

January 17, 2023

The regular meeting and public hearing of the Fremont Town Council was called to order by Council President Steve Brown at 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, January 17, 2023, at the Fremont Town Hall. Councilmembers Linda Fulton, Ashlee Hoos and Barry Wilcox were also present.

Others representing the Town were:

*Mary K. Parsons, IAMC, MMC, CPFA, CPFIM, CPM, CMO Clerk-Treasurer
Kurt Bachman, Attorney
Joe Patterson, Town Marshal
Travis Smoker, Town Police Officer
Becky Maggart, IAMC Deputy Clerk
Jeff Grimm, Street Superintendent*

Others in attendance were:

*Jack Musson II, Town Resident
Dawn Musson, Town Resident
Rick Deller, Town Resident
Scott Glendening, Town Resident
Carla Glendening, Town Resident
Brian Welch, Town Resident
Alice Welch, Town Resident
Oksana Kotkina, KPC Media Reporter*

Public Hearing- *The Public Hearing was for the Town Council to affirm, modify or rescind the order for the Public Nuisance Ordinance served to Randall Appleton dba Ravens House LLC occupant and owner of 206 E Toledo Street. Randall Appleton was not present; his attorney Foy McNaughton was present. Kurt reminded the Council that Randall Appleton had a hearing on October 18, 2022 where evidence was taken and this was a status hearing. Kurt said there were 3 options; Option 1 would be to continue again with a date certain, option 2 would be order fines accordingly and option 3 would be to dismiss. Marshall Patterson spoke and said the property has a bumper that is setting out and would be the only thing not in compliance at this time. Marshall Patterson also said that this property has daily changes and it is difficult to determine how many days property is not in compliance. Attorney Foy McNaughton, representing Randall Appleton, asked to speak, and was granted permission from Council President Steve Brown. Attorney McNaughton presented to the council other businesses in town that were not in compliance and stated that due to Randall Appleton's appearance and attitude he was being picked on. Council President assured him that he was not being singled out for his nuisance violations, but that his property had the only complaints from town residents and something needs to be done to clean it up. Attorney Bachman asked if a nuisance still exists, or if it could be determined how many days violations exist. Marshall Patterson replied due to the daily/hourly changes it is difficult to pinpoint an exact number of days. Councilmember Linda Fulton believes we need to continue, or the property stay in constant violation. Councilmember Barry Wilcox made a motion to continue to the April 18, 2023 meeting at 5:00 p.m., second by Councilmember Linda Fulton, all in favor. Councilmember Barry Wilcox motioned to allow Attorney Bachman to prepare order, authorized signatures needed, and for Marshall Patterson to deliver order, second by Councilmember Dr. William Stitt, all in favor.*

Public hearing ended at 5:53 pm. and the regular Town Council meeting began.

Council President opened by asking for a moment of silence for the Becky White and her 3 children that lost their lives in a house fire on January 14, 2023.

Election of Officers: Council President Steve Brown stated that he would like to remain President to keep up on the pending matters, and to then help enlighten someone else as he is unsure on running for the Town Council next term. Councilmember Dr. William Stitt made a motion to nominate Steve Brown as President, second by Councilmember Barry Wilcox, all in favor. Councilmember Ashlee Hoos made a motion to nominate Councilmember Barry Wilcox for Vice-president, second by Councilmember Dr. William Stitt, Council President Steve Brown made a motion to nominate Councilmember Linda Fulton as Vice- President, second by Councilmember Dr. William Stitt, Council President Steve Brown, Councilmember Dr. William Stitt and Councilmember Linda Fulton voted in favor of Councilmember Linda Fulton as Vice-President and Councilmember Ashlee Hoos and Councilmember Barry Wilcox voted in favor of Councilmember Barry Wilcox. Councilmember Linda Fulton will be the Vice-president.

Approval of Minutes: Councilmember Dr. William Stitt moved to approve the December minutes, second by Councilmember Linda Fulton, all in favor.

Approval of Claims, Payroll, Comp Time, Fund Report and Appropriation Report: Councilmember Barry Wilcox moved to approve claims, payroll, comp time, fund and appropriation reports as presented, second by Councilmember Linda Fulton, all in favor.

OLD BUSINESS:

NIPSCO- Town Attorney Kurt Bachman said nothing new to report. Council President Steve Brown said NIPSCO is checking into a line to the east side of Town and possibly getting gas from a different line to Angola which would open up more gas for Fremont and surrounding areas. Council President Steve Brown said the next call is on January 30, 2023 at 11:00, and will hopefully know more then.

NEW BUSINESS:

Utility Credit- Councilmember Dr. William Stitt made a motion to approve the utility credits as presented, second by Councilmember Linda Fulton all in favor.

Outstanding checks – Councilmember Barry Wilcox made a motion to approve to cancel the outstanding checks that are two years old, second by Councilmember Ashlee Hoos, all in favor.

REPORTS:

Court: Report was submitted.

Fire: Report was submitted.

Police: Report was submitted. Town Marshall Joe Patterson would like approval to advertise for a police officer. Patterson also asked that the two-mile radius restriction for take home cars be extended to Steuben County. Councilmember Linda Fulton made a motion to approve advertising for hiring and removing the two-mile radius restriction and allow an officer to live in Steuben County, second by Councilmember Barry Wilcox, all in favor.

Street: Report was submitted. Councilmember Barry Wilcox made a motion for Council President to sign application and commitment letter for the Community Crossing grant once prepared, second by Councilmember Dr. William Stitt, all in favor.

Water: Report was submitted. Interviews for the water department are set for Thursday, January 19, 2023, at 5:00 p.m.

Wastewater – Report was submitted.

Park- Report was not submitted.

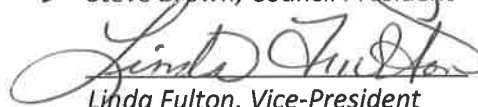
Motion to adjourn by Councilmember Barry Wilcox, second by Councilmember Ashlee Hoos, all in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 6:13 p.m.

February 21, 2023



Steve Brown, Council President



Linda Fulton, Vice-President

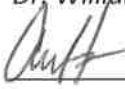
Attest:



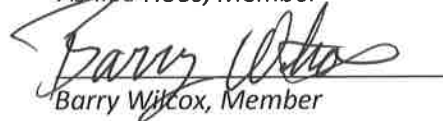
Mary K Parsons, Clerk-Treasurer,
IAMC, MMC, CPFA, CPFIM, CMO, CPM



Dr. William Stitt, Member



Ashlee Hoos, Member



Barry Wilcox, Member