



MINUTES

Regular Meeting of Newaygo City Council

September 14, 2020

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fedell called the meeting to order at 7:01 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, Fedell, Hikade, Walerczyk
Absent: Ederer, Johnson

Motion by Hikade, second by Walerczyk to excuse absent members. AIF/MC

Motion by Burns, second by Hikade to approve the agenda as presented. AIF/MC

PUBLIC COMMENTS

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Hikade, second by Black to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the regular council minutes from 08/10/2020 and accounts payable of \$49,429.60, \$39,020.48, \$1,1176.30, \$360,579.25, \$111.27, \$17,623.68, \$20,078.71, \$16,839.27, \$455,728.62, \$767,475.41, \$786,683.03, \$620.80, \$2,096.13, \$80.00, and \$1,091.55.

Roll Call: Yeas: Black, Burns, Fedell, Hikade, Walerczyk Absent: Ederer, Johnson Nay: None. CARRIED

RESERVED TIME

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 potential Disc Golf Course being discussed and introduced Don Tilton who is working on an Environment Assessment for the Disc Golf Course Project. Tilton gave an update on wetland area, habitat area for certain animals, and stated that as the concept of the course evolves he will be able to complete the assessment. Faulkner stated that the board of Christian Healthcare Centers gave approval to move forward on a new facility in Newaygo behind The Stream along Wood St. and that building may start in the spring of 2021. He stated that the museum project costs came in significantly higher than anticipated and they are exploring additional funding options. Faulkner discussed potential apartments that the United Church of Christ has been discussing.

Hikade, representing the Newaygo Fire District stated that he contacted MDOT about the M-37 Pilot Program stating that he and Chief Kroll drove a fire truck through M-37 Pilot area in downtown Newaygo with no problems, but the center lane is definitely needed for emergency vehicles. He also discussed with MDOT that the Newaygo Fire District would like to see a light installed at M-37 and Cooperative Dr. that only functions when the Fire Department gets a call. Hikade stated that he also contacted Congressman Huizenga's office about a light at M-37 and Cooperative Dr. He said the Fire District Board is beginning to work on 2021/2022 budget and that the annual pancake breakfast went very well.

CITY MANAGERS REPORT

Schneider said that a Community Survey had just been sent out by the City and encouraged everyone to complete the survey. He stated that River Run Center Apartments would be opening soon and that they indicated they will be submitting plans for Phase 2 in the near future. Schneider and Council discussed restoration needs for the downtown clock and Schneider will obtain additional information and bring to a future meeting. Schneider gave

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an update on conversation he had with a local resident, Mark Coe, concerning dams on his property along Penoyer Creek. He stated that the resident was interested in obtaining Council's endorsement for the need to restore one of the failed dams. Schneider said resident is obtaining additional information and may come to a future Council Meeting.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Chief Andres stated that Officer Dornbos is working on the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission Standardized Accreditation and it will be complete by June 1, 2021. She stated that violence and drug cases have been higher than normal.

Officer Dornbos introduced Eric Magner and Bill Nottelmann as new Newaygo Police Reserve Officers. He stated that Reserve Officer Magner will also be the chaplain for the Newaygo Police Department.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Hikade, second by Burns to tentatively approve the preliminary plat for River Hills Estates #2 along with the proposed variances for sidewalks, sanitary sewers, street lighting, and street trees. AIF/MC Schneider discussed report he wrote, included in packets, outlining the review process and steps required for River Hills Estates #2 to receive final approval of the preliminary plat. Also, included in the packets were responses from various departments relating to River Hills Estate #2 project. Todd Stuve, Exxel Engineering, Inc, was present and stated that River Hills Estates #2 would add 15 additional lots. Stuve explained reasons for variances requested related to sidewalks, sanitary sewers, street lighting, and street trees. Variances would allow Phase 2 to be constructed the same as Phase 1. Schneider stated in City Manager report: he finds these requested variances to be reasonable, and congruent with how River Hills plat #1 is constructed. These variances would also support the City's need for affordable housing by reducing construction expenses thereby avoiding unnecessary inflation of the home prices. It does not appear that the variances would cause adverse effects or be detrimental to public welfare or adjacent property owners, especially since design of the new plat (plat #2) would mimic the design of the original plat (plat #1). The proposed single-family residential use of the new plat and the lot dimensions, width, and setbacks meet City Zoning Ordinance regulations. Schneider stated that the Planning Commission recommended to City Council tentative approval of the preliminary plat for River Hills Estates #2 along with proposed variances for sidewalks, sanitary sewers, street lighting, and street trees at meeting held on 9-10-2020.

Motion by Black, second by Walerczyk to approve Resolution 2020-17 amending Local Street Budget Department totals for fiscal year 2020-2021. Roll Call: Yeas: Black, Burns, Fedell, Hikade, Walerczyk Absent: Ederer, Johnson Nay: None. CARRIED Schneider stated that the sidewalks on Scott St. need to be repaired/reinstalled at a cost of approximately \$14,000, but this will be reimbursed with USDA grant funds.

Schneider handed out a letter to each Council Member that was received from MDOT regarding the M-37 downtown Pilot Program. He said that MDOT is fine with the configuration north of Quarterline along M-37, but feels the pilot between Quarterline Rd. and River St. was unsuccessful. MDOT stated that parked vehicles cross the white edge line and most of the larger vehicles cross the yellow line into the center turn lane. The letter states that the City needs to return pavement markings to the original configuration by October 8, 2020. Schneider said that the engineer verified that all markings that were trialed met MDOT standards. Schneider said he will be forwarding a copy of the letter, received from MDOT, to all downtown businesses and asked Council for recommendations going forward. Council discussed: traffic has calmed, possibility of a MDOT representative attending future Council Meeting, alternative options for configuration to keep traffic calm and allow safer pedestrian Walkability on north side of road, mid-block cross walk, and bump outs. It was stated that the City has been able to accomplish at least 50% of what initially was proposed to MDOT. Consensus of Council is that Schneider send letter received from MDOT to downtown businesses and encourage them to contact MDOT and for Schneider to send a letter to MDOT discussing: reasons City feels Pilot Study worked, painted bump-outs, possible buffer on north side of road, keep turn lane, and possible curb cut-outs to keep and enhance mid-block cross walk.

Motion by Black, support by Walerczyk to approve Resolution 2020-18 to support the NCATS Economic Development Broadband and Expansion (Fiber Optics). AIF/MC

Burns exited meeting at 8:23 pm

Motion by Black, second by Hikade to table Resolution 2020-19 to establish an escrow account for purpose of receiving and holding deposits of money received from insurers under the department of insurance and financial services fire insurance withholding program. AIF/MC Board would like additional information regarding this program.

Motion by Hikade, support by Walerczyk to approve Resolution 2020-20 adopting certain rules and regulations to govern parks of the City of Newaygo also correcting a few spelling errors. AIF/MC Chief stated that the only change made was changing the park hours to be open from dawn to dusk. Council discussed Weapon section and changes to that section will be coming in the future.

Motion by Hikade, support by Black to approve Ordinance 2020-05 to establish a Police Reserve Force. AIF/MC

Motion by Black, support by Walerczyk to amend cemetery fee schedule to add discount for City Employees and family. Roll Call: Yeas: Black, Fedell, Hikade, Walerczyk Absent: Burns, Ederer, Johnson Nay: None.
CARRIED

Motion by Hikade, support by Walerczyk to credit a portion of the water fees, from a water leak, at Centerline Baseball Field. MOTION FAILED Council stated that they did not credit other resident or businesses in the City that had water leaks and need to be fair to all accounts.

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

Motion by Walerczyk, second by Hikade to approve Sewer Project Change Order Number Ten. AIF/MC Schneider stated that there will be one more final change order to come in the near future as very close to the end of the project.

Motion by Black, second by Walerczyk to approve the 17th annual Marshall Run on November 26, 2020 to start at 9:00 am. AIF/MC

Motion by Hikade, second by Walerczyk to approve request by Spectrum Health Gerber Memorial to use Brooks Park to host a free Veggie Van event on Tuesday, October 15, 2020 from 3:00 pm-5:00 pm. AIF/MC

PUBLIC COMMENTS

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council Members all stated glad to have in person meeting.

Hikade asked for status of potential Pedestrian Bridge which Schneider discussed.

Schneider asked Council for thoughts regarding future Council Meetings and all members present happy with layout and want to continue to meet in person. Schneider discussed a few informational documents included in Council Packets and stated that he and Faulkner would be working on the branding of Newwaygo in the coming months.

Motion by Black, second by Walerczyk to adjourn the meeting. AIF/MC

Meeting adjourned at 9:10 PM.

Mayor – Ed Fedell

Clerk – Kim Goodin