

GENERAL RULES OF COUNCIL

Fremont City Council is empowered under Ohio Revised Code Chapter #731

1. Meetings shall open with prayer followed by the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America.
2. The Council will meet on the first and third Thursdays of each month at 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers, except that council may, on adjournment, fix any other suitable time for the next regular meeting. The news media shall be notified forthwith of any Council meeting to be held on other than the first and third Thursdays of each month.

Special meetings of council shall be held after 24 hours notice to the news media of the time and place of such meetings, except in emergency situations such meetings may be held anytime after notice thereof is given to the news media.

Committee meetings shall be scheduled by the Committee Chairman as required. The Committee Chairman or Council Clerk shall inform the news media of each Committee meeting as it is scheduled.

3. The agenda with all items published, shall be printed and available by Tuesday at 4:00 p.m. prior to the regular meeting. An item can be added to the agenda at the regular meeting if six council members vote favorably on the addition.

Additional items shall be presented as a package on one motion, unless any councilman objects, and in that case individual motions shall be required for each item. The exception to this rule will be council committee reports which can be presented to the Clerk up to the start of the meeting.

The President of Council shall be responsible for deciding which business shall be presented to Council on the agenda, and the Clerk of Council shall be responsible for printing and distribution of the agenda and the items to be discussed.

4. All resolutions and ordinances shall be read by title only on three separate days. Council may, by majority of its members, require a reading in full, and Council may dispense with three separate readings by a vote of at least three-fourths of all members elected to Council (six votes are needed to suspend rules). For emergency measures, five yes votes are needed to adopt.
5. All members wishing to speak shall address the President of Council.

When two members wish to speak at the same time, the President shall name one to speak.

6. Before any vote on any legislation, the President of Council shall announce that any citizen shall be entitled to speak. Any citizen desiring to speak to any legislation will be limited to two (2) minutes. Additional time may be allotted at the discretion of the President of Council.
7. All principal motions will be decided by a Yes or No vote. The roll call of the council will be called alphabetically, rotating each member to vote first, and each member may answer Yes, No, Pass or Abstain when his/her name is called. A councilman may choose to pass on the first call for his/her vote, however, on the second call for his/her vote, he/she must either vote or abstain and if he/she refuses to vote, his/her refusal will be considered a negative vote. The Council member who will abstain from voting will be considered as not having voted at all. Once a Council member has answered a roll call for a vote and had indicated his vote, such Council member shall not be permitted to thereafter change his vote.
8. No motion shall be debated until the same shall be seconded.
9. Any member may require that any principal motion be reduced to writing and handed to the Clerk and read by the Clerk before it can be dated.
10. When a question is under debate, no motion shall be received except to adjourn, to lay on the table the previous questions, to postpone indefinitely, to postpone to a certain time, to commit, to amend, which motion shall have precedence in the order in which they stand arranged.
11. When a motion has been made and carried in the affirmative or negative, it shall be in order for any member of the prevailing side to move for reconsideration thereof, provided that such motion be made no later than the next meeting after such motion is had.
12. When a point of order is raised, the member against who it is raised shall retain the floor until the President has announced a decision. The decision of the President may be appealed to the Council in which case it shall be decided at once without debate by roll call those wishing to overrule the chair shall vote NO and those wishing to sustain the chair shall vote YES.
13. All matters referred to a committee by the President of Council at any meeting shall be reported to Council at the next regular meeting, unless otherwise specifically directed.
14. Unless otherwise provided in the rules of council, suspension of any rule of Council shall require a three-fourths vote of all members elected to Council.

15. Where rules of Council, ordinances of the City of Fremont, or statutes of the State of Ohio do not apply, the newest edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall be the guide.
16. The Law Director shall normally be requested to draft writings:
 - A. By motion passed by Council during the regular meeting.
 - B. By Council as a whole at a Committee meeting.
 - C. By written request signed by a member of Council
17. An executive session by Council or a committee may be held at a regular or special meeting for any of the reasons enumerated in Subsection 121.22 (G) (1) through (6) Ohio Revised Code. Such meetings shall be closed to the public, but the journal shall disclose generally the topic that was discussed. A resolution, rule, or formal action of any kind shall *not* be finally voted upon at any executive session.
18. The reading of the minutes of the previous meeting shall be suspended and approved as received, unless corrections are made, or reading of the minutes is requested by a majority vote of Council.
19. All persons who choose to independently record Council proceedings through video and/or audio devices must do so using equipment that is silent, unobtrusive, self-contained and self-powered. Additionally, for security reasons, all recording devices shall be monitored by an attendant at all times.
20. During meetings of Council, all electronic devices (cell phones, I-pads, and other such equipment) shall be set to "vibrate" or turned to the "off" position if no vibrate setting is available.
21. During the public comment period, persons who wish to address Council are granted the privilege of the floor for a three (3)-minute period. At the discretion of the President of Council or other presiding person, circumstances may dictate a longer or shorter period of time. If any member of the public requires more than three minutes to address Council, a request in writing, must be submitted to the Clerk of Council by 4 p.m. on the Monday before a council meeting, to be considered for placement on the agenda for that meeting.
22. All remarks shall be addressed to Council as a body and not to any one member.

23. No disruptive behavior or violations of the General Rules of Council will be tolerated. The President of Council or other presiding person shall have the discretion to order the cessation of any disruptive behavior or of rules being violated. The President of Council or other presiding person shall have the discretion to order the removal of persons who continue to disrupt meetings and/or violate the rules of conduct. Re-admission to the current meeting will be at the discretion of the President of Council or other person presiding. Signs of any design are not allowed in council chambers during the course of Council meetings. Prohibited signs may include business, religious and political signs endorsing and/or promoting candidates or issues. The President of Council or other presiding person shall have the discretion to order the removal of such signs.

CERTIFICATE

I, Elaine J. Huntley, Clerk of Council of the City of Fremont, Ohio, do hereby certify that the foregoing rules were duly adopted by the Council of the City of Fremont, Ohio, at its regularly scheduled meeting the 16th day of August, 2012.

9-4-12
Date

Elaine J. Huntley
Clerk of Council