

## **REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**October 27, 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:**

- Mr. Louis Vallance made a comment to the presenter for the evening, Ms. Sharen Lange, that he agrees that every inch of Cheboygan County should have broadband coverage and it should be a public utility.
- Ms. Ashley Brandt asked if it would be possible for the draft meeting minutes to be made available to the public prior to the meeting.

### **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 Johnston moved to approve the Special City Council Meeting minutes of October 20, 2020 as presented, seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Couture. Motion carried unanimously.

### **Communications and Petitions:**

- Broadband Presentation, Ms. Sharen Lange, Chair Cheboygan County EDC.
  - Ms. Sharen Lange reported that the Cheboygan County Economic Development Corporation has reconvened and has identified county-wide technology access as a priority. Connectivity has become critical for everyone, especially during the pandemic. Cheboygan County was identified as one of the top ten communities in the State of Michigan lacking connectivity. The Cheboygan County EDC has engaged Connected Nation to survey the County to identify where connectivity issues are present and what needs different sectors of the population have. This information will be used to analyze the County's connectivity issues and how to fund the development of this service.
  - Councilwoman Johnston and Ms. Sharen Lange discussed the timeline for the project which will depend on Connected Nation collecting enough survey results to get a clear picture of the community needs. Additionally, it will depend on the funding options that are available.
  - Mayor Bronson and Ms. Lange discussed how the cost of installing the service prohibits many individuals from getting access. Ms. Lange reported that the cost to users will be significantly decreased with State and Federal funding to cover a majority of the expense.

- Councilman Mallory and Ms. Lange discussed the type of service that would be offered. Ms. Lange commented that this will depend on the results of the survey and what the needs of the community are but fiber is the preference.
- Ms. Sharen Lange requested that everyone complete the survey to help the community.

**City Clerk's and Treasurer's Comments:**

- City Clerk/Treasurer Brown report that the City Manager job posting has been published and is scheduled to run on six separate dates over the next couple of weeks. The City Manager has also had the job posted with the Michigan Municipal League. Resumes will be accepted until November 15, 2020.
- Clerk/Treasurer Brown reported that October 23, 2020 was the final date for any interested candidate to file a Declaration of Intent. The City has two eligible write-in candidates for the partial council seat.
- Clerk/Treasurer Brown discussed the status of the new council training; she is working with MSU Extension to get a Zoom training created and scheduled.
- Clerk/Treasurer Brown reported that the health insurance plan for the City employees is up for renewal. She has discussed the options with Joe Breed from BKC Insurance and also the union president. Different plans have been reviewed including different deductibles and carriers. The final step will be to review the options with the City Manager.

**City Manager's Report:**

- City Manager Eustice thanked Ms. Sharen Lange for her presentation, he agrees that connectivity is a critical issue and believes that the County and EDC has engaged the right individuals and they are moving in the right direction.
- City Manager Eustice discussed the status of the Cheboygan Estates Project, City Engineer Jim Granger is working on an issue with a 100' easement on the south end of the property; the easement will need to be decreased to 50' in order to build all of the proposed housing.
- City Manager Eustice reported that the roof of the Recreation Center is scheduled to be replaced this fall but likely won't start until after the election.
- City Manager Eustice reported that the façade project at the Creation Station will be complete by the end of November this year.
- City Manager Eustice discussed the Police Union Contract being close to finalized and that a Special Meeting may need to be scheduled between the November election and the next regularly scheduled meeting to approve the contract.
- City Manager Eustice thanked the Mayor and Councilmembers who either chose not to run for another term or could not run due to term limits. He highlighted some of the major projects that were accomplished under the current administration including; the Port Project, the water/sewer rate increase for significant upgrades to the current infrastructure, MEDC contributions through the Huron Street Project and multiple private investments, the Center Street/North Street Water Project, the Lincoln Avenue and Huron Street repaving projects, the Michigan Main Street Select Level designation, the Pure Michigan Trails Town, the Coast Guard City application, and the Medical and Adult Use Marihuana Ordinances.

**Committee Updates:**

- Councilwoman Johnston reported that the Recreation Commission met but did not have a quorum. They discussed the Recreation Authority and plans moving forward.

**Messages and Communications from Mayor and Council Members:**

- Councilwoman Ptasnik commented that she has had a really great experience serving on council and learned a lot, she appreciates all that the councilmembers do.
- Councilman Temple inquired when the corner of Water Street and State Street would be cleaned up. City Manager Eustice responded that the street should be repaved this week.
- Councilman Mallory thanked Mayor Bronson and the councilmembers that have helped him, he wishes them all well.
- Councilwoman Raab commented that she has enjoyed her time on Council and is looking forward to another possible four years. She is grateful to be a part of this community.
- Councilwoman Johnston wanted to echo the thanks to all who have served the community, it has been a pleasure working with them all.
- Mayor Pro Tem Couture thanked all of the councilmembers and staff, past and present. He hopes the City continues to move forward.
- Mayor Bronson thanked all of the Department Heads, City Manager, staff and councilmembers for their help and support over the years.

**Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

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Mayor Mark C. Bronson

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Clerk/Treasurer Bridget E. Brown

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Councilman Brett Mallory

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Councilwoman Sara Johnston

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Councilman Vaughn Temple

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Mayor Pro Tem Nicholas C. Couture

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Councilwoman Diane E. Raab

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Councilwoman Ashley Ptasnik