

THE CITY OF FREMONT, OHIO

Journal of Council

February 7, 2019

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. President Hafford called the meeting to order. The following members answered roll call: Liebold, Knisely, Smith, Zilch, Ruiz, and Otte. Councilman Sleet was absent. The minutes were approved from the January 17th meeting.

Before the readings, President Hafford introduced Kirk Hess the owner of Hess Martial Arts. Mr. Hess wanted to share with council that his intentions are to start a new class at his establishments specifically designed as a women's self-defense program. He announced that the first class will be held March 8th at 5:30 p.m. The class will be free for the month of March and after than a \$5.00 fee will be charged.

Third reading of an ordinance amending ordinance 86-2429 by expansion of Community Reinvestment Area ("CRA") No. 2 for the City of Fremont, pursuant to Revised Code Section 3735.65 ET Seq., making necessary findings, and declaring an emergency. Jeff Dornbusch, interim treasurer for the Fremont City School district, along with several members of the school board discussed the real estate taxes and the effect that the ordinance would have on income for the schools. Shantel Laird, Board President, Tom Price-board member, as well as Cajon Keeton, assistant interim treasurer passed out literature that showed the effect of House Bill 920 in hopes that the council would consider before passing this ordinance. Bob Gross explained why the city believed that the CRA would benefit the community to attract people and manufacturing to Fremont. Mr. Gross stated that this CRA is necessary for significant development. Mr. Grahl commented on the handout that was distributed by Fremont City Schools. He believes the CRA will not result in tax revenue loss but in revenue deferment. The income tax base would be fall into place if new jobs come into the city and school tax would receive revenue from increased school taxes. Mr. Grahl believes that the CRA will prompt economic development. Mr. Liebold suggested a post 94 CRA would give us a greater leverage and a great comprise. Mayor Sanchez commented on the ordinance stating that he respects the city and the school boards partnership, but he believes that the CRA would benefit the city of Fremont and that developing the city and its economic growth was his primary duty as Mayor. He stated that this CRA has been a 2 year research on economic development growth. Sandusky County Auditor, Jerri Miller, made a comment that stated that she had spoken to both Paul Grahl and Bob Gross and voiced her concerns of disapproval from the county's point of view and that the county cannot touch the real estate for 15 years. On a motion to table the ordinance for 30 days by Mr. Liebold and seconded by Mrs. Ruiz, motion failed 5 no votes to 1 yea vote. On a motion to adopt by Knisely and seconded by Ruiz, motion carried 5 yea votes to 1 no vote. Ord. 2019-3942

Second reading of an ordinance authorizing fund transfers in the amount of \$15,939,861.00 for Fiscal Year 2019, for the City of Fremont, State of Ohio and declaring an emergency.

First reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 331 Operation Generally Code Section 331.37 Driving upon Sidewalks, Street Lawns, or Curbs for the City of Fremont, and declaring an emergency. Mr. Frost stated that this ordinance is to update the ordinance so that authorized vehicles are not cited. On a motion to suspend Rule 4 by Knisely and seconded by Liebold, motion carried 6 yea votes. On a motion to adopt by Knisely and seconded by Smith, motion carried 6 yea votes. Ord. 2019-3943

First reading of an ordinance amending appropriations within Enforcement & Education Fund 234, DOJ Equitable Sharing Fund 254 and Capital Improvement Fund 410, and declaring an emergency. Mr. Grahl stated that funds can be used for cost for education or expenses. He also stated that laptops in the police cruisers needed to be updated and an allowable expense. He stated that the evidence and records clerk area at the police station are allowable expenses. The Capital Improvement Fund adjustment will improve the infrastructure project on Garrison Street. And to get the engineering firm under contract. Mr. Grahl asked council to suspend rule 4. On a motion to suspend Rule 4 by Knisely and seconded by Liebold, motion carried 6 yea votes. On a motion to adopt by Knisely and seconded by Liebold, motion carried 6 yea votes. Ord. 2019-3944

First reading of a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a joint cooperating agreement with Sandusky County, City of Clyde, and the City of Bellevue in applying for the Community Development Housing Impact and Preservation ("CHIP") Grant for the 2019 funding cycle and declaring an emergency. Mr. Frost stated that CHIP grants come available from the State of Ohio and is used to help low and moderate income families to make improvement on homes. On a motion to suspend Rule 4 by Ruiz and seconded by Knisely, motion carried 6 yea votes. On a motion to adopt by Ruiz and seconded by Knisely, motion carried 6 yea votes. Res. 2019-2070

Committee Reports

Community Partnership Committee - Chairman Knisely presented Dr. Ron Schumacher of Terra Community College. He stated that his number 1 job when he took over the college was to stabilize the college. He stated that there has been a lot of change. Dr. Schumacher stated that there is a new Food Service provider that is assisting them with the Neely Center. He spoke on the Vanguard agreement that is a very exciting partnership coming soon. The resident halls are opened up and the college is doing everything they can do to get the occupancy up. Dr. Schumacher stated the college will continue on building on community partnership.

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Laws, Rules, and Ordinance Committee – Chairman Zilch nothing to report.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Chairman Smith nothing to report.

Finance and Labor Committee – Chairman Liebold nothing to report.

Utility and Traffic Committee - Chairman Otte nothing to report.

Citizen Service Committee – Chairman Ruiz nothing to report.

Executive Director of Downtown Fremont Kristie Bilger – Kristie distributed the Sandusky County Visitor Guide to the council and to make them aware of information that is available to the community. She also spoke of the grand opening of the two new units at Pro Medica with an estimated 11 million dollars spent. Ms. Bilger recommends everyone to go and check out the new facilities.

Department Heads/Elected Officials

Mr. Frost nothing to report.

Chief Bliss relayed a carbon monoxide incident that happened at his home

Mayor Sanchez complimented the Sandusky Co. Visitors Bureau on the wonderful layout of their guide. He did make a comment on the picture on the cover and stated that the city is trying to bring adventure to the river with kayaking and paddle boating.

Mr. Melle announced that the 8th grade middle school girl's basketball team will be playing in the championship and have only lost 1 game in 2 years. He encouraged everyone to go and support them. He also stated that he had the pleasure of touring the Surepath facility on June Street. He spoke with the residence and was very impressed with the residence and facilitators. Mr. Melle also stated although the vote on the CRA may not have gone how the Fremont Schools wanted it to go, it was nice to see government in action and the spirited discussions on both sides.

Mrs. Elder echoed the sentiments of Mr. Melle concerning governments in action. Her concern about the CRA is that we do not have adequate building codes. She suggested that the city takes a hard look at designing a building code. Mayor Sanchez stated that Erica Williams has been move to full time Zoning Inspector and the city will be interviewing for a code inspector.

Mr. Grahl stated that we should have a county wide building code. He also stated that the 8th graders from St. Joe is also in a championships

Council Comments

Mr. Zilch stated that the Daughters of Civil War are interested in doing a Memorial Day at the Whittlesey cemetery. He also commended the city on the great job they did with the first big snow removal.

Mrs. Ruiz wanted everyone to stay dry and have a good weekend.

Mr. Knisely wanted everyone to continue to get along and keep shopping and enjoy Fremont, Ohio. He wanted everyone to be safe and sound this weekend.

Mr. Otte addressed the Sandusky County Auditor about the omission of the Dog Park in the Visitors Guide. He addressed the representatives of Fremont City Schools and stated that the city supported the schools levies for the new schools; trust the city to do the right thing with the CRA.

Mr. Smith attending the NAACP MLK breakfast and it was a great event. He encouraged the community to attend the Hayes Presidential festivities that were coming up and thanked the schools for being at the meeting today. He stated he remains committed to working together with Fremont City Schools.

Mr. Liebold stated he was in favor of the CRA but thinks the city lost some leverage and he was thankful that everyone came together and had some good discussion. He stated that the Pro Medica open house was a great event. Mr. Liebold stated that an opportunity may be in place if the city and county look into the number of Bald Eagles that are located in our community. With the anticipated flow of interest on the river, he suggests that we look into it. He also stated that Mr. Grahl was named District Coach of the Year two weeks ago.

Mrs. Hafford thanked Mayor Sanchez and his staff for a job well down for our city. She also stated that she was so touched when the Pontifex opened their doors during the cold spell.

Public Comments

Jay Gamesfelder of Blue Banks publishing stated that they did the living history festival at the fairgrounds this weekend and suggests that the city take a look at hosting a History Festival perhaps at River Cliff facilities. He was happy about the potential activities on the river.

On a motion to adjourn by Mr. Liebold, seconded by Mr. Smith seconded, motion carried 6 yes votes.
Meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.

Clerk of Council

Council President