

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 14, 2020

The Regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Bronson via teleconference at 7:03 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Couture, Johnston, Bronson, Mallory, Temple, Ptasnik and Raab

Absent:

Public Comments:

- Mr. John Stritmatter discussed the Medical Marihuana Ordinance recently passed by the City of Cheboygan. Mr. Stritmatter is prequalified to obtain a license from the State of Michigan and has applied for his permit through the City of Cheboygan. However, the ordinance states that a license is required by the State of Michigan prior to a permit being issued. He is requesting that the ordinance be amended to include prequalification letters from the State of Michigan as allowable documentation for the purpose of issuing a permit by the City of Cheboygan.
- Ms. Katie Duczowski introduced herself as the new Interim Downtown Development Director. She is available by email at kduczowski@cheboygan.org.
- Ms. Mary Hebert wanted to thank everyone at the City of Cheboygan who is working hard to keep things moving forward.
- Ms. Pat Gildner encouraged everyone to keep on moving forward.
- Ms. Trudy Lofgren inquired about the Downtown Development Director Kirsten Guenther.
- Mr. Louis Vallance discussed services available to City and County residents during the pandemic, including food supplies and internet. He also discussed getting the ditches cleaned out on the East side of town.

Approval of Amended Agenda and Receive and File all Communications:

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

Resolution:

- Consideration of Resolution Establishing Procedures to Allow Telephonic Attendance by Members of all City of Cheboygan Public Bodies and Members of the Public at all such Meetings Due to Coronavirus Pandemic.
 - Councilwoman Raab moved to approve the Resolution Establishing Procedures to Allow Telephonic Attendance by Members of all City of Cheboygan Public Bodies and Members of the Public at all such Meetings Due to Coronavirus Pandemic, seconded by Councilwoman Johnston. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

- Councilwoman Raab moved to approve the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2020, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Couture. Motion carried unanimously.

Bills and Disbursements:

- Prepaid Bills and Disbursements for the Month of March 2020.
 - Motion by Councilwoman Raab to approve the prepaid bills and disbursements for the month of March 2020 in the amount of \$386,329.28, seconded by Councilwoman Ptasnik. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.
- Unpaid Bills and Disbursements for the Month of March 2020.
 - Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Couture to approve the unpaid bills and disbursements for the month of March 2020 in the amount of \$31,499.21, seconded by Councilwoman Raab. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.

Proclamation:

- Consideration of Mayoral Proclamation-Sexual Assault Awareness Month, April 2020.
 - Councilwoman Raab moved to approve the Mayoral Proclamation for Sexual Assault Awareness Month, April 2020, seconded by Councilwoman Johnston. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.

General Business:

- Consideration to Schedule a Public Hearing for April 28, 2020 to Consider a Grant Application to the United States Department of Agriculture/Rural Development for the Purpose of Purchasing a Used Fire Pumper.
 - Councilwoman Johnston inquired whether the Fire Chief was involved in this process.
 - Councilwoman Johnston moved to table this matter pending further discussion with the Fire Chief. No support, motion failed.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Couture moved to set a Public Hearing for April 28, 2020 to consider a grant application to the United States Department of Agriculture/Rural Development for the purchase of a used fire pumper, seconded by Councilman Mallory. A roll call vote was taken. Yes votes: Couture, Mallory, Bronson, Temple, Raab and Ptasnik. No votes: Johnston. Motion passed.
- Consideration to Schedule a Public Hearing for May 12, 2020 to Adopt an Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Cheboygan by Amending the City of Cheboygan Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 154, Article 4 to include Tourist Service Zoning and Water Front Marina Zoning.
 - Mayor Bronson explained that there have been additional requests from businesses that would like to apply for medical marijuana permits through the City of Cheboygan but are not currently located in the proper zoning, expanding the allowable zoning districts will allow these businesses to obtain a permit.
 - Mayor Bronson requested updated zoning maps that would include the new zoning districts.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Couture moved to schedule a Public hearing for May 12, 2020 to adopt an Ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Cheboygan by amending the City of Cheboygan Zoning Ordinance, Chapter 154, Article 4 to include Tourist Service Zoning and Water Front Marina Zoning Districts, seconded by Councilwoman Johnston. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.

- Consideration to Schedule a Public Hearing for May 12, 2020 to Adopt an Ordinance to Amend the Code of the City of Cheboygan by Amending Title XI, Chapter 121, Section 121.04 B2 to Include a Prequalification Letter Issued by the State of Michigan if a License has not been Issued.
 - Councilwoman Raab inquired about issuing permits when a license hasn't been obtained by the State of Michigan.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Couture explained that businesses cannot obtain a license from the State of Michigan without having a designated business location and local permit.
 - Councilwoman Raab moved to set a Public Hearing for May 12, 2020 to adopt an Ordinance to amend the Code of the City of Cheboygan by amending Title XI, Chapter 121, Section 121.04 B2 to include a prequalification letter issued by the State of Michigan if a license has not been issued, seconded by Councilwoman Ptasnik. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.

City Clerk's and Treasurer's Comments:

- Revenue & Expense by Fund as of March 31, 2020.
- Certification of Six Month Delinquent Water/Sewer Bills.
 - Clerk/Treasurer Brown explained that there was an increase in the amount typically reported this time of year; this is the first year we are seeing the impact from raising the water/sewer rates in 2018. There was only an increase of 19 customers with delinquent amounts. The letters will be issued during the upcoming week and whatever hasn't been paid as of June 1, 2020 will be turned over to the County for collection on the summer 2020 tax bills.
- Clerk/Treasurer Brown reported on updates to the current office schedule and plans to secure the front desk as well as the possibility of obtaining a drop box.

City Manager's Report:

- City Manager Eustice reported that the spring brush cleanup is scheduled to begin on April 27th and end on May 8th. There is also a city wide refuse pickup tentatively scheduled for May 9th, which may need to be rescheduled pending any change to the Governor Whitmer's Executive Orders.
- City Manager Eustice responded to the public comment made by Mr. Louis Vallance. There is a Wi-Fi umbrella currently available downtown Cheboygan, from State Street to Nelson Street. Mayor Bronson added that the Cheboygan Public Library has free Wi-Fi available in the parking lot, as well as exterior outlets for power.
- City Manager Eustice reported that he would like to hold a preliminary budget meeting in April, he has some concerns about State Tax Revenue Sharing and how that will be impacted by the recent shut downs. He will work with council on setting those meetings up.

Messages and Communications from Mayor and Council Members:

- Councilwoman Johnston thanked City Manager Eustice and Clerk/Treasurer Brown for their work in getting the teleconference meeting setup. Councilwoman Johnston also discussed the need for citywide Wi-Fi.

- Councilman Mallory inquired about the required repairs on the Black River Watershed. City Manager Eustice responded that not all of the repairs are complete but that EGLE has been satisfied by bringing in rip rap. Councilman Mallory also inquired about the contract negotiations for the Police Union. City Manager Eustice responded that they are looking at preliminary meetings in April with official meetings scheduled in May. Councilman Mallory discussed with Jon Stritmatter his facade plans for the Medical Marihuana Provisioning Center downtown Cheboygan.
- Councilwoman Raab suggested that the City take advantage of this down time to host additional teleconference meetings to keep things moving forward.
- Mayor Pro Tem Couture requested that Council receive email notifications regarding other Board & Commission meetings. Mayor Pro Tem Couture also requested that an Organizational Committee schedule a meeting.
- Councilwoman Ptasnik reported that she is available for additional meetings if needed.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 8:35 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 Diane E. Raab

Councilwoman Ashley Ptasnik