

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

June 9, 2020

The Regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Bronson via teleconference at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

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

Absent:

Public Comments:

- Mr. Bryan Groff with the Cheboygan Brewing Company discussed the possibility of closing off Pine Street during the weekend to allow for additional seating and social distancing. The space will be shared with the building across the street, the future Hive North.
- Mr. Tony Pitts also with the Cheboygan Brewing Company, reiterated Bryan's idea of temporarily closing off Pine Street.
- Mr. Ray Lofgren discussed the recent decision by the Zoning Board of Appeals regarding the construction of a pole barn. He is concerned that the packet he provided to the Department of Public Safety was not provided to the Board and he has been mistreated.
- Mr. Louis Vallance voiced his concern for the 4" of rain forecast over the next couple of days.
- Mr. Rick Bauers discussed his concern surrounding the COVID-19 virus and whether or not businesses with air conditioning units could filter air.

Approval of Agenda and Receive and File all Communications:

- Councilwoman Raab moved to approve the Agenda and receive and file all communications, seconded by Councilwoman Ptasnik. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

- Mayor Pro Tem Couture moved to approve the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of May 26, 2020, seconded by Councilwoman Raab. Motion carried unanimously.

Bills and Disbursements:

- Prepaid Bills and Disbursements for the Month of May 2020.
 - Motion by Councilwoman Raab to approve the prepaid bills and disbursements for the month of May 2020 in the amount of \$291,434.11, seconded by Councilman Mallory. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.
- Unpaid Bills and Disbursements for the Month of May 2020.
 - Motion by Councilwoman Raab to approve the unpaid bills and disbursements for the month of May 2020 in the amount of \$83,670.88, seconded by Councilman Mallory. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.

General Business:

- Consideration to Reappoint Christy Stempky to the Main Street Downtown Development Authority Board of Directors.
 - Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Couture to reappoint Christy Stempky to the Main Street Downtown Development Authority Board of Directors, term to expire June 23, 2023, seconded by Councilwoman Ptasnik. Motion carried unanimously.
- Consideration to Appoint Christine Khan-King to the Main Street Downtown Development Authority Board of Directors.
 - Motion by Councilwoman Raab to appoint Christine Khan-King to the Main Street Downtown Development Authority, term to expire June 23, 2023, seconded by Councilwoman Johnston. Motion carried unanimously.
- Consideration of Reappointment of Mary Kronberg to the Cheboygan Area Public Library Board of Directors.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Couture moved to reappoint Mary Kronberg to the Cheboygan Area Public Library Board of Directors for the term of July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2023, seconded by Councilwoman Johnston. Motion carried unanimously, with Mayor Bronson excusing himself from the vote.

City Clerk's and Treasurer's Comments:

- Revenue & Expense by Fund as of May 31, 2020.
- Clerk/Treasurer Brown reported on the status of the upcoming elections. A notice has been published in the paper and added to the website notifying residents of the upcoming vacancies on Council. The Clerk also reported that she is receiving a large number of absentee voter applications for the upcoming elections. The State has not provided any additional guidance regarding in person voting for August and November so the Clerk is moving forward and preparing for a large number of absentee voters as well as in person voting.

City Manager's Report:

- City Manager Tom Eustice reported that the Chamber of Commerce has cancelled the Fourth of July Parade this summer. The City of Cheboygan is still planning on hosting the Fourth of July fireworks at the County Fairgrounds. However, residents will not be allowed to park in the County Fairgrounds parking lot. Another location may be discussed. Mackinaw City and St. Ignace are both still planning on hosting fireworks as well.
- City Manager Tom Eustice updated Council on the status of Center St/Palmyra St Water Project, they are working on getting down the final coats of asphalt and finishing the shoulder work but should be completed in the next couple of weeks.
- City Manager Tom Eustice discussed the complaints that have been received regarding Pine Hill Cemetery. The sexton is working on getting the cemetery grounds cleaned up, she was delayed this year due to the rain and getting parts for her equipment due to the pandemic.
- City Manager Tom Eustice followed up with Council regarding the Medical Marijuana Workshop that the City hosted, he is hoping that everyone's questions and concerns have been resolved. There are currently 6 Provisioning Center Applications, 1 Processing Center Application, and 1 Grow License Application. There are two applicants with completed packages.

- Mayor Pro Tem Couture inquired about the process for approving the applications and what order they would be approved. He requested that the City Manager draft a memo or email summarizing the process.
- Council discussed what constituted a complete application and the order in which they should be addressed.
- Councilwoman Johnston suggested that a timeline be established to allow for all of the applicants to complete their application now that the process has been clarified.
- Mayor Bronson also suggested getting an opinion from City Attorney Stephen Lindsay regarding the order in which applications should be processed. He would like to see the application process be as easy as possible.
- City Manager Eustice reported that the County Administrator Jeff Lawson reached out and requested the use of the Ice Pavilion as a location for the County to host open meetings. Various venues and locations were discussed including the Opera House and the Recreation Center.

Committee Updates:

- Councilwoman Raab reported that the Historic Resources Commission is moving ahead with the Heritage Funding Plan, they are hoping that the City will support their efforts and possibly hire a grant writer to assist in the funding.
- Councilwoman Raab reported that the 911 Board met and discussed an evaluation of the director.
- Mayor Bronson reported that the Zoning Board of Appeals met and upheld the City Manager's decision allowing for the construction of a pole barn. If the appellate still doesn't agree it would have to be filed in the circuit court.
- Mayor Bronson reported the Downtown Development Authority Main Street Board is adding an agenda item to their meetings to receive information from the City Council. Councilman Mallory also reported that they have elected their officials and are working on the recommended design guidelines.

Messages and Communications from Mayor and Council Members:

- Mayor Pro Tem Couture stated that the committees need to resume meetings. He also inquired if anyone had responded to the local snowmobile club email that Council received. Mayor Bronson responded that he did respond, he would like to get the DPW Director's opinion on the matter. Mayor Pro Tem Couture inquired if there is anyone available at the City who can create and post social media ads for better communication between the Boards and Commissions and the public. Mayor Pro Tem Couture requested an email from Ray Lofgren explaining the issue with the zoning appeal process. Lastly, he would like to review the Charter and look at an at large seat on council.
- Councilwoman Ptasnik commented that she is in favor of the Cheboygan Brewery Plan for temporarily closing down Pine Street, she has seen other surrounding communities with similar plans.
- Councilman Temple reported that there are plenty of projects available to keep the Department of Public Works busy this summer including replacing and or fixing sign posts and repairing the bridge near Pine Hill Cemetery.

- Councilman Mallory inquired which member of the Downtown Development Authority Board of Directors decided not to renew their term. Mayor Bronson responded that Brian Lange’s term expires June 23, 2020 and was not reappointed to the Board.
- Mayor Bronson discussed the process for requesting a temporary street closure, a formal request should be submitted to the City Manager who will then address it with Council. He also addressed some comments he heard, the vacant lots downtown are privately owned. Lastly, Mayor Bronson wanted to clarify that the dam along the Black River Watershed, near Pine Hill Cemetery, is being repaired not the dam along the Cheboygan River.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 8:37 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