

**FREMONT CITY COUNCIL**  
**MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING**  
**Monday, December 21, 2009 – 7:00 PM**

Mayor James Rynberg called the regular meeting to order at 7:00 PM. Councilmember Larry Breuker gave the Invocation and led the Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag.

**Present at Roll Call:** Mayor James Rynberg and Councilmember's Dick Conley, Jane Drake, James Breinling and Larry Breuker.

**Staff Present:** City Manager Bryan Gruesbeck and City Clerk/Finance Director Todd Blake

**Public Present:** John Rosenberg, Roger Zinnecker, Laurie Breuker and Doug Berends

**Approval of Meeting Agenda**

Mayor Rynberg requested "School Board Response to City Resolution R-09-26 Supporting School Election Day Change" be added to the agenda.

Motion by Councilmember Drake, seconded by Councilmember Breinling to approve the meeting agenda as amended; motion approved.

**Consent Action Items**

Motion by Councilmember Conley, seconded by Councilmember Breinling to authorize and approve the following Action Items:

- Minutes of the Regular Council Session held December 7, 2009
- Approve agreement with Fremont Area Community Foundation (FACF) for Capital Projects Fund Account for the City of Fremont
- NCCA's request for use of the Market Place for the Annual Arts Festival & Hot Wheels Auto/Cycle Show on Saturday, June 12, 2010
- Change Order #4: Amending the Elm/Cherry/Decker Streets Construction Contract for additional \$3,360.86 to Wadel Stabilization
- Approve agreement for collection of School Operating Tax on 2010 Summer Tax Billing
- Resolution R-09-30: Accepting MDOT ARRA Grant (\$95,000) Contract No. 09-5723 to resurface Stone Road
- Approve MSHDA (\$130,400) Grant Agreement for Fremont Rental Rehab Program for three potential rental units
- Approve bid of \$24,404 from Lakeshore Signs to complete Downtown signage

**Resolution R-09-29: Adopting a Policy for Service Organization Signs**

Motion by Councilmember Drake, seconded by Councilmember Breuker to adopt Resolution R-09-29 adopting a policy for service organizations signs in the city limits; motion by Councilmember Drake, seconded by Councilmember Breuker to amend the main motion by adding provisions to limit six signs per pole and to make effort to accommodate sign rotation among organizations if needed; motion to amend approved; main amended motion approved.

**Accounts Payable Check Register Report dated December 17, 2009 totaling \$285,545.92**

Motion by Councilmember Breinling, seconded by Councilmember Conley to approve the 12/17/09 Accounts Payable Check Register Report totaling \$285,545.92; motion approved.

**Public Hearing: On the Proposed Special Assessments for the Improvement of Market Avenue and 44<sup>th</sup> Street**

Mayor Rynberg opened the public hearing at 7:15 pm.

Mr. John Rosenberg, of 318 W. 48<sup>th</sup> Street, asked questions pertaining to the billing process and interest charged to an assessment.

Mr. Roger Zinnecker, of 418 W. 48<sup>th</sup> Street, expressed his dissatisfaction of the project during the current economic times and asked if the City knew how many trucks would be using 44<sup>th</sup> Street if any.

Following brief discussion, Mayor Rynberg closed the public hearing at 7:28 pm.

**Resolution R-09-28: Ordering a Special Assessment for the Improvement of Market Avenue and 44<sup>th</sup> Street**

Motion by Councilmember Breinling, seconded by Councilmember Breuker to approve Resolution R-09-28 ordering the Market Avenue & 44<sup>th</sup> Street Special Assessment to proceed; motion approved.

**Review Proposed Department of Public Works (DPW) Garage and Southeast Downtown Parking Lot Improvements**

City Manager Gruesbeck distributed draft site plans of the proposed new Public Works Garage and Southeast Downtown Parking Lot Improvements and gave a brief presentation of the projects.

**Annual Review of Non-Union Employee Salary Schedule for Calendar Year 2010**

Motion by Councilmember Drake, seconded by Councilmember Breinling to authorize a 2.5% inflationary increase to the Non-Union Employee Salary Schedule and other non-union personnel, effective 1/10/2010; motion approved.

**School Board Response to City Resolution-09-26 Supporting School Election Day Change**

City Clerk Blake reported attending the school board's public hearing to lend support for their proposed resolution to change their annual school board elections from every May to odd-year November. The resolution was defeated on a 2-4 vote.

Laurie Breuker expressed her dissatisfaction with the school board's decision to not change their election day to odd-year November also and believes their decision was fiscally irresponsible.

Following discussion, Councilmember Drake motioned, seconded by Councilmember Breuker, to direct the City Clerk to draft an editorial for publication in the Times Indicator, explaining the benefits of the proposed election day change and the school's decision to not change; motion approved. Council also recommended the City Clerk coordinate the editorial with the other governmental clerk's within the Fremont Public School district.

**Reports**

City Manager Gruesbeck reported staff has been working on a solution to the garage sale sign problem, whereas the City could coordinate a spring and fall city-wide garage sale event. The City could organize a list of those interested for publication on a city map.

City Manager Gruesbeck also reported the City has secured Duane Cruzan services as a Hearing Officer during the City's blighted building violation process.

City Clerk Blake reported a Fremont Area Park & Recreation Committee meeting and public hearing has been scheduled for Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup>, to received public input during the annual update to the Park & Rec Plan's 5-yr Capital Improvement Schedule. City Clerk Blake distributed a draft of the proposed Schedule and asked for Council input on future projects.

Mayor Rynberg informed Council of an upcoming telecast speaker series in January at the Dogwood, coordinated between Calvin College and the Foundation. Those interested in attending should contact the Clerk.

Councilmember Drake asked if the retaining wall across from Veterans Memorial Park would be repaired this year, whereas it continuously leaks water on the sidewalk and looks terrible.

**The Following Communications were transmitted for Council Information:**

- Staff Report: City Projects
- Fremont Community Joint Planning Commission Meeting Minutes (12/14/09)
- Fremont Farmers Market - 2009 Market Season Vendor Survey
- Fremont Fire Department Meeting Minutes (12/14/09)
- MML Legislative Link (12/18/09)
- Sherman Twp Board Meeting Minutes (12/07/09)
- Sheridan Twp Board Meeting Minutes (12/15/09)
- MEDC invitation to "2010 State Econ Dev Focus and Regional Development" (12/18/09)
- GMHS' The Source (12/17/09)

**Public Comment**

Jane Drake announced her candidacy for State Representative under the 100<sup>th</sup> District and gave a brief biography of herself and asked for Council's support.

**Adjournment**

Motion by Councilmember Breinling, seconded by Councilmember Conley to adjourn the meeting at 9:18 PM; motion approved.

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James M. Rynberg, Mayor

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Todd M. Blake, City Clerk