

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

March 26, 2019

The Regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Bronson in the Council Chambers at City Hall at 7:02 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Bronson, Couture, Temple, Kwiatkowski, and Johnston

Absent: Mallory and King

Councilwoman Kwiatkowski moved to excuse Councilman Mallory and Councilman King; supported by Councilwoman Johnston. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments:

- Ms. Winnie Riddle discussed the status of the Community Garden. There will be a meeting on April 4, 2019 at the Cheboygan Area Library at 11:00 am and 6:00 pm for anyone interested in having a plot or offering assistance. Mayor Bronson added that the Cheboygan Area Library will be offering a seed library this year.
- Ms. Susan Cheli thanked the City of Cheboygan for removing the Christmas garland from the lampposts. She also inquired if anyone would be attending the Opportunity Zone meetings. City Manager Eustice responded that there would be City employees attending.
- Ms. Sherry Nelson from Bring It Cheboygan thanked everyone for the support with the Michigan Main Street Program Application.
- Mr. Aaron Gauthier introduced himself as the new Circuit Court Judge for Cheboygan County. He discussed his background and his approach in his new position. He also invited any elected official interested in the court system to stop by and learn about the processes and procedures.
- Ms. Mary Hebert wanted to thank everyone for all the work that went into the Michigan Main Street Application.
- Ms. Patty Archambo discussed the Michigan Main Street Program from the perspective of a realtor. She is convinced that being selected into the program helped the sale of the Fabric Stash building in downtown Cheboygan.
- Mr. Vince Lumetta thanked Downtown Development Authority Administrator Kirsten Guenther for all her hard work on the Michigan Main Street Program Application, he believes the program will help growth and progress in the area.
- Mr. Scott Herceg, Executive Director of the Cheboygan Area Chamber of Commerce congratulated the Cheboygan City Council for seeing the Michigan Main Street Application through.

Approval of Agenda and Receive and File all Communications:

- Councilwoman Johnston moved to approve the Agenda and receive and file all communications, supported by Mayor Pro Tem Couture. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

- Councilwoman Johnston moved to approve the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of March 12, 2019 as presented, supported by Councilman Temple. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearings:

- Public Input for 2019 Recreation Passport Grant Program.
 - Public Hearing was opened at 7:18 pm. City Manager Eustice explained that the City of Cheboygan was applying for a \$150,000 grant for upgrades to Major City Park, including new lighting and restrooms. The grant application is due April 1, 2019 and will be a reimbursable grant. The City will be required to match the grant by 25% which has been met with in-kind services.
 - Ms. Sherry Nelson inquired about whether the project would still take place if the City of Cheboygan is not approved for the grant and when the City would find out if the grant was approved. Per City Manager Eustice, the project will not move forward unless the grant is approved and the City will know in August of 2019 if the application has been approved.
 - Public Hearing was closed at 7:26 pm.
 - Councilwoman Kwiatkowski moved to apply for the 2019 Recreation Passport Grant, supported by Councilwoman Johnston. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.

Department, Boards and Commission Reports:

- Historic Resources Commission Minutes March 4, 2019 received and filed.
- Planning Commission Meeting Minutes March 18, 2019 received and filed. City Manager Eustice reported that a special meeting has been scheduled for April 1, 2019 to finalize the Master Plan.
- Department of Public Safety Monthly Status – January & February 2019 received and filed.

Resolutions:

- Resolution of Adoption of Recreation Plan, 2019-2024.
 - Councilwoman Johnston moved to adopt the City of Cheboygan Recreation Plan Resolution of Adoption, Mayor and City Council of the City of Cheboygan, supported by Councilman Temple. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.
- Resolution to Establish a Request for Funding, Designate an Agent, Attest to the Existence of Funds and Commit to Implementing a Maintenance Program for Street Reconstruction Funded by the Transportation Economic Development Fund Category B Program.
 - City Manager Eustice discussed how competitive the grant would be, stating there are currently 444 communities that qualify as they have populations less than 10,000. Mayor Bronson inquired if the project would still be completed if the City wasn't approved for the grant. Per City Manager Eustice the water and sewer repairs would still be completed but the streets would only be patched rather than repaved.
 - Councilwoman Johnston moved to adopt the Resolution to Establish a Request for Funding, Designate an Agent, Attest to the Existence of Funds and Commit to

Implementing a Maintenance Program for Street Reconstruction Funded by the Transportation Economic Development Fund Category B Program, supported by Mayor Pro Tem Couture. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.

General Business:

- Consideration of Appointment of Christy Lynn Stempky to the Parks & Recreation Commission.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Couture moved to appoint Christy Lynn Stempky to the Parks & Recreation Commission, term to expire July 1, 2020, supported by Councilwoman Johnston. Motion carried unanimously.
- Consideration of Appointment of Kirsten Guenther as DDA/Main Street Director.
 - City Manager Eustice explained that with the acceptance of the City of Cheboygan to the Michigan Main Street Select Level it is required that a full time director be appointed.
 - Councilwoman Johnston inquired about the job description that was provided. The description is dated June of 2018 and she wanted to know if just the title was changing or if the job description would change as well. City Manager replied that the title would change but the job description had already been updated for the application process.
 - Councilman Temple asked about the total cost with wages and benefits and where those funds would come from. City Manager Eustice replied that it would be close to \$70,000 and it would come from Tax Increment Financing from the Downtown Development Authority.
 - Mayor Pro Tem discussed his concern with the estimated total cost of \$70,000 to the General Fund with the redirection of the City Manager Salary and additional funds that the City of Cheboygan has committed to support the Michigan Main Street Program.
 - Mayor Bronson explained that the Council had already approved the hiring of a full time director as part of the application process. The resolution presented is a matter of who they will select to fill that position.
 - Councilwoman Johnston moved to appoint Kirsten Guenther as DDA Director at a salary of \$47,500.00 plus benefits effective April 1, 2019, supported by Councilwoman Kwiatkowski. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.

City Clerk's and Treasurers Comments:

- Certification of Six Month Delinquent Water/Sewer Bills.
 - City Clerk/Treasurer Brown reported that the amount past due was \$103,793.58 which is approximately a \$1,500 increase 2018 to 2019. However, the number of accounts past due has decreased. Typically the past due amount is reduced by approximately 25-30% once the letters are mailed.
- Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Policy Update.
 - City Clerk/Treasurer Brown reported that the City of Cheboygan FOIA Policy has been updated per Public Act 523 effective March 27, 2019. The policy has been updated to prohibit anonymous requests; all requests for information must include a name, address, and contact information. The policy was also updated to include language that addresses the failure to pay the 50% deposit request in a timely manner; after 48 days of nonpayment, the request is considered abandoned.

City Manager’s Report:

- City Manager Eustice reported that the Inverness Board would like to meet with both Mayor Bronson and the City Manager to review the Sewer Agreement and the 425 Agreement.

Committee Updates:

- Mayor Pro Tem Couture reported that the Organizational Analysis Committee had some potential changes they would present at the next Regular City Council Meeting on April 9, 2019.
- City Manager Eustice reported that the Blight Committee had received an opinion from City Attorney Stephen Lindsay on the Rental Rehabilitation Ordinance and the Blight Ordinance. Once the opinion has been reviewed a meeting will be scheduled.

Messages and Communications from Mayor and Council Members:

- Mayor Bronson inquired about the Department of Natural Resources property north of the Cheboygan County Marina. City Manager Eustice responded that he has not heard from the State of Michigan since he was notified that they had ordered an appraisal. Mayor Bronson also reported on his research of other municipalities regarding sidewalk upkeep. All five municipalities that he reached out to require the property owner to maintain the sidewalks adjacent to their property, although some of the municipalities did share the cost with the property owner.

Meeting adjourned at 8:05 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