

THE CITY OF FREMONT, OHIO
Journal of Council
February 2, 2020

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: Weiss, Smith, Liebold, Elder, Ruiz, and Sleek. Councilman Otte was absent.

Before the regular meeting, Mr. Frost introduced Joe from ABM Solutions who gave a brief update of the improvements the city has obtained through our energy project. He stated they were about 6 water meter for completion of that project. The energy conservation that the city has seen such as lighting upgrade, mechanical upgrades and more. He stated that the bridge lights project was spearheaded by Mayor Sanchez and Ken Frost and truly gives a boost to the look of downtown. He showed pictures of building upgrades that helped the budget for the city by replacing boilers, cooling equipment, lighting etc. Joe showed the results of the savings that the city has achieved so far. He stated that the city should see an excess of savings of \$17,000. He will return in a year with another update. Mr. Frost thanked ABM for their services and stated it and what a great job this project has been.

The Minutes for January 16th were approved. Councilman Elder made a motion to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Ohio Revised Code 121.22(G)(1) to consider the dismissal of a public employee and Ohio Revised Code 121.22(G)(3) to consider pending or imminent court action with no Council business to transpire thereafter. Councilwomen Ruiz seconded, motion carried 6 yea votes.

Second reading of an ordinance authorizing the Mayor and Safety Service Director to enter into an appointment contract with the American Federation of State and Municipal Employees (AFSME) representing all full times employees in the Parks Department, Street Department, Water Treatment Plant, Water Pollution Control Center, Water and Sewer Maintenance Department, Engineering Department, and Water Service Technicians in the Utilities Billing Office and declaring an emergency. Mr. Frost requested that the council suspend rule 4. Liebold made a motion a motion to suspend rule 4, Elder seconded. Mr. Smith made a motion that he will be making a motion to abstain from the vote and questioned if we had enough votes to pass. Mr. Melle said that he could vote on the suspension and abstain from the vote. Motion carried 6 yea votes. On a motion to adopt by Liebold and seconded by Sleek, motion carried 5 yea votes to 1 abstain. Ord. 2020-4000

First reading an ordinance authorizing fund transfers in the amount of \$15,823,522.00 for fiscal year 2020, for the City of Fremont, State of Ohio and declaring an emergency. Mr. Grahl explained the transfers to council in a letter to council.

First reading of a resolution appointing a representative and alternate to serve on the Board of Directors of the Buckeye Ohio Risk Management Association. Mr. Grahl stated that the Executive Assistant to the Mayor and the Auditor as the alternate to the board, however since Mr. Gross has been appointed to the Economic Development Director. Mr. Frost will be the new primary person to the board of the Buckeye Ohio Risk Management Association.

First reading of an ordinance authorizing fund transfers in the amount of \$20,000.00, for the City of Fremont, State of Ohio, and declaring an emergency. Mr. Grahl stated that the next two pertains to the leak at the Recreation Department and the recommended repairs amount will be more. They would like to start as soon as possible to have the work done to save the new floor and asked that rule 4 be suspended. On a motion to suspend rule 4 by Ruiz, seconded by Weiss, motion carried 6 yea votes. On a motion to adopt by Ruiz and seconded by Smith, motion carried 6 yea votes. Ord. 2020-4001

First reading of an ordinance amending appropriations within Municipal Income Tax Fund 201 and Public Recreation Fund 211, and declaring an emergency. On a motion to suspend rule 4 by Liebold, seconded by Ruiz, motion carried 6 yea votes. On a motion to adopt by Ruiz and seconded by Liebold, motion carried 6 yea votes. Ord. 2020-4002

First reading of an ordinance amending the rules and regulations for the Civil Service Commission of the City of Fremont, and declaring an emergency. Mr. Frost asked that the council suspend rule 4 so the city can remain in compliance. On a motion to suspend rule 4 by Ruiz, seconded by Elder, motion carried 6 yea votes. On a motion to adopt by Ruiz and seconded by Sleek, motion carried 6 yea votes. Ord. 2020-4003

First reading of an ordinance to authorize the expenditure and direct the Safety Service Director to enter into a contract with Buckeye Excavating & Construction, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$309,450.00 for the 2020 West State Street Waterline Replacement, and declaring an emergency. Mr. Frost stated that the project runs from Dickinson St. to the railroad tracks at Potter Village On a motion to suspend rule 4 by Ruiz, seconded by Elder, motion carried 6 yea votes. On a motion to adopt by Elder and seconded by Weiss, motion carried 6 yea votes. Ord. 2020-4004

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First reading of an ordinance authorizing and directing the Safety Service Director pursuant to Revised Code §721.01 to advertise for bids, negotiate terms, and enter into a lease agreement for property not needed for a municipal purpose in Rodger Young Park, Fremont, Ohio of approximately 40 ft. by 70 ft. and declaring an emergency. Mr. Frost stated that American Towers is a company that makes cell phone towers that wants to put one up in Rodger Young Park by the sludge ponds. The property has to be advertised for bid first. On a motion to suspend rule 4 by Ruiz, seconded by Liebold, motion carried 6 yea votes. On a motion to adopt by Smith and seconded by Weiss, motion carried 6 yea votes. Ord. 2020-4005

Committee Reports

Laws, Rules, and Ordinance Committee – Chairman Elder stated that interviews were held for the Board of Zoning Appeals with 5 candidates. Mr. Elder made a motion to appoint Matthew Barbour to the board and Sonny Workman as the alternate, Mr. Liebold seconded. Motion carried 6 yea votes. Mr. Elder called for a Laws, Rules, and Ordinance Committee meeting at 6:30 p.m. on February 20th to reconsider the Fair Housing Ordinance that was brought to council before.

Finance and Labor Committee – Chairman Liebold nothing to report.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Chairman Smith nothing to report.

Citizen Service Committee – Chairman Ruiz met with Chief Bliss and the city is in good hands.

Community Partnership Committee – Chairman Weiss announced that the Sandusky County Visitors Bureau will be sharing information on March 19th at 7:00 p.m. She also announced that Terra Community College is offering a leadership workshop called Bridges out of Poverty. The cost is \$50 and will be held April 16th from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Economic Development Committee – Chairman Sleek stated that the storage building at the old K-Mart will be having its grand opening very soon.

Executive Director of Downtown Fremont Kristie Bilger – Kristie stated that Riley’s Closet will be closing after 17 years of business. Barbara and Joe Fisher will be truly missed. She stated that the Open House will be opening in April at 108 S. Front St. It is a gallery (formally known as Buckland Arts) that will be right beside the Uniform Shoppe. She mentioned that the Russell Real estate office opened up in the Brady Building in Suite 102. Kristie mentioned that Brian Woods will be partnering with the Sandusky County Fairgrounds and the VFW to host a fundraising activity for Jaws with Paws. She also passed around membership brochures to the council. She also passed out the Sandusky County Visitors Guide.

Department Heads/Elected Officials

Mr. Frost thanked council for passing ordinances tonight. He stated that there was a garage fire and that he was extremely impressed with the city’s fire department and their professionalism of handling the situation. Captain Conger nothing to report.

Chief Snyder reminded everyone about the Firehouse Challenge that will take place on the 29th at 6:00 p.m. at Angelina’s. The cost is \$25 per person.

Mayor Sanchez introduced our newest Department Head Juan Garza as the Superintendent of the Water Treatment Plant. Mr. Garza has been with the city for 16 years and holds a Class 3 State of Ohio license. Mr. Garza thanked those who had helped him achieve this position such as Steven Lamalie that mentored him for the past 8 years and allowed him to gain the knowledge to accept the position. He stated that the employees at the plant are truly the best. He encourages the public to come to the water plant and see what they do.

Mr. Melle nothing to report.

Mrs. Elder made a comment that the American Towers is one of the largest global investment trusts in the world. The fact that they want to put a tower here in Fremont is a pretty big deal.

Mr. Grahl congratulated Mr. Garza on his promotion. He stated that the year-end report is on the city’s website and went over a few items of the report.

Sandusky County Commissioner Scott Miller wished the new members on council success and said he enjoyed attending council.

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Council Comments

Mrs. Ruiz thanked Matt Barbour for continuing his public service to the city by being appointed to the Board of Zoning Appeals. She congratulated Russell Realty for opening their office downtown. She thanked Jim Weaver for giving her the position on council, she thanked Steve Lamalie for his years of service, and congratulated Juan Garza on his newly appointed Superintendent position.

Mr. Smith stated that he attended the NAACP MLK Breakfast and it was a very good and productive working breakfast. He congratulated the St. Joseph students who participated in the Right to Life event at the courthouse; he encouraged everyone to attend the presidential events at the Hayes Presidential Center during the upcoming President's Day. He also encouraged the public to check in on the elderly and neighbors with the weather we have been having lately. He welcomed Mr. Garza to his new position. He thanked Commissioner Miller for attending tonight meeting, and reminded citizens that the deadline for voter registration for the primary is February 18th. He ended by congratulating Matt Barbour and Sonny Workman to their appointments to the Board of Zoning Appeal.

Mrs. Weiss thanked the Police Department for their post on Facebook and reminded citizens to use extra caution with the weather we are having. She thanked the public for attending the meeting in the weather that we were experiencing, and ended by congratulating Mr. Garza in his new position.

Mr. Sleek congratulated Mr. Garza and thought it was nice of him to thank all the people who got him where he needed to be for his new position. He thanked ABM for all that they have done for the city. He echoed the sentiments of everyone concerning Mr. Barbour and Mr. Workman on their appointments to the ZBA.

Mr. Liebold thanked Mrs. Ruiz who was instrumental in getting Justice Michael Donnelly of the Supreme Court of Ohio to come to Fremont and speak at the Kiwanis luncheon at the Elks. He mentioned a Campfire fundraiser called Uncork the Fun which will be held March 21st.

Mr. Elder congratulated Mr. Garza on his appointment. He also congratulated Matt and Sonny and reiterated that there were really great applicant and it was a great experience going through the interview process and the committee working well together.

Public Comments

Pat McCollum 609 Wineberry Dr. Findlay Mr. McCollum is the Public Affairs Liaison for Robert Sprague, State of Ohio Treasure. He stated that he met with Auditor Grahl and Mayor Sanchez and just wanted to extend his services to the city in any way that he could help. He highlighted some of the programs that are available to the city and individuals such as Checkbook, Ohio Fund, Ohio Market Access Program, Stable accounts, and a host of many more. Please feel free to contact him if he can assist you.

Beth Tischler introduced herself and stated that she is running for Sandusky County Prosecutor. She encourages everyone to register for the primary and then vote on March 18th. She hopes to bring stability back to the Prosecutors office.

Scott Miller stated that he is up for re-election for the County Commissioners seat and would appreciate your support.

The council went into Executive Session.

The council came back from Executive Session

On a motion to adjourn by Mr. Elder, seconded by Mrs. Weiss, motion carried 6 yes votes.

Meeting was adjourned at 10:00 p.m.

Clerk of Council

Council President