchdog.

Robert Ward, safety service director, also thanked Root, and council for their work. He said that the dog park will open from May 1 – Oct 30, and that the Rec Dept. is taking applications for summer part-time work. He said the reservoir will be filled by March 26, and that AMP Ohio will be closed as of April 1 for 2 weeks to install a new larger water line.

Mayor Ellis thanked Root for his service to city and said that at the next meeting he will seek council's approval for the gas aggregation deal. He added that the gate at reservoir will be opened soon to the public.

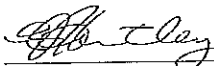
Weaver recognized Brad Smith in the audience, who commended Root for his service, and Bob Kusmer and Dave Stotz, Ballville Township trustees, for their cooperation in the manufacturing project. Weaver also recognized Republican Party Chair Justin Smith, who thanked Root on behalf of the Republican Party.

### Public comments

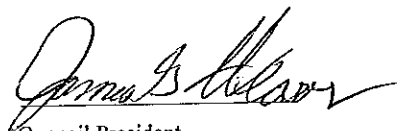
Joe Michles, 1614 Birchard Ave., said he hopes the community appreciates Root's service. He referred to Ohio's Sunshine Law as he referred to his request for computer hard drives erased by the former mayor. He said he doesn't understand how city does not have information that's public record in its possession. His request was met with an invoice for more than \$8,100. He said if the city doesn't get the records, then he will request that the county does so, and if the county doesn't, then state's Attorney General will be involved. The mayor explained that Michles was offered the portion of the hard drives recovered, but his request includes the information not recovered. He said Michles will have to pay for the recovery while the city will charge him for the costs to get him the copies. He referred Michles to the Law Director Jim Melle.

Weaver also commended Root for his service.

There being nothing further to come before council, on motion to adjourn by Root, seconded by Knisely, motion carried 7 yea votes. Meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.



Clerk of Council



Council President