

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

July 14, 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. Brady DJ from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy called in to listen to the meeting but also strongly supports the proposed sewer project.
- Ms. Karen Nickols with the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes & Energy also called in to listen to the meeting and supports the proposed sewer project.
- Mr. Jordan Velandia called in inquiring about appealing a clerical error for 2019 property taxes.
- Ms. Trudy Lofgren asked if she could be unmuted during the bills and disbursements portion of the agenda. She also inquired about the weeds along the Lincoln Ave Bridge. She would also like to know when the City plans on meeting in person again.
- Mr. Mike Garst, President of the Hockey Association called in to discuss the proposal that was sent in regard to opening the Ice Rink in August.

Council Response to Public Comments:

- City Manager Tom Eustice will follow up with the Recreation Director, Scott Hancock, to see if they can take care of the weeds near the Lincoln Ave Bridge.
- City Manager Eustice explained that the July Board of Review is scheduled for Tuesday, July 21st at 5:15 p.m. Citizens can address and appeal this year's property tax assessment.
- Mayor Bronson responded that the City is still trying to determine how to have in person meetings again.

Approval of Agenda and Receive and File all Communications:

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

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

- Councilwoman Raab moved to approve the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of June 23, 2020, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Couture. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Hearings:

- A Resolution Adopting a Final Project Plan for Wastewater System Improvements or NPS Pollution Control/Stormwater Improvements and Designating an Authorized Project Representative.

- Trevor Wagenmaker and Maria Corona presented Hubbell, Roth & Clark's Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrades 2020 SRF Project Plan including an alternative analysis:
 - No Action Alternative
 - Regionalization Alternative
 - Rehabilitate Existing WWTP Alternative, this is the preferred alternative for compliance, efficiency, and to replace degraded existing structures.
- Public Hearing was opened at 7:14 p.m.
- Mr. Mike Lesinski commented that he supports the project.
- Ms. Mary Hebert responded that she supports the project.
- Ms. Ashley Brandt asked when the next upgrades would be needed. Mr. Trevor Wagenmaker responded that equipment life is estimated to be 20-40 years and structures have a life of 50-100 years.
- Mr. Jim Granger asked about infiltration inflow and whether that is included in the project. Mr. Wagenmaker responded that this plan specifically addresses the upgrades needed at the Wastewater Plant and is not directly related to the infiltration inflow.
- Ms. Sharen Lange responded that she is in full support of the project.
- Ms. Casey Clear commented that she is in support of the application and the project.
- Public Hearing was closed at 7:40 p.m.
- Councilman Mallory inquired about access off Lake Street during construction. Director Jason Karmol responded that Lake Street is currently underwater with water levels rising so the preparations will need to be off Huron Street but likely out of the way.
- Councilman Mallory asked about increased efficiency. Mr. Wagenmaker responded that that information has not been calculated.
- Councilwoman Johnston inquired about the State rebate process and when the City would find out what we are approved for. Mr. Wagenmaker responded that they would find out in the fall with everything being finalized the following year. Ms. Karen Nickols confirmed that the information would be available in the fall.
- Mayor Bronson asked about the chemical cost savings and whether the taste of the water would improve. Mr. Wagenmaker responded that there would be a significant cost savings, the new process would utilize UV lights rather than chemicals and, in some cases, reduced amounts of chemicals. However, the process will not impact the drinking water just the wastewater.
- Mayor Bronson asked what the process for treating the wastewater would be during construction. Mr. Wagenmaker replied that a strict schedule is developed for the contractor with temporary pumps.
- Mayor Bronson inquired if the contaminated soil would be addressed during this project. Mr. Wagenmaker responded that there are no plans to do a site cleanup during this project.
- City Manager Tom Eustice read the proposed Resolution Adopting a Final Project Plan for Wastewater System Improvements or NPS Pollution Control/Stormwater Improvements and Designating and Authorized Project Representative into the record. A roll call vote was taken, motion passed unanimously to adopt the Final Project Plan Alternative Number Three, and Designate City Manager Thomas E. Eustice as the authorized representative for all activities associated with the project.

Communications and Petitions:

- Ms. Sharen Lange updated Council on current projects that the Cheboygan Economic Development Group is involved with, including the Hope Network Housing Project, an educational triad, the Orion Solar Energy Field, an assisted living facility, the development of a shopping district or corridor, the Enbridge project, and Cheboygan Estates.
- City Manager Eustice discussed the Police Union Contract, there have not been significant negotiations to date. Attorney Phil Nantz recommends a three-year contract and forming a committee to negotiate the specific proposal.
- City Manager presented a proposed job description for an Assistant City Manager position.
 - Council discussed a timeline for posting the job and finding a qualified individual. Ideally, the Organizational Committee would like to see the position posted by the end of July and to fill the position by the beginning of October.

Department, Boards and Commissions:

- Department of Public Safety Monthly Statistics, February, March, April, and May 2020.

Bills and Disbursements:

- Prepaid Bills and Disbursements for the Month of June 2020.
 - Motion by Councilwoman Raab to approve the prepaid bills and disbursements for the month of June 2020 in the amount of \$408,836.06, seconded by Councilwoman Ptasnik. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.
- Unpaid Bills and Disbursements for the Month of June 2020.
 - Councilwoman Johnston inquired whether the City has a purchase policy that favors local businesses. Clerk/Treasurer Brown responded that there is a purchase policy that discusses using local businesses when possible.
 - Motion by Councilwoman Raab to approve the unpaid bills and disbursements for the month of June 2020 in the amount of \$186,434.79, seconded by Councilwoman Johnston. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.

General Business:

- Consideration to rezone the following described property at 123 East State Street from Water-Front Marin (W-M) to General Business (B-3):
PLAT OF WEST DUNCAN, ELY 40FT OF LOTS 1 & 2, BLK 32. ****AND**** ELY 40FT OF SLY 30FT OF LOT 3, BLK 32. (SEC 32, T38N, R1W)
 - City Manager Eustice explained that a Public Hearing was held at a Planning Commission meeting, where it was recommended by a 4-2 vote to rezone the property.
 - Mayor Bronson added that the property was originally zoned as B-3 but was rezoned at Walstrom Marine's request and is not actually adjacent to the water.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Couture moved to approve the rezoning of the following described property at 123 East State Street from Water-Front Marin (W-M) to General Business (B-

3): PLAT OF WEST DUNCAN, ELY 40FT OF LOTS 1 & 2, BLK 32. ****AND**** ELY 40FT OF SLY 30FT OF LOT 3, BLK 32. (SEC 32, T38N, R1W), seconded by Councilwoman Ptasnik. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.

City Clerk's and Treasurer's Comments:

- City Clerk/Treasurer Brown reported that to date she has received one nominating petition packet for a full-term council seat.

City Manager's Report:

- City Manager Eustice reminded Council about the July Board of Review on July 21st at 5:15 p.m.
- City Manager Eustice discussed the letter that was provided to Council from the Cheboygan Hockey Association regarding the Ice Rink opening and how the operations will be managed.
- City Manager Eustice also discussed the letter that was provided to Council from Noreen Keating informing the City of an art sculpture donation from the Gildner family and the how the City Council should decide where it is placed. Councilwoman Raab suggested that a picture be provided. Councilman Mallory asked about what liability the City would hold. Mayor Bronson will provide a policy template about accepting the art piece and clarifying ownership.

Committee Updates:

- Councilwoman Raab discussed the Historic Resource Commission meeting and the information that has been provided to Council regarding the Heritage Funding Plan.
- City Manager Eustice reported the Ordinance Revision Committee is scheduled to meet on Monday, July 20th at 4:45 p.m.
- Councilman Mallory discussed the Downtown Development Authority/Main St meeting, they approved their officers and discussed a policy for expense approval for the Interim Director. The Board is also reviewing upcoming events. Mayor Bronson added that with the bond being paid off the State requires the DDA to identify a new project.
- Mayor Bronson reported that the Planning Commission discussed the zoning amendment and the proposed ordinance revisions.
- Mayor Bronson also discussed reactivating the Human Relations Board.

Messages and Communications from Mayor and Council Members:

- Councilwoman Raab mentioned the changing of the Command on the Coast Guard Cutter on July 17th along with the Coast Guard's birthday in August.
- Councilwoman Johnston asked Director Jason Karmol to investigate a cracked drain at the corner of Huron and Locust Streets. She also inquired about the holes in the streets around town. Councilwoman Raab explained that she believes it is due to high lake levels. Councilwoman Johnston asked how many candidates were interested in running for Mayor and what the process would be if not enough candidates submitted petitions. Clerk/Treasurer Brown responded that she has spoken with several interested individuals and has given out several packets of paperwork, but no one has officially submitted petitions. She is not sure what the process would be if there were not enough candidates.

- Mayor Pro Tem Couture reported that he would not be able to make it to the July Board of Review.
- Councilwoman Raab asked about the status of Hive North and the potential street closure. Mayor Bronson responded that they are working on getting a special liquor license through the State first.
- Councilman Temple commented that the streets need to be fixed and taken care of.
- Councilman Mallory asked what the plans and timeline were for recreational marihuana. Mayor Bronson responded that he would like to get Medical Marihuana settled before it is discussed but does plan on discussing it before his term ends.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 9:22 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