

October 17, 2023

The regular meeting of the Fremont Town Council was called to order after the closing of the Plan Commission Meeting and Hearing by Council President Steve Brown at 5:24 p.m. on Tuesday, October 17, 2023, at the Fremont Town Hall. Councilmembers Linda Fulton, Dr. William Stitt, Ashlee Hoos and Barry Wilcox were also present.

Others representing the Town were:

Mary K. Parsons, IAMC, MMC, CPFA, ACPFIM, CPM, CMO Clerk-Treasurer
Kurt Bachman, Attorney
Becky Maggart, IAMC Chief Deputy Clerk
Joe Patterson, Fremont Town Marshall
Chris Snyder, Town Judge
Eric Hufnagle, Fremont Fire Chief

Others in attendance were:

Todd Thurber, DLZ
Rick Deller, Town Resident
Christina Cress, Steuben County Council
Molly Weber, Clear Lake Town Council
Mike Connell, Plant Mgr. Cardinal IG
Jared Swager, VP Swager Commutations
Lindsay Swager, Teacher at FHS
Lee Swager, President Swager Commutations
Mindy Swager, County Resident
Ken Wilson, JICI owner
Ian Gamer, JICI Director of Business
Ryan Boekhout, Cold Heading
Karl VanBecelaere, Carver Non-Woven
JoDee Hoemig, Town Resident
Isaac Lee, SCEDC

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

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

OLD BUSINESS:

NIPSCO- Isaac Lee from the SCEDC said that he is waiting on some final figures from interested parties from the communities involved to proceed with the communication with NIPSCO.

Community Crossings Street Project- Todd Thurber from DLZ said the contractor will wait until next year to start the project and Council President Steve Brown asked that the work in the school zone be considered as this would be better to do when school is out of session.

Pickle Ball Courts- Todd Thurber from DLZ said that they are working on how to access the pickle ball courts now. Should be able to get quotes in and presented at November meeting for approval. Town Attorney Kurt Bachman said that he has been in contact with the school's attorney to get the interlocal agreement drawn up, with concerns being the easement providing access to the courts, liability, security at night, etc. The bathrooms will not be accessible unless the school has them opened. Councilmember Linda Fulton moved to have Kurt Bachman move forward with the agreement as presented, second by Councilmember Ashlee Hoos, all in favor.

Ray Road sewer line replacement- Todd Thurber from DLZ said that they are working on it and should be ready to bid it out in January, Clerk Treasurer Mary K. Parsons commented that the project has to be completed by end of 2024.

Addition to Street Barn- Todd Thurber from DLZ said that they are going to meet with Street Superintendent Jeff Grimm next week to discuss specifics of project, so they can get the project advertised for bids.

Zoning Ordinance 2023-07- Town Attorney Kurt Bachman said that the Plan Commission gave the Ordinance a favorable recommendation. Councilmember Barry Wilcox moved to approve Zoning Ordinance 2023-07 as presented, second by Councilmember Dr. William Stitt, all in favor.

NEW BUSINESS:

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

Re-zone in Industrial Park- Councilmember Barry Wilcox asked if there was enough gas for the new apartments that will be built if Re-Zone is passed. Ken Wilson from JICI said that the units are all electric except for water heaters, however if the gas shortage is still an issue, then he will change to all electric. Councilmember Dr. William Stitt, moved to approve the Re-Zone as presented, second by Councilmember Linda Fulton, all in favor.

Budget Reduction Ordinance 2023-08- Clerk Treasurer Mary K. Parsons said this is done every year and will allow the funds to be utilized in the 2024 budget. Councilmember Barry Wilcox moved to approve the Budget Reduction Ordinance 2023-08 as presented, second by Councilmember Ashlee Hoos, all in favor.

Approval of Fire Contract- Councilmember Barry Wilcox moved to approve the Town of Clear Lake and Angola Fire Contracts as presented, second by Councilmember Dr. William Stitt, all in favor.

Landscaping Quote- Clerk Treasurer Mary K. Parsons said two quotes were received. With both being good local landscapers, it was recommended to go with the lesser expensive of the two. Councilmember Linda Fulton moved to approve the landscaping quote from Jeremy Fugate Landscaping as presented, second by Councilmember Dr. William Stitt, all in favor.

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Camera Purchase- Clerk Treasurer Mary K. Parsons said the security cameras needed an upgrade to a better security camera system. Verkada is used by the school and is more user friendly, and has a much clearer picture than the current camera system. Councilmember Barry Wilcox moved to approve the purchase as presented, second by Councilmember Linda Fulton, all in favor.

ARPA Ordinance 2023-09- Council President Steve Brown said you are required to have an ARPA plan in place to utilize the funds. We have plans to use our funds for the Ray Rd sewer line. Councilmember Linda Fulton moved to approve Ordinance 2023-09 as presented, second by Councilmember Barry Wilcox, all in favor. Councilmember Barry Wilcox moved to waive the second reading of Ordinance 2023-09, second by Councilmember Ashlee Hoos, all in favor.

Contract with new police officer- Clerk Treasurer Mary K. Parsons said the contract is for when we send new officers through the academy. It is a 5-year contract with a payback option should they decide to leave our employ before the 5 years are up. Councilmember Dr. William Stitt moved to approve the contract as presented, second by Councilmember Linda Fulton, all in favor. Council President Steve Brown asked for permission to sign the contract outside of the meeting. Councilmember Barry Wilcox moved to approve Council President Steve Brown permission to sign contract when needed, second by Councilmember Linda Fulton, all in favor.

Concession stand roof replacement- Clerk Treasurer Mary K. Parsons said they received a quote to replace the roof of the concessions stand and the small building at the ball diamond. Councilmember Barry Wilcox moved to approve the quote as presented, second by Councilmember Dr. William Stitt, all in favor.

Petterson and Associates- Clerk Treasurer Mary K. Parsons would like to hire Peterson and Associates to assist with the Capital Assets update. Councilmember Barry Wilcox moved to approve the contract as presented, second by Councilmember Linda Fulton, all in favor.

Town Vehicle Purchase- Clerk Treasurer Mary K. Parsons asked for authorization to start looking for a vehicle for the Town. This will be a vehicle to use by town employees for travel or job-related duties that require travel from and with-in the Town of Fremont. Councilmember Barry Wilcox moved to approve as presented, second by Councilmember Ashlee Hoos, all in favor.

REPORTS:

Court: Report was submitted.

Fire: Report was submitted. Fire Chief Eric Hufnagle requested the Council to give permission to Clerk Treasurer, Mary K. Parsons, to approve a quote for a new HVAC system for the fire department. Fire Chief Eric Hufnagle has asked 3 companies for quotes and has not gotten them all back yet, however when they do come back, he would like to approve one and get the work started as the weather is getting cold and they have no heat. Councilmember Barry Wilcox moved to approve the request as presented, second by Councilmember Linda Fulton, all in favor.

Police: Report was submitted. Town Marshall Joe Patterson requested approval to purchase a new Tahoe so all full-time officers will have a vehicle. Councilmember Barry Wilcox motioned to approve the request as presented, second by Councilmember Dr. William Stitt, all in favor.

Street: Report was submitted.

Water: Report was submitted.

Wastewater: No report was submitted.

Park: No report was submitted.

Motion to adjourn by Councilmember Dr. William Stitt, second by Councilmember Ashlee Hoos, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

November 21, 2023


Steve Brown, Council President


Linda Fulton, Vice-President


Dr. William Stitt, Member


Ashlee Hoos, Member


Barry Wilcox, Member

Attest:



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