

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 28, 2020

The Regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Bronson via teleconference at 7:02 p.m.

Roll Call:

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

Absent:

Public Comments:

- Mr. Brian Lange commented on the potential for medical marihuana establishments downtown Cheboygan; he is concerned that the Main Street Program's Family Friendly theme will conflict with these operations.
- Mr. John Costin requested that City Council reconsider their decision to allow medical marihuana establishments on Main Street, especially in consideration of the amount of work that went in to joining the Main Street Program.
- Mrs. Sharen Lange, president of the Cheboygan Economic Development Group, discussed the recent staffing changes within City offices and upcoming changes with Council and how the decisions of the current Council will impact the future Council.
- Ms. Sherry Nelson applauds the City for allowing medical marihuana establishments in the City of Cheboygan; however, she believes that Medical Marihuana Retailers should be located off Main Street to fit in with our Family Friendly Main Street Program.
- Mr. Louis Vallance commented on the amount of rain that is forecast for the next couple of days; he is requesting that the Department of Public Works be ready willing and able to assist citizens with the inundation of water.
- Ms. Trudy Lofgren agrees with the concerns of other commenters regarding medical marihuana establishments downtown.

Approval of Agenda and Receive and File all Communications:

- Councilwoman Johnston moved to approve the 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 April 14, 2020, seconded by Councilwoman Ptasnik. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearing:

- Consideration of a Grant Application to the United States Department of Agriculture/Rural Development for the Purpose of Purchasing a Used Fire Pumper.
 - Public Hearing opened at 7:20 p.m.
 - Mr. Louis Vallance commented he is in favor of the purchase.
 - Public Hearing closed at 7:23 p.m.

- Councilwoman Johnston inquired about the need for this equipment and whether the City was actively shopping for this equipment.
- Chief of Police Jones discussed the type and age of equipment currently being used by the Fire Department. In addition, Chief Jones commented that a pumper has been in the Capital Improvement Plan for years. The City was contacted by Sutphen Corporation regarding the purchase of the used pumper.
- City Manager Eustice also commented that a new pumper truck has been needed for several years.
- Fire Chief Donald Dailey commented that he is in support of the purchase of the pumper truck and believes it is the right move to begin updating our fleet.
- Councilwoman Johnston moved to direct manager and staff to continue with the USDA grant application for funding of the 2007 Sutphen Customer Fire Truck (pumper), seconded by Councilwoman Raab. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.

Proclamation:

- Consideration of Mayoral Proclamation-Better Hearing Month, May 2020.
 - Councilwoman Raab moved to approve the Mayoral Proclamation for Better Hearing Month, May 2020, seconded by Councilwoman Ptasnik. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.

City Manager's Report:

- City Manager Eustice reported that the Public Hearing scheduled for May 12, 2020 to amend the Zoning Ordinance will need to be cancelled and rescheduled to allow for additional changes to be proposed. City Manager Eustice responded to the public comments made regarding the zoning for medical marijuana establishments, he is concerned about making changes to the districts that have already been approved.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Couture inquired if there would be any issue with adding additional zoning. City Manager Eustice does not believe that would be an issue.
 - Councilwoman Raab commented that she has not been made aware of any applications that have been received by the City. She also inquired whether a permit has to be issued to an applicant if they have a license or prequalification letter issued by the State of Michigan. City Manager Eustice responded that if an applicant meets the qualifications of the ordinance they should be approved for a permit.
 - Councilwoman Raab believes that the public comments made tonight regarding the medical marijuana establishments downtown should be considered.
- City Manager Eustice reported that the City wide brush pick up began on Monday, April 27th. The process will likely be somewhat slower this year due to decreased staffing during the pandemic.
- City Manager Eustice reported that the City wide household refuse/metal drop off is still scheduled for May 9th with social distancing guidelines being followed. Dumpsters will be located at City Hall, the County Fairgrounds, the Ice Pavilion, and possibly the Kmart plaza parking lot.

- Mayor Bronson inquired about the status of the Center/North St Water Project. City Manager Eustice responded that both the Center/North Street Water Project and the Sixth Street Sewer are both complete with the paving being finished this spring. However, new projects are currently delayed due to a shortage of products and materials.
- Councilwoman Raab inquired about the Hope Network Project. City Manager Eustice reported that their funding application was due May 1, 2020 and they will likely find out in July if they are approved.

Committee Updates:

- Mayor Pro Tem Couture reported that the Organizational Committee met. Current discussions include Police Contract negotiations and retaining current staff with additional meetings to be scheduled.
- Councilman Mallory reported that the Downtown Development Authority/Main Street Program is in the process of purchasing Maestro to help improve organization. In addition, the board is in the process of approving their budget.

Messages and Communications from Mayor and Council Members:

- Councilwoman Ptasnik commented that there were good opinions and thoughts shared and she would like to see a resolution sooner rather than later.
- Mayor Pro Tem Couture responded that more discussion is needed regarding the Medical Marihuana Ordinance including a legal opinion on whether currently approved districts can be removed from the ordinance.
- Councilwoman Raab agreed with Mayor Pro Tem Couture and the public comments that were made; she believes Council needs to take a harder look at the ordinance.
- Councilman Mallory agrees with both Mayor Pro Tem Couture and Councilwoman Raab.
- Mayor Bronson responded that discussions regarding medical marihuana establishments began in January of 2019. In addition, medical marihuana establishments are legal businesses and should be treated as such. Lastly, he reminded everyone that the electors of the City of Cheboygan have voted in support of the legalization of marihuana.

Adjournment

- 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

Mayor Pro Tem Nicholas C. Couture

Councilwoman Diane E. Raab

Councilwoman Ashley Ptasnik