

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

May 26, 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:

- Sharen Lange requested that there be some sort of accountability and resolution regarding the misrepresentation of the medical marihuana facilities. She discussed the lack of consistency, truthfulness and accuracy. She also requested a formal review of the City Charter. She would like to see an at large seat open on City Council.
- Ashley Brandt inquired about how the distance between medical marihuana facilities and schools and churches is measured. She also would like clarification if North Central Community College is considered a secondary school.
- John Costin inquired if a special meeting had been scheduled to discuss medical marihuana establishments.
- Louis Vallance questioned whether the City of Cheboygan would still host the fireworks this summer, he is concerned that the County may not allow the City to use the Fairgrounds. He also requested water and sewer utilities be added to the east side of town.

Approval of Agenda and Receive and File all Communications:

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

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

- Councilwoman Raab moved to approve the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of May 12, 2020, seconded by Councilwoman Johnston. Motion carried unanimously.

Communications and Petitions:

- Jason L. Karmol, DPW/Water & Wastewater Director-Project Update
 - Director Karmol reported that the 1st Street Bridge project is complete and the violation notice has been satisfied; the City is currently in good standing.
 - The City currently has a violation notice on the storm water structure near Pine Hill Cemetery; DPW Director is trying to get that fixed using city labor and materials to reduce the cost of repairing the structure.
 - DPW/Water & Wastewater Director reported that there are also violations on our water distribution system due to lack of storage; the water tower on the east side of town would help solve this issue.

- Director Karmol reported that both the Treatment Plant and the collection system are in deficiency with violation notices. There has been a lot of pressure from EGLE to create a plan to cure the deficiencies.
- Mayor Pro Tem Couture inquired about the status of the Wastewater Treatment Plant project. Director Karmol responded that Hubbell, Roth & Clark has to submit engineering plans for the Wastewater Treatment Plant by July 1, 2020; however, he is working with EGLE as they would prefer to see the storm water side be corrected first.
- Mayor Bronson inquired about water service to Mill Street. Director Karmol responded he is planning on scheduling the Mill Street project for 2021.
- Director Karmol reported that with all of the events and festivals cancelled this summer, the DPW crew will have more time to complete projects around town.
- Councilman Mallory inquired about the status of Court Street and Bailey Street neighborhood. Director Karmol responded that Court Street is the next priority following the Mill Street Project.

General Business:

- Consideration of the July 4, 2020 Fireworks Display.
 - Chief Jones has checked with many surrounding communities on plans to cancel fireworks display, some have been cancelled but most are still undecided at this time.
 - The City can cancel the fireworks display and receive a full refund on the deposit if we notify the company by June 1, 2020. The city also has the option to reschedule the display for another holiday or event.
 - Chief Jones reported that the City will not be able to enforce social distancing guidelines during the display.
 - Motion by Councilwoman Raab seconded by Councilman Mallory to move forward with the Fourth of July fireworks Display as planned. A roll call vote was taken. Yes votes: Couture, Raab, Ptasnik, Mallory. No Votes: Johnston, Bronson, and Temple. Motion passed.

City Manager's Report:

- City Manager Eustice reported that he is going to work on ramping up the sidewalk replacement program this summer, he is currently working with the applicants and a contractor.
- City Manager Eustice discussed the Fourth of July Parade which is a Chamber Event. They are waiting to hear from the Chamber if that event will still take place.
- City Manager Eustice reported that all City departments are back to being fully staffed; more than likely City Hall will open back up to the public on June 15, 2020.

Committee Updates:

- Councilman Mallory reported that the DDA purchased 15 gallons of hand sanitizer and created social distancing posters that the DDA Director will distribute to businesses.

Messages and Communications from Mayor and Council Members:

- Councilwoman Raab discussed all of the feedback regarding the medical marijuana establishments, she does not want to see five permits approved downtown.

- Mayor Pro Tem Couture discussed the at large seat on City Council, he doesn't like to see taxation without representation. He also discussed the possibility of holding a special meeting to address the medical marihuana questions and comments, however, the City has already passed the ordinance and is obliged to follow it.
- Councilwoman Johnston requested a special meeting to clarify the medical marihuana ordinances.
- Councilman Mallory discussed the open posters that are being distributed to businesses. There is a Match on Main Program currently available specifically for COVID-19. The DDA Board is also in the process of developing design guidelines.
- Mayor Bronson responded to questions brought up during public comments; the setbacks for medical marihuana establishments between schools and churches are measured from door to door. In addition, North Central Community College was determined not to be a secondary school therefore no setbacks are required. In addition, scheduling a special meeting was discussed to review a zoning change, it has since been determined that the zoning change is not necessary. The Planning Commission is an advisory board to the Council and can make recommendations however the Council is responsible for the actual vote.
- Mayor Pro Tem Couture inquired how a councilmember can add an item they would like addressed on the agenda. Mayor Bronson responded that the request can be sent to himself or two councilmembers can request that the Clerk add that item.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 7:56 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