



MINUTES

Regular Meeting of Newaygo City Council

March 16, 2020

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 Goodin

Roll Call: Present: Black, Burns, Ederer, Fedell, Hikade, Johnson, Walerczyk
Absent: None

Motion by Johnson, support by Hikade to approve the amended agenda adding “J” Discussion on City Utility Shutoffs and PSD Fees under New Business. AIF/MC

PUBLIC COMMENTS

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Black, support by Walerczyk to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the regular council minutes from 02/10/2020 and accounts payable of \$41,123.57, \$160,635.54, \$119,475.97, \$92,324.49, \$19,602.44, \$42,607.41, \$183,635.70, \$84,409.65, \$1,378.98, \$17,895.21, \$1,084.49, \$125.89, \$48.90, and \$127.23 Roll Call: Yeas: Black, Burns, Ederer, Fedell, Hikade, Johnson, Walerczyk Absent: None Nay: None. CARRIED

RESERVED TIME

Fedell stated that the Personnel Committee held its annual review process of the City Manager, Jon Schneider, and that the written meeting minutes were in the packets. Fedell thanked Schneider for all he does as City Manager. Johnson stated that Schneider has done a wonderful job. Burns said that Schneider doing a great job. Schneider stated that he works with great boards and staff.

Motion by Hikade, support by Black to approve Employment Agreement with City Manager, Jon Schneider, expiring on May 31, 2026. Roll Call: Yeas: Black, Burns, Ederer, Fedell, Hikade, Johnson, Walerczyk Absent: None Nay: None. CARRIED Fedell stated that Personnel Committee had reviewed Employment Agreement and a copy was in packets.

COMMITTEE & BOARD REPORTS

Scott Faulkner, Economic and Community Development Coordinator, discussed information in packets explaining various NEDO project updates. He gave an update on the status of the pedestrian bridge project and grant opportunity with MEDC, gave an update on Christian Healthcare Centers and stated that Sandmold Lease Agreement was final and they would be moving into The Stream May 1, 2020.

Faulkner stated that Sable Homes had adjacent property to current River Hills Development. He said there are no roads or infrastructure on this property and Sable Homes is researching options with the State Land Bank Authority to aid in developing the property. Schneider explained how program would work and said it would have to be approved by City Council and the County if a Brownfield plan and incentives are desired for the property.

Hikade, representing the Newaygo Fire Department discussed upcoming First Responder class, stated that they have 4 or 5 new responders and they have been working on the 2020-2021 Budget.

CITY MANAGERS REPORT

Schneider encouraged all Council Members to sign up for Nixle and discussed latest updates from Abby Watkins, Director of Newaygo County Emergency Services, related to COVID-19 virus.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Chief Andres stated that the Police Department is busy dealing with COVID-19 virus and everyone is taking more precautions to stay healthy. She said that they are encouraging citizens to call rather than come into City Hall to limit person-to-person contact.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Hikade, support by Walerczyk to approve Sewer Project Draw Request Number Twelve-Payment Request Number Twelve. Roll Call: Yeas: Black, Burns, Ederer, Hikade, Fedell, Johnson, Walerczyk Absent: None Nay: None. CARRIED

Motion by Hikade, support by Black to approve Ordinance 20-02 which amends sections of Zoning Ordinance Chapter 3-General Provisions. AIF/MC Schneider stated that most of the changes related to fences and walls.

Motion by Black, support by Ederer to approve Ordinance 20-03 which amends sections of Zoning Ordinance Chapter 7-Off-Street Parking and Loading. AIF/MC Schneider stated that most of the changes related to parking spots required per unit of measure.

Motion by Hikade, support by Walerczyk to approve Resolution 2020-03 to pledge the City's full faith and credit to secure payment of refunding bonds issued by the City of Newaygo TIFA. Roll Call: Yeas: Black, Burns, Ederer, Hikade, Fedell, Johnson, Walerczyk Absent: None Nay: None. CARRIED Schneider stated that TIFA could save \$25,000-\$30,000 per year by refinancing.

Motion by Hikade, support by Burns to approve City Marketing and Branding Strategy. AIF/MC Schneider stated that the City Marketing and Branding Strategy had been to every City Board and discussed at IAmNewaygo! Meetings.

Motion by Johnson, support by Hikade to reject M-37 Pavement Marking Pilot Program Bid and to approve City Manager to negotiate for a contract or contracts on the open market to complete M-37 Pavement Marking Pilot Program and authorizing the City Manager or Mayor to approve/sign contracts relating to the project, payment requests, and any other documents needed to execute the project. Roll Call: Yeas: Black, Burns, Ederer, Hikade, Fedell, Johnson, Walerczyk Absent: None Nay: None. CARRIED Schneider stated that only 1 bid was received and came in higher than engineers had anticipated.

Motion by Ederer, support by Burns to approve request from Newaygo Brewing Company to utilize alley and area behind Brewing Company on April 26th for a 5 year anniversary event. AIF/MC Fedell stated that the request was sent to himself, Police Chief, Fire Chief and Schneider to review prior to Council Meeting.

Motion by Johnson, support by Ederer to approve the use of Brooks Park for several upcoming events/festivals for the 2020 calendar year by the River Country Chamber of Commerce. AIF/MC

Motion by Johnson, support by Burns to approve request by Native Circle of Newaygo County for the use of Brooks Park to have a public event and a contained fire, open to the public, on Friday September 18, 2020, Saturday, September 19, 2020, and Sunday, September 20, 2020. To be compliant with the Resolution relating to park rental fees the Native Circle of Newaygo County will have to pay \$225 for one of the three days and would receive two days at no charge. AIF/MC

Johnson read sheet related to discussing City's utility shutoff practices and PSD fees and also gave a copy of the sheet to each Council Member. Schneider and Goodin explained how the current utility billing, past due notices, and shutoff notices are handled. Schneider stated that each account is looked at on an individual basis and that the City is in the business to provide water and we seldom shut off a resident's water. Council discussed PSD fees and Fedell stated that City currently funds 45% of services included in the PSD fees. Council felt that current procedures were working well and to continue working with residents on a case by case basis.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ramona Deters distributed a letter to Council stating that she would like to revitalize the Farmers Market in Newaygo and utilize Brooks Park. She discussed her plan to revitalize the Farmers Market and said she has been in conversation with River Country Chamber of Commerce. Deters and board discussed dates, times, vendors, signage, advertising, and a needed champion for the Farmers Market. Deters to discuss details and options with River Country Chamber of Commerce and come back to a future meeting.

Michael Burns stated that he is extremely pleased and very satisfied with Council and the community and wanted to say thank you.

Scott Faulkner said he is on the River Country Chamber Board and would assist Deters with the Farmers Market.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Ederer congratulated Schneider on extending his employment for another six years.

Walerczyk thanked Schneider.

Johnson thanked Schneider.

Burns said she is impressed with everyone getting ahead of everything and thanked Schneider for all he does and has done.

Black stated he feels many will step up in our community to assist others with COVID-19 issue and glad someone interested in championing the Farmers Market.

Schneider said he is excited about Farmers Market possibly coming back to Newaygo and thanked everyone for allowing good things to happen in our community. He thanked Council for positive meeting and renewing his contract and said Newaygo is a great place to work.

Fedell thanked all for coming out.

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Mayor – Ed Fedell

Clerk – Kim Goodin