

THE CITY OF FREMONT, OHIO
Journal of Council
April 21, 2016

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 Pro Tem Evangelina Ruiz called the meeting to order.

The following members answered roll call: Zilch, Ruiz, Stout, Taylor, Otte, and Knisely. Councilman Koebel was absent. The minutes for council meeting held on April 7th were approved.

Second reading of a resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into a grant agreement with the OSS Solid Waste Management District, and declaring an emergency.

First reading of an ordinance amending appropriations within Street Maintenance Fund 222, and declaring an emergency. Mr. Grahl stated that this was a budget adjustment for repairs at the traffic light at Shawn Drive and St. Rt. 53. He explained that it was an insurance claim and if they budget could be adjusted they could get the repairs paid for. He asked that council suspend rule #4 so the bill could be paid. On motion to suspend Rule 4 by Mr. Knisely and seconded by Mrs. Stout. Motion carried 6 yeas votes. On motion to adopt by Mr. Knisely and seconded by Mrs. Stout. Motion carried 6 yeas votes. (Ord. 2016-3808)

Committee Reports

Park and Recreation Committee – Mr. Knisely reported for Mr. Koebel. He reported that spring sports were up and running. There is a need for soccer coaches, there are currently 21 teams registered. He reported that there will a Blood Drive to be held on May 7th at the Rec. Center and encouraged those who could to participate.

Government and Economic Development Committee - Chairman Stout said that she would defer to Kristy Bilger to discuss local events coming up.

Utilities and Traffic Committee – Chairman Taylor reported that a committee meeting was held before the regular council meeting. Mr. Myers discussed repaving of the downtown area and the hopes that it will all be done before the Centennial Celebration at the end of May.

Community Partnership Committee - Chairman Knisely nothing to report this evening. He stated that the superintendent of Vanguard Mr. Greg Edinger will address the council sometime in June.

Finance and Labor Committee – Chairman Otte nothing to report at this time.

Laws, Rules, and Ordinances Committee - Chairman Zilch stated that there was a committee meeting held before the regular council meeting. The committee meeting consisted of a presentation from Chuck Cantrell concerning licensing lawn care and Mr. Myers discussed the need to update the taxi service ordinance.

Citizen Service Committee - Chairman Ruiz reported that Fremont Block Watch next meeting will be May 9th at 7:00 p.m. The location will be announced at the next council meeting. Chairman Ruiz reported that the speaker will be Stephanie Miller. She is with the Division of Forestry with the State of Ohio. She will be speaking on tree relationship to crime prevention. She also announced that this year the Dorothy L. Kerns Cancer Center has been chosen as this year's location for the Arbor Day Tree Planting by the Beautification Committee. The ceremony will be held April 28th at 4:00 p.m.

Elected Officials

Mayor Sanchez stated that he had received the Tree City USA award yesterday. He said that the City of Fremont has received the award for 31 consecutive years. He thanked the Parks Department and the Tree and Beautification Committee for all the hard work that they do. He thanked Downtown Fremont for all the work they were doing too. He encouraged the residents to continue to be involved with Block Watch.

Mr. Melle nothing to report.

Mrs. Elder reported that now that Tax Day is over, she encouraged parents to help students understand the process. She found a site on the internet at the Ohio Department of Taxation Website called the Student Tax Education Program. She encouraged those who wanted to help youth understand to use the resources on the site.

Mr. Grahl stated that council should be in receipt of the monthly financial report. It is also available on the Auditors page on the City's website. He stated that he is disappointed he will not be at the next council meeting at the Presidential Center, but he has a track meet.

Department Heads

Chief Bliss nothing this evening.

Dean Schneider reported that the city will start its annual spring hydrant flushing. The flushing will begin on Monday, April 25th and commence until done. He reported there may be some rusty water complaints but it will be taken care of.

Mr. Myers stated that Saturday, May 7th is the City's Auction.

Kristy Bilger Downtown Fremont Executive Director 315 Garrison St. Kristy wanted to thank the Mayor for the special meeting held earlier to explain the downtown expectations. She said it would be a very nice setting and give people more parking and better accessibility to businesses. Downtown Business is planning on redoing all the planters downtown and is working with the Tree and Beautification Committee. The Economic Restructuring Committee is working on grants and community reinvestment areas. She said that things are moving in downtown and wanted to encourage everyone to get involved to helping make the area beautiful.

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Council Comments

Mr. Zilch wanted to say thank you to the Street Department for getting the light up on State Street. He encouraged everyone to please be safe, with the weather changing there are a lot more youth and young people out and about. Mr. Otte he read a Facebook post that commended the help from one of the citizens of Fremont thanking officers Bob Schultz for helping her get boxes into her car.

Mr. Knisely wanted to remind the citizens of the Blood Drive on May 7th from 9 to 2 p.m. He encourages everyone to attend the next meeting on the porch of the Presidential Center. He encourages everyone to support the downtown and local businesses.

Mr. Taylor thanked the Mayor and Mr. Myers for the earlier meeting and acknowledged the Boy Scout troop in the audience.

Mrs. Stout thanked the city workers for their continued work in the alleys and filling the potholes. She also thanked the Mayor, Ms. Bilger, and Bob Gross for the including her in the plans with Economic Development. She is very pleased to be working with the group.

Mrs. Ruiz is really looking forward to the change in Downtown Fremont. She stated that she planted a tree at her home.

Mr. Otte acknowledged the Boy Scout Troup who was present in the audience. The Troop 302 out of Hayes Memorial Methodist Church. He thanked them for their attendance.

On motion to adjourn by Mr. Taylor, seconded by Mr. Knisely, motion carried 6 yes votes. Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Clerk of Council

Council President Pro Tem