

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
August 25, 2009

The Regular City Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Sangster in the Council Chambers in the City Hall at 7:00 p.m. The proceedings were as follows:

Present: Council Members Kopernik, Bronson, VanFleet, Lepp, Jewell, Sangster and Couture

Councilman Kopernik led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Approval of Agenda and Receive and File all Communications

Councilman Kopernik moved to approve the agenda as presented and receive and file all communications. Seconded by Councilwoman Lepp. Motion carried unanimously.

Correction and Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes

- **Regular City Council Meeting – July 14, 2009**

Councilman Couture moved to approve the minutes of the July 14, 2009 Regular City Council Meeting as presented. Seconded by Councilman Jewell. Motion carried unanimously.

- **Special City Council Meeting – July 28, 2009**

Councilman Jewell indicated a correction in the minutes. He stated that the sentence, “He noted that a request for the cost of two police officers provided 24/7 was made to the County” should read “He noted that a request for the cost of two police officers *scheduled* 24/7 was made to the County.”

Councilwoman Lepp moved to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2009 Special City Council Meeting as amended. Seconded by Councilman Couture. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments

Public comment portion of the meeting opened by Mayor Sangster.

- **Personal Property Dispute**

Ms. Cathy Hill introduced herself and related a detailed explanation of problems she experienced with regard to retrieving personal property through the Department of Public Safety. Mayor Sangster indicated that Council wants to resolve the issue. Councilman VanFleet requested a copy of the police reports to review for a better understanding of the circumstances. Chief Jones stated this is an open investigation and provided a brief update on the status. City Manager McNeil recommended that the investigation be allowed to proceed and have a definitive response through that process. Mayor Sangster questioned a timeframe for resolution. Chief Jones commented that he is expecting documentation from the Secretary of State soon. City Manager McNeil noted that a determination needs to be made whether it is something in a criminal nature that can be taken care of through our Department of Public Safety or through the Prosecutor’s Office, or whether the issue is civil. Mayor Sangster stated that this is an ongoing situation and if the issue persists, Council will ensure there is resolution. Councilman Couture noted that there is nothing Council can do until the investigation is complete and the matter is in the hands of the Department of Public Safety.

- **Blight Issue Update**

Mrs. Trudy Lofgren requested an update on the blight issue pertaining to the LeGault property. Chief Jones stated that a Circuit Court hearing is set for September 30, 2009. Mrs. Lofgren asked why resolving an issue like this takes so long. City Manager McNeil indicated that without a determination of absolute safety issue there is nothing else the City can do but avail itself to the Court system. Mayor Sangster explained that Council has discussed amending blight enforcement regulations so that blight is not left unresolved for so long and that possibly clean up is provided by the City and expenses assessed to the property owner through the tax roll. He added that there is a question on what can legally be done with blighted property not considered a safety hazard to prevent situations from occurring in the future.

- **Michelle Duffiney Comments**

Ms. Michelle Duffiney introduced herself and apologized for comments she made at the last City Council meeting regarding ethnic reference to renters.

Public comment portion of the meeting closed by Mayor Sangster.

Public Hearings

- **Consideration of Brownfield Plan for Former Woolworth Property Redevelopment**

Public hearing portion of the meeting opened by Mayor Sangster.

City Manager McNeil stated that Mr. Mac McClelland of the consulting firm Otwell Mawby is here to provide an overview of the proposed Brownfield Plan for redevelopment of the former Woolworth property. He referred to the Brownfield Plan, a Resolution of Council, and Brownfield Reimbursement Agreement as three action items for Council's consideration. Mr. McClelland explained the process for approval of Brownfield Plans which includes a public hearing and that another requirement in order to capture state tax dollars is to submit the Plan to the State for consideration. Mr. McClelland explained that the purpose of the Brownfield Plan is to be able to address the Woolworth building which is declared blighted property that qualifies for Brownfield incentives. He added that the opportunity through this Plan is to be able to take those eligible activities for demolition of the building and site preparation for redevelopment and being able to obtain reimbursement for those expenses through the increased taxes generated by the investment of the property. Mr. McClelland stated that once the building is demolished and site preparation has been done efforts will be made to identify and attract individuals to consider acquisition and development of the property that will also provide a tax credit for that developer. Councilman VanFleet questioned how expenses are recaptured through the tax process. Mr. McClelland explained the Brownfield Plan process. Councilman Jewell questioned possible cuts to Brownfield throughout the State. Mr. McClelland explained that the Brownfield credits and incentives are a separate pool established through a cap with ample funding left within those credits and that the State's financial situation will not impact this program. Mayor Sangster questioned a minimum/maximum timeframe for development. Mr. McClelland stated that a risk the City has in spending the money up front to prepare and position a property for redevelopment is if the property remains undeveloped and results in no source of revenue. Councilman Couture asked if Mr. McClelland has contacts to help market the site once it is prepared for redevelopment. Mr. McClelland indicated there is interest and opportunities and Otwell Mawby has contact with developers and works with the Northern Lakes Economic Alliance to attract developers. Discussion was held regarding redevelopment opportunities, incentives for redevelopment and reimbursement of eligible expenses. Ms. Barb

Lennon questioned hazardous conditions inside the former Woolworth building. Mr. McClellan indicated that mold will have to be addressed within the demolition but is not considered an eligible activity for Brownfield because it is not regulated by environmental or demolition laws. He commented on the lead and asbestos that will be addressed as well in demolition. Mr. McClellan indicated there is no penalty if the City decides not to proceed with demolition. Mr. George Lennon commented on Cheboygan's tourism-based economy and asked how this will hold out. Mr. McClellan stated that he is familiar with a tourism-based economy and that the outcome of the project depends on the market climate and what can be developed at that site. He commented on opportunity for retail, commercial office and residential space, noting that development depends on the people investing in the project, who they market to and their price points. Mayor Sangster questioned the possibility of any division of property. Mr. McClellan indicated the property could be divided and does not bind the City in terms of future use. He added that if the level of investment is reduced it will take longer to pay off the eligible activities which are all considerations when going through the process. Councilman Kopernik requested clarification on the loan process. City Manager McNeil explained that there would be a specified monthly payment amount and that is one of the considerations for Council when deciding whether or not to undertake this project. Mr. McClellan stated that there are dollars available to cover eligible expenses but there may be issues of loan payment and timing and those kinds of things but ultimately all of those costs can be reimbursed. Mr. Ellis Olson commented that currently the DDA captures all tax revenues above base and if the base of this property goes to zero then rightfully, the DDA would capture all of that tax base. He asked if the DDA is going to provide the loan to demolish the building or is the City of Cheboygan. Mr. McClellan explained that what would have to happen in this case is an agreement between the DDA and Brownfield Authority that the DDA would agree to transfer or forego its tax capture on this particular project and transfer those funds to the Brownfield Authority to pay off all the expenses. Mayor Sangster asked if the City has any obligation to the DDA since the building was purchased with DDA funds and that portion of the purchase is not obligated. City Manager McNeil indicated that is correct and that DDA's and Cities cooperate all the time. Councilman Kopernik questioned if the DDA is part of the City budget. City Manager McNeil indicated that the DDA has its own budget but is included in the City's budget document and technically is a City entity but has its own rules and operations. Mr. Lennon requested a copy of the Brownfield Plan. Mr. Olson requested that all comments made be included in the public hearing section for future reference.

There being no further comments, the public hearing portion of the meeting was closed by Mayor Sangster.

Councilman VanFleet moved to approve the Brownfield Plan for the former Woolworth Property Redevelopment. Seconded by Councilman Couture. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

- **Consideration of Brownfield Development and Reimbursement Agreement – Former Woolworth Property Redevelopment**

Public hearing portion of the meeting opened by Mayor Sangster.

City Manager McNeil explained that the Brownfield Development and Reimbursement Agreement is the document that sets forth the relationship between the City of Cheboygan as the developer and the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority that would bring the funds in from the property taxes created and then turns those funds over to the City.

There being no further comments, the public hearing portion of the meeting was closed by Mayor Sangster.

Councilman Kopernik moved to approve the Brownfield Redevelopment and Reimbursement Agreement, Former Woolworth Redevelopment and authorize the Mayor to sign the same. Seconded by Councilwoman Lepp. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

City Manager McNeil referred to the City of Cheboygan Resolution which serves as the notice and documentation that the Woolworth property is designated as blighted.

Councilman VanFleet moved to approve the City of Cheboygan Resolution that the Cheboygan City Council hereby declares the former Woolworth building as blighted, under the definition provided in Act 381. Seconded by Councilwoman Lepp. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

Communications and Petitions

- **PowerPoint Presentation – Conceptual Master Plan, Major City Park**

City Manager McNeil referred to representatives of the Cheboygan Economic Development Group who would like to make a presentation on how some of their plans may fit with the Major City Park Master Plan. Mayor Sangster stated that he wished to schedule a Special City Council meeting on Thursday, August 27, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at the Cheboygan Area Public Library for a complete presentation on the Conceptual Master Plan for the Major City Park. He noted that Council has not seen the whole concept and MSU wants some answers back from Council on input that was provided. Mayor Sangster invited input tonight from the Cheboygan Economic Development Group as well as attendance at the Special City Council meeting on Thursday morning. Mr. Bud Darnell introduced himself as President of the Cheboygan Economic Development Group and explained that the Group has been working on two projects for quite some time and is somewhat remiss in not making the information public sooner. He added that a complete presentation will be provided at the Special City Council meeting on Thursday, August 27, 2009. Mr. Darnell provided an overview of what the Cheboygan Economic Development Group has been doing including two projects they are melding into one which is the Great Lakes Native People's Museum and Cultural Center and a Regional Entertainment and Sports Complex. He provided artist renderings of the projects and commented that the Group is suggesting there may be potential for larger projects within the Major City Park that would offer year-round activities that Council may want to consider when reviewing conceptual plans for the Major City Park and construction of the footbridge. Mr. Darnell referred to the services of a consulting firm that has been engaged and a marketing study that is underway, adding that if results are positive the Group intends to go forward with a feasibility study. He also referred to grant funding and matching funds for the feasibility study. Mr. Darnell noted that if plans are successful and Council is interested in pursuing this program, new ball fields would be provided at another site within the City. Mayor Sangster commented on the sensitivity of the Major City Park project and the importance of obtaining significant input without overlooking any details. Discussion was held regarding relocating the ball fields. Mayor Sangster recommended representation from the Cheboygan Little League Association for input at the Special City Council meeting. It was noted that representatives from the Straits Area Softball League and the Cheboygan Little League Association would attend the Special City Council meeting on August 27, 2009.

- **Request by Cathy L. Berden to allow use of Washington Park on Saturday, September 26, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for a Geobash**

Councilman Kopernik moved to approve the request of Cathy L. Berden to allow the use of Washington Park on Saturday, September 26, 2009 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. for a Geobash. Seconded by Councilwoman Lepp. Motion carried unanimously.

Department, Boards and Commission Reports

- **Department of Public Safety Monthly Statistics – July 2009**

The Department of Public Safety Statistics for the month of July 2009 were received and reviewed.

- **Regular Brownfield Redevelopment Authority Board of Directors Meeting – August 10, 2009**

City Manager McNeil referred to the results of the public hearing that Council held tonight with regard to the Brownfield Redevelopment Plan.

- **Regular Recreation Commission Meeting – August 19, 2009**

City Manager McNeil stated that the primary purpose of the Recreation Commission was to review the four concepts of the Major City Park Master Plan and offer their comments on which of those elements they thought were the best. He noted that a review has also been completed by the Planning Commission and the Downtown Development Authority and that the information has already been tabulated and will be provided for Council's review at the Special City Council meeting on August 27, 2009. City Manager McNeil commented that all the Boards and Commissions will be advised of the Special City Council meeting.

- **Regular Human Relations Board Meeting – August 17, 2009**

City Manager McNeil stated that the Human Relations Board critiqued the first effort of providing Native American cultural teachings in conjunction with the Cheboygan County Fair. He commented that program went very well and the Board agreed to try and provide a bigger and better program next year. The Board also started work on the 2010 Martin Luther King Day event which will take place in the Opera House the Sunday before the traditional observance of Martin Luther King Day.

- **Regular Planning Commission Meeting – August 17, 2009**

City Manager McNeil reported that the Planning Commission reviewed several different issues including a remand from Council relative to the vacation type rental use within Single Family Residential Districts. He stated that the Planning Commission heard comments from those interested in this particular issue and they have placed it again on their next regular meeting agenda. City Manager McNeil commented that in the meantime he will be gathering information as to how the City of Traverse City dealt with this issue and he will be requesting copies of their ordinance as well as those of the Village of Mackinaw City. He noted that the Planning Commission will be reviewing that Ordinance amendment based on the direction from Council. Additionally, the Commission plans to consider a possible zoning ordinance amendment to regulate the medical marijuana issue for caregivers, or those that would grow marijuana and how that might be regulated in so far as placement through a zoning ordinance. It was noted that the City of Royal Oak has gone through this process which is something that the Planning Commission has decided they want to take a look at as well. City Manager McNeil stated that also under review is the Small Wind Turbine Draft Ordinance and related issues which will continue into the next meeting. Mayor Sangster referred to the Riverfront Development Plan. City Manager McNeil explained that the Riverfront

Development Plan is a directive from the Strategic Plan and what is being done here is basically going to be a recommendation as to how future development might take place through that area as might be regulated through the Zoning Ordinance. Additionally, the basic idea is to try and open up public space while at the same time offer a greater density of development to a developer and actually add flexibility in development regulations. He commented that it might depend on which area of the River because the Riverfront Development Plan is divided into three sections and each section is looked at in a certain way because of its characteristics. The Planning Commission reviewed a first draft of what that document might look like relative to the northern corridor and he expects some type of draft will be completed by the early part of 2010 for Council's review. Discussion was held regarding the wind turbine draft ordinance. City Manager McNeil indicated that he provided an ordinance draft to provide a basis for discussion but there is quite a bit to review and he does not expect that the Planning Commission will produce anything for Council's review within the next couple months.

Unfinished Business

- **Consideration of Purchase of Foreclosed Property within the City of Cheboygan pursuant to Property Tax Collection Process**

City Manager McNeil referred to information relative to the public purpose issue with an attorney's opinion provided by County Treasurer Cronan. He indicated the summary opinion is that cities, villages etc. who gain property through property tax foreclosure can take the property, market and sell it but any profit that is made goes back to the tax collection agency. This issue is control and whether Council wants to have a hand in that part of the process or leave that to the County in their processes for sale. Councilman Jewell commented on discussion with potential buyers of the property that may still be interested.

Councilman Couture moved to waive the first right of refusal with regard to consideration of purchase of foreclosed property within the City of Cheboygan pursuant to the Property Tax Collection Process and provide that notice to the Cheboygan County Treasurer. Seconded by Councilman Bronson. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

General Business

- **Consideration to Take Request for Proposals and Statements of Qualifications, Preliminary Design & Operation and Construction Cost Estimates for Proposed Cheboygan Indoor Aquatic Facility**

Mayor Sangster questioned if this issue should be tabled until the Special City Council meeting on August 27, 2009. City Manager McNeil stated that what is before Council is an approval relative to a Request for Proposals and Statements of Qualifications for preliminary design along with operation and cost estimates for a proposed indoor aquatic facility. He noted that this is a result of some of the activities of the Cheboygan County Indoor Pool Committee. What the Mayor is referring to is the possibilities of a swimming pool within the project that was proposed tonight by the Economic Development Group for the Major City Park and how that may be able to be put into that project. City Manager McNeil stated he feels there are some possibilities with regards to this and at the same time there is probably as much potential for a separate facility under a Recreation Authority which is the management model that is being considered here, not that it could not blend with another facility. Mayor Sangster commented that there is no financial exposure to this. City Manager McNeil agreed, commenting on the gift to the City from the Spies Trust for purposes of investigating construction of an indoor pool facility. Mayor Sangster commented on the advantages of alternate plans.

Councilman Bronson moved to take Request for Proposals and Statements of Qualifications, Preliminary Design & Operation and Construction Cost Estimates for Proposed Cheboygan Indoor Aquatic Facility. Seconded by Councilman Kopernik. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

- **Consideration of Bids for a Snow Blower for Street Department**

DPW Director Gall recommended accepting the low bid from Heights Machinery in the amount of \$60,677. He referred to documentation on labor costs and parts commenting on the quality and reliability of the equipment. Director Gall also mentioned the equipment is available between 60 and 90 days. City Manager McNeil noted that the expense is in the Budget and is proposed to be a cash purchase from the Cash Balance of the General Fund. Councilman VanFleet questioned the reason for the purchase. Director Gall explained that the ongoing repair costs of the current 1985 equipment increases annually and parts are no longer available.

Councilman Kopernik moved to award the bid for a snow blower for the Street Department to Heights Machinery in the amount of \$60,677. Seconded by Councilman Jewell. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

- **Discussion of Enforcement Section of City Nuisance Ordinance**

City Manager McNeil referred to discussion and a request from a previous City Council meeting relative to the enforcement of the Blight Ordinance which is ultimately part of the Nuisance Ordinance. He deferred to Chief Jones for comment. Chief Jones explained that some blight situations are resolved within a week to 10 days through contact and compliance and others can range anywhere from 2 weeks to over a year which is the situation with the LeGault property. He noted that Council declared the property a public nuisance which allowed the City Attorney to file court action and a hearing is scheduled for September 30, 2009. Chief Jones commented that adjustments have been made in the Nuisance Ordinance enforcement in the past couple months where timeframes for compliance have been shortened. Additionally, sections of the City have been divided among all officers to monitor blight violations although the primary Blight Enforcement Officer will continue to handle the major cases. Councilman Jewell referred to emergency abatement of the former Rittenhouse building in comparison to the situation with the LeGault property. Chief Jones explained that fire damage of the Rittenhouse building posed an immediate endangerment to the public which necessitated prompt demolition of the structure. Ms. Barb Lennon introduced herself and questioned if the Ordinance addresses foreclosed properties for sale that have tall grass. Chief Jones indicated that there is nothing in the Ordinance to compel a real estate agency or bank to arrange grass cutting of properties that are for sale but the alternative exists to have the property maintained by the City and the expenses assessed as a lien on property taxes. City Manager McNeil indicated that the Chief's plan of dividing the City up and assigning different officers to each section may be more proactive on that issue as well.

City Clerk's and Treasurer's Comments

- **City Income Tax**

Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski provided a report to Council regarding a city income tax. He referred to 22 cities within the State of Michigan that levy a city income tax including the City of Grayling which uses the revenue primarily for infrastructure and capital improvement projects.

Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski explained that the city income tax issue must be put to a referendum and cannot be instituted without an affirmative vote of the City voters. Additionally, the rates are set

by State Ordinance and implementation of the city income tax requires a three to six month time frame. He outlined the income tax withholdings for residents and non-residents employed within the City of Cheboygan as well as exemption of a portion of earned income. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski also commented on the forms and software necessary to administer the city income tax, determination of a monthly or quarterly collection cycle, extensive compliance issues and recommendations for providing a full time staff member to administer the program. He provided an overview on payroll data from seven businesses within the City of Cheboygan and the potential revenue if the city income tax program was instituted. Discussion was held regarding the percentage of residents and non-residents employed within the City, the current millage rate, and the impact of a city income tax levied against businesses. Mr. Mike Fornes introduced himself and explained the impact and personal experiences with working in communities that levy a city income tax. He also explained the intention of large cities to capture income tax revenue from entertainers, athletes and those in the broadcasting industry as well as others. Mr. Fornes commented on the impact a city income tax would create to lower income employees within the City and the increasing potential for businesses to locate outside the City limits to avoid paying higher taxes. Council held a lengthy discussion regarding the positive and negative aspects of a city income tax.

Councilman Jewell moved to appoint a committee to further investigate and evaluate the city income tax issue including the information provided to Council by Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski. City Manager McNeil recommended for the record that the committee's charge is for investigative purposes and to report back to the City Council. Mayor Sangster agreed. Discussion was held regarding possible committee members. Mayor Sangster appointed Councilwoman Lepp, Councilman Bronson and Councilman Couture. Recommendations were made that the Committee contact the Cheboygan Economic Development Group for representation as well as including one or two local business owners. Seconded by Councilman Bronson. Motion carried unanimously.

- **Pinehill Cemetery Burial – Transit Permits**

Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski stated that at the last City Council meeting, he and City Manager McNeil were directed by Council to provide a report on missing burial transit permits. He referred to the report and outlined the process with regard to receipt of burial transit permits. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski commented that the 2007 and 2008 records are missing and he will be working with the funeral homes to obtain copies. Discussion was held regarding the information on the burial transit permits. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski outlined the information required by the State to be recorded from the burial permits into burial records. A lengthy discussion was also held regarding the procedure in submitting the burial permits to the City by the Cemetery Sexton and possible scenarios for the missing records. Mr. Ellis Olson provided a detailed outline on the procedure with regard to burial transit permits, recording information in burial records, and compilation of information following each burial season. He stated that he has never taken original records out of the City Hall but he has taken copies of the original records. Mr. Olson also referred to a meeting held in the past with City staff and burial records that appeared to be altered. He stated that he is in compliance with the contract and is willing to discuss the issue at any time. Council discussed the contract at length. Mr. Ray Lofgren referred to the complaint forms he provided and commented missing burial records. Mr. Lofgren also commented on the varying arrangements within the contract with Mr. Olson, incomplete burial records, photographs of the condition of the Cemetery, and that nothing has been done according to the contract. Mr. Lofgren recommended that Mr. Olson be given a 90 day notice of contract termination.

Councilman Jewell was excused from the meeting at 9:45 p.m.

Ms. Janet Gahn introduced herself and commented on the lengthy meeting between Mr. Olson, Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski and clerical staff on cemetery procedure, as well as offense taken regarding allegations of altered burial records. She also commented on the need for timely signature of the Cemetery Sexton on burial permits and provided information from the State that requires that an individual in charge of premises in which interments or other disposition of dead bodies is made shall not inter or allow interment or other disposition of a dead body or fetus unless it is accompanied by an authorization for final disposition. Ms. Gahn indicated that she did not alter any burial records nor did the former Cemetery sexton. Council discussed the guidelines in the contract and lack of resolution regarding Cemetery issues. Mrs. Trudy Lofgren commented on the original contract for Cemetery services and payment provided over the years before the contract was bid out. She also commented on Mr. Olson not abiding by the conditions of the contract. Discussion was held regarding setting parameters with regard to the contract and possibly adding an addendum to the current contract. City Manager McNeil stated he would like to bring some resolution to this and suggested a review of the contract by Councilman VanFleet and another Council Member, along with himself and Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski to discuss administrative procedures within the contract. He added that remaining Council Members could funnel their concerns accordingly and the contract could be reviewed to determine what provisions if any, of the contract allow for making changes or if a new contract is needed. It was noted that Councilman VanFleet and Councilman Kopernik would meet with City Manager McNeil and Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski and that any recommendations for change should be provided to Council or a Committee Member in writing. Mr. Olson requested to be included in the discussion. Mayor Sangster agreed.

City Manager's Report

- **Strategic Plan Top Priority – Walkable Community Plan and Sidewalk Repair**

City Manager McNeil referred to the City of Cheboygan Multi-Use Trail System Master Plan which shows the North Central State Trail, the proposed Joseph Doyle Recreational Pathway and other trails within the Major City Park and through state property. He commented that he imposed on top of the Trail System Master Plan a Walkable Community Plan that was put together by a previous Committee of Council relative to sidewalks. City Manager McNeil stated that this illustrates sidewalks that would receive priority because they provide a connection of walking roads that lead to many public facilities within the City. He also referred to a report provided by the City Engineer and former Director of Public Works relative to inspections done on sidewalks based on the standards of the Sidewalk Ordinance which provides for sidewalks in disrepair to be repaired by the property owner through a notice procedure and special assessment by the City of Cheboygan. City Manager McNeil referred to a map that illustrates areas which indicate the locations of those sidewalks that are in disrepair and basically in violation of the Sidewalk Ordinance. He noted that it was ultimately the recommendation of the former Director of Public Works, the City Engineer and Sidewalk Committee that the guidelines of the Sidewalk Ordinance be enforced and that enforcement should begin in the central portion of the City where many of the public facilities are located and then continue on the west side of the River and subsequently to the east side of the River. The Sidewalk Committee also felt that the sidewalk improvement or Walkability Plan as illustrated on the map should be a priority under a Public Works type of special assessment as opposed to enforcement of the Sidewalk Ordinance. Discussion was held regarding no planned sidewalk from Duncan Avenue to the K-Mart Plaza as well as no existing sidewalks near St. Paul's Methodist Church. City Manager McNeil stated if that is something Council desires the project would involve a Public Works type of special

assessment as opposed to enforcement of the Sidewalk Ordinance. He noted that the Sidewalk Committee is looking for approval of Council to proceed and make plans accordingly so that engineers can become involved, inspection and construction timeframes and costs estimates can be established, and that information can be brought to Council for consideration. He also explained the inspection and public hearing process. Council discussed cost assessment and impact to homeowners. City Manager McNeil indicated that he could bring a plan to Council by the next City Council meeting or the following meeting.

Messages and Communications from Mayor and Council Members

• **South Huron Street Wash Out**

Councilman Bronson commented on the amount of wash out on the hill behind the Hospital on South Huron Street as a result of the heavy rains that occurred. He noted that the wash out of gravel appears to be coming from a parking lot at the top of the hill on the west side of Huron Street and that there was previous mention of that area being a problem for putting in a sidewalk because of the steepness of the grade there.

Adjournment

Councilwoman Lepp moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:00 p.m. Seconded by Councilman VanFleet. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Richard B. Sangster

City Clerk Kenneth J. Kwiatkowski

Councilman Nicholas C. Couture

Councilman William K. Jewell

Councilwoman Theo Lepp

Councilman Mark Bronson

Councilman Michael J. VanFleet

Councilman Roger Kopernik