

April 19, 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 roll call: Knisely, Kreilick, Leake, Marker, Nalley, Root and Ruiz.

The minutes of the April 5, 2012 meeting were approved as written and received.

First reading of a resolution authorizing the Safety Service Director to sign the agreement with the PUCO for safety upgrades to the railroad crossings and receive funds already allocated to Fremont for the upgrades and declaring an emergency. On motion to suspend Rule 4 by Marker seconded by Leake, motion carried 6 yea votes and 1 nay. On motion to adopt by Root, seconded by Marker, motion carried 7 yea votes. (Res. 2012-1843)

First reading of a resolution withdrawing Fremont City Council's objection to the renewal of permits for Last Call Entertainment, Fremont, and declaring an emergency. On motion to suspend Rule 4 by Root and seconded by Knisely, motion carried 6 yea votes and 1 nay. On motion to adopt by Root and seconded by Ruiz motion carried 7 yea votes. (Res. 2012-1844)

A proclamation declaring April as Donate Life Month in Fremont was presented to Fremont resident Ken Dumminger by Mayor Jim Ellis.

Council also approved the appointment of Dallas Leake as council's representative to the Community Relations Commission. On motion by Nalley seconded by Root, motion carried 6 yea votes. Leake abstained.

#### Committee reports

Economic Development Chairman Leake reminded council that the Economic Development Director Mike Jay will report to the full council at the second council meeting in May.

Community Partnership Chairman Knisely reported that in a letter from the Fremont City Schools Superintendent Dr. Traci McCaudy noted that the Fremont Ross High School Band earned an Excellent rating at the Ohio Music Education Association's band contest in March, that kindergarten registration will be at the Fremont Recreation Center, and that the school district's administrative offices have moved to its new space to 500 W. State St.

Laws Rules & Ordinance Chair Root reported that applications to serve on the Board of Zoning Appeals are currently being accepted with the deadline on Friday, May 11. He also noted that there is a need for a new chairperson of the board. Currently, Gene Yeager is serving as interim board chair.

Citizens Service Chair Ruiz reminded everyone about the next Block Watch meeting on May 8 at the Rec Center.

Parks and Recreation Committee Chair Marker reported that the parks staff is behind on readying the baseball diamonds due to the early need to mow but promised they would be taken care of soon.

Finance Committee Chair Nalley said he received the financial report for March and will review it.

#### Comments

Leake reported that the first community Diversity Expo went well and hopes that the city departments will make an effort to attend the next one.

Kreilick said that the new Fremont Art & Music Society has scheduled an Arts Festival in downtown Fremont on May 18-19 and encouraged everyone to participate.

Nalley congratulated the Fremont Kiwanis Club on its successful Pancake Day, noting that the funds raised are used to help local youth. He also reminded everyone that the Fremont Tree & Beautification meeting will be Tuesday, May 1, at city hall. He also reported that he has plans to implement a *Save Routes to School* program in Fremont and is recruiting participants to help develop the program.

Law Director Jim Melle reported that is trying to get the appeal hearing on Tailgators' liquor license, set for May 9 in Columbus, to be moved to Fremont. In fact, he said he hopes that the issue can be resolved before the hearing, but he will know more by the next council meeting.

Safety Service Director Marc Glotzbecker reminded the council that about the Tree Commission planting a tree behind Janel Terrace and those residents can drop off their brush on May 7 and May 11 beginning at 11 a.m.

Mayor Jim Ellis commended organizers of the Diversity Expo; Fire Chief Foos, who was able to recover \$3,331 that covers the cost of a lime spill at Speedway Gas Station on W. State St.; Director of the Street Department for efforts to

get the RR crossing repaired. He reported that there are now two vacancies on the city's Civil Service Commission, and encouraged interested people to apply. He also said that he has been meeting with Jerry Miller of the Sandusky County Visitor & Convention Bureau and Holly Stacy of the county's Chamber of Commerce to conduct the celebration of the sesquicentennial. And, he updated the council on the consolidation of the city's electric accounts, which numbers more than 100, with AEP. He said he has received an offer from Glacier Electric that will allow the city a savings of up to \$158,000 per year.

Public comments

Bobby Moore of 852 Eagle Ct., an Internet Café employee, wanted to know why the Internet Cafes were closed while many similar cafes are operating in neighboring communities. Council had no comment due the issue being in litigation.

Ken Dummering of Prospect Street informed the council that he hopes to collect \$18,000 in donations for the July 4 fireworks. He said last year's display cost \$15,000. He encouraged everyone to visit the website [www.Melrosepyro.com/donate/Fremont](http://www.Melrosepyro.com/donate/Fremont) for information and to donate.

Mike Koebel, 830 Moore St., Fremont, reported that the Wreckers Boxing Show was at the American Legion.

Sarah Phillips spoke to council on behalf of the Players Internet Café, which was closed recently by Fremont police.

Steven Slane, 1316 Franklin St. thanked Councilman Marker for his help in resolving an issue with a tree near his property.

Randy Rohm spoke about his concern regarding a 150-year-old buckeye tree that AEP had cut down, but previously had marked to be trimmed.

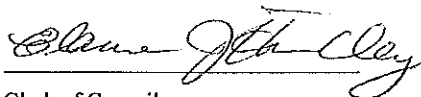
Joe Michels, 1614 Birchard Ave., gave information regarding the \$5 million grant for the dam removal, and noted that he learned that the actual capacity of the new reservoir is about 200,000 gallons less than reported.

Amy Clark, 901 North St., addressed council on behalf of Internet Café Players Club. At that point, Leake pointed out that because council members do not respond to their comments does not mean that no one is concerned/care about the issue.

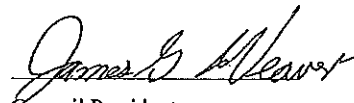
Council President Jim Weaver said that council will resume discussions of proposed bylaw changes on May 3 at 6 p.m., and a public hearing on an appeal of a denial by the Board of Zoning Appeals will be at 7 p.m. the same day.

Root asked the mayor for an update on the status of the new reservoir. Mayor Ellis said that contractor HM Miller letter has refused to return to the job until their demands have been met. HM has asked for mediation of the disagreement between them and the city. The mayor said he has informed the bond company that the city is considering filing a claim if HM does not return to the job. Goal is to complete the job by October as required by EPA, the mayor added. However, the city will have to pay \$6,400 fine for missing the EPA's May 1 deadline.

There being nothing further to come before council, on motion by Root seconded by Knisely to adjourn, motion carried 7 yea votes. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.



Clerk of Council



Council President