



MINUTES

Regular Meeting of Newaygo City Council

October 10, 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 Santana to approve the agenda with adding a conflict of interest waiver as "Item H" under new business. AIF/MC

PUBLIC COMMENTS

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Palmiter, support by Hikade to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the regular council minutes from 09/12/16 and accounts payable of \$35,492.38, \$256,809.66, \$11,969.58, \$114,328.98, \$15,334.50, \$18,129.35, \$8,503.84, \$61,626.88, \$1,128.00, \$4,617.28 and \$1,661.94. Roll Call: Yeas: Day, Fedell, Hikade, Johnson, Palmiter, Santana, Walerczyk Absent: None Nay: None. CARRIED

RESERVED TIME

Schneider did a first quarter budget review. Both revenues and expenditures are on target for the majority of the various City departments with some even being below budget.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MANAGERS REPORT

Schneider stated he has been in discussions with a property owner who is interested in the vacant lot at the corner of Fair and Water Street; he gave them the amount of City expenses put into that property. He is waiting to hear back from interested person. The other property off of M-82 and Fremont Street is vacant land that the current owners want to donate. Schneider asked Council for direction in how to proceed as far as costs; does the City want to split costs, have them take on the majority of costs, etc. A couple Council members gave their ideas, Schneider will discuss further with the property owners. Schneider stated that local leadership of the Magna facility wishes to expand their facility. Schneider and others have met with people at the State level to develop an incentive package to entice Magna to expand here in Newaygo instead of in a different state or country. The package offered includes grant money, a local tax abatement, and assistance for training of employees. Item H on the agenda is a conflict waiver because the same law firm also has represented Magna in the past; the City has done these kinds of waivers before. The waste water treatment plant liner that is failing/leaking is being addressed by the DEQ; DEQ wants to discuss and resolve issues. Schneider is trying to find funding to make the repairs and a preliminary engineering report needs to be done which will have a cost to it. The NCRA "draft" Recreation Plan is in Council packets; he asked Council to review and direct any questions, comments, etc. to Biegalle. The Fire Department wishes to purchase a new truck and the Newaygo Area Fire District will need to do an installment purchase agreement; one of the jurisdictions may have to initiate the agreement on behalf of the fire department but Schneider will have more information by next month. A couple Council members had

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questions regarding the purchase of a truck; always have paid for one in cash before; Schneider gave explanation for Fire Board's need to use an installment purchase agreement.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Ron Wight, DPW Superintendent, stated that the Division Street sidewalk project is almost completed as well as the rail road crossing at River and Water Streets. Wight stated that the City was given 14 days to respond to the DEQ on the liner issue.

Chief Andres stated that on October 1st, 120 children received free bicycle helmets. Officer Dornbos saw a need and was able to work with St. Bart's and Walmart to get kids helmets for safety.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Fedell stated that Walerczyk, Hikade and Palmiter requested the "Stream Ops/TIFA Committee" be on the agenda and turned the floor over to them. Hikade has read through the Stream Operations Committee meeting minutes and had many concerns, which he voiced. To address his concerns regarding the Stream he recommended the following: Abolish the bonus program, dissolve the Stream Operations Committee, place management of facility/employees under City Manager, consider sale of the facility, reports to Council each month, restructure approach to economic development. Hikade also addressed a contract between the City of Newaygo and TIFA regarding payment for water system infrastructure. Palmiter expressed a need for a plan. Walerczyk would like a joint meeting with Stream Operations Committee to discuss concerns that have been raised. Fedell gave answers to many of the concerns raised and explained the history of the Stream and how various things came about. Fedell made some clarifications regarding Stream bonus program and also particulars of the contract between the City of Newaygo and TIFA regarding payment of water system infrastructure. Fedell also shared his thoughts on how to best market the Stream to acquire a large tenant for the 2nd floor and how economic development should be run. He informed the Council that Blachford is no longer consulting for the Stream as of October 1, 2016. He also shared that there are talks of dissolving the Stream Operations Committee and forming a new economic development board.

Motion by Hikade, support by Palmiter to abolish the incentive/bonus pay for The Stream employees. Roll Call: Yeas: Hikade, Johnson, Palmiter, Santana, Walerczyk Absent: None Nay: Day, Fedell. CARRIED.

Motion by Hikade, support by Walerczyk to approve the special use request by Verizon to allow for a 197' cell tower behind Pine Lake Apartments on G-W Wood Products property. Schneider stated this was approved at Planning, meets the setbacks and they will use the existing drive off of S. Park Street. The original pole was 250' but lowered and doesn't have to be lit at night. A representative was present to also give further information. Day, Hikade, Johnson, Palmiter, Santana, Walerczyk all approved, Fedell opposed.

Motion by Palmiter, support by Day to approve revised pay request for the Division Street sidewalk project. Schneider stated this is revised due to a discussion with the General Contractor regarding the City's DPW Department cleaning up, picking up and finishing up the sidewalk project and reimbursing the City for the cost of labor and equipment. Roll Call: Yeas: Day, Fedell, Hikade, Johnson, Palmiter, Santana, Walerczyk Absent: None Nay: None. CARRIED

Motion by Walerczyk, support by Hikade to approve the legal services agreement for the USDA application for funding on the WWTP/Sewer system. Schneider stated this was part of the USDA requirement and eventually there will be a bond counsel agreement Council will need to approve as well. Roll Call: Yeas: Day, Fedell, Hikade, Johnson, Palmiter, Santana, Walerczyk Absent: None Nay: None. CARRIED

Motion by Hikade, support by Johnson to approve a contribution of \$2,000 to Recycling for Newaygo County. Fedell stated that Council supported this in the past and contributed \$1,500. Roll Call: Yeas: Day, Fedell, Hikade, Johnson, Palmiter, Santana, Walerczyk Absent: None Nay: None. CARRIED

Discussion on the term expirations of board member appointments, next years (2017) meeting dates and the Council committee appointments. Fedell stated if anyone has any recommendations to let him know and he will talk to them.

Motion by Fedell, support by Hikade to appoint the MML's recommendation for their Liability and Property Pool Board of Directors. There are two members running for two positions. AIF/MC

Motion by Palmiter, support by Santana to approve the conflict waiver with Dickinson Wright law firm. This is to disclose to the City and Magna that their firm has lawyers that have represented each party in the past on various unrelated matters and will not share information between attorneys. AIF/MC

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Cal Deitz, 490 Quarterline, had many comments regarding The Stream. He commended Walerczyk, Hikade and Palmiter for working to address questions about the Stream. He made some comments regarding Blachford and requested the amount he has been paid as a consultant to The Stream; He also blamed Schneider.

Charlie Benham, 625 Main Street, stated he still has neighbor's dog entering his yard; he now has a camera and wants something done about this.

Kelly Tinkham introduced herself as the new library director. She gave Council information on the summer reading program and its huge success with both kids and adults. She stated the library has a lot of programs and handed flyers out to the Council members.

Carol Sherwood, 132 Wood Street, stated that the City is in need of a republican representative to be on the Election Commission; have been trying to fill the spot for a long time.

Chuck Shick, 233 State Street, had a couple of questions for the Council regarding The Stream. Also, wanted Council to remember when people donate their property to the City, this ceases taxes paid to the City for that property.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Johnson informed Dietz that it is unfair to blame Schneider for The Stream situation as he is not in charge of it.

Santana stated it is a joy to go to the library, he does feel it is lacking space for kids to create and make things, especially for teenagers.

Fedell stated everyone has an opinion and a right to voice them. Fedell refuted comments made about Blachford, complimented his work as City Manager, and reminded everyone that he was instrumental in the revitalization of downtown.

Palmiter concurred with Fedell regarding Blachford; Blachford has done a lot for this City.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:32 PM.

Mayor – Ed Fedell

Clerk – Kim Biegalle