

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

September 8, 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, Temple, and Raab

Absent:

Public Comments:

- Ms. Sharen Lange updated Council on the status of the Hope Network Project, they are still waiting to hear from MSHDA regarding funding. She also discussed the Oryan Solar Energy Project, they are in the process of selling energy. Regarding the Cheboygan Estates Project, she feels a prerequisite of a percentage of sales would be an appropriate and conservative approach. She also discussed training for new council members, so they are aware of all the tools and resources available especially regarding development. She reported that she spoke to Chris Jones with Meijer back in March of 2020 and was told that Cheboygan is not in their plans to develop a distribution center. She suggested that wildflower seeds be thrown along the banks of the Cheboygan River to help with the weed situation.
- Mr. Louis Vallance discussed the attempt to clean out the weeds along Eastern Avenue. He also discussed running water to Eastern Avenue, he would like to see a breakdown of the cost estimate for that project. Lastly, he discussed the school system going to a virtual program and that he does not feel they should receive tax revenue if they are not offering in person learning.

Council Response to Public Comments:

- Mayor Bronson agrees with Ms. Lange that training for new councilmembers is a good idea. He suggested staff reach out to MSU Extension to set up training.
- Councilwoman Johnston added that she thought training in conjunction with the County and surrounding Townships would be helpful.
- Councilwoman Raab thanked Ms. Lange for her involvement with the projects.
- Mayor Pro Tem Couture commented that he never heard a representative from Meijer discuss building a distribution center here.
- Mayor Bronson also explained that the City cannot withhold taxes from the school system, the City serves as a flow through for the tax revenue.

Approval of Amended Agenda and Receive and File all Communications:

- Councilwoman Raab 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 August 25, 2020, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Couture. Motion carried unanimously.

- Councilwoman Johnston moved to approve the Special City Council Meeting Minutes of September 2, 2020, seconded by Councilman Temple. Motion carried unanimously.

Bills and Disbursements:

- Prepaid Bills and Disbursements for the Month of August 2020.
 - Motion by Councilwoman Raab to approve the prepaid bills and disbursements for the month of August 2020 in the amount of \$2,699,437.50, seconded by Councilwoman Ptasnik. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.
- Unpaid Bills and Disbursements for the Month of August 2020.
 - Motion by Councilwoman Raab to approve the unpaid bills and disbursements for the month of August 2020 in the amount of \$76,591.46, seconded by Councilwoman Johnston. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.

General Business:

- Consideration of City of Cheboygan Policy on Donations and Gifts.
 - City Manager Eustice explained that this policy was developed partially due to the significant donation from the Gildner Family. He explained that per the policy, any donation of \$10,000 or more must be approved by City Council, this includes actual cash donations or any donation of property etc.
 - Councilwoman Raab moved to approve the City of Cheboygan Donation and Gift Policy, effective September 8, 2020. No support, motion failed.
 - Mayor Bronson suggested adding a strong statement informing donors that donations will belong to the City and can be sold if necessary.
 - Councilmembers discussed potential language that could be added including offering the donation back to the donors prior to being sold along with taking into consideration the intentions of the donors.
 - Councilwoman Raab moved to approve the City of Cheboygan Donation and Gift Policy with the amendments by City Attorney Stephen Lindsay and the addition of the language clarifying that the donation becomes property of the City and the City has the authority to disperse of that in any way it chooses, effective September 8, 2020, seconded by Councilwoman Johnston. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.
- Consideration to Appoint Anthony Eustice to the Parks & Recreation Commission.
 - Councilwoman Raab moved to appoint Anthony Eustice to the Parks & Recreation Commission, term to expire July 1, 2021, seconded by Councilwoman Johnston. Motion carried unanimously.
- Consideration to Appoint John Stritmatter to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority.
 - Councilwoman Raab moved to appoint John Stritmatter to the Brownfield Redevelopment Authority, term to expire April 13, 2023, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Couture. Motion carried unanimously.

City Manager's Report:

- City Manager Eustice reported that he is attending the School Board Meeting on Monday, September 14th to present on the Cheboygan Estates Project and to find out if the School can help financially with the project. City Manager discussed other projects where the City expended funds to run services to new developments.
- City Manager Eustice reported that a union meeting is scheduled for September 23rd and negotiations should be complete at that time. The contract will be submitted to Council once finalized.
- City Manager Eustice reported that he has received 13 resumes for the Assistant City Manager position, 8 of which were submitted by the Cog group.
- City Manager Eustice also discussed that Meijer has not completely ruled Cheboygan out for a retail store, but that would be at least a couple of years away. He is not aware that there have been intentions of opening a distribution center here.
- City Manager Eustice discussed the issue with the compressor at the Ice Rink and the overall issues with the condenser. An additional compressor may need to be replaced still this season. Ice is scheduled to be down mid-September and the hockey season is moving forward.

Committee Updates:

- Main Street DDA Update, September 4, 2020.
- City Manager Eustice reported that the Planning Commission met and discussed the rezoning of the Cheboygan Cement property, they are recommending that the property be rezoned.

Messages and Communications from Mayor and Council Members:

- Mayor Pro Tem Couture would like to hear more about the current Health Insurance Plan and Liability Insurance for the City and how that process works to make sure we have the best rates. He also inquired about the plans to replace our current assessor. City Manager Eustice responded that he is planning on having a new assessor in place on January 1, 2021 and Clayton McGovern would stay on to help with the transition.
- Councilwoman Raab discussed the reactivation of the Historic Resource Commission and a letter that was submitted to the Mayor regarding the reactivation of that commission. Mayor Bronson replied that he would have a response to her letter shortly.
- Councilwoman Johnston inquired if there was a plan in place to train the new Councilmembers. Councilwoman Johnston also commented on the masonry work at Bishop's on the vacated street, she was under the impression that nothing could be built there. City Manager Eustice responded that he will discuss the plans with Tom Bishop.
- Mayor Bronson reported that Mackinaw Ave from Main Street to the Little Black River Bridge is scheduled to be remilled in the spring. City Manager Eustice added that Highway 23 from Duncan Avenue to Butler Road will also be rebuilt as well as the Lincoln Ave and Main Street intersection. Mayor Bronson also discussed the ditch clearing along Eastern Avenue, he said it was unsightly but he didn't know of any other way to get the work done. Councilwoman Johnston inquired if there were plans to also extend the sidewalk along with the road repairs along Highway 23. City Manager Eustice said he would follow up with DPW Director on the project plans, he was not sure if there would be enough funding for the sidewalks too.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 8:18 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