

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

June 25, 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: Bronson, Mallory, Couture, Kwiatkowski, Temple, and Johnston

Absent: None

Public Comments:

- Mr. Louis Vallance discussed his concerns with ongoing issues regarding the sewer and water and also drainage along Eastern Ave and Sutherland Street. Mr. Vallance also discussed his concern about cleaning out Smith Creek, he believes this is a township issue and not the responsibility of City taxpayers.
- Ms. Trudy Lofgren inquired about the recent Brownfield Meeting and requested a synopsis. City Manager Eustice replied the meeting was to approve the reimbursement agreement for the Old Hardware Project on State Street. Ms. Lofgren also asked about the status of the weeds along the river near the Lincoln Ave Bridge. City Manager Eustice replied that the Parks and Recreation Director Scott Hancock was working on scheduling some community service hours for volunteers. Lastly, Ms. Lofgren commented on the Department of Public Safety and whether officers could report blight issues.
- Mr. Michael O'Brien introduced himself and expressed his interest in as being a candidate to fill the open council seat.

Approval of Agenda and Receive and File all Communications:

- Councilwoman Kwiatkowski moved to approve the Agenda and receive and file all communications, supported by Councilman Mallory. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

- Councilwoman Kwiatkowski moved to approve the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of June 11, 2019 with the addition of Mayor Pro Tem Couture's comments regarding the proposed Police and Fire Millage, supported by Councilwoman Johnston. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearings:

- Adoption of the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Operating Budget for all Funds of the City of Cheboygan.
 - Public Hearing was opened at 7:17 p.m.
 - Public Hearing was closed at 7:18 p.m.
 - Councilwoman Johnston moved to adopt the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 Operating Budget for all Funds of the City of Cheboygan, supported by Councilman Temple. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.

Communications and Petitions:

- Opera House Presentation – Kathy King Johnston, Executive Director, CARC.

Department, Boards and Commission Reports:

- Zoning Board of Appeals Meeting, June 5, 2019.
- Department of Public Safety Monthly Stats, May 2019.

Resolutions:

- Resolution Commending the U.S.C.G. Cutter Mackinaw on 75th Anniversary.
 - Councilwoman Johnston moved to approve the Resolution Commending the U.S.C.G. Cutter Mackinaw on its 75th Anniversary, supported by Councilman Mallory. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.

General Business:

- Consideration of School District Annual Tax Collection Request.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Couture moved to approve the School District annual tax collection request pursuant to the Cheboygan Area Schools Annual Summer Tax Summer Resolution date June 10, 2019, supported by Councilman Temple. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.
- Consideration of Cheboygan County Humane Society 2019 Animal Control Appropriation in the amount of \$3,000.00 for the Fiscal Year Beginning July 1, 2019.
 - Councilwoman Kwiatkowski moved to approve the Cheboygan County Humane Society 2019 Animal Control Appropriation in the amount of \$3,000.00 for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2019, supported by Councilman Mallory. A roll call vote was taken. Yes votes: Couture, Kwiatkowski, Johnston, Mallory and Temple. No votes: Bronson. Motion passed.
- Consideration of Annual 2018-2019 Fiscal Year Budget Amendments.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Couture moved to approve the Annual 2018-2019 Budget Amendments and authorize the Clerk-Treasurer to make appropriate 2018-2019 Fiscal Year Budget Amendments as required, supported by Councilman Mallory. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.
- Consideration to Purchase a 2004 IHC S/A Dump Truck for the Department of Public Works.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Couture moved to approve the purchase of a 2004 IHC S/A Dump Truck for the Department of Public Works in the amount of \$43,900.00, supported by Councilwoman Johnston. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.
- Consideration to Transfer Money from the General Fund to Sidewalk Program.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Couture moved to approve the transfer of \$40,000.00 from the General Fund for the purpose of funding the sidewalk program, supported by Councilman Temple. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.

- Consideration of Non-Union/Non-Administrative Salary Increases.
 - Councilman Mallory moved to approve a 2% increase for non-union/non-administrative employees effective with the July 9, 2019 payroll, supported by Councilwoman Johnston. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.

City Clerk's and Treasurers Comments:

- Clerk-Treasurer Brown discussed the process for the vacated City Council seat. The advertisement for "City of Cheboygan Seeks Candidate for Vacated City Council Seat" was provided and is scheduled to be published in the Tribune on four separate dates. The Letters of Interest and Qualifications need to be received by July 3rd to be compiled and forwarded to the Council. On July 9, 2019, the Council will appoint a candidate to fill the vacated seat until a special election can be held.
- Clerk-Treasurer reported the total amount sent to the County for delinquent water sewer tax liens was \$62,785.85, down approximately 40% since it was initially reported in March of 2019.
- Clerk-Treasurer Brown followed up with an inquiry from Ms. Lofgren at the June 11, 2019 meeting; the Street Sweeper debt will mature on June of 2021.
- Clerk-Treasurer Brown provided an expense report for the repair and maintenance of the City's equipment for the fiscal year as requested by Councilwoman Johnston.

City Manager's Report:

- City Manager Eustice shared with the Council that Jason Karmol, Director of Public Works has received the Donald M. Pierce Award from the Michigan Water Environment Association for outstanding performance in a municipal facility.
- City Manager Eustice reported the Department of Natural Resources would be doing a site visit at the baseball fields on June 26, 2019 as part of the Passport Grant submission.
- City Manager Eustice reported that the repairs to the Opera House roof were scheduled to start on July 15, 2019.
- City Manager Eustice discussed the site visit on June 18, 2019 at the Industrial Park and the Port for the MEDC Grant that the City was awarded. A complete Market and Work Force Analysis should be completed by September of 2019.

Committee Updates:

- Organizational Committee met on June 18, 2019 to reorganize after the resignation of a council member. Going forward the committee is scheduled to meet prior to every council meeting.
- Blight Committee is waiting on information from the attorneys. Mayor Pro Tem Couture requested that either a meeting be scheduled or the issue needs to be addressed on the next council agenda.
- Recreation Commission met on June 19, 2019 to discuss a Recreation Authority and upcoming events.

Messages and Communications from Mayor and Council Members:

- Councilwoman Johnston requested additional information on the water situation along Eastern Ave. Councilwoman Johnston also inquired about the road repairs on Mill Street. City Manager

Eustice reported that the repairs were not likely to happen until next spring due to the large projects already scheduled. Councilwoman Johnston discussed feedback she has received regarding the proposed Police and Fire Millage; individuals are upset that the millage was proposed while tax abatements are being issued. She would like to revisit the tax abatement criteria and how long the abatements are approved for. City Manager Eustice explained that the tax abatement programs only impact the DDA Fund Balance, not the City's General Fund. Mayor Bronson added that the DDA Mandate can be revisited in 2022.

- Councilwoman Kwiatkowski mentioned that the property around the State Street Bridge is looking better, some of the grass has been trimmed.
- Councilman Mallory discussed the meeting with Michigan Main Street on June 13, 2019; the program is heavily volunteer driven.
- Mayor Bronson inquired about where blight complaints should be sent. City Manager Eustice replied that complaints could be forwarded to either City Hall or the Department of Public Safety; ultimately they will end up with the Department of Public Safety. Mayor Bronson also provided a map of the properties located in the City of Cheboygan that are exempt from taxes. It was discussed that the City could entertain the idea of selling unused property to increase tax revenue.
- Mayor Pro Tem Couture discussed the lines of communication between the City Council and the other Commissions and surrounding Townships. He would like to see an agenda item added to discuss volunteers or appointed officers to represent the City at Township Meetings.

Adjournment:

- Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Mayor Mark C. Bronson

Clerk/Treasurer Bridget E. Brown

Councilman Brett Mallory

Councilwoman Sara Johnston

Councilman Vaughn Temple

Mayor Pro Tem Nicholas C. Couture

Councilwoman Betty A. Kwiatkowski