

The regular council meeting was called to order by Loretta Smart at 6:00 p.m.

Silent roll call: Loretta Smart, Ron Sullins, Joe Thomas, Steve Brown, and John Ludy.

Others representing the town were:

Mary K. Parsons-Clerk-Treasurer

Chris Snyder-Town Superintendent

Kurt Bachman-Town Attorney

Ed Johnson- Town Marshall

Jim Humbarger-Sewer Superintendent

Dan Frasier-Street Superintendent

Steve Gard-Water Superintendent

Martha Hagerty-Judge

Eric Hufnagle-Fire Chief

Lon Keyes-Park Board President

Teri Steele-Administrative Assistant

Others attending were Rick Rossi, a Firearm instructor for the Fremont Police Department, Darci Gaff with the Fremont Chamber of Commerce, Rich Cory, the Fremont High School Principal, Yvonne Schroedder with the Herald Republican and Mike Hiner, a Fremont resident.

Ron Sullins moved to nominate Loretta Smart as the 2006 Council President, second by Steve Brown, all in favor.

Joe Thomas moved to nominate Steve Brown as the 2006 Council Vice- president, second by John Ludy, all in favor.

Steve Brown moved to approve the minutes, second by John Ludy, all in favor.

Joe Thomas moved to approve the claims and payroll, second by Steve Brown, all in favor.

Joe Thomas moved to approve accepting American Legal Publishing's quote on codification subject to changing in the contract from Ohio to Indiana laws and update the expiration date, second by Ron Sullins, all in favor.

Chris gave an update on the By-pass. Engineers are providing INDOT with idea's for the intersection of State Road 120 and Walters Road. The wetland needs to be flagged by Earth Source who did the original delineation.

John Ludy moved to approve Earth Source to come and flag the wetland in the amount of \$1,600.00, second by Joe Thomas, all in favor.

There was no discussion on the Annexation.

John Ludy stated that they are still forming a committee to write a Tree Ordinance for the Town of Fremont. An ordinance should be ready for the council to look over at the March council meeting.

Loretta welcomed High School Principal Rich Cory. Mr. Cory stated that the school has experienced declining enrollment and would like to see an increase in jobs and housing in the community to reverse the trend, he also discussed co-op for job training, and support for work ethics program.

Rick Rossi gave a report on firearm instruction with the Fremont Police. Rick asked for the police to purchase more ammunition to qualify four times a year. He also asked for the part time police to participate. The handguns that the police currently have are 10 years old, and he would like to see the police get new ones.

John Ludy moved to hire Shane Johnson as the replacement for Larry Elzey with an annual salary of \$33,000.00, second by Steve Brown, 4 yeas, Ron Sullins abstained due to absence at interviews. Shane will start full time on January 28, 2006.

Ron Sullins moved to approve receipting checks that are two years old back into the funds they were drawn from, see exhibit "A", second by Steve Brown, all in favor.

Joe Thomas moved to approve Ordinance 2006-01, an ordinance establishing a Flexible Spending Account fund for the Town of Fremont, second by John Ludy, all in favor.

Joe Thomas moved to approve Ordinance 2006-02, an ordinance establishing a Fire Department special purchase fund to purchase Jaws of Life equipment, second by Steve Brown, all in favor.

Joe Thomas moved to approve Ordinance 2006-03, an ordinance deleting dormant funds for the Town of Fremont, second by Ron Sullins, all in favor.

Joe Thomas moved to approve the utility credits, second by Ron Sullins, all in favor.

Joe Thomas moved to approve fixing the current copy machine up to \$600.00, second by Ron Sullins, all in favor.

Ron Sullins moved to accept the offer of \$2,500.00 from North Snow Bay for past attorney fees, with Kurt's suggestion of adding to the Regional Waste District, second by Steve Brown, all in favor.

Ron Sullins moved to recommend pro-rating 2006 vacation days for the police employee's for a transition period until their anniversary date, second by Steve Brown, all in favor.

## Reports

Court submitted-nothing to add.

Police submitted-nothing to add.

Street submitted-nothing to add.

Sewer submitted-Jim stated the diffusers need to be changed and he estimates the cost to be approximately \$6000.00-\$8,000.00. Jim will get quotes.

Water submitted-Steve asked to attend the AWWA conference in Indianapolis, February 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup>. Ron Sullins moved to approve Steve attending the AWWA conference, second by Joe Thomas, all in favor.

Town Superintendent submitted-Chris stated they distributed flyers to Willow Prairie informing them of a meeting January 25<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 in regards to Street lighting. The contract with Waste Management will expire December 31, 2006, the council needs to decide whether to re-bid the contract or continue with Waste Management. The Daycare has reached their goal and plan ground breaking around March 1<sup>st</sup>. Ron Sullins moved to authorize Loretta to sign the letter for putting in the water and sewer lines, not exceeding \$20,000.00, second by Joe Thomas, all in favor. Chris has had complaints about feral cats and would like to start catching them.

Fire Department submitted-Eric appreciated Chris helping on two incidences through the week within the Town. The annual Fire report was put in the councils mailboxes. Eric stated a need for a new computer for the Fire Station. Ron Sullins moved to approve purchasing a computer from Lakeland Designs in the amount of \$1,250.00 with an additional \$265.00 for software, second by John Ludy, all in favor.

Fremont Park Board submitted-Lon stated the board voted to participate in the Tree Committee. Neil Ledet will represent the Park Board. Loretta re-appointed Kay Smith to the Park Board.

## Other General Matters

John Ludy moved to approve closing the sweep accounts for the General and Water/Wastewater accounts, transferring to Certificate of Deposits, second by Ron Sullins, all in favor.

Joe Thomas moved to approve dues for the Police Department to Northern Indiana Law Enforcement Council in the amount of \$280.00, and Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police, Inc. in the amount of \$180.00, second by John Ludy, all in favor.

Ron Sullins moved to approve anyone wanting to attend an IACT district meeting at Columbia City on February 6<sup>th</sup>, second by John Ludy, all in favor.

Ron Sullins stated that a piece of his property was never vacated and he cannot find any paper work to validate this. Joe Thomas moved to approve Kurt Bachman to investigate the title work on this issue, second by John Ludy, 4 yeas, Ron abstained due to a conflict of interest.

Martha Hagerty thanked the Fire Department for helping with her father and helping with the fire call to her building uptown.

Motion was made by Ron Sullins to adjourn the meeting, second by Steve Brown, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.

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Loretta Smart

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Ron Sullins

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Joe Thomas

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Steve Brown

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John N. Ludy

Attest:

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Mary K. Parsons  
Clerk-Treasurer