

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**June 13, 2017**

The Regular City Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Bronson in the Council Chambers at City Hall at 7:00 p.m.

**Roll Call:**

Present: Temple, King, Riddle, Couture, Kwiatkowski, Lavender and Bronson

Councilman Temple led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Approval of Agenda, and Receive and File all Communications:**

Mayor Pro Tem Couture moved to approve the Agenda and receive and file all communications; supported by Councilman Temple. Motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:**

Councilman King moved to approve the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of May 23, 2017 as presented; supported by Councilwoman Kwiatkowski. Motion carried unanimously.

**Communications and Petitions:**

**Update on the Cheboygan Carnegie Project, Ms. Mary Hebert** – Ms. Mary Hebert stated she is aware that the DDA expansion public hearing will take place on July 11, 2017 and that is great. She had intended to bring the consultant that will be working on the project in to formally introduce him, but will be doing that later. In the meantime, a lot is going on with or without the consultant. She informed Council they have added another \$10,000.00 in improvements to the building to make it more presentable before beginning to get grants. The plaster has been all repaired, the building has been all repainted, varnish and stain applied to all the woodwork on the first floor, there are no broken windows, and the screens are in for a nice cross-draft. Ms. Hebert went on to state there was a wedding shower there on Saturday for 15 people and on Sunday there were 65 women for a tea with the Democratic Women's Club. Everybody was very impressed and that led to another round of people that want to use the facility. Ms. Hebert stated there is newly formed drumming group called Cheboygan Michigan Huron Street Drummers We Play the Carnegie. This group has grown from 20 to 25 drummers. It is Lynn Turner, who teaches at the College and has a big drumming group in Petoskey and definitely a professional drummer and happens to be the niece of Gordon Turner. She knows Cheboygan very well and has a place on Bois Blanc Island. That group is growing and it will expand. Ms. Turner is in the process of doing her own separate not for profit and she would be using the Carnegie for classes or exhibitions.

Ms. Hebert informed Council on July 3 they are going to be hosting the Cheboygan Photography Club for an exhibit called Shutters in Action; it is going to be 50 pieces from the Photography Club. This will be a fundraiser for the Cheboygan Communities Foundation. There will be a lot of music, including the drummers as well as other performers. The exhibit will stay in place at the Carnegie and open to the public from Wednesday through Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The hours have been extended to accommodate those who work. Ms. Hebert went on to state she has \$12,000.00 that was donated in a very brief period of time. The Carnegie project has been expanded to include the property behind the Carnegie, including the Pearl Dombroski home and warehouse, making it a much larger project site. She has talked to the Cheboygan Economic Development Group about their interest in either serving as a fiduciary or partner toward some expanded other economic development

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projects and that conversation is still ongoing. Finally, she has had \$30,000.00 in in-kind contributions, one being a great kitchen from Werner's and also 150 plants donated by Seedums. Ms. Hebert said she has a one page capture of what the consultants are going to proceed on, key points and highlights, entitled It's a Special Building and It's a Rare Opportunity. She briefly explained this, stating it covers what the project might mean to the greater area and what it will mean individually in terms of what can happen there, with three categories: educational relationships, cultural development and small business collaborations that could occur, as well as serving as an incubation center. Ms. Hebert noted the timetable is very aggressive to complete the work, noting the first part of the work would end in August of this year. Phase II would end in April 2018 and would involve continuing to look for some critical partnerships for the business collaboration, and then there is a third phase.

Ms. Hebert informed Council she has a team of about 15 advisors and they include the Mayor and Ms. Michelle Andrews from the College, Dennis Hesselink, Sue Enos, Pat Gildner and many others. She is trying to seek out Dave Kronberg as a resource because she believes he does have crossover because he is in Cheboygan, is in the arts and knows historic preservation. She then asked for any questions. An audience member thanked Ms. Hebert for restoring a precious gem in our community and thinks the building is remarkable.

### **Bills and Disbursements:**

#### **▪ Prepaid Bills and Disbursements for the Month of May 2017.**

Councilman King questioned the expense of stage legs and hardware for Festival Square. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski commented this is replacement of some legs. Councilman King then asked if the \$1,813.00 is the final bill from Attorney Joppich on the Port property. City Manager Eustice replied yes. Mayor Bronson questioned payments to Tony Beckett for blight services. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski replied Mr. Beckett provides blight services, anything from cleaning up yards to mowing. Those expenses go on as a tax lien against the property.

Councilman King moved to approve the prepaid bills and disbursements for the month of May 2017 in the amount of \$321,683.61; supported by Councilman Kwiatkowski. A roll call vote was taken; motion carried unanimously.

#### **▪ Unpaid Bills and Disbursements for the Month of May 2017.**

Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski noted a credit being received from Michigan Cat, which reduced the total of the unpaid invoices so it has been revised.

Councilman Lavender moved to approve the unpaid bills and disbursements for the month of May 2017 in the amount of \$31,371.57; supported by Councilman Temple. A roll call vote was taken; motion carried unanimously.

### **Department, Boards and Commission Reports:**

**▪ Downtown Development Authority Meeting, May 2, 2017** - City Manager Eustice reported the flowers were put up last week in downtown.

### **Resolutions:**

**▪ Consideration of Resolution for Scheduling a Public Hearing for the Intent of Expanding the Boundaries of the Downtown Development Authority District** - City Manager Eustice stated the expansion of the boundaries would include the Carnegie Library. There was a motion to schedule a public hearing for tonight, but the process was not accurate, which was his fault. The DDA process is

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a little more intense for a public hearing, as it has to be scheduled by a resolution and at least 20 days out and not more than 40 days. All property owners within the DDA District must be notified by mail and the notice and legal description must be posted in 20 different locations in the DDA District. All of this will take place in the new few days and we will schedule a public hearing for the City Council meeting on July 11, 2017. City Manager Eustice then stated there has to be a second public hearing once we hear from the public and the Council approves the expansion of the boundaries with the same type of posting requirements to change the Ordinance. He noted the expansion is three parcels, one being the Carnegie Library and the other two parcels are owned by Pearl Dombroski (storage building and home) and Richard Sangster. The City parking lot, often used by Citizens National Bank is already included in the DDA District.

Councilman King moved to adopt a Resolution for Scheduling a Public Hearing for the Intent of Expanding the Boundaries of the Downtown Development Authority District; supported by Councilwoman Kwiatkowski. A roll call vote was taken; motion carried unanimously.

### **General Business:**

#### **▪ Consideration of Reappointment of Mary Kronberg to the Cheboygan Area Public Library**

**Board of Directors** – Mayor Bronson announced he will abstain from voting on this reappointment. He stated, as Library Director, he sent a letter to Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski as her three year term expires at the end of this month and she currently serves as the Board President and has been for about five years. He would like to see her remain on the Board.

Mayor Pro Tem Couture moved to reappoint Mary Kronberg to the Cheboygan Area Public Library Board of Directors for the term of July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2020; supported by Councilman Temple. Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Bronson abstained.

#### **▪ Consideration of Purchase of Cheboygan County Tax-Foreclosed Parcels Located within the**

**City of Cheboygan** – City Manager Eustice stated the County is the foreclosing agent on parcels that have delinquent taxes. Under Public Act 123 of 1999 the municipal government that these parcels are in have the right to purchase these properties (Right of First Refusal) at the starting bid cost. There are two parcels, both houses/residential properties, one at 1828 Harrison Avenue, with a bid of \$9,900.00, and the second parcel at 309 South D Street, with a bid of \$2,100.00. If the City were to purchase either one of these properties, we would have to use it for a public purpose. It could be resold, but any proceeds or profit from the sale all go to the County, so there is no benefit for us to buy the properties, improve and resell, because the County would get the money. Mayor Bronson asked if any of these properties adjoin any other City property or something we would be interested in. City Manager Eustice replied no. Mayor Pro Tem Couture asked City Manager Eustice for his opinion on purchase. City Manager Eustice stated he would not recommend purchasing either property, adding he would rather see them in the hands of a private investor and stay on the tax roll and be improved.

Councilman Lavender moved to authorize the City Clerk/Treasurer to execute the Waiver of First Right of Refusal to acquire the tax foreclosed parcels that were foreclosed upon in March 2017; supported by Councilman Temple. A roll call vote was taken; motioned carried unanimously.

**▪ Consideration to Schedule a Public Hearing for June 27, 2017 for Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2017-18 Operating Budget for all Funds of the City of Cheboygan** – City Manager Eustice stated this is a requirement of the Charter.

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Councilman Lavender moved to schedule a Public Hearing for June 27, 2017 for Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2017-18 Operating Budget for all Funds of the City of Cheboygan; supported by Councilman Couture. A roll vote was taken; motion carried unanimously.

▪ **Request from the Cheboygan Area Chamber of Commerce to Close Main Street to Parking from Pine Street to W. State Street for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade -**

Councilwoman Kwiatkowski moved to approve the closing of Main Street to parking from Pine Street to W. State Street for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade; supported by Councilman Lavender. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Public Comments:**

Ms, Sherry Nelson of the Bring It Cheboygan Group stated on June 22, 2017 at 6:30 pm. at the Library is a program to present the Michigan Main Street Training Program as they have been training for the last two times. They have been inviting service organizations, merchants, business people up and down Main Street, and anyone they run into. They have been sending flyers out and Council is invited. She then stated the other exciting thing she learned from Ms. Guenther that the DDA is forming a new steering committee for Michigan Main Street and the steering committee is a vision board that determines what project and what the vision for the Michigan Main Street is going to have upcoming. She was asked to be there and Bring It Cheboygan wants a seat at the table so they will be there. All interested parties are welcome and come and see what is going on. Also, the Bring It Cheboygan Group will be marching in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade and have developed a logo and purchased tee-shirts and caps, which will available at the Library on June 22. She then asked for questions. Mayor Bronson thanked her, stating they appreciate her time.

Ms. Virginia White introduced herself asking what the parameters of the downtown area are and what constitutes the downtown for the DDA. Mayor Bronson explained the DDA District goes from Nelson Street to the City beach and includes Main Street and Huron Street. Councilwoman Riddle stated the DDA District also goes just across the River. City Manager Eustice commented about 150 feet deep on the east side. Ms. White stated there is a sign at the Lincoln Avenue Bridge that states welcome to downtown Cheboygan, asking what the sign really means and does downtown Cheboygan start there, as she would interpret it that way. City Manager Eustice stated it is not the DDA District but we think of it as the start of a traditional downtown. Ms. White asked if the DDA thinks of that way, too. Mayor Bronson explained the DDA has legal boundaries and can only operate within those boundaries and the money can only be spent within those boundaries. Ms. White then asked who determined the boundaries. Mayor Bronson explained the boundaries were developed when the DDA was started in 1986. The DDA receives tax monies so it needs a legally described area so they can capture tax money. Ms. White then asked about expanding the DDA boundaries. Mayor Bronson replied that is what they are doing for the Carnegie building. Ms. White asked if the actual Main Street can be expanded or lengthened to Court Street. When you shut off the State Highway, M-27, off for trick-or-treating in October you are shutting it off from State all the way to Court, but it is not the actual downtown. Mayor Pro Tem Couture explained the DDA doesn't choose to shut the street down, it is the City of Cheboygan.

### **City Clerk's and Treasurer's Comments:**

▪ **Closing with Citizens National Bank on 2017 Transportation Bonds –** Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski informed Council that he closed with Citizens last Tuesday on the 2017 Transportation Bonds. \$280,000.00 is now in our bank account for the W. State Street project and it is a 10-year

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issue.

▪ **Management Salaries & Fringe Costs** – Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski stated he was asked to put together management salaries and fringe costs and after discussion with the Mayor today, he has amended it. He noted in the retirement column what he initially did was the cost for the non-union segment for the year of around \$68,000.00 to \$69,000.00 (what the City contributes), but it's misleading because they are contributing not just for three active people but also an additional eight people that have retired. It will either be the retiree or the beneficiary. We cannot put a dollar amount because MERS began, about 4 years ago, instead of a percentage applied to every employee through the actuaries, they started going with just a monthly dollar amount. For instance, for the non-union segment it's right around \$6,000.00 a month, which includes past retirees and unfunded liability funding that, so the only people in management that he can truly pin a cost to are the two listed there as they are in hybrid plans, which uses a percentage of payroll. Mayor Bronson commented that was a cost for that department, not that one person, which was his question. Mayor Pro Tem Couture asked if \$6,950.00 is what the City contributes into a retirement fund for DPW Director Karmol. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski explained it does not put it into a fund for him, it puts it into a pooled fund for anyone in that segment, who are Craig Coxe and DPW Director Karmol. Mayor Pro Tem Couture asked if this is where they would get their pension when they retire. Mayor Bronson then asked if the City offers four different retirement systems. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski replied there are six; they are all under the banner of MERS and there are 3 segments in the defined benefit and 3 in the hybrid. Mayor Bronson asked how many retirees. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski stated he just got the actuary back today and when you look at the total cost the City pays in about \$280,000.00 a year to MERS and that includes 63 people, of which 20 are actively working; so there are 43 retirees out there and part of what we pay in each year goes toward what they are drawing and also the unfunded liability. Mayor Pro Tem Couture asked how an employee knows how much they are going to make when they retire. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski replied they can contact MERS and there is a semi-annual statement for those in the defined benefit segment. In the statement it shows how many years of service, what your benefit is, and if you retire at a certain age it will actually show you what the retirement would be. Mayor Bronson explained it is similar to the social security statement you receive each year. Councilman Temple asked if you have to work for the City a certain number of years before you can get the City's portion for retirement. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski replied yes, it's called vesting and there is a 10-year vesting period. Mayor Pro Tem Couture said there is a certain period of time they base the retirement on, noting someone's salary might change. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski commented that is called final average compensation. Both Unions, POLC and AFSCME, are FAC3 (the last three years that they work); management and non-union are FAC5. Mayor Bronson questioned some in the school system not getting social security. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski explained years ago there was a one-time opt out period for that. We deduct social security from all City employees. City Manager Eustice stated the hybrid plan is much more forgiving than some of the pension plans that have been around for a long time. The vesting period for the hybrid is six years but you don't get as much money. Mayor Bronson stated one thing that everyone needs to be aware of is that even after a person ends their employment with the City, the City still has an obligation to pay into a fund that pays their retirement. Mayor Pro Tem Couture asked if this is no longer the case with the hybrid plan. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski stated the hybrid plan is part defined contribution with an employer match; the percentage that the City pays on the hybrid plan is between 6 and 7 percent of wages for those individuals. Everyone that works for the City that has retirement contributes 6% of their earnings and there is a defined contribution match that the City does, but it is only 1.75%. Mayor Bronson commented after all who retire under the defined benefit, the City's contribution will be significantly less. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski commented defined

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benefit plans are woefully underfunded all over the country and it will be interesting to see where it goes.

### City Manager's Report:

- **Port Marketing Campaign** – City Manager Eustice informed Council that beginning tomorrow he and Mr. Mark Lorenz are going to start the Port Marketing Campaign. They are meeting with Kokosing's management at 2:00 p.m. tomorrow to make a presentation and to discuss how we can partner with them to promote the Port. We are going to do the same thing with Ryba, which is not scheduled yet. There are Port Promotion Agreements with both entities and they will also be doing some of their promotion. The Port Action Team will be doing some marketing, as well. There are some monies in the Port of Cheboygan, Inc. account and the Community Foundation has basically made the decision to help fund the marketing campaign. Also if the Foundation does contribute money to the marketing campaign, then the MEDC will match it dollar for dollar up to \$50,000.00. The idea behind the marketing campaign is to attract a manufacturer. The Port operation is in place and both companies will expand, if necessary. They both currently have the capabilities to ship and receive. The Port Commission is still active, but will go down to five meetings (a meeting every two months) because there are not a lot of issues at this point. It will remain active until deemed unnecessary.
- **Meijer's** - City Manager Eustice reported Meijer's and Inverness Township have received a 425 Agreement that was done at a Special City Council Meeting on May 30. He will be attending the Inverness Township DDA meeting tomorrow night at 7:00 p.m. and the Inverness Township Board meeting on Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at the Township Hall. The Township DDA will review the 425 Agreement and make a recommendation to the Board. City Manager Eustice noted there is some reservation on the side of the Township of what we submitted to them, and he will be reviewing that with Township Supervisor Ron Neumann tomorrow and make some recommendations of what he can and cannot do and what he does not understand. Inverness Township has not gotten an opinion of their legal counsel yet, so in the next two days we will know what they think. Mayor Pro Tem Couture asked what the City's deadline was. Councilman King replied June 22. City Manager Eustice stated if the Township agrees, then it can be brought to Council on June 27. Public hearings are also required by both the City and Township. Mayor Pro Tem Couture said he thinks we should still have it on the agenda for June 27, whether we have an answer or not, if other action needs to take place. City Manager Eustice stated once the Inverness meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> takes place, the Committee will get together soon thereafter before the next Council meeting.
- **K-Mart Closing** - City Manager Eustice announced the Cheboygan K-Mart store is closing in September. They just signed a five-year lease last fall on a portion of the building they lease from the owner of the strip mall.
- **Community Garden** - Councilwoman Riddle stated the Community Garden is operational with running water. They have 11 sites, one of which is corn that is available to anyone who has a garden area. There are still two sites left that have not been assigned. People may contact either herself or Amy Thomas. She noted it has been really a nice experience because someone will come by with a tractor asking if they can help; another person came with a rototiller; and someone did the original plowing. It is a lot of clay so Bruce Gauthier ordered black dirt that everyone can use and we are getting poles (fence posts) and will need to get a crew together to put them in and will be renting an auger to do that. They are trying to find people to get that work done. The DPW has been bringing loads of wood chips to keep the greenery down. It does look nice and invites everyone to stop and take a look.

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- **Union Negotiations** – City Manager Eustice announced they are in the process of Union Negotiations both with the POLC and AFSCME Unions, noting he and Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski had a conversation with Labor Attorney Phil Nantz today. Attorney Nantz had originally cancelled some of the negotiation meetings because he wanted to come up here and have a planning session; however, after their conversation today we don't need a planning session. Attorney Nantz will get back with them by next week on the AFSCME Contract as he is doing some review. City Manager Eustice stated he feels we can still schedule some meetings before the Contracts expire on June 30. There are not a lot of major changes in either contract, so he does not expect it to be a long drawn out process at all and hopeful it can be done in one or two meetings.
- **U.S. 23 Paving** - City Manager Eustice stated he thought he sent a press release out on the U.S. 23 paving, which involves a 10.6 mile stretch almost to Mackinaw City and coming into Cheboygan to the Little Black River Bridge.
- **State Street & Huron Street Projects** – The State Street Project is on schedule, noting some concrete work has been done and Reith-Riley will be here next week to start some of the roadwork. June 30 was the completion date, but if everything goes well it should be done before that. There are some issues with the road, but City Engineer Granger and Mr. Jim Pemberton of Reith-Riley have all the engineering figured out so hopefully it will go well. City Manager Eustice then reported they are still working on the Huron Street project, which is going to intersect with the State Street Project, noting only one bid was received, which was high, and City Engineer Granger is working with Team Elmer's to cut some costs, so most of the grant funding will pay for it. This will be a longer term project. If we can get it started in July, it will still go into September. They hope the ICE Grants continue because they are now up to 2 million dollars and we want to do the rest of Huron Street to the tower. Hopefully in 2018 we can get a grant to do that. We couldn't apply this year because you cannot have an open grant and apply for the same grant. We need to close out this grant before we can apply. He noted there will be one-lane traffic on Huron Street after a concern was expressed by Councilwoman Riddle. City Manager Eustice added traffic control was one of the higher costs, because it is needed, and they are looking at ways to cut that cost. He has been in conversation with the Farmer's Market and it is likely because the project is starting at Lake Street, on the north end, they will not be behind Festival Square until September. They will make sure there is traffic flow to the Farmer's Market.
- **Kiwanis Park Trees** – City Manager Eustice reported the Kiwanis Club is working on Kiwanis Park and have done a great deal of work. They identified 18 trees that needed to be removed that are predominately all ash trees, which were treated a couple of years ago. The Kiwanis Club asked if the City would take them out; the City got estimates at \$500.00 a tree. The Kiwanis Club got a better estimate at a total of \$5,500.00 for all 18 trees and asked if the City would participate in the cost of that at 50% or roughly \$2,500.00. There is one tree that is going to be difficult to take out, so if they can get it out without any problems, it will be a \$5,000.00 cost. This is something he can approve and would come out of next year's budget, as there is no money in this year's budget. He also has not discussed this yet with DPW Director Karmol, as it likely would have to come out of his budget. He wanted Council to know as this is City property. All along he has told the Kiwanis Club the City will participate, i.e. labor or some costs if deemed necessary. There were some volunteers who were going to cut the trees down, but after checking with the City's insurance that was not a very good idea with liability and chainsaws. This is a licensed contractor that is donating much of his time. Mayor Bronson said they had talked one time about the ditch (Smith Creek) and asked if this is something we can work on. City Manager Eustice stated it is a federal drain and we are responsible to maintain it, noting it is part of the Little Black River Watershed. They have cleaned out some of the trees, but it needs an extensive cleaning. Mayor Bronson also noted concrete has also fallen down, asking if we

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are looking at doing that work. City Manager Eustice stated he has discussed this with DPW Director Karmol but have not sought any kind of bids; it is not something our DPW can do to the extent of what needs to be done there. There is a lot of brush, not only at the Smith Creek area, but as you go north of there it is worse. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski stated at the Cemetery it is terrible. City Manager Eustice stated he will talk with DPW Director Karmol and see if he has anything scheduled or if he is looking at getting bids. Mayor Bronson stated this might be something you want to look at and start searching for some grants. Councilman Temple commented between Mackinaw Avenue and First Street it is like a regular forest; it is terrible and is where the big piece of concrete has fallen.

Ms. Virginia White commented she was in Washington Park on Sunday afternoon and it was very windy. There is a pole power there with a tree next to it and there was a huge tree limb coming out. From her advantage point looking it, the pole and tree limb were so close together that a sharp gust of wind could have easily pushed them together. She then asked if that power pole is Consumers Energy. City Manager Eustice replied it is. Ms. White then commented on the fire there a couple of years ago. It looked to her like it deserves some attention, i.e. getting the limb out of there. City Manager Eustice stated there have been issues with the power pole, as it has caught on fire three times, and he will take a look at it.

Mayor Pro Tem Couture asked if the Kiwanis Club is waiting on the tree removal. An audience member stated as soon as the trees come out they will be ready to move ahead. Councilman King stated he is in favor of the City helping with the tree removal.

### **Messages and Communications from Mayor and City Council Members:**

▪ **Parks & Recreation Commission Quorums** – Councilman King stated the next meeting of the Parks & Recreation Commission is June 21 and wondered if the City Manager has heard anything from the members. He is starting to give up work to be at the meetings and no one shows. We need to make a decision and figure out where to go. Mayor Bronson asked how many members can be on the Commission. City Manager Eustice replied five; it's a five member board with Councilman King as the Liaison. He is not sure the By-Laws allow alternates. Mayor Bronson commented if we had a seven member Commission, we could appoint some more so we are more likely to get a quorum, asking the City Manager to look into this. Mayor Pro Tem Couture asked if the City Manager has talked to any of the existing Commission members. City Manager Eustice replied yes, other than Susan Muschell, Chairperson. We need to determine whether she is going to continue on the Commission. Mayor Pro Tem Couture stated with what is scheduled with the Recreation Commission and the Recreation Department, it is vital that we meet on June 21. Councilwoman Riddle asked if the City Manager received any applications for someone interested in being on the Commission. City Manager Eustice replied no, not that he is aware of. Mayor Bronson stated he was contacted by someone and responded, but was not sure if she lived in the City. Councilwoman Riddle commented she does live in the City. Mayor Bronson stated she was directed to come to City Hall and fill out an application. Councilwoman Riddle stated they are talking about Amy Thomas and according to Ms. Thomas she has filled out an application, but does not know if she turned it in. City Manager Eustice noted the Application for any Board or Commission is on the City's website. Mayor Pro Tem Couture suggested when the City Manager talks to those on the Commission and deem that we need to replace them for any reason, is that something the City Manager and Mayor can do without a vote of Council, asking what the process is. City Manager Eustice stated the Mayor can appoint or recommend but it should be a Council motion to remove or assign someone to the Commission. Councilwoman Riddle stated if Mrs. Muschell is not able to continue, the City can give her a resolution for her time involved with the Commission. Mayor Pro Tem Couture commented, as stated in the last minutes of the City



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Council meeting of May 23, we wanted to have a report to us prior to this meeting and action, and this is not done. Let's do it now. Councilman King asked the City Manager to let him know within the next couple of days as to the status of a quorum for the next meeting. If there is not going to be a quorum, place something on the agenda for the next Council meeting. City Manager Eustice said other than Mrs. Muschell, Mr. Don Horrocks, Mr. Ken Sheldon, and Selina Chevalier Hayden can be here. He is going to have to go and meet with them to make sure they can be here for the next meeting and will schedule it for next Wednesday.

- **4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade** – Councilman King asked Chamber Director Herceg if Mr. Grisdale of the radio station has approached them regarding a broadcast. Mr. Herceg stated Mr. Grisdale sent him an e-mail last week and thinks there was an announcement in the newsletter and the event is good to go. Councilman King stated he is trying to get one of his high school broadcasting students to help with the announcing of the parade and the National Anthem.

- **Festival Square Stage/Farmer's Market** – Mayor Pro Tem Couture stated he was approached by someone who does the Farmer's Market, and they are concerned with the stage placement. He does not know if it is different than it was last year. He was told it is impeding some spots that could be used. City Manager Eustice stated Downtown Enhancement Administrator Guenther talked to Mr. Lowell Beethem on this. It is not in any different location, but it does take up quite a bit of room. There is one vendor that uses it and places products on the stage. City Manager Eustice stated they are working through it. He then informed Council they moved the Thursday night music to Washington Park, with Festival Square being the rain site. It is difficult to put the stage up and down every week. The Farmer's Market wants the stage down for Saturdays, but it is a two to three hours process to take it down or put it back up. Councilwoman Riddle commented Festival Square was not built just for the Farmer's Market so they need to deal with the process. Councilwoman Riddle asked if the p.a. system is active now at Festival Square. City Manager Eustice stated music can be played but the City does not have a device to play music. If you have a cellphone or tablet, music is possible. Councilwoman Riddle asked if the Farmer's Market knows there is the ability of having music playing. City Manager Eustice said he will ask them. Councilman King stated they mentioned to him they wanted live entertainment there.

- **Health Insurance Options** – Mayor Pro Tem Couture asked Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski if he looked into options for health insurance. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski stated yes, adding the City's anniversary date is December 1 every year and he has also talked to Mr. Joe Breed at BK&C, but the problem we have is we are considered a small group (less than 50). The groups that get the best rates are the big ones. Mayor Pro Tem Couture asked where we are at employee wise. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski replied we have 27 full-time and 9 employees have opted out because they have insurance through their spouses. Mayor Pro Tem Couture said to make sure we follow up.

- **WWTP Insurance Claim** - Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski reported they are still working with the insurance company on the wastewater treatment plant and so far he has submitted 1.1+ million dollars in invoices. We have been reimbursed for just over 1 million dollars. We are working to get that ended.

- **Retirement Plan** – Mayor Bronson inquired if there is spousal support in the retirement plan if the retiree passes away and has a spouse. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski replied there is a beneficiary benefit, although it is reduced.

- **Property Demolitions** – Mayor Bronson said he noticed the home on Mackinaw Avenue is now down, noting that person gave a deadline and got it done. Councilman Temple inquired if this owner did not have a certain amount of time to get the store painted. Chief Jones stated he believes it is July 1. Mayor Pro Tem Couture commented on the former Racquet Ball Club property on Mackinaw

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Avenue asking if it is blighted. Chief Jones replied it does not have any exterior blight. City Manager Eustice stated this property is privately owned by an individual who lives in the Holiday Subdivision.

**Adjournment:**

Mayor Pro Tem Couture moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:26 p.m.; supported by Councilman Temple. Motion carried unanimously.

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Mayor Mark C. Bronson

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Clerk/Treasurer Kenneth J. Kwiatkowski

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Councilman Joseph Lavender

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Councilwoman Winifred L. Riddle

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Councilman Vaughn Temple

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Councilman Nathan H. King

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Mayor Pro Tem Nicholas C. Couture

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Councilwoman Betty A. Kwiatkowski