



MINUTES
Regular Meeting of Newaygo City Council
April 10, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

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

Presiding officer: Mayor Fedell
Secretary: Clerk, Kim Goodin

Roll Call: Present: Black, Burns, DeVries, Engemann, Fedell, Johnson, Walerczyk
Absent: None

Motion by Burns, second by Black to approve the amended agenda adding item “K-Resolution 2023-16 appointing Tom Postma to the TIFA/LDFA Board.” AIF/MC

PUBLIC COMMENTS

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Johnson, second by Black to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the council regular meeting minutes from 03/13/2023, council special meeting minutes from 03/27/2023 and accounts payable of \$24,991.25, \$403,620.08, \$21,320.35, \$31,558.04, \$22,876.17, \$180.26, \$95.34, and \$57.62 Roll Call: Yeas: Black, Burns, DeVries, Engemann, Fedell, Johnson, Walerczyk Absent: None Nay: None. CARRIED

RESERVED TIME

COMMITTEE & BOARD REPORTS

Ken DeLaat, County Commissioner, stated that the County Audit had been completed and that Henning Park will be receiving upgraded Wi-Fi through NCATS. He said that the County will be utilizing a portion of ARPA funds for jail renovations.

Newaygo Fire Chief Otteren discussed options the Fire District and Board are researching to save money on Fire Truck replacement.

Tim Liberty, River Country Chamber of Commerce, stated that the Chamber Annual Meeting is being held on May 4th at the Newaygo County Museum. He said that the Chamber wants to become a better resource for members and not just focus on events.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Schneider discussed request he received from Versity Blood Center asking if the City would donate space to hold a summer blood drive. They also requested assistance from the City to advertise the blood drive and help recruit donors. Schneider discussed request he received from organization about placing ribbons on light poles to promote autism awareness. He handed out a copy of email he received from high school students asking the City for permission to place a statue (artwork) on a City bench to promote a fundraising event. Schneider asked Council for their thoughts and comments regarding these requests and future requests of these types. Council discussed many topics related to the requests and potential future requests. Consensus of Council was that they are supportive of projects being requested, but do not feel that City public space is the best fit for these organizations and would recommend that they work with local businesses. Schneider discussed blighted parcels on Water Street that the City may have the option to purchase in the future and said he would recommend that the City purchase the parcels and demolish the buildings on the parcels. He said that no action needs to be taken tonight, but that he will know more information in the coming months. Schneider said that the Water Service Inventory has been completed and approximately 150 laterals need to be replaced and stated that he is researching funding options for this project.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Ron Wight, DPW Superintendent, discussed Water System Reliability Study that was included in Council Packets. He said that this study is a requirement by EGLE that must be completed every five years. Wight said that the study is a guideline and discusses the existing water system, evaluation of system capacity and recommendations for improvements. He gave updates on water/sewer projects start dates.

BOARD BUSINESS

Motion by Engemann, second by Burns to approve up to \$25,000 to study/hire a consultant to examine community public safety needs in conjunction with Brooks Township. Roll Call: Yeas: Black, Burns, DeVries, Engemann, Fedell, Johnson, Walerczyk Absent: None Nay: None. CARRIED Schneider stated that the Fire District had requested extra dollars for a full-time Fire Chief and full-time Fire Fighter and this had been discussed at a previous Council Meeting and Public Safety Meeting. Schneider said that the consensus at both meetings was that a third party consultant be hired to do a study of the needs of public safety in the community. He stated that Brooks Township had recently approved up to \$25,000 to contribute to the study. Council discussed: cost of study, time line of study and that it should include current and future needs of public safety in the community.

Motion by Black, second by Johnson to approve Magna request to have a Newaygo 6K Fundraising Walk for Water on May 20, 2023. Schneider stated that Magna had done this same event last year and that neither the City nor the Police had received any complaints.

Motion by Johnson, second by Walerczyk to approve Easement Agreement with 8180 Mason Drive: Burger King. AIF/MC Schneider stated that this is for the water main extension from the floral shop to Burger King and this was the last easement needed.

Council discussed the request from Versity Blood Center in more detail. Consensus of Council was that this is a good program, but not a good fit for the City to be involved in and would recommend sending them some local church contacts.

Motion by Burns, second by Black to approve Ordinance 2023-04 amending Chapter 6 (Landscaping & Buffering). AIF/MC Fedell stated that the Planning Commission had recommended approval of amending Chapter 6 (Landscaping & Buffering) and said that the only change is related to the height that grass and weeds must be maintained.

Motion by Engemann, second by Johnson to approve Resolution 2023-13 which approves the NCRA Budget FY 2023/2024. AIF/MC Fedell said that the City contribution to NCRA has not changed for the FY 2023/2024.

Motion by Black, second by Burns to approve Resolution 2023-14 adopting Newaygo Area Fire District's Budget for FY 2023/2024.

Motion by Johnson, second by Walerczyk to approve Resolution 2023-15 which sets the date and schedule of notices for Public Hearing on the FY 2023/2024 Fire Protection Services Special Assessment Roll. AIF/MC

Schneider went over the budget in detail; discussed some highlights and explained some revenue and expenditures.

Schneider stated that Wight had discussed the Water System Reliability Study included in Council Packets. Schneider said that currently the City water capacity is pretty good, but it may have to be re-evaluated in the future.

Motion by Johnson, second by Engemann to approve Resolution 2023-16 approving the appointment of Tom Postma to the TIFA/LDFA Board. AIF/MC

PUBLIC COMMENTS

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Member comments related to: bridge repair over the Muskegon River, blood drive, Burger King Easement with the City, and Ordinance related to dogs on a leash.

Motion by Walerczyk, second by Burns to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 PM. AIF/MC

Mayor – Ed Fedell

Clerk – Kim Goodin