

THE CITY OF FREMONT, OHIO

Journal of Council

August 1, 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: Gross, Knisely, Kreilick, Leake, Marker, Nalley and Ruiz.

The minutes of the August 1, 2013 meeting were approved as written and received.

Upon a question from President Jim Weaver, Marker moved and Knisely seconded a motion to add item 5 to the agenda and the motion carried 7 yea votes.

Third reading of a resolution authorizing the issuance and approval of a warrant for payment of \$182,832.95 to Bricker & Eckler LLP, and declaring an emergency. On motion by Ruiz, seconded by Knisely, motion carried 7 yea votes. (Res. 2013-1900)

Second reading of an ordinance enacting a new section 941.05 of Chapter 941 of the codified ordinances of the City of Fremont entitled "Rules and Regulations for Fishing and Watercraft at the Fremont Reservoir," and declaring an emergency. Nalley asked Mayor Jim Ellis for some clarifications regarding a letter to the editor the mayor sent to the Toledo Blade newspaper in response to an editorial of the Blade. Ellis read his news release in which he claimed that ODNR has refused to stock the reservoir with fish which has led to the loss of one year fishing. Nalley said he believe Ellis simplified the topic and did not provided all the information in his letter. A discussion on the merits of the ODNR agreement with the city as well as the origin of the funds the city received followed.

First reading of an ordinance amending appropriations within the Revolving Loan Fund 265, and declaring an emergency.

First reading of a resolution authorizing the mayor to prepare and sign applications and enter into contracts for submission to the Ohio Public Works Commission for State Capital Improvement Program (SCIP) and Local Transportation Improvement Program (LTIP) funding for 2014 and declaring an emergency. On motion to suspend rule 4 by Marker, seconded by Ruiz, motion carried 7 yea votes. On motion to adopt by seconded by Knisely, seconded by Gross, motion carried 7 yea votes. (Res. 2013-1901)

First reading of an ordinance amending appropriations within General Fund 101 and Street Maintenance and Repair Fund 222, and declaring an emergency. On motion to suspend rule 4 by Knisley, seconded by Ruiz, motion carried 7 yea votes. On motion to adopt by seconded by Marker, seconded by Ruiz, motion carried 7 yea votes. (Ord. 2013-3646)

Committee reports

There were no committee reports.

Council Comments

Gross said he took advantage of the Sandusky County's Convention and Visitor's Bureau jail tour and dinner and really enjoyed it. He encouraged residents to participate in the upcoming War of 1812 celebrations slated for the weekend.

Ruiz said she enjoyed the earlier informative discussion on the ODNR funding of the reservoir and hopes it helped everyone.

Marker reported he attended the local theater's summer production and was amazed at the local talent he saw there.

Nalley said there is a lot of positive things going on in the community at this time and he encouraged residents to enjoy it all.

Knisely said he hopes residents support the weekend's festivities

Kreilick said a Big Thank You goes out to the planners and organizers of the weekend's celebrations.

Leake encouraged everyone to participate in the celebrations.

Law Director Jim Melle echoed Leake's comments.

Safety Service Director Ward reported that city crews were still removing brush from the storm and the next step was to remove dangerous trees. He encouraged residents to keep yard wastes in the yards since when it is washed into the streets the wastes plug the catch basins which leads to flooding during heavy rains.

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The mayor said the city has received many calls regarding flooding of basements. He said while the city can do what it can to help alleviate such problems, crews do not know the sewer system well enough to know where the problem is. Mapping of the lines should be done at least every 20 years but none has been done in the city for at least the past 30 years. He also encouraged residents to participate in the weekend's celebrations.

Public comments

Jim Daubel, 202 S. Park, said he does not understand the objections to having gas motors on the reservoir since pollution is not an issue. While residents are justified in their anger regarding the history of the reservoir, the reservoir can be a great economic development tool for the community with its recreational opportunities that can bring dollars to the community. Refusing to allow gas motors can disenfranchise the hundreds of fishermen who usually come to the community. He said that contrary to what the mayor claims, the majority of residents do not object to gas motors on the reservoir.

Fred Snyder, of Findlay, who is a retired University biologist who worked with the Great Lakes fisheries to maximize fishing opportunities for residents, said there is no data anywhere that supports damage to fish through using gas motors. That is an emotional reaction, he said. Even though the reservoir may not draw bring hundreds of anglers to the area, those who do come will spend money in the community. The bigger concern is not allowing gas motors because such a ruling can make an already overly expensive project more expensive to residents.

Leake read a piece that resident Joe Michles, who was absent from the meeting, asked him to share. It was from ORC 7 that said in part that local governments cannot make a ruling that will harm residents.

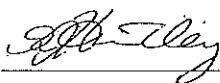
Jim Sherck, 2715 Buckland Ave., said he wants no gas motors on the reservoir because he is interested in preserving the good quality of the water. Sherck referred to a ruling by the city's attorney that had been shared in an executive session as a reason the city does not have to allow the motors. At this point, Nalley intervened asking how Sherck would know about something discussed in executive session and said he wanted the city law director to check on the legality of that. The mayor spoke up and said he shared it with Sherck.

Fred Recktenwald of McPerson Blvd., said he appreciated Snyder's expert opinion and thanked him for sharing his scientific information on the issue.

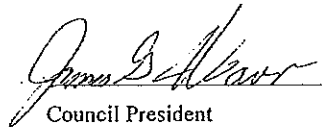
Mary Reinhart, 216 N. Granville, reported that she and her neighbors were experiencing sewage in their basements and hopes that the city can help. The mayor said it's being checked on and said he will include in the water bills tips on how to prevent or fix water in the basements of residents' homes.

Dan Miller, 1411 Buckland, shared that he believes something should be done about Minnow Creeks since it creates such problems for residents living in its area, especially regarding flooding. He added that he realizes it is not the city's responsibility.

There being nothing further to come before council, on motion to adjourn by Marker, seconded by Knisely, motion carried 7 yea votes. Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.



Clerk of Council



Council President