

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

August 11, 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, Ptasnik and Raab

Absent: Temple

Public Comments:

- Ms. Trudy Lofgren commented that she is still concerned with the lack of signage for pedestrians at the crosswalks on Main Street. She also inquired about the weeds along the Cheboygan River from the hotel down to the paper mill and whether the City would investigate getting those cleared out.
- Ms. Dan Harris called in to inquire about the status of a recreational marijuana ordinance. He commented that the City would not capture any sales tax on medical sales only recreational.
- Ms. Sharen Lange commented that the Cheboygan Economic Development Group supports the Cheboygan Estates Project. She also commented on the expense of the project and the growth that could occur as a result.
- Ms. Sherry Nelson commented that she was disappointed to hear that the Historic Resources Commission had been deactivated. She questioned whether the City was supporting the efforts of historic preservation and whether the Main Street Select status would be at stake.
- Mr. Louis Vallance reminded Council of the ongoing water issue on Eastern Avenue and the poisoning of the water. He also commented on the amount of water and weeds in the ditches along the East side of town and how they are hazardous for traffic.
- Mr. Matt Lahaie commented that he wanted to echo Dan Harris's comments regarding recreational marijuana and how to be a viable business in Northern Michigan.

Council Response to Public Comments:

- City Manager Tom Eustice responded that he would work with Scott Hancock to see what could be done but they may need to look for an outside contractor to clear out the weeds along the river.
- City Manager Tom Eustice also responded that the City cannot place any pedestrian signage or stripping on Main Street due to it being a State Highway. He also explained that on a State Highway vehicular traffic has the right-of-way, not pedestrians.
- Councilwoman Raab commented that she would like to know if the deactivation of the Historic Resource Commission would impact the City status in the Main Street Select Program.
- Mayor Bronson responded that he is planning on addressing the recreational marijuana ordinance soon.

Approval of Amended Agenda and Receive and File all Communications:

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

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

- Councilwoman Johnston moved to approve the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of July 28, 2020, seconded by Councilwoman Raab. Motion carried unanimously.

Bills and Disbursements:

- Prepaid Bills and Disbursements for the Month of July 2020.
 - Motion by Councilwoman Johnston to approve the prepaid bills and disbursements for the month of July 2020 in the amount of \$838,057.53, seconded by Councilwoman Ptasnik. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.
- Unpaid Bills and Disbursements for the Month of July 2020.
 - Motion by Councilwoman Raab to approve the unpaid bills and disbursements for the month of July 2020 in the amount of \$59,300.98, seconded by Councilwoman Johnston. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.

General Business:

- Consideration to Reappoint Christy Stempky to the Parks & Recreation Commission.
 - Councilwoman Johnston moved to reappoint Christy Stempky to the Parks & Recreation Commission, term to expire July 1, 2022, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Couture. Motion carried unanimously.
- Consideration to Reappoint Angela Chastain to the Parks & Recreation Commission.
 - Councilwoman Johnston moved to reappoint Angela Chastain to the Parks & Recreation Commission, term to expire April 24, 2022, seconded by Councilman Mallory. Motion carried unanimously.
- Consideration to Reappoint Catherine Schulz to the Parks & Recreation Commission.
 - Councilwoman Raab moved to reappoint Catherine Schulz to the Parks & Recreation Commission, term to expire April 24, 2022, seconded by Councilwoman Johnston. Motion carried unanimously.
- Consideration to Reappoint Michael Lalonde to the Parks & Recreation Commission.
 - Councilwoman Johnston moved to reappoint Michael Lalonde to the Parks & Recreation Commission, term to expire July 1, 2021, seconded by Councilwoman Ptasnik. Motion carried unanimously.
- Consideration to Appoint Dale Rieger to the Parks & Recreation Commission.
 - Councilwoman Johnston moved to appoint Dale Rieger to the Parks & Recreation Commission, term to expire July 1, 2022, seconded by Councilwoman Raab. Motion carried unanimously.
- Consideration to Reappoint James Mick to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Couture moved to reappoint James Mick to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, term to expire April 13, 2023, seconded by Councilwoman Johnston. Motion carried unanimously.
- Consideration to Reappoint Alfred West to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.

- Councilwoman Johnston moved to reappoint Alfred West to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, term to expire April 23, 2023, seconded by Councilman Mallory. Motion carried unanimously.
- Consideration to Reappoint Richard Sangster to the Zoning Board of Appeals.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Couture moved to reappoint Richard Sangster to the Zoning Board of Appeals, term to expire January 9, 2023, seconded by Councilwoman Johnston. Motion carried unanimously.
- Consideration to Reappoint George Chorey to the Zoning Board of Appeals.
 - Councilman Mallory moved to reappoint George Chorey to the Zoning Board of Appeals, term to expire January 9, 2023, seconded by Councilwoman Johnston. Motion carried unanimously.
- Consideration to Appoint Michael O'Brien to the Zoning Board of Appeals.
 - Councilwoman Johnston moved to appoint Michael O'Brien to the Zoning Board of Appeals, term to expire October 10, 2022, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Couture. Motion carried unanimously.
- Consideration of 2% Wage Increase for Non-Union Employees.
 - City Manager Eustice explained that he is requesting a 2% pay increase for the part-time Parks and Recreation employees and the part-time clerical staff for the Police Department which would equate to an approximate \$1,800 annual expense to the City.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Couture moved to approve the 2% wage increase for non-union employees as presented by the City Manager, seconded by Councilwoman Johnston. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.

City Clerk's and Treasurer's Comments:

- Revenue & Expense by Fund as of July 31, 2020.
- City Clerk/Treasurer Brown reported that to date she has received one Declaration of Intent for the partial seat opening on Council. She explained that candidates interested in running as an eligible write-in candidate on the November ballot can file a Declaration of Intent up until October 23, 2020. She also reported that the unofficial election results are available on the County website with the official results available after the Board of Canvassers certify the election on Thursday, August 13th.

City Manager's Report:

- Cheboygan Estates Project Presentation
 - City Manager Eustice reported that an updated diagram was distributed to all the Councilmembers with the project now planned in phases. He also discusses different funding options including a millage to help fund a portion of the project. He explained that the City would be responsible for the Stempky Street/Loomis Street connection with the interior infrastructure possibly to be developed with grant funding.
 - Councilman Mallory inquired what the City could handle as an investment in the project.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Couture commented that he is not sure that a tax millage is the best funding source, he thinks it will be a tough sell.
 - Mr. Greg Elliott responded that this is a great opportunity for the City of Cheboygan. Housing is an important need right now. He discussed the projected connection fees,

- increased tax revenue and water/sewer charges. He is asking that the City develop the main road and pay for a significant amount of the water/sewer infrastructure.
- Mayor Pro Tem Couture requested a financial breakdown from City staff.
 - Councilwoman Raab concurs with Mayor Pro Tem Couture, she would like to see more information.
 - City Manager Eustice suggested setting up a meeting with the developers, the Mayor and the Water/Wastewater Director.
- City Manager Eustice reported that all six of the Medical Marihuana Provisioning Center Permits have been issued.
 - City Manager Eustice also reported that Spierling Excavating is scheduled to begin filling and compacting the sink holes around town next week.
 - City Manager Eustice discussed the issues with Louis Vallance's water and the estimated expense of supplying water to the property to be approximately \$82,000. He reported that based on testing completed by EGLE, the water was found to be within legal limits of any contamination. The State of Michigan has not required the City to take any further action.
 - Mayor Bronson added that the City is not obligated to run water to this property.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Couture also reiterated that the water tests show that the water is not contaminated and running water to this location is not financially feasible. He requested that a letter be drafted explaining that the City does not have plans for this project.
 - Councilwoman Johnston asked about the old landfill and whether that property had been tested for contamination.
 - City Manager Eustice responded that the property had been tested but was not found to be contaminated.
 - Councilwoman Johnson requested that the letter to the property owners explain that the test results were all within legal limits and that the City does not plan to address this issue again.

Committee Updates:

- City Manager Eustice reported that the Recreation Commission was going to try and schedule an outdoor meeting this month.
- Councilman Mallory reported that the DDA/Main St is considering revisions to their bylaws, there are some concerns about the boundary differences between the DDA and Main Street. They recently passed their Design Guidelines, a purchase policy, and a vibrancy microgrant program. The Board is also considering hiring a beautification employee.
- City Manager Eustice reported that the Organizational Committee has not met but the Assistant City Manager job has been posted and he is working with the Cog Group. To date, seven quality resumes have been received.

Messages and Communications from Mayor and Council Members:

- Councilwoman Raab thanked everyone for joining the Zoom meetings.
- Councilwoman Ptasnik commented that it was nice to see the renovations on the medical marihuana businesses.

- Mayor Pro Tem Couture asked the Mayor to discuss his plans on addressing recreational marihuana. Mayor Bronson responded that he would like to have more information at the next meeting, he is researching how the City can rescind our previous opt-out.
- Mayor Bronson inquired about the Kmart plaza and whether the taxes were being maintained. City Manager Eustice responded that the property taxes had not been paid this year or last year.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 8:48 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