



MINUTES

Regular Meeting of Newaygo City Council

October 9, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fedell called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM at City Hall located at 28 N. State Road, Newaygo MI 49337.

Presiding officer: Mayor Fedell

Secretary: Clerk, Kim Biegalle

Roll Call: Present: Fedell, Hikade, Johnson, Palmiter, Santana (late 7:04 pm), Walerczyk
Absent: Day

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

Motion by Hikade, support by Johnson to approve the amended agenda, adding items H and I under "New Business".
AIF/MC

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Missy Clark, 6324 E. 36th St., not a City resident but lives in the 49337 zip code, wants to address the Council on the medical marihuana facility. Concerned about the facility, its potential location and the impact it will have on the community; not in favor of the facility.

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Palmiter, support by Santana to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the regular council minutes from 09/11/17 and accounts payable of \$59,367.52, \$36,727.13, \$8,569.89, \$3,307.32, \$14,596.89, \$11,732.35, \$1,539.00, \$3,915.07 and \$11.49. Roll Call: Yeas: Fedell, Hikade, Johnson, Palmiter, Santana, Walerczyk
Absent: Day None Nay: None. CARRIED

RESERVED TIME

Holly Moon, Newaygo County Treasurer, was present to give the Council an update on her office; second year her office has been self-funded. She stated that the City of Newaygo has the best tax collection in the County at 3.8% delinquency; usually 10 – 12% is the lowest in the County. Newaygo County had the lowest number of foreclosures this year since 1999. At the County auction all but three parcels were sold.

Johnson informed Council of the new launching of the "I Am NEWaygo" campaign. Launched on social media and gaining membership. Faulkner was present to show some of the items that are being handed out, bumper stickers, coasters, shirts. Looking for community input and the current initiative is walkability. Two meetings are going to be held, Saturday, October 14th at 9:00 am at the old museum and another meeting on Monday, October 16th at 6:00 pm, same location. Schneider noted that the RRC that the City is involved in requires a marketing and branding piece so this fits with that process.

Schneider briefly went over the first quarter budget. All departments are either at or below budget at this time with some departments showing revenue is up.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

N/A

MANAGERS REPORT

N/A

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Ron Wight, DPW Superintendent, stated some of the City roads will be getting paved with asphalt next week. Also, there will be three trees taken out of the cemetery to allow for better access for mowing.

Sgt. Walerczyk stated the police department is starting the Neighborhood Watch Program back up. Officer Dornbos will be in charge, first meeting is at the high school on Monday, October 24th at 7:00 pm. Meetings will be held once a month for one hour and will eventually go to quarterly meetings. There will be four districts with four block captains.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Johnson, support by Hikade to tentatively adopt revised Resolution 17-26 and the attached revised purchase agreement to sell the land in the Industrial Park to Wring BioPharma, LLC. Roll Call: Yeas: Fedell, Hikade, Johnson, Palmiter, Santana, Walerczyk Absent: Day Nay: None. CARRIED Johnson stated that a lot was taken into consideration, this facility will do the City a lot of good, provide good jobs and good tax revenue. He believes he made a good decision in his vote of support.

Motion by Walerczyk, support by Palmiter to approve the development agreements with the Muskegon River Inn and Northwoods General Store for the façade projects with the stipulation that the City Manager be allowed to make some minor changes, complete the attachments and be the final signatory for the documents. Schneider stated that Kim Goodin has worked on this project for a long time and these documents are required by MEDC (Michigan Economic Development Corporation) and this will help beautify a couple more buildings in the downtown. Roll Call: Yeas: Fedell, Hikade, Johnson, Palmiter, Santana, Walerczyk Absent: Day Nay: None. CARRIED

Motion by Johnson, support by Hikade to approve Resolution 17-27 which gives the City Council authority to approve the Master Plan rather than the Planning Commission as final authority. Fedell stated that the Planning Commission would initially be heading up the Master Plan process as in the past. AIF/MC

Council was given a draft "Notice of Intent" letter to initiate the Master Plan process. Fedell stated this letter goes out to surrounding townships, utilities, railroad and County boards. This notifies them the City is starting the process and welcomes their input throughout the process. Schneider noted that under the RRC grant the City will get some funds to assist with the costs of using an outside organization, LSL, Inc., a firm out of Grand Rapids to update the Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance.

Fedell updated the Council on a possible contract with CMET (Central Michigan Enforcement Team) to be the entity that assists them with running payroll for their secretary. The City would be totally reimbursed for all costs. Schneider stated CMET needs to make further changes to their organization in order to initialize a contract and therefore this item needs to be tabled.

Fedell informed Council in their packets was a listing of upcoming board members whose terms expire the end of the year as well as the dates for the 2018 meeting for Council, Planning and TIFA. Fedell will be talking with those on the list to see if they are interested in staying on before re-appointing or appointing new members.

Motion by Hikade, support by Walerczyk to appoint the four members recommended on the MML Liability & Property Pool Board of Directors election. AIF/MC

Motion by Johnson, support by Hikade, to approve Resolution 17-28 which appoints Joel Phillips to the TIFA/LDFA Board to fill a vacancy left by Larry Ivens through 12/31/19. Phillips will be the NC RESA representative and agreed to be on the board. AIF/MC

Nick Looman informed the Council that Tesla is interested in putting in car charging stations in the downtown for electric cars. Tesla will reimburse the City for the cost of the charging stations up to \$1,500 per outlet, the City and/or PSD will need to put the electric in for the charging stations and subsequently pay for any electric use. Charging stations can be in banks of three, six or nine.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Nola Teye, 120 State Rd., in regards to the façade grant, if the business owner defaults is the City responsible for the debt? Schneider explained and the City is not held responsible.

Missy Clark, 6324 E. 36th St., not in favor of Council's decision regarding the marihuana facility. Commends the "I Am NEWaygo" campaign; is passionate about our small town.

Julie Beemer, 544 Middle St., doesn't agree with Council on the marihuana facility and doesn't want it near her home or the high school. Concerned about security, unmarked trucks and transporting the medical marijuana in the City.

Nola Teye, 120 State Rd., stated that marihuana is a God given plant and pharmaceutical drugs are far worse than marihuana and referenced opioids.

James Rogers, 356 Fremont St., against the marihuana facility and referenced personal issues within own family. Also asked a question about the façade grants and if it was state or federal grants. Schneider addressed.

Krista Looman, 67 Water St., spoke regarding concerns in the audience.

Missy Clark, 6324 E. 36th St., asked if there were going to be any further actions regarding the approval of the medical marijuana facility, more meetings?

Jason Harris, 190 E. Wood St., asked if the employees at the medical marijuana facility would be protected.

Gabe Schillman, 65 State Rd., asked if there were other Council meetings that discussed this topic prior to this one and also asked if there were other public meetings held regarding this topic. There were prior meetings and a special meeting held at Loomis Lodge.

Brooke Schaffer, 28 W. Water St., urged board to do better at communicating these kinds of meetings. She stated that the community did not know about this facility. She stated that the Council is responsible for getting the information out to the community.

Jeremiah Corrigan, Cooper St., stated the decision for this facility was taken out of the community's hand.

Cal Deitz, 691 Quarterline, asked how much The Stream has cost the taxpayers of Newaygo this year and asked for the information to be given at the next Council meeting. Also asked how much, to date, The Stream has cost the taxpayers over the last several years.

Mike Borkowski, 77 State Rd., stated his kids go to school here and he supports local business. He was concerned about the time this process took to get approved as well as concerned about the location of the facility. He also was concerned that the community didn't know this was going on.

Nola Teye, 120 State Rd., stated that it is the residents responsibility to do their homework, get on the internet, get on the City's website and come to meetings no matter how busy people are.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Fedell stated that many on the City's boards are not residents of the City. Other township supervisors are on our boards.

The City communicates with surrounding townships. Lots of time and research has gone into the decision of the Council, the majority of the State, County and City voted in favor of marijuana in 2008. White Cloud has also approved all five licenses, other cities and townships are also considering as well. The City did this for the tax revenue in hopes to lower taxes and water and sewer rates. The City has provisions in its ordinances to revoke and close down if necessary. There is a lot of misinformation out there. Fedell respects those who agree and those who don't agree.

Walerczyk thanked the new people in the audience for coming out to the meeting tonight.

Hikade seconded Walerczyk.

Palmiter also thanked those new people who came out but does not support this facility for the City he loves.

Johnson is at peace with his decision. There will be no dispensary, marijuana will not be handed out on the corner, and there is currently a huge opioid epidemic. If there is a smell, the City has provisions to mitigate that. The lot in the Industrial Park that has been vacant for 46 years is now being sold, this is a good thing.

Santana stated there is a need for better communication with both sides of the issue being represented equally. Hopes the Council is doing this more than for just the money. Newaygo is a great place to live.

Schneider reminded Council to look over their FYI's in the back of their packets. He seconded Santana in that communication is key. Stated the City does the best it can, no matter where people stand. Everyone is on the same team and at the end of the day, we all need to work together.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 PM.

Mayor – Ed Fedell

Clerk – Kim Biegalle