

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
August 8, 2017

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

Roll Call:

Present: Bronson, Temple, King, Riddle and Couture

Absent: Kwiatkowski and Lavender

Mayor Pro Tem Couture moved to excuse Councilwoman Kwiatkowski and Councilman Lavender; supported by Councilman King. Motion carried.

Mayor Bronson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Public Comments: *None.*

Approval of Agenda, and Receive and File all Communications:

City Manager Eustice stated he would like to add 10-A to the Agenda, Consideration of Support for the Cheboygan Housing Commission in Submitting a Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant to the Department of Housing and Urban Development. He asked Ms. Catherine Schulz, Executive Director of the Cheboygan Housing Commission to speak briefly later about a grant opportunity the Cheboygan Housing Commission is going to write. She has asked for a Resolution of Support to submit the grant from the City.

Councilman King moved to approve the Agenda, with the addition of 10-A, Consideration of Support for the Cheboygan Housing Commission in Submitting a Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant to the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and receive and file all communications; supported by Councilwoman Riddle. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

Councilwoman Riddle moved to approve the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of July 11, 2017 as presented; supported by Councilman King. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilman King moved to approve the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of July 25, 2017 as presented; supported by Mayor Pro Tem Couture. Motion carried unanimously.

Bills and Disbursements:

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

Mayor Pro Tem Couture inquired on no. 9, Cheboygan Area Arts Council Yearly Appropriation, asking if that is all we give to the Opera House. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski stated we allocate \$21,000.00 each year, but they decide when they want the money. Mayor Bronson inquired on no. 55,

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Sears, Roebuck and Co., Tax B-O-R Refund, asking if this is the whole plaza. City Manager Eustice replied it is just the K-Mart building, which is owned by Sears and Roebuck. He went on to explain this was a Tax Tribunal. Mayor Bronson then inquired on no. 61, Susan Blum, Tax Overpayment Refund. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski stated he will check on this, as it is possible there was a duplicate payment. Audience member Trudy Lofgren inquired on no. 56, State of Michigan, tax Disbursements – Lighthouse Village Apts. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski explained the City gets a check every year from the State of Michigan for Lighthouse Village Apartments, which we hold until we get a mailing from the State of Michigan and then we have to go through quite a computation to disburse it back to all the units. It goes to the City, City debt, the County, the ambulance authority, etc. The check comes once a year and normally arrives in June and it's usually July when he disburses it. Ms. Lofgren then inquired on no. 32, GT Sounds, Sound System MusicFest, asking if the Pavilion will ever have their own sound system so they don't have to pay. City Manager Eustice explained the sound system we have in Festival Square isn't capable of running a band. Councilman Temple asked if we were not getting a sound system for the Pavilion. City Manager Eustice replied it is in, but we are still working on getting some wireless transmitter so you don't have to be on-site. This would allow us to play music from a laptop or the computers in City Hall. Mayor Pro Tem Couture commented in the winter time if there is ice, we can't just play music because someone would have to be there on-site playing the music at this point. City Manager Eustice replied yes, but by winter we should have something in place. Mr. Shawn Sheldon, who put in the lapel mics for Council, has an idea for doing it. Mayor Bronson commented the City has a subscription so we can play music. Councilman Temple asked how much it will cost to hook the system up. City Manager Eustice stated about \$800.00 for the transmitter. Councilwoman Riddle asked if the cost will come from DDA funds. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski replied there are funds left over from the building fund for Festival Square, noting Festival Square has its own budget and really all we are doing is budgeting the entire amount, whatever the Fund Balance is each year until it's spent, and then everything will go through the DDA for that building.

Councilwoman Riddle moved to approve the prepaid bills and disbursements for the month of July 2017 in the amount of \$2,067,154.70; supported by Councilman King. A roll call vote was taken; motion carried unanimously.

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

Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski noted the unpaid invoices have been amended and Council has a copy. He noted Michigan Cat appeared on the original list; however, it was not purchased and he has removed it. Item no. 22, PVS Technologies, Inc. (chemicals for the Treatment Plant) invoice arrived late and item no. 30, Tractor Supply Credit Plan also had an invoice arrive late. Mayor Pro Tem Couture inquired as to item no. 9, Cheboygan County Treasurer, Work Crew, P & R, if this is for a work crew from the County Jail. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski replied yes, adding they are working primarily with Parks & Recreation or the Ice Arena. He noted the cost is \$10.00 per day. He will look at the invoice and let Council know if that is per person or crew.

Councilman King moved to approve the unpaid bills and disbursements for the month of July 2017 in the amount of \$51,506.40; supported by Mayor Pro Tem Couture. A roll call vote was taken; motion carried unanimously.

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Department, Boards and Commission Reports:

▪ **Downtown Development Authority Board, of Directors, July 10, 2017** - City Manager Eustice reported they are in the process of forming a Steering Committee for the Michigan Main Street Program, which they will finalize at tomorrow's 9:00 a.m. meeting. They have already established the district for the Michigan Main Street Program and they are going to appoint Mr. John Costin as the Chair of the Steering Committee. Mr. Costin is kind of a neutral party and now a business owner downtown and thinks he will bring a lot to the table as far as organizing the Steering Committee and assigning sub-committee assignments and so forth. Mayor Bronson asked if Mr. Costin is from Simply Marcella's. City Manager Eustice replied yes. Mayor Bronson then asked if City Manager Eustice is keeping track of staff time with the Michigan Main Street Program. City Manager Eustice replied certainly for the time Ms. Guenther spends on it, but he can also give a pretty good estimate of his time within a few hours. Mayor Bronson expressed the importance of keeping this information on hand of the time put into that.

▪ **Parks & Recreation Commission, July 20, 2017** – City Manager Eustice stated Mr. Mike LaLonde has been added to the Commission and the meeting was a very informative and successful two-hour meeting. They got a lot accomplished and will be meeting regularly, as there is a lot of opportunity in the Parks & Recreation Department and they are going to focus on that. They are looking at all the users that come into the City from the Cheboygan Little League to people that use the Ice Rink/Pavilion, the Soccer Association, etc. They are gathering numbers to see the percentage of the users that are not City residents and they will analyze that. At this point we are not recommending any kind of financial changes, but it is something we have to look at. We have a huge financial need for our parks and recreations if we are going to continue to keep them in the condition they are in and if we are going to grow our parks and recreations. We have a lot of needs at Gordon Turner Park and Major City Park in the way of improvements and we don't have the money in the budget to do those improvements. We are going to have to get grant funding and look at how we are going to finance those improvements going forward, whether it be a possible millage. They will be looking at multiple options. Mayor Bronson commented part of the discussion from this meeting, according to the minutes, is trying to define what is the Recreation Department and what does it encompass. He then asked if there is a committee set up to determine that. City Manager Eustice replied no, adding Parks & Recreations has about a \$200,000.00 budget, noting there is the full-time Director, Scott Hancock; one full-time employee and two part-time employees; also, community service help. This Department does more than Parks & Recreations. Mayor Bronson stated then there is where does the Opera House fall in and the Ice Pavilion, going on to state we need to determine this also. If it is not going to be part of Recreation then we have to decide where these belong. Councilwoman Riddle stated another thing she got out of the minutes from this meeting, was that in going for grant funding for Parks & Recreation it is easier to apply for if it is more than just one governmental entity such as going along with Townships and the County. She thought this was quite interesting. Mayor Pro Tem Couture stated he thinks we should reach out to who we think can help us with determining that and does not think the Commission is there yet; but when they start to compile the numbers then they need to reach out for grant funding and see what is available and what shelf ready projects we should work on. He thinks we have a focus but it can be expanded with grant funding, if possible. Mayor Bronson asked if the Council needs to define the scope of the Recreation Department or is something the Commission should start working on. City Manager Eustice said he thinks it should be at the Recreation Commission level and his responsibility with the Commission. Councilman King inquired if there has been any communication with Susan Muschell, Chairperson, regarding being able to make

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any future meetings. City Manager Eustice replied there has not and he will try and contact her somehow. Councilwoman Riddle inquired on alternate members, asking if that is in the Charter to be able to do and what are our guidelines. City Manager Eustice stated he thought that would be the case, but the Commission does not have by-laws and the Recreation Commission is part of the Charter and it does not say you can't have alternates, but it does say it's a five-member board. He does not see any reason why we couldn't have alternates, with only five members at a meeting. Mayor Pro Tem Couture asked the City Manager what is the step, noting he knows he has looked into it, in replacing existing members. He knows it is touchy and is not out of disrespect at all, it is out of the need for five people to show up on a regular basis. It is nothing personal, but is something we need to do. City Manager Eustice stated it's a matter of him writing a formal letter to that individual. Councilwoman Riddle expressed the long period of time this person has had commitment to the City and at the very least a resolution, but we need to go forward and she is sure this person would understand. Mayor Bronson stated it seems to make sense to follow both paths, finding a permanent replacement but also have the alternates because we don't know what is happening with other members. There are a couple of people who are interested in serving on the Commission who need to get applications into the City and then the City Manager would recommend to him and he would appoint. Mayor Pro Tem Couture asked if there has been any applications. City Manager Eustice replied yes, but we technically have a full board right now. Mayor Pro Tem Couture asked when the next scheduled Commission meeting is. City Manager Eustice replied August 23 at 10:00 a.m. Mayor Pro Tem Couture commented it would be nice to see a full board there. Councilwoman Riddle agreed, stating there is a lot on the Commission's plate now.

Unfinished Business:

- **Consideration of 2017 Animal Control Appropriation to the Cheboygan County Humane Society** – City Manager Eustice stated the Council has been given the Township breakdown for the appropriations by Township and the City; the City is the largest contributor. Mayor Bronson stated this shows who contributed but does not show who did not. City Manager Eustice pointed out the Townships that did not contribute are contained in the memo, those being Tuscarora Township, Forest Township, Waverly Township, Walker Township, Village of Mackinaw City and the Village of Wolverine. Councilwoman Riddle commented all of those not paying total 18%, while the City of Cheboygan's is 23%. City Manager Eustice stated the request from the Cheboygan County Humane Society is for a \$7,000.00 contribution; the City contributed \$3,000.00 last year and have contributed as much as \$5,000.00. He thinks there was some question as to whether or not we should contribute at all because the City property taxpayers pay taxes already to the County. Mayor Pro Tem Couture said as are all the Townships. Councilwoman Riddle asked if the County itself contributes to the Humane Society. City Manager Eustice replied yes, they budget and the Council has a copy of the Proposed 2017 Budget with the County's appropriation being \$175,357.51. Mayor Bronson stated he communicated with the Mayor Pro Tem about concerns he had, i.e. seems like we are getting double-taxed for this as we are paying our yearly taxes to the County and then we are asked to pay another fee. City Manager Eustice informed Council he talked with Mr. Joe Duff, City Manager of Gaylord, and they do not make any contributions to the County. Mr. Duff told him he does not know of any other counties that are requesting appropriations from the units of government. Mayor Pro Tem Couture stated he thinks it is time to let this go, adding it's a very important portion of the County Budget and knows that he sees the Humane Society truck downtown. City Manager Eustice stated the service that we get from them is incredible. Mayor Pro Tem Couture then stated no doubt, but at the end of the day whether it's the County and the City, the City and a Township or a Township and the

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County, it's time to change the culture and work together however that needs to happen. He thinks this is an olive branch that we have and feels we should continue to appropriate, as we may in the future be asking for help in other facets like our City paid for services. Yes we pay County taxes as City residents but he is okay with the same appropriation we did last year. Councilwoman Riddle said hopefully the Townships who are not onboard with the program will think differently and make a determination that they do need this service. She agrees with Mayor Pro Tem Couture that we should continue with our \$3,000.00 appropriation.

Councilwoman Riddle moved to approve the 2017 Animal Control Appropriation to the Cheboygan County Humane Society in the amount of \$3,000.00; supported by Councilman Temple. A roll call vote was taken. Yes votes: King, Riddle, Temple and Couture No votes: Bronson Motion carried.

General Business:

▪ **Resolution in Support of the Cheboygan Housing Commission in Submitting a Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant to the Department of Housing and Urban Development** – Ms. Catherine Schulz, Executive Director of the Cheboygan Housing Commission, stated she has been at the Commission since June. She went on to state this grant opportunity was just recently announced by HUD, noting it is not a construction grant. It is strictly a planning and action grant, so the planning part she would like to pursue through the Housing Commission is to get assessments and inspections on some of the rental units that are currently existing downtown. She wants to do this as she understands other communities similar to Cheboygan have developed downtown rental units into public housing. Mayor Pro Tem Couture stated the rental units downtown that she is looking at for grant money is so that someone can come and inspect them, asking if they are privately owned rentals. Ms. Schulz replied she does not know the answer to that so part of the grant would pay for finding that information out. From people she has talked to that are involved in the Main Street Program, it sounds like no one really knows who owns a lot of those places. Mayor Bronson asked if it would be a matter of building a data base of who owns property, what properties are available, and what properties are handicap accessible. Ms. Schulz added what's the worth of those properties, what's the potential of redevelopment, and what properties could be made handicap accessible. She is assuming none of the properties are handicap accessible and the issue with that is her waiting list right now, just under 70% are waiting for one-bedroom units and what we have right now in public housing is 12 out of 38 that are one-bedroom and by current standards they would not be considered accessible. Mayor Pro Tem Couture asked if this grant would only affect current rentals that are HUD rentals, government assisted rentals. Ms. Schulz replied they administer two different HUD programs as the Housing Commission that are public housing, one of which are the units at Lincoln & Cuyler, F and Third Street and Cleveland Avenue. Right now, the public housing they have designated for elderly and disabled is only the 8 units at Lincoln and Cuyler, so it is very difficult to get into. There are also 4 one-bedroom units at F and Third Street, but it is considered mix-family. Mayor Pro Tem Couture then stated the grant only applies to the other. Ms. Schulz replied it applies to the other program that uses vouchers where the Commission provides housing assistance payment for people that are income eligible. Councilwoman Riddle asked if this is mostly apartment complexes. Ms. Schulz stated not necessarily, noting they have quite a few private landlords that accept the vouchers. She would be applying strictly for PIH (Public and Indian Housing). Councilwoman Riddle commented that would be mostly single level dwellings (ground floor) in order to be handicap accessible. Ms. Schulz said this is what part of the assessment and inspection would involve to see if it would be possible to get elevators installed in any of the buildings we currently have downtown. Mayor Bronson inquired if this resolution is asking

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for assistance. Ms. Schulz stated it is not necessarily for assistance; she can't, as an incorporated entity of the City, apply for a grant without the knowledge and permission of the City. Mayor Bronson commented Ms. Schulz is seeking permission to move forward. Ms. Schulz replied correct, noting that is why she is seeking a Resolution of Support so she can move forward with the grant. She noted there are only six of these grants that they anticipate giving out nationally, so she does not know how good her chances are, but thinks it's worth a try and very parallel with what the Council is trying to do in terms of redevelopment downtown. Councilman King asked if the deadline is August 28. Ms. Schulz replied that is correct. City Manager Eustice commented the City is a good candidate since they are only going to issue so many grants. Ms. Schulz added Big Rapids did something very similar and she feels the City would be a good candidate. Councilwoman Riddle asked if Ms. Schulz has information on the Big Rapids project or how it could be obtained. Ms. Schulz stated she doesn't but will be happy to get additional information. City Manager Eustice read the following Resolution into the record:

City of Cheboygan

Resolution of Support for the Cheboygan Housing Commission in submitting a Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant to the Department of Housing and Urban Development

WHEREAS, the Cheboygan Housing Commission has identified a serious shortage of one bedroom handicap accessible residential public housing in the City of Cheboygan, and

WHEREAS, the City of Cheboygan City Council is supportive of improving the Cities public housing inventory to accommodate low-moderate income citizens and citizens with disabilities, and

WHEREAS, the Department of Housing and Urban Development has grant funding available through the Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grants program to assist with planning for public housing, and

WHEREAS, the Cheboygan Housing Commission desires to apply for grant funding for planning of public housing improvement in the City of Cheboygan with support of the City of Cheboygan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Mayor and City Council of the City of Cheboygan support the Cheboygan Housing Commission in their efforts to obtain funding for planning to improve public housing in the City of Cheboygan.

Councilman King moved to adopt the City of Cheboygan Resolution of Support for the Cheboygan Housing Commission in Submitting a Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant to the Department of Housing and Urban Development as read into the record by City Manager Eustice; supported by Councilman Temple. A roll call vote was taken; motion carried unanimously.

City Clerk's and Treasurer's Comments: *(None)*

City Manager's Report:

▪ **West State Street/Huron Street Projects** – City Manager Eustice reported the West State Street project is coming to a completion. They left the intersection open for the Huron Street Project, which had to be completed by September 30 of 2017 for the Grant. Our engineer firm has had difficulty getting a permit for the sewer system side; they did get permits for water and stormwater. City Manager Eustice stated we were not going to change out the entire sewer, but going to change out the

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entire waterline and storm sewer. We wanted to just do sections that were bad when we had the road open on the sewer side, but the DEQ is basically requiring that we replace the entire sewer, which has added an extreme amount of cost to the bid. The MEDC did give us an extension to July 31, 2018; we are going to pave the intersection tonight. We will unfortunately have to take it back up next year, but we can't leave it as it is for the winter. We will finish State Street for the current year. We are going to rebid the project and are going to try and get additional monies to do the sewer, as well, next spring. This was unfortunate, but we still have the funding and are just going to try and get additional funding to do all three utilities. Mayor Bronson asked if we don't get additional funding does that mean we are going to be doing less. City Manager Eustice answered yes, stating the engineer's idea was just to do water and storm sewer, but we know there are bad portions of the sewer that need to be fixed because we cameraid it. We told the DEQ this is not a complete replacement, we just need to fix the areas that are in poor condition. Mayor Bronson commented so they said you have it dug up so replace it. City Manager Eustice stated yes. He went on to state we are going to do some additional work, because we just don't want to replace the water and storm sewer and leave a sewer that might have some problems. Mayor Pro Tem Couture asked if this project was grant funding. City Manager Eustice answered yes. Mayor Pro Tem Couture then asked if we are trying to put an allotted amount towards repair of streets every year. City Manager Eustice said yes. Mayor Pro Tem Couture stated if we are getting a portion of the County millage that passed, is there the potential when we go to this next year will that funding be something that is new on the docket if this is what we have to do with the re-scope of bids. City Manager Eustice replied certainly some of the road millage monies could be used for the road. Mayor Pro Tem Couture then commented we have a shelf-ready project and grant funding to go along with that, noting he does not want to let that go away. If we need to, we need to add more to that project to make it be done once and for all with the sewer and everything underneath, which is the right way to do it anyway if we had ample money. Mayor Bronson asked if we will be able to apply for the same grant again and add it to this. City Manager Eustice answered at this point no, the MEDC is telling us we cannot and it is unfortunate because when we applied for this ICE (Infrastructure Capacity Enhancement) Grant one million dollars was the maximum you could get and we got \$987,000.00. Now it is two million dollars. Councilwoman Riddle commented we cannot apply for another while we have one open. City Manager Eustice said that is correct, it has to be closed out before we can get another one, but we are going to try and do that in the spring. The plan was to do all of Huron Street and continue to apply for ICE Grants until we got all of Huron Street done all the way to the water tower. Mayor Bronson stated we have to have engineers look at this again with the available money and it might be only from the Plant to Mackinaw Avenue. City Manager Eustice stated it may be. Mayor Pro Tem Couture commented we have to start somewhere. Mayor Bronson stated he is a little leery of diverting money that we know we need on other streets. Councilman King asked if the curb levels on the State Street Project are going to be addressed, because of doing a project and have some flaws in there that in a couple years we are going to have to address. City Manager Eustice said for the most part when City Engineer Jim Granger engineered it, he engineered it for drainage purposes and to do all the curbing all the way through the project area would have increased the cost by about 60%, so that is why he tried to use the existing curbs as best he could. Unfortunately, concrete curbing and sidewalks are very costly compared to asphalt, but we are going to try and make it as useful and aesthetically pleasing as we possibly can. Right now it is just too costly to rip out the curbing that is there and try and replace it. Councilman King stated he agrees with getting standing water and drainage decreased. City Manager Eustice said it will help that there are some areas that can be absorbed into the ground and City Engineer Granger looked at it to make sure

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the water flow was going to a storm sewer. Councilman King asked if the street will be striped and painted. City Manager Eustice responded it is supposed to be done this week.

▪ **Kiwanis Park** – City Manager Eustice stated Kiwanis Park is moving along pretty good and things have been done through the summer and Kiwanis is going to complete the Park, i.e, playground equipment and new fencing, by the end of October. They took the old pavilion out, fencing and trees. There is still one piece of playground equipment roped off with caution tape, which is pretty near the street and they don't want kids on it and around that area. Councilwoman Riddle asked if they are putting newer fencing up. City Manager Eustice replied yes, adding there will be 12 parking spaces. He thinks most of the people that use that park will be within walking distance anyway for the most part. It will be a nice improvement for that portion of town. Mayor Bronson asked if there is street parking along there. Councilwoman Riddle stated no. City Manager Eustice clarified in that area there is not, but there is street parking a little further down.

Messages and Communications from Mayor and City Council Members:

▪ **Music Fest** - Councilman King noted quite a bit of the bills have come through for Music Fest, asking if Council could see a P & L at the next Council meeting, as he is curious how things went this year. He went on to state it seemed like Friday night was down from last year, but Saturday was a good night. City Manager Eustice stated the count was vice-versa from last year, noting last year there was 1,200 people Friday night and 800 Saturday night, but it was the reverse this year with 800 people Friday night and 1,200 Saturday night. He stated Ms. Guenther will summarize that, adding we were pretty close to budget the last couple of years. In previous years we did lose \$1,500.00 to \$2,000.00. Councilwoman Riddle stated the Poker Run was down from last year of 75 entries and this year there were 44 or 45 entries. City Manager Eustice said that was significantly lower and we are not sure why. Councilman King commented he spoke with a gentleman on the sound, because especially with a big sound company it can get a little abrasive. The gentleman said an inexpensive solution is putting drapery up top that would be aesthetically pleasing and would absorb some of that. He will put the City Manager in contact with this gentleman. City Manager Eustice said that is something we can look at.

▪ **Festival Square** – Councilwoman Riddle commented she gave each member of Council papers for information only, noting she has been doing some checking into Festival Square. She really thinks we need to have a Council committee to go over some of the concerns of things that are happening in Festival Square and would like to recommend that Council does that. City Manager Eustice said he thinks that is a good idea. Mayor Bronson stated to let Council absorb the information and then they can talk about establishing a committee.

▪ **Ice Rink/Pavilion** – Mayor Pro Tem Couture asked when the ice will down in the Ice Pavilion. City Manager replied the last week of August, noting there is a clinic the last week of August that Mr. Jared Nightengale is putting on. He went on to inform Council that Rink Manager Coxe is already selling ice for September, as there is a travel team that is going to start playing early.

▪ **Meijer Committee** – Mayor Pro Tem Couture commented, more or less for public knowledge, the Meijer Committee from the City has met since the last Inverness Township meeting and are still in negotiation with Inverness Township. Inverness Township and the City of Cheboygan are working together more so now, or are going to try to, to continue that conversation and try to get to a resolution in a relatively quick manner he hopes. The main problem was mainly the communication barrier that needed to be broken down and he thinks it is on its way. Audience member Ms. Trudy Lofgren asked he Mayor Pro Tem Couture could say what solution they are working toward. Mayor Bronson stated

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that has not been decided but we just want people to know that we are still talking and communication is essential to get this project done.

▪ **City Campground Issue** – Mayor Bronson stated while he was in South Dakota on his last trip his family camped at the Spearfish City Campground. A campground has been in the plans for many years in the City, noting he brought information to share. The Spearfish Campground is beautifully run; the City says they make enough money so there is no burden on the City's funds to pay for this. A foundation of the City runs it, i.e. manages it and hires the people. It was a very nice facility and the 70+ sites were packed. Councilwoman Riddle said this would be something for the Recreation Commission to discuss, stating the area is in the Major City Park. Mayor Bronson said that is one of the sites. Councilwoman Riddle then asked how much space is there for camping. Mayor Bronson answered there is a document where that is all mapped out. City Manager Eustice interjected there is probably 15 to 18 available acres, adding the campground idea is in the Recreation Plan currently and has been in there for 10 years. Mayor Bronson stated there are a couple renditions of the layout for that, which do not affect current activities. Councilwoman Riddle asked if there is still the possibility of getting some of the Consumers Energy land. City Manager Eustice stated not likely and the reason is that it is contaminated and the DEQ is watching it very closely. The contamination comes from the transformer that sits on the property so it is not likely they would transfer it to the City. Before they tore the Consumers Energy building down, we tried to get them to give it to us but they wouldn't do it. Mayor Bronson commented there was asbestos in that building and the transformer has dioxin. Councilwoman Riddle inquired on the transformer. City Manager Eustice stated he believes the transformer is no longer leaking, but there are trace elements of dioxin. Mayor Bronson said it might cause more of an issue if you try and move the piece of equipment instead of leaving it there. Consumers Energy doesn't want anyone else to be on the property because of the liability for them. City Manager Eustice added the DEQ monitors that very closely and take soil sample frequently.

▪ **City Blight & Sidewalks** - Mayor Bronson informed Council he has received communications from citizens about blight in the City and sidewalks. He gave the explanation that the current Ordinance for sidewalks is that they are the responsibility of the property owner and that we will be having talks this winter about sidewalks and if they are in favor of us enforcing the Ordinance it would be nice to have some positive reinforcement. Also, with blight he has told them if they see blight to report it. From reading a letter they sent, it sounded like they thought the Blight Committee was the Committee going around looking for blight and reporting it. Right now blight enforcement is the secondary purpose of the Police Department and the people can contact City Hall and let them know and someone will investigate. Mayor Pro Tem Couture asked if we should have an explanation of that on the website, i.e. what blight is and what to do. Mayor Bronson stated he and the City Manager talked about this and having some kind of form that people can fill out and submit on-line so a copy goes to the City Manager and Chief Jones. City Manager Eustice stated we can put a form on the website with the Ordinance, as the Ordinance is pretty clear. Councilman Temple asked when there will be another Blight Committee meeting, as it has been quite a while. City Manager Eustice stated he will defer that to Chief Jones. Chief Jones replied within the next 30 days. He noted his office has been busy with blight. Mayor Bronson commented it takes time. Chief Jones said yes.

▪ **New Lapel Mics and Amplifier** – Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski asked the Council not to turn off their mics, as he will take care of that.

▪ **Gold Front Property** – Mayor Pro Tem Couture asked what the latest is on the Golf Front and if the County has heard on their grant application. City Manager Eustice stated to his knowledge the County has not heard. They initially thought they would know about July 23, but did not. City

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Manager Eustice explained the County applied for a grant (blight elimination) through MSHDA. Councilman Temple asked what happens if the County does not get the grant. City Manager Eustice stated we, County and City, will have to go back and look at how we are going to manage that property. Councilman Temple asked if we can fine the County. Mayor Bronson stated this is something the County and City will have to work on together, noting it is the County’s property now.

Adjournment:

Mayor Pro Tem Couture moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 p.m.; supported by Councilman Temple. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Mark C. Bronson

Clerk/Treasurer Kenneth J. Kwiatkowski

Councilman Joseph Lavender

Councilwoman Winifred L. Riddle

Councilman Vaughn Temple

Councilman Nathan H. King

Mayor Pro Tem Nicholas C. Couture

Councilwoman Betty A. Kwiatkowski