



## MINUTES

### Regular Meeting of Newaygo City Council

### June 13, 2016

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Fedell called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM at City Hall located at 28 N. State Road, Newaygo MI 49337.

Presiding officer: Mayor Fedell

Secretary: Clerk, Kim Biegalle

Roll Call: Present: Day, Fedell, Hikade, Johnson, Palmiter, Santana, Walerczyk  
Absent: N/A

Motion by Hikade, support by Walerczyk to approve the agenda as presented. AIF/MC

#### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Day, support by Hikade to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the regular council minutes from 05/09/16 and accounts payable of \$15,405.16, \$16,550.41, \$17,078.99, \$10,186.97, \$8,936.41, \$11,261.65, \$49,936.84, \$182.64 and \$1,623.80. Roll Call: Yeas: Day, Fedell, Hikade, Johnson, Palmiter, Santana, Walerczyk Absent: None Nay: None. CARRIED

#### **RESERVED TIME**

Holly Moon, Newaygo County Treasurer, was present to give Council an update on her department. She stated that the Treasurer's office is currently self-funding and don't have to go out for bonds. She stated that the City of Newaygo's delinquency was down from last year 5.56% from 5.97% and complimented the City. She went over the number of foreclosures and extensions. Her office is moving towards making all accounts payable electronic and talked about a bond she was able to help the road commission out with at an extremely low interest rate.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Larry Lethorn, County Commissioner, stated that the County Park Director resigned last week. The County Morgue's collaborative effort with an adjacent county is going well. Discussed the trail around Hardy moving forward and it will be called "The Dragon" and be non-motorized. The County is starting its budget process this week with the new County Administrator. He briefly mentioned that the Commission on Aging has a millage renewal and increase coming up. Sheriff Road Patrol millage is up for renewal too. Schneider pointed out that the City has a police department and citizens of the City should not be paying a County Sheriff road patrol tax. Lethorn to look into it.

#### **MANAGERS REPORT**

Schneider mentioned that he has already talked with the Mayor but needs to make Council aware that the lagoon liner at the waste water treatment plant is failing and needs to be replaced per the DEQ (Department of Environmental Quality). The liner was put in around 1991 and is a single rubber liner; new liners are double. The cost to replace this liner will be \$2 to \$3 million dollars. Schneider has applied for an infrastructure grant from the MEDC and is also seeking assistance from the USDA to help offset the costs of this repair and is currently waiting to hear on whether the grant is approved. Only other option would be for the City to get a loan and take on another payment and possibly have to increase sewer rates; currently TIFA is supposed to be paying the water system project payment of \$120,000/yr and hasn't been able to because of the costs to run and operate The Stream building which costs \$500,000/yr. and currently only brings in revenues of approximately \$50,000/yr.

Council member Hikade stated that the City needs to look at options regarding The Stream if it is costing the City that kind of money to run it; can't continue to fund this kind of building and suggested possibly selling the second floor the City owns. The funds going to The Stream could be used for other projects within the City. Schneider needed to bring this to Council's attention as ultimately the Council is responsible for the finances of the City. The liner needs to be replaced and construction will likely begin no later than spring of next year; DEQ prefers it to be fixed this fall. Johnson asked if there were any prospects at The Stream and Santana reiterated the costs to run it versus the revenues The Stream brings in.

The City was asked by a non-profit organization to use Loomis Lodge for seven weeks, once a week for a class at no charge. Johnson made a motion, with support by Hikade, to allow this use with the City getting recognized as a sponsor, free of charge. Johnson was the only "Yea" vote; rest of Council was opposed. Council didn't want to set precedence for this going forward. These kinds of groups are given the City discounted rate already and it costs the City to clean this facility and take care of it.

### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Ron Wight, DPW Superintendent, stated again that the waste water treatment plant liner is in dire need of replacement and the DEQ has been made aware. The City and DEQ have been communicating almost weekly on the matter. There appears to be extra scrutiny on the part of the DEQ due in part to what happened to the Flint water system and the media focus that has been put on the DEQ. Regarding the City's water system, Schneider stated that there is no issue with the City's lead levels; they are very low. He also discussed the WWTP outfall to the Muskegon River with Council. This is another issue that needs to be address as well and is not an inexpensive fix.

Chief Andres stated that she has an intern for the Police Departments Bike Patrol which starts this Friday. There were over 400 kids at Kids Day this past weekend. The boat patrol is up and running since Memorial Day weekend and the department has added three part-time police officers to help cover this. She also noted that Officer Dornbos is the Crime Prevention Officer for the City.

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

Motion by Hikade, support by Walerczyk to approve Resolution 16-16 which appoints Wendy Weisgerber and Erin Emelander to the PSD Board (PSD Board increased from seven to nine members last month). AIF/MC

Motion by Day, support by Hikade to tentatively proceed with street vacation on Fremont Street and set the hearing date for July 11, 2016. This is to vacate the north half of Fremont Street in which a garage is currently half built on and the southern half was already vacated long ago. AIF/MC

Motion by Hikade, support by Johnson to approve 53 W. Wood Street (City owned property/house) as a training house for other police/fire departments to rent and use for training scenarios with the Chief determining the costs to rent. AIF/MC. Chief Andres noted that the Newaygo Police Department used this on May 21<sup>st</sup> for police training and it went very well, there is no other training house in this county to use/practice scenarios and could be a revenue source for the City until the house is demolished. Chief Andres will look into costs for renting. There were some questions by Council that Chief answered.

Motion by Palmiter, support by Hikade to approve not-to-exceed \$170,755 for construction of sidewalks, approve the form of the contract in the Council packets and give the City Manager permission to sign documents for the Division Street sidewalk project. Roll Call: Yeas: Day, Fedell, Hikade, Johnson, Palmiter, Santana, Walerczyk Absent: None Nay: None. CARRIED. Schneider went over the original bids submitted for the project; the City is currently working with the lowest bidder and has managed to get the costs down to the \$170,755; the City is still in talks with the low bidder and the cost may go down even further by going to a cement wall versus steel hand rails at a savings of \$15,000. The construction amount does not include the engineering costs.

Motion by Day, support by Palmiter to approve the Family of God Community Church to hold an accordion band concert in Brooks Park on Thursday, June 23<sup>rd</sup> from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm. AIF/MC

Motion by Walerczyk, support by Santana to approve the Marshall Run for Saturday, September 3<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 am; will use Riverfront Park and Whiskey Wood Hill. AIF/MC

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Scott VanSingel, 12615 Catalpa Ave., was present to introduce himself as a candidate for State Representative. He is looking to replace Jon Bumstead who has reached his term limit. He would appreciate support.

Del Hirdes, 88<sup>th</sup> Street, is running for District 5 County Commissioner, taking Larry Lethorn's place. Thanked the Council for their participation in the Christmas Walk in which he Chairs. He just volunteered at Kids Day and thanked the City again for their support and stated that the Family of God's Hope 101 house has its first tenant moving in shortly.

**COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

Hikade appreciates the City staff, Chief and Police Department and DPW department for all they do.

Santana stated that it is just a joy to live in this community.

Biegalle thanked Hikade for his comment.

Schneider thanked Lethorn for his service as commissioner; sad to see him leave. Schneider also thanked Del Hirdes for putting together the Christmas Walk festival over the last several years.

Fedell thanked everyone for coming out to the meeting.

Motion by Hikade, supported by Walerczyk to adjourn the meeting. AIF/MC

Meeting adjourned at 8:11 PM.

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Mayor – Ed Fedell

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Clerk – Kim Biegalle