



Here We Grow

City of Fremont Update

Date: August 27, 2021

To: City Employees/ City Boards/ Mayor & City Council

Mayor Introduces Draft City Budget

Mayor Spellerberg presented the first draft of the 2021-2022/2022-2023 budget to City Council Tuesday evening. Here is some information from the budget regarding property valuations in Fremont, full-time employee counts at the City and Utility, and total wages and benefits.

Tax Year	Valuation	Growth	Annexed (Incl in growth)	Increase, less growth	Increase, less growth %	Growth % to total	Net % Increase	Gross % increase
2016	1,367,516,051	45,300,472		(6,672,584)	-0.5021%	3.313%	2.8105%	2.9068%
2017	1,443,499,463	34,762,699		41,220,713	3.0143%	2.408%	5.4225%	5.5563%
2018	1,575,993,660	19,439,197	1,670,905	113,055,000	7.8320%	1.233%	9.0655%	9.1787%
2019	1,680,835,484	27,866,538	102,984	76,975,286	4.8842%	1.658%	6.5421%	6.6524%
2020	2,020,466,495	214,487,338		125,143,673	7.4453%	10.616%	18.0611%	20.2061%
2021	1,946,334,530	28,023,779		(102,155,744)	-5.0560%	1.440%	-3.6162%	-3.6691%

Please notice that total valuations in Fremont dropped from \$2.02 billion in 2020 to \$1.95 billion in tax year 2021 or declined by 3.67%. That means the City will collect less overall property taxes for the next two years, because the proposed budget freezes the levee at the current level of .0324524. In other words, the City collected \$6,049,479 in property tax revenue for tax year 2020, but will collect \$5,827,520 for tax year 2021, a decline of \$221,959 or 3.67%.

Total Employee Count – City						Total Employee Count – Utility				
	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Budget	2023 Budget	2019 Actual	2020 Actual	2021 Actual	2022 Budget	2023 Budget
Full-time	143.8	142.3	142.3	148.3	148.3	147.7	146.7	146.7	156.7	156.7
Part-time	31.44	31.79	31.79	31.17	31.17	4.84	5.09	5.09	4.07	4.07
Total	175.24	174.09	174.09	179.47	179.47	152.54	151.79	151.79	160.77	160.77

As shown in the table above, the employee count has been very flat for both the City and Utility over the past several years. In this budget, the count is proposed to increase slightly with the addition of six firefighters for the City and almost nine employees for the Utility.

The total wages and benefits provided by the City and Utility and the percentage of total wages and benefits to the total annual budgeted expenditures as are follows:

Total Wages & Benefits - City			Total Wages & Benefits - Utility	
Year	Budgeted \$	% of Total Budget Exp.	Budgeted \$	% of Total Budget Exp.
2019	\$14,712,581	49%	\$16,271,294	25%
2020	\$14,826,731	48%	\$15,921,947	21%
2021	\$15,435,879	50%	\$16,645,269	20%
2022	\$15,679,978	44%	\$16,857,561	22%
2023	\$16,405,957	39%	\$17,767,691	22%

There is no job so important and no service so urgent that we cannot take the time to do the work safely!

Repairs to Levee at Rod & Gun Club Nearly Finished

After the Platte River washed out over 300 feet of a sand levee at the Rod & Gun Club, washed out County Road 19, on the north side of the State Lakes, and washed out a sand berm between the State Lakes and Lake Leba in the 2019 Flood, the repairs to the Rod & Gun Club berm are nearly finished. The picture on the right shows a portion of the reconstructed berm being covered with matting to control erosion. The area was seeded with grass before the erosion matting was installed. JEO Consulting Group from Wahoo engineered the repairs and Yost Excavating from Nebraska City was the contractor who made the repairs. Yost was the low bid at nearly \$600,000.



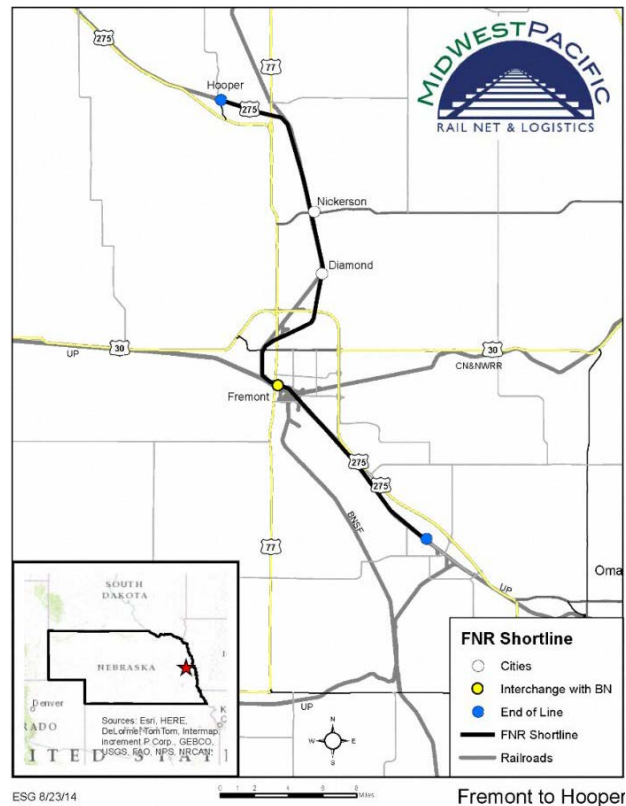
Dodge County, on behalf of the Joint Water Management Advisory Board, received a \$485,000 Community Development Block Grant to fund the repairs. The remaining costs will be split between the Rod & Gun Club, Dodge County, Lower Platte North Natural Resource District, and City of Fremont.

Group Exploring Converting Rail to a Trail

A group of people are exploring the possibility of purchasing a portion of the old Fremont Northern Railroad, a 17 mile stretch from Fremont to Hooper, and converting it into a trail. Owners of the line recently salvaged the steel rail and some of the wood ties knowing that it will never be a functioning railroad again. Now they want to sell the land, preferably to a non-profit that will make it into a trail. Anyone interested in joining the group working on a trail is encouraged to call Stan Darling at 402-941-8605.

Electric Workers Help OPPD Restore Power

After strong winds on Wednesday caused widespread power outages across portions of Douglas and Sarpy Counties, Fremont electric workers were called in to assist Omaha Public Power District (OPPD) restore power. Dan Klingsick, Jim Jorgensen, Dan Menard, Brad Wentz, Trent Anderson, and Conner Jenkins left Fremont Wednesday afternoon and returned home early Thursday morning. OPPD reports that all but a handful of customers had their power restored by Thursday morning.



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