

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

October 22, 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: Johnston, Temple, Bronson, Mallory, O'Brien, Couture, & Kwiatkowski

Absent: None

Public Comments:

- Mr. Ray Lofgren discussed the Duncan Bay Preserve Trail and the parking situation. Mr. Lofgren would like to see "No Parking" signs along Duncan Ave near the trailhead and a parking lot added to prevent the road from being blocked.
- Ms. Kate Schulz discussed the proposed Rental Registration Ordinance; she agrees that the ordinance would be helpful but is concerned that the rental properties are being targeted. Not every rental property in town has issues with blight. She also recommended that the Blight Committee be renamed something more positive.
- Ms. Susan Cheli inquired about the Lincoln Ave Bridge painting schedule and also the weeds in front of the Title Company and the Coop Floral Shop.

Approval of Agenda and Receive and File all Communications:

- Councilwoman Johnston moved to approve the Amended Agenda and receive and file all communications, seconded by Councilman Temple. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

- Councilwoman Johnston moved to approve the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of October 8, 2019 with the addition of additional information regarding Council comments, seconded by Councilman Mallory. Motion carried unanimously.

Reading of Ordinances:

- First Reading – Chapter XI Business Regulations: Rental Dwellings, Adding a New Section 121 (Rental Registration).
 - Public Hearing is scheduled for November 12, 2019.
 - Ms. Kate Schulz inquired about what codes would be used to determine if a rental property is acceptable and how the fee will be determined. She also mentioned that the purpose of the Ordinance should be changed.
 - The purpose of the Ordinance was discussed with input from the Director of Public Safety.
 - Ms. Angela Chastain commented that she manages rental properties and the landlords feel they are being discriminated against, there are many owner occupied properties with blight issues. She commented that the focus should be on any blighted property not just rental properties.

- Ms. Susan Cheli commented that blight is a community problem that has been prolonged for too long.
- Mayor Pro Tem Couture moved to reschedule the Rental Registration Ordinance Public Hearing from November 12, 2019 to November 26, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., seconded by Councilman Mallory. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.

Resolutions:

- Resolution to Approve the State Trunkline Maintenance Agreement.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Couture moved to approve the Resolution to Approve the State Trunkline Maintenance Agreement for the period of October 1, 2019 through September 30, 2024, seconded by Councilman Temple. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.
- Resolution – Inverness Township Sewer Maintenance and Refinancing Bond.
 - Councilman O’Brien moved to adopt the following Resolution: City Council Resolution Supporting Inverness Townships Efforts to Refinance the Debt on the Inverness Township Sewer System and Confirmation that the City of Cheboygan will Continue to Operate and Service the Inverness Township Sewer System Under the Existing City/Township Agreement Until Such Time a New Agreement is Approved by Both Municipal Legislative Bodies, seconded by Councilwoman Kwiatkowski. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.

General Business:

- Consideration of Request from Bishop Cheboygan Properties LLC to Vacate Clinton Street and Schedule a Public Hearing for Tuesday, November 26, 2019 at 7:00 pm via Resolution.
 - Councilman Mallory moved to adopt a Resolution of the City Council scheduling a Public Hearing for Tuesday, November 26, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. to hear objections thereto, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Couture. A roll call vote was taken. Yes votes: Couture, O’Brien, Kwiatkowski, Johnston, Bronson and Mallory. No votes: Temple. Motion passed.

City Manager’s Report:

- City Manager Eustice reported that the Cheboygan Area Arts Council has decided not repaint the “Bunny Wall” based on negative feedback they have received, specifically from adjacent property owners who would prefer to see the structural issues addressed first.
- City Manager Eustice also reported that the Center St/North St Water Main Replacement Project should be wrapped up near the end of October with paving likely to occur in early November.

Messages and Communications from Mayor and Council Members:

- Councilwoman Johnston inquired about adding new members to the Blight Committee. City Manager Eustice replied that Mayor Bronson can appoint members to that Committee. Councilwoman Johnston also inquired about a complaint she received regarding a shipping container being used as a shed. City Manager Eustice responded that a permit was issued and there isn’t currently an ordinance prohibiting the use of a shipping container.

- Councilman O’Brien discussed the Little Black River Watershed issue and reported that DPW is currently working on getting that fixed.
- Mayor Pro Tem Couture inquired about interior and exterior inspections in regards to the Blight Ordinance and who would conduct the inspection. City Manager Eustice responded that currently the Police Department would be responsible for conducting the inspections.
- Councilman Mallory discussed the parking issue at the Duncan Bay Preserve Trail. The property does not belong to the City but it is something that can be suggested to the committee.
- Mayor Bronson discussed a request that he received regarding support for a Quiet Island Resolution which would restrict the type of noisy improvements that can be made from Cheboygan to Little Traverse Bay, for example windmills.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Couture moved to disapprove the Resolution of Support for Quiet Island, seconded by Councilwoman Kwiatkowski. A roll call vote was taken, motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 8:39 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

Councilman Michael C. O’Brien