

THE CITY OF FREMONT, OHIO

Journal of Council

September 5, 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, Barbour, Smith, Otte, Zilch, and Ruiz. Councilman Sleek was absent. The minutes from August 15th were approved.

Before the regular readings of council, Mayor Sanchez swore in a new police officer Louis Guardiola and Chief Bliss presented him his badge. Also, Councilman Ruiz introduced Mrs. Christine Zess from the U.S. Department of Commerce pertaining to the 2020 Census. Mrs. Zess stressed that everyone should be counted once and counted in the right place. She stressed the importance of how the census contributes to the states receiving federal dollars.

Third reading of an ordinance adopting the recommendation of the Planning Commission to re-zone inlot parcel# 34-60-00-0082-00 in the City of Fremont from "R-1" – Single Family Residential to "R-3" Multi-Family Residential District. Mr. Hirt state that in June 2002 a similar ordinance was passed on his June Street apartment with no issues. Mr. Hasselbach stated that adjacent zone R-3 was on June Street. He once again protested the passing of the zoning change. A discussion was held amongst council and the public. Mr. Liebold addressed the allegation from Mr. Hirt that he was not allowed to vote on the ordinance. He stated that he and Mr. Melle addressed the allegation with the State and he was not in violation of anything ethical. On a motion to adopt by Otte and seconded by Sleek, motion carried 5 yea votes to 2 no votes. Ord. 2019-3975

Third reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 1505 Public Nuisances Code Sections 1505.02 Summary Abatement and 1505.04 Noncompliance; Abatement by Fire Chief; Sale of Materials for the City of Fremont, and declaring an emergency. Assistant Chief Schneider once again explained that they are bringing the ordinance up to standards by adding in the mechanic lien. On a motion to adopt by Liebold and seconded by Otte, motion carried 7 yea votes. Ord. 2019-3976

First reading of an ordinance authorizing the Mayor to accept a donation of two sections of land from the Sandusky County Fairgrounds, and declaring an emergency. Mr. Frost explained that two sections of land is owned by the fairgrounds and the city has their light poles on the land. The fairground graciously donated it to the city. Mr. Frost stated this will help with the Rawson Street Project. On a motion to suspend rule for by Ruiz, seconded by Sleek, motion carried 7 yea votes. On a motion to adopt by Ruiz and seconded by Smith, motion carried 7 yea votes. Ord. 2019-3977

First reading of an ordinance amending appropriations within General Fund 101 and Municipal Income Tax Fund 201, and declaring an emergency. Mr. Grahl addressed the council concerning the ordinance and the IT Department converting over from Windows 7 to Windows 10. He asked that rule 4 be suspended. On a motion to suspend rule for by Smith, seconded by Liebold, motion carried 7 yea votes. On a motion to adopt by Liebold and seconded by Barbour, motion carried 7 yea votes. Ord. 2019-3978

Committee Reports

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 stated that the finance reports were received from the auditor and he asked about fines and fortitude were up in the Municipal Court and he wonder what the reasoning was. Mr. Grahl stated he could only say it was the new judge, Brudzinski behind the bench. Mr. Liebold also stated that Tuesday, December 3rd at 5 p.m. for the introduction of the new budget.

Community Partnership Committee – Chairman Barbour nothing to report.

Utilities and Traffic Committee – Chairman Otte spoke about Hogan's Alley and the problems that residents are having concerning about speeding through there. He also addressed concerns at Park and Birchard.

Citizen Service Committee – Chairman Ruiz nothing to report.

Economic Development Committee – Chairman Sleek stated that Kroger on the Eastside will be officially closed. November 6th is slated for the grand opening of the new Kroger.

Executive Director of Downtown Fremont Kristie stated that the auto show will be from 5 – 8 p.m. in Downtown Fremont. Road Closure will begin at 3 p.m. There will also me a Century 21 mini derby race. On Saturday the Farmers Market and the Barbeque and Sauce competition begins at 9 a.m. Music, Vendors, and a lot of things going on this Friday and Saturday. On September 21st the Street Play Farmers Market will be held from 9 am. to 1p.m.

Department Heads/Elected Officials

Mr. Frost stated with the work being done on Garrison Street, please use caution in that area. He stated that the project is ahead of schedule. He stated that he will instruct officers to ticket person parking across sidewalks. He hopes everyone enjoys the events of this weekend.

Chief Bliss thanked the Mayor and City Council for welcoming Louis Guardiola as the city's newest officer. Assistant Chief Schneider also congratulated Mr. Guardiola on his appointment.

Mrs. Williams nothing to report.

Journal of Council

Mayor Sanchez stated there are new lights on the bridge and banners representing the community – Fremont Ross, Bishop Hoffman Central Catholic, City of Fremont Logo, and The Ohio Magazine Best Home Town Logo.

Mr. Melle nothing to report tonight.

Mrs. Elder thanked Mrs. Ruiz for bringing in the representative from the census.

Mr. Grahl echoed the sentiments of everyone concerning Mr. Guardiola. He also stated that effective July 1st the gas tax was increased. That will not be reflected on the financial report; it has not been received yet and should be here in September.

Mr. Scott Miller, County Commissioner stated he attended a ceremony at the School of Hope for Beth Sidell. He congratulated Officer Guardiola and congratulated the city of receiving the Best Home Town. He also appreciated Mrs. Zess for speaking on the census. Looking forward to the Downtown Fremont Events.

Council Comments

Mrs. Ruiz appreciated the fact that everyone liked the census presentation. She congratulated Officer Guardiola. She stated that she attended a meeting where the guest speakers were the football coaches from Bishop Hoffman, Mr. Spicer, and Fremont Ross, Mr. Long. Mr. Long stated that the team was struggling with numbers due to the low numbers in the school population. She hoped that with the new schools being built the hope is that more students will come back to the city. She also made a statement about the CRA in Fremont and new housings. She encourages the citizens to continue to shop at Kroger and keep growth and changes for the city.

Mr. Otte stated that he enjoyed the county fair. He enjoyed the Craft Beer tasting at the Hayes Center. The Historical Society announced that October 5th will be the Brews on the Bricks on Lincoln Street. He stated that the Humane Society is doing a fundraiser this weekend and Mr. Wood has tickets available. He congratulated Mr. Guardiola. He congratulated Kroger for bringing in the new building and will be hiring soon.

Mr. Smith also stated that he attended the County Fair and it was a huge success. He spoke about the Labor Day parade and thanked the city for getting that together. Although he is sad to see the Eastside Kroger leave, he wishes the new Kroger all the success and will continue to support. Mr. Smith wished Timmy a Happy upcoming 50th birthday and 31 years at Frisch's Big Boy. He ended with stating it's essential that everyone participate in the census and very happy that he is serving the City of Fremont.

Mr. Barbour congratulations to officer Guardiola. He stated that it is a great privilege to be able to witness his swearing in. He also attended the event at the Hayes Center. Mr. Barbour ended by acknowledging the Hometown Award that we received and paraphrasing a statement from his cousin who was visiting for the weekend – "If you've been to Fremont, why wouldn't you want to live in Fremont?"

Mr. Sleek congratulated Officer Guardiola and thanked Christine Zess for her presentation on the census. He spoke of the changes that are happening around Fremont and all the positive things happening in our city. Mr. Liebold stated that September 18th will be the Cabbage Roll Dinners beginning at 5 p.m. He stated that he reached Representative Reinke to see if the city can receive a portion of the Issue Ohio Fund to use for some green infrastructure projects.

Mr. Zilch also mentioned the cabbage roll dinners and that the school will be coming down soon. He also congratulated Mr. Guardiola.

Mr. Gross stated that a representative from the Health Department will be at the next council meeting for a presentation on the upcoming renewal levy. He stated that prior to the announcement of the closing of the Eastside Kroger, he and Mayor Sanchez had been reaching out to the company to keep the building occupied. However, the company made the decision to close. They have been reaching out to other companies to see if perhaps another grocery or business would be interested in the building. Kroger has a lease on that building and plans to honor that 4 year lease.

Mrs. Hafford recognized and thanked Dan Henning for the great job he does in video taping the council meeting and events throughout our city.

Public Comments

Andy Roberts asked about the ordinance which stated that the Safety Service Director needed to live within the city limits. Several people on council and the administration spoke on this matter.

On a motion to adjourn by Mr. Liebold, seconded by Mr. Barbour seconded, motion carried 7 yes votes. Meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.