

THE CITY OF FREMONT, OHIO

Journal of Council

September 19, 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 September 5th were approved with the correction of councilman Sleek being added to members in attendance.

Before the regular readings of council, Mayor Sanchez read a proclamation claiming September to be Prostate Cancer Awareness Month in the City of Fremont. He then introduced Tony Sauseda who spoke about the 3rd Annual Bryan Lehmann Fallen Rider Memorial Poker Run. The group donated \$1500 to the Alpha Project to assist in veterans with adopting a pet in memory of Chastidy Babb; and made a second donation of \$1,500 to the Sandusky County Dog Park in memory of Kevin Silva.

Mr. Gross introduced Bethany Brown from the Sandusky County Health Department that gave council a list of the programs and responsibilities that the Health Department provides. She presented this information asking for support for their .50 renewal levy that is on the ballot in November. She stated that only 19% of the budget is provided by the levy. For a \$100,000 home the levy would be about \$13.00 a month. Ms. Brown explained that if the levy does not pass each city will be assessed an amount to provide services to the county. Mr. Gross asked that the resolution goes 3 readings so the word could continue to reach the public.

First reading of an ordinance waiving the requirement for the Safety Service Director to become a resident of the city within six months after appointment pursuant to revised code sections 735.01 and 737.01 and declaring an emergency. Mr. Melle explained that he originally thought the city had permanently waived the requirement that the Safety Service Director had to live in the city. However upon further review, the waiver was specifically for former Safety Service Director, Bob Ward. He explained that council could amend the ordinance in several different ways. Mr. Liebold made a motion to amend the ordinance to include a date of June 1, 2020 that would remove the emergency clause. After much discussion amongst the council, the amendment was not seconded. On a motion to amend the ordinance to include Ken Frost name behind Safety Service Director in the ordinance by Barbour, seconded by Zilch, motion carried 6 yea votes. On a motion to suspend Rule #4 by Smith and seconded by Ruiz, motion carried 6 yea votes. Mr. Melle stated that ordinance passed as a super majority and is not subject to referendum. Mr. Roberts stated that the Safety Service Director is one of the highest paid positions and the law requires that he lives in the city and he is not in favor of changing the law. Bishop Bowling made a statement about the emergency clause phrase being added to this ordinance and to others. He feels that adding “declaring an emergency” do not allow the people to referend options. On a motion to adopt by Ruiz and seconded by Otte, motion carried 5 yea votes to 1 no vote. Ord. 2019-3979

First reading of an ordinance amending appropriations within General Fund 101, Public Recreation Fund 211, Street Maintenance Fund 222, Water Operating Fund 510, Sewer Operating Fund 570 and Recreation Trust Fund 702, and declaring an emergency. Mr. Grahl walked through a letter that he provided to council with additional information on the appropriations. Mr. Grahl answered a question from the public concerning the Recreation Trust Fund. On a motion to suspend rule #4 by Ruiz, seconded by Smith, motion carried 6 yea votes. On a motion to adopt by Liebold and seconded by Barbour, motion carried 6 yea votes. Ord. 2019-3980

First reading of a resolution by the Fremont City Council endorsing and supporting passage for the Sandusky County Combined General Health District (Public Health Department) (“Health District”) Renewal Levy and declaring an emergency. Mr. Otte moved to suspend rule #4, the motion was not seconded.

First reading of a resolution by the Fremont City Council supporting the Second American Presidents Film & Literary Festival October 4th – October 6th, 2019 and declaring an emergency. On a motion to suspend rule #4 by Smith, seconded by Ruiz, motion carried 6 yea votes. On a motion to adopt by Liebold and seconded by Smith, motion carried 6 yea votes. Res. 2019-2088

Committee Reports

Laws, Rules, and Ordinance Committee – Chairman Zilch stated the Board of Zoning Appeals will have openings available and will have more information at the next meeting.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Chairman Smith introduced Cody Bischoff who commented on the improvements of the gym floors along with the Trunk or Treats scheduled for October 26th from 2 – 4 p.m.

Finance and Labor Committee – Chairman Liebold nothing to report.

Community Partnership Committee – Chairman Barbour nothing to report.

Utilities and Traffic Committee – Chairman Otte reminded citizens that Birchard Ave. is now a two way street.

Citizen Service Committee – Chairman Ruiz commented on the Police Department and the number of arrest that were made up to day.

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Department Heads/Elected Officials

Mr. Frost commented on the upcoming Street Play Farmers Market. He commented on the Railroad Crossing closing next week. Mr. Frost commented on a house on Tiffin Street and that the house has been since removed. He stated that the Garrison Street is ahead of schedule. He stated that the Water Tower is also being worked on outside and in.

Chief Bliss nothing to report.

Chief Foos complimented Chief Bliss on his presentation at a luncheon.

Mayor Sanchez attended the new senior center. He thanked Tony Saucedo for his contribution to the city.

Mr. Melle stated how much he enjoyed the pavement at the reservoir.

Mrs. Elder stated the weekend of October 4th through the 6th will be filled with exciting things to do...a farmers market, Presidential Film & Literary Festival and also the Birchard Historical Brews on the Bricks.

Mr. Grahl stated thanked the public who attended the Cabbage Roll Dinners.

Council Comments

Mr. Zilch reminded the public to spade and neuter your pets.

Mrs. Ruiz reported from January 1st until now there were 1,612 criminal arrest and 938 traffic arrest.

Mr. Otte thanked the group for the money that was donated to the dog park. He encouraged everyone to vote for the health levy and reminded everyone about the Brews on the Bricks open to everyone. Mr. Otte spoke about a dedication of a Historic Barn and perhaps doing a tour.

Mr. Smith stated he enjoyed the farmers market. He is looking forward to the Presidents Film & Literary Festival. He remarked on Easter Seals and the fantastic job that they are doing. Mr. Smith also relayed a story of a cashier named Will who was willing to help him out when he was short on funds at the register. Nice to know there are still good and decent people around. Please support the Sandusky Health Levy and thanked the Saucedo's for their donation. He ended with stating he attended a 911 ceremony in Gibsonburg that was a very nice event in remembrance of the 18th anniversary of that fateful day.

Mr. Barbour stated that Family Feast will be held Sunday, September 29th at ProMedica. There will be door prizes, basket raffles, and the Teddy Bear Hospital to bring in stuffed animals to get fixed up. He stated that there is a Prostate Cancer Support Group that operates out of the hospital and available to anyone interested.

Mr. Liebold reference the Bi-Centennial Barn dedication September 24th at 3:00 p.m. He remarked that those who are effected by the Atlas closing, he hopes that they are able to find employment soon and hopes that it is not a sign of our economy. He ended by saying the Mulberry Street Project referendum was approved by the Ohio Supreme Court and will be placed on the ballot.

Public Comments

Gene Orendorff commented paving of the reservoir and also on the Cruise In. He stated what happened at tonight's council meeting should not be political and left it at that.

Bishop Andy Roberts thanked council for listening to his concerns and acting on them whether we agree or not, the issue was addressed.

Bishop Bowling commented that his concern was not political today. He stated that on October 6th at the Pontifex there will be a Racial Forum from 5 to 7 p.m. The speaker will be Maedell Leake. He invited the public to attend.

On a motion to adjourn by Mr. Liebold, seconded by Mr. Barbour, motion carried 6 yes votes.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:25 p.m.