

THE CITY OF FREMONT, OHIO
Journal of Council
February 20, 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: Liebold, Weiss, Smith, Otte, Elder, Ruiz, and Sleek.

The Minutes for February 6th were approved. Councilman Elder made a motion to add to the agenda an ordinance authorizing the Safety Service Director to execute on the behalf of the City of Fremont a settlement agreement with Lajti Properties, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$16,259.98 in connection with Common Please Case No. 18 CV 307, and declaring an emergency and seconded by Liebold. Motion carried 7 yea votes.

Second reading of 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. Angie Ruiz made a motion to suspend rule 4 then withdrew it.

Second reading of a resolution appointing a representative and alternate to serve on the Board of Directors of the Buckeye Ohio Risk Management Association.

First reading an ordinance authorizing the Safety Service Director to execute on the behalf of the City of Fremont a settlement agreement with Lajti Properties, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$16,259.98 in connection with Common Please Case No. 18 CV 307, and declaring an emergency. On a motion to suspend rule 4 by Liebold, seconded by Elder, motion carried 7 yea votes. On a motion to adopt by Smith and seconded by Liebold, motion carried 7 yea votes. Mr. Grahl explained the reasoning related to the settlement. The city over access the property and all parties have agreed to the settlement amount. Ord. 2020-4006

The council showed no objection to two liquor license transfers - one from Wel Rum corp. to Khushi Kaur LLC, and one from Mickey Mart Inc. to Danop LTD.

Committee Reports

Economic Development Committee – Chairman Sleek stated that are some really good things coming to Fremont.

Laws, Rules, and Ordinance Committee – Chairman Elder stated there was a very fruitful meeting pertaining to the Housing Bill that was presented to council at the end of last year. No decisions were made and he would like to revisit the ordinance.

Finance and Labor Committee – Chairman Liebold stated he received the report from the Auditor about the savings from the ABM project. Mr. Grahl elaborated on some of the savings from the presentation and compiled a quick worksheet compiled to do a quick analysis of the Heat & Power expenditures before and after the Energy Improvement Project with ABM. He averaged 5 years of annual expenditures from 2014 through 2018 then compared that average to the actuals from 2019.

Parks and Recreation Committee – Chairman Smith nothing to report.

Citizen Service Committee – Chairman Ruiz nothing to report.

Community Partnership Committee – Chairman Weiss nothing to report.

Utilities and Traffic Committee - Chairman Otte stated that there will be a Traffic/Safety meeting coming up this Tuesday. He also brought up the Facebook complaints of the traffic lights by Kroger's.

Executive Director of Downtown Fremont Kristie Bilger – Kristie mentioned the April 11th Easter Bunny Shop Hop and the Adult Easter Egg Hunt with tickets on sale March 9th for the hunt. She stated that the Cinco de Mayo preparations are under way for May 2nd. The Fishing and Outdoor Festival will be on May 16th.

Department Heads/Elected Officials

Mr. Frost stated that the street lights are out by Kroger and one of the electric companies is scheduled to go out for repair tomorrow.

Chief Bliss nothing to report.

Chief Foos nothing to report.

Mayor Sanchez asked Mr. Wood to update the council on the housing teardowns and codified ordinances. He mentioned that he, Mr. Gross, and Mrs. Ruiz went to Toledo and met with Senator Sherrod Brown and discussed housing at a roundtable discussion. He would like to revisit the development of housing problems of Fremont and continue to work on the Economic Development Plan.

Mr. Grahl nothing to report.

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Council Comments

Mr. Elder stated he visited the new Senior Center at the old Sanco building. He stated that Nami has a space in the center that is a wellness drop in center. The center is open Tuesday and Thursdays from 1 - 4 p.m.

Mr. Otte stated it was good to be back and that he was impressed with the ABM report. The Birchard Historical Society will be wrapping up with some new things happening in the neighborhood.

Mrs. Ruiz added on to what Mayor Sanchez said about the meeting with Senator Sherrod Brown. She stated that all cities have similar problems, but if we all work together we can help each other. She stated that TMACOG sent a letter encouraging that David Besse not be shut down, and with the help of other organizations David Besse will be staying open. There are 700 jobs at that site, and example of people working together to keep it open.

Mr. Smith stated he enjoyed the President Day at the Hayes Center. He agreed with the Mayor that we must work on the housing issues of the city and keep an open mind to projects coming to the city.

Mrs. Weiss thanked Mr. Barbour and the realtors coming out and the ABM report that was shared.

Mr. Sleek echoed the sentiments concerning the ABM report. He also complimented Mr. Woods and Chief Foos for helping to keep the city moving forward with the delaminated houses in the city.

Mr. Liebold asked administration if there were any Garrison Street updates. Mr. Frost stated that the weather has put a big damper on the project. Mayor Sanchez that he was hoping that the improvements would have been done before the weather hit and he apologized to the citizens about the delay. He asked for good thoughts and prayers as he takes the bar exam next week.

Mrs. Hafford read an article that was in the Fremont News Messenger concerning NAMI. It stated for residents struggling to deal with mental health challenges, NAMI has launched a new program to better help people find services and local providers and the program is called a Navigation Program.

Public Comments

Ed Ollom introduced himself and stated that he is running for State Representative on the Republican ballot. He asked that citizens become informed and would appreciate your support.

Gary Click is also running for State Representative and shared his qualifications. His skill set is built on relationships and would also appreciate your support.

On a motion to adjourn by Mr. Liebold, seconded by Mrs. Ruiz, motion carried 7 yes votes.

Meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Clerk of Council

Council President