

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

February 26, 2019

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: Kwiatkowski, King, Johnston, Mallory, Temple, Bronson, and Couture

Absent: None

Public Comments:

- Mr. Ray Lofgren mentioned the payment made to Wacker Neuson in January. Mr. Lofgren feels that the City hasn't maintained the sidewalks this winter despite having purchased the Wacker for that purpose. He also mentioned that the County hires in additional workers in the winter to keep snow clear.

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 January 22, 2019 as presented, supported by Councilwoman Kwiatkowski. Motion carried unanimously.

Communications and Petitions:

- Ms. Sue Buitenhuis from Gabridge & Company presented the Annual Financial Report for the year ended June 30, 2018. She reviewed the responsibility of management and the auditors in regard to the financial statements. The City of Cheboygan has received an unqualified opinion which is the highest opinion it can receive. She discussed the new requirements for GASB 75 in regards to Other Post-Employment Benefits which caused a restatement to the financials from 2017. The unassigned fund balance was reviewed along with recommendations for a healthy fund balance. The City of Cheboygan currently has approximately 7.5 months of expenses covered by the unassigned fund balance. Mayor Pro Tem Couture would like to see the trend associated with the unassigned fund balance over the last few years. Councilman King moved to approve the Annual Financial report for the Year Ended June 30, 2018 as presented by Gabridge & Company, supported by Mayor Pro Tem Couture. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing:

- Public Hearing for Consideration of an Ordinance to Amend Section 96.52 of the Parks and Recreation Chapter.
 - Public Hearing was opened at 7:18 p.m. Mr. Ray Lofgren asked if the new membership would cover the whole county. Mayor Bronson responded that it would only open the

membership to the school district boundaries. Per City Manager Eustice, many of our student athletes do not reside within the city limits. Public Hearing was closed at 7:22 p.m.

- Councilman King moved to adopt an Ordinance to Amend Section 96.52 of the Parks and Recreation Chapter of the Cheboygan City Code by Repealing Section 96.52A and Enacting New Section 96.52A that membership may include non-city residents within the Cheboygan Area School District, supported by Councilwoman Johnston. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.

Bills & Disbursements:

- Mayor Pro Tem Couture moved to approve the prepaid bills and disbursements for the month of January 2019 in the amount of \$586,482.44, supported by Councilman Temple. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.
- Clerk/Treasurer Brown noted that there were no unpaid bills for the month of January due to the first meeting in February being cancelled.
- The Revenue and Expense report was provided as of January 31, 2019, no action required.

Department, Boards and Commission Reports:

- Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting, January 16, 2019. New Parks & Recreation Plan submitted to the DNR. Working on grants through the DNR. Per City Manager Eustice, with the change in the ordinance it should be possible to get a full board.
- Planning Commission Meeting, January 21, 2019. Working on final draft of Master Plan. Will need a 30 day notice for the Public Hearing.
- Reviewed vacancies on Boards & Commissions:
 - Local Officer's Compensation Board-all terms expired in 2016. Should meet annually. Mayor Bronson stated that he would work with City Manager Eustice to reorganize that Board.
 - Mayor Bronson appointed Councilman King to the Brownfield Redevelopment Board as the Council Liaison.
 - DDA has one vacancy but City Manager Eustice reported that we are not likely to fill that position per the requirements of the Main Street Program suggestions for an eleven member board rather than a twelve member board.
 - Mayor Bronson appointed himself as Council Liaison on the Planning Commission.
 - Zoning Board of Appeals is a full board but there are not currently any alternates.

General Business:

- Mayor Pro Tem Couture moved to appoint David Kronberg to the Planning Commission, term to expire May 5, 2022, seconded by Councilman Mallory. Motion carried unanimously.
- Councilwoman Johnston moved to adopt the policy for Guidelines for Poverty Exemptions and Asset Level Test for Board of Review, supported by Mayor Pro Tem Couture. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.

City Clerk's and Treasurers Comments:

- Clerk/Treasurer Brown reported that the staff is working on adding the recorded and typed meeting minutes from the other Boards & Commissions to the website.
- Mayor Bronson inquired about the percentage of property taxes in comparison to other revenue streams for the City. Clerk/Treasurer Brown responded that the property taxes in comparison to the entire budget accounted for 23% of the budget, however it accounts for approximately 66% of the General Fund budget.

City Manager's Report:

- City Manager Eustice reported that there was a new water leak in the Opera House. He has Doyle Roofing scheduled to come out and take a look at the potential work. The roof is scheduled to be repaired in April but there is concern that there may be more work than initially anticipated.
- The March Board of Review is scheduled for March 5th, March 11th and March 13th. Mayor Pro Tem reported that he would be unavailable to attend any of the dates. Mayor Bronson, Councilman Temple, Councilwoman Kwiatkowski and Councilman Mallory reported that they will be available to attend all of the dates.
- City Manager Eustice reported that some minor adjustments have been made to the 425 Agreement with Inverness Township which has been forwarded on to the Meijer developers with no response at this time.

Committee Updates:

- The Blight Committee is waiting on a recommendation from City Attorney Stephen Lindsay. Councilwoman Johnston inquired if it would be possible to join the Committee.
- The Organizational Committee met and continued the discussion of a potential split between the Department of Public Safety and the Fire Department with a presentation from Chief of Police Jones. The Committee is reviewing the options and plans on getting additional information from other individuals like the Fire Chief. Councilwoman Johnston asked if it would be possible to see the raw data from the study by Rahmberg Stover & Associates.

Messages and Communications from Mayor and Council Members:

- Councilwoman Johnston reported that she would be presenting the Parks & Recreation Plan to the Inverness Township Board, along with Richard Cartmill on March 5th.
- Councilman Mallory mentioned that Main Street Select Level Presentation is scheduled for March 6th in Lansing.
- Councilman King agreed with Mr. Lofgren that the snow removal this year has been lacking and he's concerned about the safety of our residents and students. He mentioned that there is a College and Career Fair scheduled for February 28th at the Cheboygan Area High School. Lastly, as a member of the Men's Hockey League he is concerned with the Ice Pavilion and some cosmetic repairs that he has noticed and would like to see addressed.
- Mayor Bronson inquired about the new owners of the building located at State St. and Main St. as far as the responsibility of the snow removal. He also noted that there were several sidewalks not cleared for the Walk 4 Warmth fundraiser. Ms. Susan Cheli mentioned that there

may be residents in the County Jail who would be available for minor jobs such as snow removal and painting at the Ice Pavilion. Mr. Ray Lofgren commented that the holiday decorations on Main St. were looking shabby.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

Mayor Mark C. Bronson

Clerk/Treasurer Bridget E. Brown

Councilman Brett Mallory

Councilwoman Sara Johnston

Councilman Vaughn Temple

Councilman Nathan H. King

Mayor Pro Tem Nicholas C. Couture

Councilwoman Betty A. Kwiatkowski