



MINUTES

Regular Meeting of Newaygo City Council

August 8, 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:

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Johnson, support by Santana to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the regular council minutes from 07/11/16 and accounts payable of \$5,774.96, \$20,933.07, \$12,452.70, \$9,283.41, \$301.53, \$531.26, \$1,390.97, \$148,815.23, \$2,750.00 and \$1,487.74. Roll Call: Yeas: Day, Fedell, Hikade, Johnson, Palmiter, Santana, Walerczyk Absent: None Nays: None. CARRIED

RESERVED TIME

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Larry Lethorn, County Commissioner, stated that the new 911 system will be up and running as of September 12th. Mason, Oceana, Newaygo and Mecosta Counties are all partners. Currently there are seven candidates for the Park Director position, deadline to apply is September 12th. County Commissioners will be heading into budget meetings next week with all departments; budgets need to be done by October 1st.

MANAGERS REPORT

Schneider put up an overhead presentation of graphs showing the County's Assessed vs. Taxable Values and the City's taxable values. The graphs were almost identical which says that the City of Newaygo fared very well especially during the 2008 and 2009 housing bubble burst and foreclosures. City of Newaygo was and is on target with what is currently happening within our County. Schneider also showed a long list of accomplishments that have taken place in the City since 2010; new businesses, expansions and stores.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Ron Wight, DPW Superintendent, stated that the Division Street sidewalk project is underway and there would be some road work starting the end of this week.

Sgt. Walerczyk was present as Chief Andres was on vacation. Sgt. Walerczyk also gave some more information regarding the new 911 system.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Hikade, support by Johnson to approve the use of Brooks Park by Wayne Kauffman and several local churches to have a free BBQ and evangelistic entertainment event on Sunday, August 21st from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. AIF/MC

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jeff Lentz, 152 E. Wood St., stated he has been a police officer for 28 years. He expressed concern over the cost of The Stream building and corresponding lack of revenue. He also questioned the need for two employees and former City Manager, Rich Blachford, working for The Stream and why this expense is needed. He then brought up the August 2nd election and the FaceBook post made by Georgia Andres regarding lack of backup from the Sheriff’s Department. He claimed to be offended, along with other deputies, by her post. He made several other comments and asked the City to address this issue. He stated police officers will die for their fellow officers and that there has always been back up from the Sheriff’s Department for other officers if they are available at the time and not on other important calls.

Mark Fellows, Big Prairie Township, stated he is currently a City of Newaygo Police Reserve Officer and proud of it and supports Chief Andres. He stated that Georgia Andres’ post was 100% true and factual. He is proud to be a reserve officer, he appreciated Lentz comment on laying down his life for his fellow officer and Fellows would do the same. Fellows indicated the current Sheriff gets no support and there were issues with the previous administration.

Mike King 220 State St., stated he knows Chief Andres and supports her 100%. He state the election spoke for itself and enough has been said.

Ryan Dornbos, Newaygo City Police Officer, stated he gets along with the deputies and stated that he felt Andres’ post was taken out of context. He stated that there is no support from the County as far as events are concerned, such as Kids Day, etc. He stated Chief Andres supports and backs her community.

Paul Mulholland, 789 Middle St., has been purchasing up a lot of the vacant property around his current home and is looking for suggestions, thoughts or ideas on what kinds of housing opportunities are needed in the City that maybe could be provided someday. Such things as townhouses, duplexes and residential homes were mentioned. He will continue to work with the City as he moves ahead with possible ideas.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Hikade supports Chief Andres and her police department. He hopes with the new Sheriff coming in there can be open dialog, everyone will be able to work together and get along.

Lentz spoke up again and stated that he knows Andres wasn’t accepted well when she first started in law enforcement but claims he had her back but her statements opened up wounds and he didn’t go on social media to voice his concerns or issues.

Palmiter said he was abstaining from comments at this time but agreed we have to get past all of this.

Johnson hopes that we can all move forward and let things go; Andres had an opinion and put it out there.

Santana introduced his dad, who was just up visiting from Puerto Rico for the week. He is very pleased and happy about the new sidewalks on Division; loves the fact the City has lots of adjoining sidewalks for him and his kids to enjoy safely. Gave Mulholland some ideas on his property.

Biegalle noted that there were 406 voters who came out this past election; her workers and chairperson Carol Sherwood, did an excellent job, no issues. Stated she loves her job, loves working elections and things went very well.

Schneider was excited about the new sidewalks on Division; can’t wait to use them.

Fedell stated he voted AV this election and missed hearing Biegalle yell the polls are open; always enjoys and looks forward to that; stated Biegalle does a good job.

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:49 PM.

Mayor – Ed Fedell

Clerk – Kim Biegalle