



MINUTES

Regular Meeting of Newaygo City Council

November 14, 2016

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: Day, Fedell, Hikade, Johnson, Palmiter, Santana, Walerczyk
Absent:

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Walerczyk, support by Day to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the regular council minutes from 10/10/16 and accounts payable of \$92,207.07, \$20,692.79, \$8,917.11, \$11,793.90, \$23,954.53, \$7,895.94, \$852.17 and \$1,635.14. Roll Call: Yeas: Day, Fedell, Hikade, Johnson, Palmiter, Santana, Walerczyk Absent: None Nay: None. CARRIED

RESERVED TIME

COMMITTEE REPORTS

MANAGERS REPORT

Schneider gave the Council an update on the two vacant land parcels; one on the corner of Water and Fair and the other off of M-82 heading towards Fremont. He has currently been in touch with an interested party for the Water/Fair piece and is waiting to hear back. He has sent an agreement to the property owner for the M-82/Fremont Street property and is also waiting to hear back; a copy of the agreement is in the Council packet. Schneider stated he and Wight have met with the DEQ (Department of Environment Quality) on the wastewater treatment plant. The meeting was good and positive and the DEQ is looking for a plan going forward on the City's next steps. City is currently looking into a permit modification to be able to discharge anytime throughout the year at the plant. Schneider is also continuing to work on possible grants/loans for the liner repair as well as upgrading some lift stations, controls, generator backups, etc. as the City moves forward and grows. Schneider stated that the Fire Department needs to replace one of the tanker trucks; this is a necessity to keep the insurance rates down. Looking at a leasing option for five years. The City or Brooks Township will have to apply on behalf of the Fire Department unless the Fire Department is restructured. Schneider also discussed several options for the fire department moving forward and discussed the idea of a DPS (Department of Public Safety); would need to investigate and get buy in from adjacent townships. Fedell would like to explore some options but stated that there would need to be more growth for some of these options to work. Several Council members made positive comments and had some good suggestions. Schneider will discuss with Brooks Township supervisor and get his input. Fedell would like to see the Fire Board to be able to purchase the equipment on their own.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Ron Wight, DPW Superintendent, stated that along with Schneider's report on the wastewater plant, they are also looking at additional piping for any future expansion on the ponds. He noted that his department continues to work on leaf pick up as well.

Chief Andres stated that the City's Charter speaks to a Director of Public Safety already and she has done some research on DPS and there is much to consider and a lot of options for structuring. Currently four of the City Police Officers are cross trained in DPS and there is cost savings in DPS but takes years to recoup.

Wert-Carr of The Stream gave the Council an update of several projects they are working on and touched base on Sui Generis moving into the first floor location and opening very soon. She also talked about a façade grant with nine possible businesses interested with the hopes of getting three to four of those businesses committing. She also gave some statistics for membership for the 2016 year. Schneider, Goodin and herself went to Redevelopment Ready Community program in hopes to get the City ready for economic growth in the upcoming year.

Faulker gave a brief update of a meeting he had had with previous Grand Rapids Mayor George Heartwell. He stated Heartwell is a good source of information and how important communication is between organizations and how monthly meetings between organizations are key. Hikade stated that Mike King is very interested in being on the City's NEDO Board and hopes they consider him for a board position. Fedell stated he is looking at all board positions and appointments at this time.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Santana, support by Johnson to approve the final pay request for the Division Street project; this is the release of the retainage. Palmiter wanted to make sure all issues have been taken care of and the City was satisfied with the work. Schneider stated the project was looked over and everything is good. Roll Call: Yeas: Day, Fedell, Hikade, Johnson, Palmiter, Santana, Walerczyk Absent: None Nay: None. CARRIED

Motion by Palmiter, support by Hikade to approve Resolution 16-22 which updates the NCRA Recreation Plan for the next five years. Schneider stated that the resolution has that NCRA approved the final draft in November but there was no quorum at the last NCRA meeting; it would be approved in January. The change of month will be made on the resolution from November to January. AIF/MC

The list of upcoming board expirations was in the packets again this month as an FYI. Hikade asked if there was anyone interested in the Republican position for the Election Commission and Fedell stated there was.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Cal Deitz, 691 Quarterline, had many comments regarding The Stream. He demanded that the City get an appraisal on The Stream (second floor) as that is owned by the taxpayers and they have a right to know its worth. Also, would like to see Council get a "profit and loss" statement for The Stream. He also made a few other accusations about stolen money and embezzlement.

Mike King, 220 State Street, asked if there were any prospects of a replacement for Plumb's in the works. Also, stated that The Stream did lose a substantial amount of money last year but didn't have his numbers in front of him.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Johnson stated that The Stream is moving forward in a good direction.

Santana stated that it has been a beautiful fall and likes the development, growth and safe community he lives in.

Biegalle gave out some election statistics; stated 847 voters, 215 were AV and was not as large a turnout as the last presidential election. All in all was a great election day; great workers.

Schneider wanted to state that the City has a clean audit every year, there has been no money stolen or embezzled as Mr. Deitz claims. TIFA is not depleted and has reserves and is currently being managed appropriately. City is in good position and excited about the future. The Stream will continue to be monitored. He reiterated to the Board that the vacant land "draft" agreement is in their packet and there is a vacancy of the "at-large" position on the Fire Board.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Mayor – Ed Fedell

Clerk – Kim Biegalle