

The regular council meeting was called to order by President Loretta Smart at 6:00 p.m. on January 18, 2005.

Silent roll call: Loretta Smart, Ron Sullins, Joe Thomas and Lori Vaughn were present.

Others representing the town were:

Mary K. Parsons-Clerk Treasurer

Kurt Bachman-Town Attorney

Chris Snyder-Town Manager

Martha Hagerty-Judge

Ed Johnson –Town Marshall

Daniel Frasier-Street Superintendent

Jim Humbarger-Wastewater Superintendent

Steve Gard-Water Superintendent

Eric Hufnagle-Fire Department

Lon Keyes-Park Board President

Teri Steele-Administrative Assistant

Others attending were: Jeremy Cole with Umbaugh Associates, Clarence Walsh with Direct Link Communications, Jim Measel with WLKI, Yvonne Schroeder with the Herald Republican, and Jeff Bauhoff from the Fremont Fire Department.

Motion was made by Lori Vaughn to keep Loretta Smart as President and Ron Sullins as Vice President, second by Joe Thomas, all in favor.

Ron Sullins moved to approve the minutes as corrected, second by Lori Vaughn, all in favor.

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

A discussion was held on the utility study with Umbaugh and Associates. Jeremy Cole gave two new options for lowering volume discounts. Ron Sullins moved to take the matter under advisement, second by Lori Vaughn, all in favor.

A discussion was held on the By-Pass grant. Chris Snyder said there will be a press release on the grant awarded. David Koenig will be putting together a time frame to get the project started.

A discussion was held on the progress of the Town Hall. Chris Snyder stated the concrete was finished and the walls were being set.

Clarence Walsh gave a presentation for Direct Link Communications. The Council would like to learn more about the company and what they have to offer.

Lori Vaughn moved to approve the third payment to CCI Construction in the amount of \$61,897.00, second by Ron Sullins, all in favor.

Motion was made by Lori Vaughn to encumber the funds as follows:

Williams Electronic	\$2,310.69	101003441	Police Equipment
ACS Graphics	\$325.00	101003441	Police Equipment
Damiron Parts	\$398.09	101002231	Street Vehicle
North American Salt	\$2,152.18	101002222	Street Salt

Second by Joe Thomas, all in favor.

Motion was made by Lori Vaughn to accept the utility credits, second by Ron Sullins, all in favor.

A discussion was held on a storm water utility. Kurt Bachman gave a brief look into the legality of a storm water utility. Kathy Parsons will be looking into the financial end of it. It was suggested by Ron Sullins to continue to explore avenues for a storm water utility.

Ron Sullins moved to cancel checks over two years old as follows:

2001	Stamp Fulfillment	Ck#9520	\$240.00
2001	LaGrange Co. Sheriff	Ck#9650	\$6.00
2001	Curtis Industries	Ck#9869	\$163.82
2001	Steuben Co. Sheriff	Ck#9964	\$45.00
2002	Wal-Mart	Ck#10090	\$100.32
2001	Ruth Rakestraw	Ck#4707	\$2.50
2002	North Central Co-op	Ck#4960	\$131.85
1902	North Central Co-op	Ck#5671	\$113.59

Second by Joe Thomas, all in favor.

Reports:

Court submitted- Added in the year end totals, a left over amount totaling of \$264.42 to clean up the books would be given to the town.

Police Submitted- Nothing to add.

Street Submitted- Nothing to add.

Wastewater Submitted- Jim requested for Brant and himself to attend IRWA conference at Pokagon. Joe Thomas moved for Jim and Brant to attend the conference at Pokagon, second by Ron Sullins, all in favor.

Water Submitted- Steve requested to attend the AWWA conference in February to receive contact hours. Lori Vaughn moved for Steve to attend the conference, second by Ron Sullins, all in favor.

Town Manager Submitted- Chris asked who would like to help him with the utility study. Loretta Smart volunteered. Chris also read Greg Stroh's letter

of resignation from the Fremont Town Council as of January 17, 2005. Lori Vaughn moved to accept Greg's resignation, second by Joe Thomas, all in favor.

Fire Department Submitted- Eric questioned the hiring of a Fire Chief and stated needing help. After some discussion and Kurt stating no need to advertise for the position, the Council offered Eric Hufnagle the position as Fire Chief with a starting salary of \$31,500.00. Salary may be amended at the next meeting. They requested a response within seven days.

Ron Sullins made motion to offer Eric Hufnagle a salary of \$31,500.00 as Fire Chief, to accept within seven days, second by Lori Vaughn, all in favor.

Park Department Submitted- Lon presented a draft Master Plan being prepared by Region 3A and asked for the Council's review and input.

Other General Matters

Lori Vaughn moved that the part time Fire Chief salary be \$6,100.00, second by Joe Thomas, all in favor.

Motion was made by Ron Sullins to adjourn, second by Lori Vaughn, all in favor. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Loretta Smart

Ron Sullins

Joe Thomas

Attest:

Lorraine Vaughn

Mary K. Parsons
Clerk-Treasurer