

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING – STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION
June 28, 2007

The Special City Council Meeting – Strategic Planning Session was called to order by Mayor Muschell at 1:00 p.m. at Cheboygan Memorial Hospital on June 28, 2007.

Present: Council Members Muschell, Tebo, Riddle, Lepp, Sangster and Boardman
Absent: Councilman Charboneau

Members of the Strategic Planning Task Force present: Chief Kurt Jones, Mr. Robert Spinella, City Manager McNeil, Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski, Mr. Kerry Jones, Mr. Craig Beachnaw, Ms. Kimberlee Pappas, Ms. Nancy Lindsay, and City Assessor Tom Eustice.

Also present were facilitator Mr. Phil Alexander, the MSU Extension Director from Otsego County and Mr. Ben Bartlett of the Cheboygan County MSU Extension Office.

The second session of the Special City Council Meeting – Strategic Planning Session included reviewing specific areas to further address. A list of four Tier-A priorities were identified through a series of exercises regarding rating the various Strategic Planning goals. Additionally, a timeline was developed as well as a plan for addressing these issues. It was noted that City Manager McNeil would provide an update on a quarterly basis over the next year at various City Council meetings.

The first of four priorities include the F. W. Woolworth building, to be reported on at the July 24, 2007 City Council meeting, as the first quarterly report. He explained that the Northern Lakes Economic Alliance is working with a Committee from the Strategic Planning Task Force to review funding options with regard to either renovation or reconstruction of the former F. W. Woolworth building. Additionally, the building has been considered for possible EPA assessment and now qualifies for Brownfield funding for that assessment.

The second priority pertained to addressing water quality issues. The projects underway this summer include water main replacement at the Alphabet Streets, Duncan Avenue and a portion of Main Street. As a follow up and report to Council in the fall of 2007, a Committee comprised of Mr. Craig Beachnaw, Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski and Councilman Tebo hopes to provide progress reports on the installation of the new water mains. Also discussed was a future water quality survey to be initiated in the spring of 2008, for residents in areas that received the new water mains to determine the status of water quality issues and if the new water mains have alleviated problems.

The third priority identified pertained to sidewalks and paths, and the goal of making the City of Cheboygan a walkable community. City Manager McNeil provided an overview, explaining that a Committee is presently working on that issue. Discussion centered primarily on the timeline of establishing a plan to research funding sources and where the project would begin and end. Also discussed were hardship cases and the possibility of having to revisit consideration to institute a special assessment as a possible funding source for sidewalk improvements. It was noted that the status of the sidewalks priority would be provided to Council at an upcoming quarterly report.

The fourth priority, which was previously a secondary goal, included the establishment of a Cultural Arts and Education Center. Ms. Joann Leal referred to the former F. W. Woolworth property as a possible site, as well as funding sources. Also discussed was conducting a survey of interest with

regard to a facility of that nature. Several recommendations for the Cultural Arts and Education Center include a maritime museum, dance studio, Native American activities, and media center. Management of the facility was discussed and it was determined the matter would be addressed in the future if the Center ultimately becomes a reality.

Other issues that were discussed include information technology and having the infrastructure available to compete with the rest of the State and Country with regard to technological upgrades. It was noted that this is an area that the Northern Lakes Economic Alliance is working toward to ensure that northern Michigan has these opportunities available as technology advances. Councilwoman Lepp commented on certain levels of negativity within the community and discussion was held regarding the possibility of adding a public relations component to the Strategic Plan. It was noted that the process is going well, but communication on the goals the City is working toward and the accomplishments that have been made, needs to be improved.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

Mayor James Muschell

City Clerk Kenneth J. Kwiatkowski

Councilman Richard B. Sangster

Councilman Gerald R. Boardman

Councilwoman Winifred L. Riddle

Councilman Charles Charboneau

Councilman Leslie A. Tebo

Councilwoman Theo Lepp