



MINUTES

Regular Meeting of Newaygo City Council

June 12, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fedell called the meeting to order at 7:04 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, Santana, Walerczyk
Absent: Palmiter

Motion by Hikade, support by Walerczyk to excuse absent member. AIF/MC

Motion by Day, support by Santana to approve the agenda as presented. AIF/MC

PUBLIC COMMENTS

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Walerczyk, support by Hikade to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the regular council minutes from 05/08/17 and accounts payable of \$9,601.37, \$37,926.99, \$2,904.60, \$15,526.02, \$18,428.54, \$43,167.26, \$37.95, \$588.23 and \$635.34. Roll Call: Yeas: Day, Fedell, Hikade, Johnson, Santana, Walerczyk Absent: Palmiter Nay: None. CARRIED

RESERVED TIME

Motion by Hikade, support by Day at 7:06 pm to open public hearing to discuss the vacation of Main and Park Streets by the Velma Matson Upper Elementary School. Schneider noted that the school Superintendent, Peg Mathis was present, along with the engineers and project managers, to answer any questions. Mike Willett, 28 Post Street, asked if the City signed the law suit that the school sent out to all the property owners regarding the vacation of the streets. He is not against the school expansion project but was wondering if the City signed the suit. He stated the way the school handled the paperwork was not appropriate. Schneider explained that the City had not signed it and that is was part of the legal process to clean up some of the street vacations/plats that happened many years ago and to obtain a clear title. Johnson had a comment regarding the stairwell and possibly the City having total easement to that as it is. Motion by Day, support by Johnson at 7:16 pm to close public hearing. AIF/MC

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Scott Swinehart, Chamber Chairman, was present to give Council an update. There was a ribbon cutting at Leppinks and Camp Newaygo. Leppinks grand opening was a huge success. WZZM will be doing some commercials on the upcoming Farm Market and Croton's CauseWay event. The Chamber is currently working on strategic planning and looking at three, five and 10 year planning. There are currently 278 members.

Scott Faulkner, NEDO Chairman, was also present and gave Council a handout on several activities. NEDO is working with Chris Ortwein on the Riverbank Development property, new fireworks business going in at the old Jensen's Flower Shop location and the Rustic Fork is still moving forward. Faulkner talked about a walkable community and enlisting the help of key individuals to do a study of Newaygo to make this a community where you can access anything by walking and not driving. He stated that there is more activity in the downtown businesses and CNN was in Newaygo and took some video footage regarding internet connectivity and small towns.

MANAGERS REPORT

Schneider gave Council an update on the sewer project; did not receive the MEDC ICE grant but the City is eligible for federal grant funds from the USDA and will be submitting for those grant monies in October. Schneider went to the informational meeting on medical marijuana on June 8th and has information if anyone would like it. Heinzman has cost estimates for repainting the water tower black and white and putting the school logo on it; this is a TIFA project and is expected over the next 12 months. Schneider asked for Council input on putting City meeting agendas online for all boards; Council was in favor.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Schneider stated that there will be some summer road projects coming up; costs will be on next meeting agenda. The City may be able to do a little bit more with roads due to partnering with the road commission on materials. The DPW will be working with the school as that demo project gets underway.

Chief Andres stated that 18th Annual Kids Day was a huge success; believes it to be a record turnout. Her officers are and will be out doing code enforcement.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Hikade, support by Santana to approve Resolution 17-21 which vacates/abandons a portion of Main and Park Streets by the Velma Matson Upper Elementary School. Roll Call: Yeas: Day, Fedell, Hikade, Johnson, Santana, Walerczyk Absent: Palmiter Nay: None. CARRIED

Motion by Santana, support by Johnson to approve the City Assessor contract renewal. AIF/MC Schneider explained there was no changes, fee went up \$100/month and Dan Kirwin is very good at his job.

Motion by Hikade, support by Johnson to approve the engagement letter from Clark Hill, attorney for labor and employment matters. AIF/MC Schneider explained that Council needs to designate their own legal council. This and the next agenda item are for more specialized legal counsel for specific fields; these were recommended by the City's general Counsel, Bloom Sluggett.

Motion by Day, support by Walerczyk to approve agreement/engagement with the Law Office of Crystal Morgan for property tax appeals, ordinance enforcement and litigation matters. AIF/MC Only needed when general counsel is unable to cover.

Motion by Hikade, support by Santana to approve agreement to provide enforcement, administration and implementation of the City's Property Maintenance Code to Brookhaven Estates by the Newaygo Police Department. Jim Williamson, owner of Brookhaven, was present to explain some of the issues and why he approached the City's Police Department.

Motion by Santana, support by Walerczyk to approve the agreement for the Department of Transportation (DOT) drug screening testing with a new company, First Advantage. AIF/MC Schneider explained that this is part of the MML (Michigan Municipal League Consortium) and everything remains the same but the company name has changed.

Motion by Walerczyk, support by Hikade to approve using LSL for the City's Master Plan, Zoning Ordinance, Public Participation Plan, Economic Development and Marketing Strategies. Schneider explained that there are matching grant funds available to the City up to \$20,000 if they use LSL; this company also recommended by MEDC. This company can work on all five plans mentioned above to save cost.

Motion by Hikade, support by Day to appoint George Suchy, Jr. to fill a vacancy left by Bill Johnson who resigned from the NEDO Board through 12/31/19. AIF/MC

Motion by Walerczyk, support by Hikade to approve request from Family of God Community Church for a worship, a church picnic and "Blessing of the Backpack" event on Sunday, August 20th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. AIF/MC

Motion by Santana, support by Walerczyk to approve the Marshall Run on Saturday, September 2nd at 9:00 am. AIF/MC

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chris Ortwein, County Commissioner and real estate developer who, along with a partner, purchased the Macatawa Riverbank property, gave an update on the status of the development thus far and also recommended some local resources to help the City on Master Plan, etc. The property may be able to be a Brownfield property.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Day stated the cemetery is looking very good this year.

Hikade asked Faulker if NEDO could look into some entertainment venues for families.

Johnson asked about the City's auditorium space and its current use.

Santana asked if there was any more information on a potential dog park. Schneider stated that would be something discussed during the Master Plan process. Santana also asked Ortwein if the housing going in on the property

would be affordable. Ortwein will definitely be looking at having some entry level homes, town homes and condos possibly but too early to tell at this point. Both he and Faulkner are aware of the need for affordable housing in the Newaygo area especially with the new Promise Zone. Schneider stated that the Girl Scouts really have done a lot in and around the City this spring/summer. Fedell thanked those for coming out to the meeting.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 PM.

Mayor – Ed Fedell

Clerk – Kim Biegalle