

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**  
**December 12, 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: Bronson, Temple, King, Riddle and Kwiatkowski

Absent: Lavender and Couture

Mayor Bronson announced that Councilman Lavender and Mayor Pro Tem Couture are both at the tax Board of Review.

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

Mayor Bronson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**Public Comments:**

**Kiwanis Park Project** - Ms. Mindy Jewell, representing the Kiwanis Club, gave Council an update on the Kiwanis Park project. She stated about two weeks ago they ordered the first set of equipment, which has been delivered and is being stored at Kokosing/Durocher Marine. In the spring they will transport it to Kiwanis Park for the Club to install. The Club is working on a date for the installation. Ms. Jewell went on to state the parking lot is in, with ten spots and room for expansion, if needed. It is a little different configuration than the original drawing. The landscaping is done. Mayor Bronson asked when the Club expects to begin after the weather breaks. Ms. Jewell replied the end of May, beginning of June. There are already two community builds scheduled down State and the Kiwanis Council sends two representatives to supervise and help. Councilwoman Riddle asked if they plan on having a grand reopening of the Kiwanis Park. Ms. Jewell replied yes; they want to do that towards the end of June. She went on to state they are working on fundraising for a couple of the other pieces they would like to put in there; they want to put in a merry-go-round that is flush with the ground and a piece of equipment that is accessible without having to get out of a wheelchair, take a walker onto it – so it is completely accessible for anybody to play on. Councilwoman Riddle asked if someone wanted to donate funds for that equipment how is that done. Ms. Jewell replied they can donate to the Kiwanis Club, PO Box 324, Cheboygan; the information is on their Facebook page and on their website – [kiwanisparkproject.org](http://kiwanisparkproject.org). Councilman King inquired on the fencing. Ms. Jewell explained the playground part will be set back further and the playground itself will have fencing around it. It will be the wire fencing that was there and framed in with boards so it looks prettier. It is going to be open so if a police officer shines a light back there they can see through and see everything. Councilwoman Riddle stated at one time there was a discussion about an area back where the trees were and a trail, asking if that is still going to happen. Ms. Jewell replied they would

## Regular City Council Meeting – December 12, 2017

like to, but the problem is there is a piece of property in between the Park and the trail that isn't owned by the City. It is owned by a development company. City Manager Eustice interjected that piece of property is owned by Straits Corporation, the parent company of D&M Railway. Ms. Jewell commented City Manager Eustice has been working on that, as well as the Trails Council. Councilman King inquired as to the liability on the project build, wondering if this is something Kiwanis covers. Ms. Jewell responded it actually comes into play from the playground build from the company that they pay to have come in and kind of blanket the whole thing. She then stated the clown along with the three little pigs will go back in. Councilwoman Riddle thanked Ms. Jewell. City Manager Eustice asked how much the Kiwanis Club has invested in buying equipment and the work that has been done. Ms. Jewell stated so far they are sitting at about \$170,000.00, noting the playground equipment is very expensive.

**Mini-Excavator Use** – Ms. Trudy Lofgren introduced herself, stating she was glad to see the new small snowplow the City bought to do the sidewalks. She saw a lady pulling a cart going to the grocery store in the street the other day because of the sidewalks. She hopes the City puts the new equipment to good use.

**Update on Inverness Issues** – Ms. Trudy Lofgren stated she would like an update on the Inverness issues and where things are at now and if the City is going to step in a little bit harder and move this project along somehow. City Manager Eustice stated this will be addressed later on in the Agenda, noting Mr. Jeff Lawson, Cheboygan County Administrator, is in attendance.

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

Councilman King moved to approve the Agenda and receive and file all communications; supported by Councilwoman Kwiatkowski. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:**

Councilman King moved to approve the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of November 28, 2017 as presented; supported by Councilwoman Kwiatkowski. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Bills and Disbursements:**

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

Ms. Trudy Lofgren inquired on yearly software support. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski explained this is a yearly fee the City pays for software support, noting the software includes accounts payable, payroll, receipting and general ledger. They are available for questions or assistance in running a special report. We have always had this with any software package. City Manager Eustice added we use this software exclusively for all aspects of our operations, which also includes utility billing, tax programs, assessing, as well as the accounting system.

Councilwoman Riddle moved to approve the prepaid bills and disbursements for the month of November 2017 in the amount of \$462,473.12; supported by Councilman Temple. A roll call vote was taken; motion carried unanimously.

## Regular City Council Meeting – December 12, 2017

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

Councilman King inquired on the meters and remote radios from Etna Supply, asking if these are all new installs or a resupply. City Manager Eustice commented they are probably new installs as the meters now are digitally read and we have a handheld device that reads them.

Councilman King moved to approve the unpaid bills and disbursements for the month of November 2017 in the amount of \$ 34,299.39; supported by Councilwoman Kwiatkowski. A roll call vote was taken; motion carried unanimously.

### **General Business:**

▪ **Consideration of Exemption from Senate Bill 7 – Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act for the Year 2018** – Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski informed Council this is an annual exercise we do every year at this time. The State gives you three options, one being the hard cap and you can see for 2018 the yearly cap for a single is \$6,560.52, for a double it is \$13,720.07, and for a family it is \$17,892.36. These were adopted last year at this time by City Council; currently from 2017-2018 there has been just over a 3% increase in the cap, which is made by the State Treasury. The other option is an 80/20 cap where the employer pays 80% and whatever is left is covered by the employees. The third option is called a Complete Opt-Out and that is where you have provisions in union contracts with other language. What the City has in the union contracts is the hard cap and that is what we are recommending.

Councilwoman Riddle moved to accept the recommendation of Option 1 – Hard Cap, with regard to Senate Bill 7 – Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act for the Year 2018; seconded by Councilman King. A roll call vote was taken; motion carried unanimously.

▪ **Consideration of Billing all Sewer Customers in the Inverness Township Sewer District Operation and Maintenance Fees based on REU's Applied to Properties in the Sewer District, which is allowed by Contract** – City Manager Eustice stated the City's Development Project team met last week to talk about how to get water to the development site. We determined in reviewing the Contract we have basically with the County and Inverness Township our interpretation of the Contract was that all sewer property owners in the District should pay both debt service and operation & maintenance service, as stated in the original Contract as a User Fee. The Contract goes on to define what a User Fee entails, which is electrical consumption at pump stations; all labor, equipment and materials necessary to provide routine inspections; meter readings; meter calibration; sewer line flushing and cleaning; preventative maintenance on equipment; troubleshooting on equipment, and emergency power and repairs associated with the entire System. The Committee had a lot of discussion with City Attorney Stephen Lindsay and the Committee determined that all property owners within the Sewer District should be billed both debt service and operation & maintenance. We are experiencing a shortfall in operation & maintenance and in 2016 we were just over \$71,000.00 in revenue and our actual expenses show we were at about \$94,000.00, resulting in an approximate \$27,500.00 shortfall in operation & maintenance. The Committee decided we probably should make a recommendation to begin to bill the operation

## Regular City Council Meeting – December 12, 2017

& maintenance side. It is a little unclear in the Contract. The Committee did ask him to submit a letter to the County and Administrator Jeff Lawson is here tonight and he has that letter. Mr. Ron Neuman, Inverness Township Supervisor, also has the letter. The letter basically notifies that we are going to bill this in the January 2018 billing. He and Mr. Lawson have had some in depth conversations over the last couple of days and Mr. Lawson has some concerns about what is going on. The County is working very diligently to try and set mediation meetings between Inverness Township and the City. The County basically came on board in October to help us with trying to resolve some of the issues with the development project and the current Sewer Contract and the City made proposals for a Utility Service Agreement (USA), which is a combination of water/sewer, and also a 425 Agreement with a rewrite of the sewer document. We are pretty much at a standstill; we reviewed a letter that was sent out to the Township where they basically have a refocus on looking for another water supply and it looks like, from the letter, that things are going to slow down a little bit. So if the Contract was not going to be rewritten because of our shortfall on the operation & maintenance side, our Committee determined it was time we billed it. City Manager Eustice then asked County Administrator Jeff Lawson to give his opinion of this, noting the County does have a stake in this, and is on the cusp of trying to get this mediation set up and one of the issues Mr. Lawson wanted to address and help with was this current Sewer Contract and try to clear up some grey areas in the Contract. Councilwoman Riddle asked how is this to take care of the maintenance side from what she understands was supposedly to be taken care of in the Contract. How is this different then how the billing has taken place in the past? What is the change? City Manager Eustice explained what gets billed currently is debt service, which all properties in the Sewer District get billed to pay for the debt on the build-out of the sewer system/line; the second thing, as stated in the Contract as a User Fee, is that the billing will consist of a debt service fee and a user fee to customers. This is somewhat of a grey area; customer as we read are all property owners in the Sewer District. So, all property owners in the Sewer District should be billed both a debt service fee and a user fee (defined in the billing as operation & maintenance). Councilwoman Riddle commented so this is something we just haven't done. City Manager Eustice replied exactly and what has happened over the years is the operation & maintenance fees were only billed to people who were hooked up to the sewer system and sometimes they are only billed for parts of the year they are here. Therefore, there are some sewer customers that are not billed operation & maintenance because they are gone for six months or nine months. It is very difficult to manage because they may not be gone the length of time they say. It is very difficult to manage because none of it is metered, so they may not pay what they should be paying. There is only the one main meter that is at the City limits, which gives us the sewer amount coming into the City's treatment facility. We do not know who is using or not using sewer because it is not individually metered. Councilwoman Riddle commented there is maintenance on the system and it doesn't end up not being your system just because you're not using it. It is still your system and there is maintenance that has to be taken care of. City Manager Eustice said the Contract defines what the user fee is intended to support. It doesn't say this in the Contract but Wade Trim, the engineering firm that helped design and develop the sewer system, calculated in what it would cost for the operation and maintenance side and that is where the REUs were applied for operation and maintenance and calculated what would be necessary for debt service. Councilwoman Kwiatkowski asked are we subsidizing

## Regular City Council Meeting – December 12, 2017

them by not charging them. City Manager Eustice stated that is the City's position. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski explained the City billed that for 12 years and has always billed that portion, but over time the Township has notified us if someone is not hooked into it then you don't have to pay for operation & maintenance. This was not what was intended. A good analogy is in 1997 we issued bonds and replaced a lot of water lines. That debt service appears every year on your tax bill. He had people coming to him saying we replaced these lines and not here and I am not going to pay it. It is part of the system and that's the thing. Everyone out there is responsible for that system even if they are not hooked into it. Councilwoman Kwiatkowski asked if there was an option to opt out. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski replied not according to the agreement. Councilwoman Riddle relayed thanks for the clarification.

Ms. Trudy Lofgren inquired as to the REUs charge for Inverness sewer customers. City Manager Eustice explained current users are already paying debt service and operation & maintenance. There are about 79 properties in the Sewer District that are not paying the operation & maintenance side of it; some are not connected to sewer and some are, and some only pay part of the year. Ms. Lofgren asked if the sewer customers had a choice not to connect to the sewer. City Manager Eustice replied yes, noting many are vacant and have no buildings. The way the Committee interprets the Contract is that all property owners in that District would pay both debt service and operation & maintenance. Mayor Bronson announced if there are going to be more questions they will have to speak at the podium.

Ms. Rachel Dugal introduced herself asked if they are talking about properties that have the ability to hook up to the sewer in that District, but we are not talking about properties throughout the Township. City Manager Eustice replied that is correct.

Mr. Jeff Lawson, County Administrator, introduced himself, stating he appreciates the opportunity to speak in front of the Council tonight. As City Manager Eustice has stated, they have had a little bit of opportunity to talk about this. He wants to bring things back into focus in the mediation. He has had an opportunity speak to quite a few Board members and have several on the Council to still speak with. We have gotten some background from the City's perspective that discussion on the existing Sewer Contract was needed. The Township is aware of that and there is the general indication they felt the water negotiations was primary on the table, but they understand it is right now. They are going to gather what the concerns were from both parties. We know from the City's perspective there are quite a few questions in the Utility Agreement related to sewer. From a mediators' position, we were going to make a list of those concerns and then on the water side also list concerns. In speaking with parties so far we have not identified a lot of concerns on the water side itself with agreements, so he takes that as a positive. Getting to the position that the County is a party to the original Agreement, it kind of shifts their position a little bit from a mediator to a participant. So they are aware that at some point and time discussions have to be held. What the County is asking is let the process kind of play itself out and let the County make a list of what the concerns are of each party. They are hoping both parties will assign a negotiating committee that includes staff and attorneys, but that is up to the parties. The County would then be able to take these issues and discuss them. One of the topics you heard tonight is

## Regular City Council Meeting – December 12, 2017

interpretation and obviously each unit is interpreting it differently, otherwise we wouldn't be here tonight. Mr. Lawson went on to state as far as the County's perspective, they haven't had time to get with their legal counsel to analyze the perspective from both organizations and make an interpretation from the County's end. What they see right now with the original Agreement is that there are quite a few grey areas involved and he couldn't tell Council tonight without some guidance from legal counsel. The Township did relay today from his understanding that they would have a different interpretation of that. So going back to discussions and mediation, we hope we can keep that on that track for both units and know there is a process that's engaged and there would be an opportunity for both to look at this list. If for whatever reason one party says they don't want to engage in that conversation, then that's the time for boards to take action. Obviously the County is part of this whole transaction and we want to see a resolution to that. The County is asking for a little time to be able to make these lists, present them to both parties, get comments from that standpoint, and hopefully engage with the negotiation teams that are put in place and start talking about this specific topic in trying to interpret it. Mr. Lawson stated he would be happy to answer any other questions or if there is clarity needed.

Mayor Bronson asked the City Manager if there is a reason January was chosen for the billing. City Manager Eustice stated January is the next quarterly billing cycle. It is mid-January, so we would have another Council meeting prior to those billings. Councilwoman Kwiatkowski asked if the City Manager recommends we table this until the next meeting. City Manager Eustice stated he thinks that is a pretty wise choice at this point, so we can have some mediation and discussions. He does not think it is absolutely necessary that we do it tonight. If we have some conversation in the mediation, we still have time to make a decision/motion to do this. Councilwoman Kwiatkowski commented she can understand the concerns, it's just that we cannot afford to lose \$20,000.00 a year. City Manager Eustice said from the City's perspective, the sewer operation started in 2002 and we are getting significantly less money today for operation & maintenance than we did 12 years ago. We were once as high as \$85,000.00. He then stated the City's costs have gone up significantly, including manpower and cost of equipment, etc. Mr. Lawson stated they are hoping from the County's perspective that once these items are listed and the rationale can be placed on the table if there's concerns in operation costs, they can relay that to the Township. Regardless of what entity was operating or if they went out for private bids there would have to be enough money to operate the system. They are hoping when those conversations are made they can start with that basic conversation and work into the details of what interpretations are to be made to billing to meet those goals and hopefully the parties come together at that time. And any other topics that are listed on the agenda, they can hopefully take a similar approach and work through those and have some open discussion on them. Mr. Lawson then stated once they make the list and present it, they would assume both parties will review those and agree or not to engage in those conversations. They should be able to compile this list within two weeks and make sure things are clear before he makes the list to get to the next step. Mayor Bronson asked Mr. Lawson if he still has some people to talk to. Mr. Lawson replied yes, four Council Members and two on the Township Board. He did check with staff and the Board's position was fairly clear there, but he wants to confirm it with the Board Member and if there is any other things to list. Councilwoman Riddle asked within

## Regular City Council Meeting – December 12, 2017

that two week period of time, will that also give Mr. Lawson time to speak with the County's attorney. Mr. Lawson replied they will meet and engage in a conversation he thinks timely and will relate back when he gets to that particular conversation. Before they enter into that they will know what the County's interpretation is. What he can see right now, the parties need to come together as there is some definition that needs to be done and if there is a revenue shortage again, whether it's the City operating in the Township or they hire of a private entity, we have to have enough revenue to make the system work at the end of the day. We may get there in different ways, but that is what has to be worked out. Councilman King questioned the next Council meeting, which will be in January since the December 26 meeting is cancelled. City Manager Eustice stated there will be a City Council meeting before the January billing when we can address it. He then stated he thinks it is wise to sit down, have some mediation and discussion on both sides before we act. It is best to get more information.

Councilwoman Kwiatkowski moved to table the Consideration of Billing all Sewer Customers in the Inverness Township Sewer District Operation and Maintenance Fes based on REUs Applied to Properties in the Sewer District until the next regular City Council meeting; seconded by Councilwoman Riddle. A roll call vote was taken; motion carried unanimously.

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

- **Publishing of City Council Meeting Minutes** - Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski stated this item requires no action, informing Council they have been talking lately about publishing of the City Council minutes and sees that the County does it by reference and basically states you can come to the County Clerk's office to get a copy or you can go to their website. He asked City Attorney Lindsay, due to language in our Charter and Ordinance, for an opinion as to whether or not we could do the same. This will save thousands of dollars. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski stated Council has a copy of City Attorney Lindsay's opinion who believes we are on firm ground if we decide to do that. He is not asking for any action tonight, but at the next regular meeting he would like Council to say yes or no on that issue. Councilwoman Riddle asked if this would take place in a motion. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski replied yes.
- **Audit** – Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski reported the City's audit is in peer review. He is waiting to get the financial statements to look over. By law it has to be into the Treasury by the end of this month. We have a couple of options: have an audit presentation yet in December, or we can table that until the first meeting in January if Council desires that. He did not see in the Charter that it has to be presented to Council by the end of the year, but it has to be done and submitted to the State. Mayor Bronson commented at the Library they submitted it by the deadline and then later had an audit report. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski asked the Mayor if he would prefer to do that. Mayor Bronson stated he would prefer to do that then call a special meeting. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski stated he will double-check the Charter and Ordinance and if he sees something that concerns him, he will get a hold of the Mayor.

## Regular City Council Meeting – December 12, 2017

### City Manager's Report:

- **Development Project in Inverness Township** – City Manager Eustice stated with regards to the development project in Inverness Township, all he is going to say at this point is that they are going to see how the mediation helps us with going forward on the project, as we are kind of at a standstill right now. He thinks with the County's involvement and getting all sides to the table to discuss what the best options are to get water to the development site, it is worth seeing how that mediation goes. Although it has been over two years, he thinks waiting another couple of weeks to have some serious discussion would be helpful.
- **Website** – The new City website is live and has been since Saturday and apologizes for not notifying Council, although he sent an e-mail out to staff. There is a Visitors tab that is not completed and is in process and to please let him know of suggestions of anything to place on the tab. They will be placing the snowmobile trails map and North Central Trails Map on the website to click and download. There is a calendar, which we will add to, that is user friendly. He asked for any suggestions at all Council would like to see differently on the web site. City Manager Eustice stated he is working with Mr. Matt Ginop to make it a state-of-the-art site, noting it looks great on a cell phone. Councilman King stated on the calendar he would like to see a combination of things going on with Chamber events, the DDA events, City wide-events, public meetings, Farmer's Market schedules, etc. to make this a hub. If we are linked in with the Chamber, that automatically updates. He would like to see a tab for Council Members for contact, as well as the committees they serve on. We need to also link our Facebook page to direct to the website. He then asked about the Ice Rink/Pavilion. City Manager Eustice stated there is a link on one of the tabs for the Chamber, Ice Rink, School System, etc. The home page contains the Port of Cheboygan, Music Festival, Downtown, etc. City Manager Eustice informed Council the City contracted with Kim Couture to upgrade the Ice Rink/Pavilion and all the Facebook media for the Rink. It will probably be expanded as we go and make it more visible. Currently it contains 2015 data. Councilman King commented that Mr. Matt Ginop did a great job. City Manager Eustice added that the pictures on the City's website are awesome. Councilman King commented on the changes coming to the Opera House, which would be another thing for events. He then suggested Service Organizations.
- **North Central Trail** – City Manager Eustice reported the MDNR and Trail Groomers are continuing to work on the temporary bridge. They are looking more towards the end of the year to have the temporary bridge in place, instead of mid-December. Trail traffic is currently being rerouted around the bridge. Hopefully they won't be using State Street for long. Mayor Bronson asked when State Street is plowed, is extra snow left on the side of it. City Manager Eustice answered they are trying to do that.
- **Port Action Committee** – City Manager Eustice informed the Council that the Port Action Committee, led by Mr. Mark Lorenz, brought in Ms. Lisa Waller of BDG International, a freight forwarding company out of Elgin, Illinois. We had a pretty lengthy meeting here with Kokosing and Ryba; County Commissioner Richard Sangster was in attendance, who is also the Chairperson of the Port Commission; Greg Elliott; Councilman Joseph Lavender; and himself. They got a tremendous amount of information, in his opinion. Ms. Waller has contacts with all the manufacturers in the Great Lakes area that move cargo in and around the Great Lakes. She specializes in international shipping and a lot of the salt water vessels that

## Regular City Council Meeting – December 12, 2017

are in the Great Lakes she schedules where they are going to go and so forth. Ms. Waller gave the Committee 27 manufacturers in the U.S. and foreign countries and a list of the products they make. The Committee has scheduled another meeting for this Thursday to review all the data they have. This will be a really good start on the marketing campaign. Kokosing and Ryba are excited about it. The Committee is excited about trying to attract an industrial manufacturer, although it won't be easy and will be a tough task. The Port of Cheboygan, Inc. paid for Ms. Waller to come here, with the City contributing a portion of what the fee was to get her here. Ms. Waller did give us our monies worth with the consulting that took place. At this Thursday's meeting, the Committee will discuss what their next step is to promote the Port and get an industrial manufacturer here.

- **Abbreviated Budget** – Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski commented that in the information for Council is an abbreviated Budget; typically it is 39 pages but this is only 17 pages. The 17 pages contain the main operating funds – General Fund, Major & Local Streets, DDA and Water/Sewer. He noted that the Special Revenue Funds have very little activity as it usually happens at the end of the fiscal year. The Debt Funds are done through interfund transfers, which are in these Budgets. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski stated he is probably going to provide this Budget to Council on a monthly basis so Council can see what is going on and what kind of activity. If anyone has any questions he can address them.

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

- **Meijer's** - Councilman King made comments since becoming a Councilman and the development, in general, of Cheboygan. He noted since he moved home there have been some blows with the Hospital downsizing and many places closing. It is easy sometimes to get caught up in negativity, but he keeps in close contact with many people who have been through this place and grew up here and want to see this place do well. They appreciate some of the fight still going on because it makes things happen in town. Councilman King stated we need to realize we are all part of this community when it comes to the Meijer's issue. A lot of what we say and do is being closely watched and he, for one, has learned to not comment and bite his tongue. Some say Cheboygan is a retirement community and a dying town, but to those that live and work here it is not. We can't just let things pass us by, as we have in the past. We need to look out for each other here and it is not a dividing line. We are all Cheboyganites and things will benefit all of us. Councilman King went on to state we need to rely on the people with the most experience, the people that have the energy and are used to doing these things and get them into discussions, and have the service groups work together. The back and forth is not going to get us anywhere. People are looking at this community and what we can do. Something has to change with this and where we are going with this is not getting us anywhere. He noted the school system is getting smaller and we are losing teachers and losing the younger members of our community. Every day as a teacher he is asked what is going on with Meijer because the kids care and some of their parents need a job, especially in a low income area. We really need to step it up and appreciate everybody that has been selected into a spot and the role they can play and the experience they bring, but we also need to help to do things in the community. He is asking personally and on behalf of a lot of people to work this out.

## Regular City Council Meeting – December 12, 2017

Ms. Susan Cheli asked to respond to Councilman King. She asked if we had a viable community orientated business would the sewer issue be an issue. City Manager Eustice stated he was not sure what her question is, but there is an issue with the sewer only. Ms. Cheli asked if we had Meijer in here would the City be asking the citizens to step up the sewer. City Manager Eustice replied yes we would because we believe that the current Contract that is in place warrants that. If Meijer were in here and additional REUs were assigned to the Sewer District, it certainly would help. Ms. Cheli stated she has been observing and talking to people for almost three years and had not talked to anybody that doesn't want Meijer in. She then stated that the Inverness Board and City Council are beginning to look like they don't want them here. They are grown up people and she doesn't understand why they can't come to terms on this. This is affecting our whole County, stating it has been said it is in Inverness and is not a City thing. The public is making a loud statement that we want you to get your acts together and make this happen. It doesn't appear like you are listening and people are getting more and more frustrated. Ms. Cheli went on to state she went to the Bring It Cheboygan meeting yesterday and there is a group of people that are working diligently and are so excited about Cheboygan with their positive energy. They need cooperation from the leadership. She then stated a letter came from the Township and Council needs to stand behind this. We elected you officials because we stood behind you and we trusted you to do your job and now it is almost three years later. She is going to write a Letter to the Editor because she is curious as to how many hours have spent talking and how much money of the taxpayers' money has been spent in going around in circles. Ms. Cheli also stated we have not produced what the community is asking for.

Councilwoman Riddle asked Ms. Cheli if she lives in the City. Ms. Cheli replied she lives in Inverness Township. Councilwoman Riddle then asked if Ms. Cheli lived in the City and was paying her water and sewer bill and her bill was more expensive because she was subsidizing Inverness, would she be happy. Ms. Cheli replied Councilwoman Riddle was nit-picking. Councilwoman Riddle responded she is not nit-picking but asking her a question. Ms. Cheli replied you have to pay the bill because it cost money to run this business. She does not believe she is the right person Councilwoman Riddle should be asking because she pays her bills and she contributes and understands that this is actually necessary, but they need to think about the different picture. She went on to state she talked to a woman that said when Meijer's goes in, Aldi's is ready to go into Cheboygan. K-Mart would be a wonderful place for Aldi's to go in and start developing the east side of Cheboygan. Ms. Cheli then asked what the two little groups of people are doing for three years. She then commented again on the Bring It Cheboygan Group who give up their time because they care about the school system, bringing businesses in and they care about young people coming again with their families. Our community is dying and we are watching it happen and we have this wonderful opportunity. Meijer is so involved and supportive in their communities and it continues to be tabled. Ms. Cheli then reiterated as to how much money the Council has spent on these meetings, on attorney fees, on bringing people in front of the Board and we have nothing to show for it.

**Regular City Council Meeting – December 12, 2017**

**Adjournment:**

Councilman King moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 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