

SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

November 17, 2020

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

Roll Call:

Present: Tebo, Mallory, Brandt, Kwiatkowski, Raab, Hocquard, Johnston

Absent:

Mayor Tebo requested nominations for Mayor Pro Tem. Councilwoman Brandt moved to nominate Councilwoman Johnston Mayor Pro Tem, seconded by Councilwoman Raab. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments:

- Ms. Sherry Nelson welcomed Mayor Tebo to the Council.
- Ms. Trudy Lofgren welcomed all the new members to Council.
- Mr. Louis Vallance welcomed the new councilmembers and Mayor and commented that the website needed to be updated with their contact information. Lastly, he commented on the issues with the wifi blanket downtown and when that would be resolved.

Council Response to Public Comments:

- City Manager Tom Eustice responded that the website will be updated tomorrow with the new council members. He also discussed the ongoing issues with the downtown wifi blanket, he reported that Airnorth has been out several times to try and resolve the intermittent connectivity problems and is still trying to determine the issue.

Approval of Agenda and Receive and File All Communications:

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

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

- Mayor Pro Tem Johnston moved to approve the Regular City Council Meeting minutes of October 27, 2020 as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Johnston. Motion carried unanimously.

Bills and Disbursements:

- Prepaid Bills and Disbursements for the Month of October 2020.
 - Clerk/Treasurer Brown explained that the prepaid and unpaid reports are provided at the first meeting of every month. Prepaid items are typically just general operating expenses like electricity and the unpaid items include any bill that has been held for approval from Council before paying. The current prepaid report includes several debt payments which were due November 1, 2020 and also Trust and Agency Disbursements which are taxes collected on behalf of other agencies.

- Councilman Kwiatkowski inquired about the current unfunded liability. Clerk/Treasurer Brown responded that she would provide that information at the next meeting.
- Mayor Pro Tem Johnston asked if a report could be provided at the next meeting with the total amount paid to Hubbell Roth and Clark to date.
- Councilwoman Raab moved to approve the prepaid bills and disbursements for the Month of October 2020 in the amount of \$873,328.39, seconded by Councilwoman Brandt. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.
- Unpaid Bills and Disbursements for the Month of October 2020.
 - Councilman Kwiatkowski moved to approve the unpaid bills and disbursements for the month of October 2020 in the amount of \$47,417.71, seconded by Councilman Mallory. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.

General Business:

- Consideration of POLC Successor Union Contract.
 - City Manager Eustice explained that the current POLC Union contract expired June 30, 2020. The prior Organizational Committee met and reviewed the contract and made improvements to hopefully address the retention issues in the department. City Manager Eustice discussed the proposed changes to the retirement plan, the City would pay half of the employee contribution in the first year (3% of wages) and in the following years the City will pay the entire employee contribution of 6%. There is also a proposed wage increase of 5% each year of the contract. With the increase in wages and benefits, the Council will need to address funding these changes, he suggest a Special Assessment for Police and Fire Services.
 - Council discussed the proposed changes and how that would be funded.
 - Councilwoman Raab moved to approve the POLC Successor Union Contract as presented, seconded by Councilman Hocquard. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.

City Clerk's and Treasurer's Comments:

- Clerk/Treasurer Brown reported that the Revenue & Expense Report would be provided on a monthly basis and offers a snapshot of actual revenues and expenses compared to budget figures for the major funds of the City.
- Clerk/Treasurer Brown said that new Councilmember training through the MSU Extension would likely be scheduled in early 2021.
- Clerk/Treasurer Brown thanked all of the office staff in helping run a successful election, including Judy Sanders, Casey Clear, Brenda Temple and Katie Duczkowski.

City Manager's Report:

- City Manager Eustice reported that the Council meetings will continue meeting via Zoom for at least the next few weeks. City Hall will remain open for the time being but the Recreation Center and Ice Arena will be closed.
- City Manager Eustice reported that he should know in early December if the City was approved for the DNR Land Trust Grant for the Fishing Pier Project in Major City Park in the amount of \$300,000. If approved, construction would begin in the spring of 2021.

- City Manager Eustice that the Coast Guard City Application has been finalized and submitted.
- City Manager Eustice discussed having the Organizational Committee meet to review resumes and schedule interviews for the City Manager job posting. Mayor Tebo appointed Councilwoman Raab to the Organizational Committee to replace prior Mayor Pro Tem Couture.
- Councilwoman Raab inquired about the status of the Hope Network Project and the Cheboygan Estates Project. City Manager Eustice responded that Hope Network did not receive MSHDA funding, they may apply again in April of 2021. He reported that the Cheboygan Estates Project is still moving forward just as quickly as initially anticipated.

Committee Updates:

- Councilman Mallory reported that the Main Street/DDA Board would be taking over the 4th of July Parade, the Christmas Parade and the Downtown concert series from the Chamber of Commerce. The Board also approved a Vibrancy Microgrant for trees to be planted along Huron St. Additional trees are also planned at Festival Square.
- Councilwoman Johnston reported that the Parks & Recreation Commission meeting was cancelled but she will try to work with Kate Schulz via email on the Recreation Authority.
- City Manager Eustice reported that the Organizational Committee will review the resumes for the City Manager job posting. The Committee will make their recommendations to Council but the final decision can be made by the entire Council.

Messages and Communications from Mayor and Council Members:

- Mayor Tebo reported that he would hold open office hours from 12:00 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. every Thursday at 102 S Main Street. He also reported that he would be submitting a letter in conjunction with the Inverness Township Supervisor and County Commissioner Sangster to Cris Jones with Meijer to see if any progress can be made.
- Councilwoman Raab commented that she thinks it's great that the Mayor will be available and will be reaching out to Meijer. She also welcomed the new council members.
- Mayor Pro Tem Johnston thanked Council for the nomination as Mayor Pro Tem and also commented that she is looking forward to her next two years on Council with all the new energy. Councilwoman Johnston inquired about the fence that was built by Mr. Bishop across Antoine Street. City Manager Eustice reported that a letter has been issued requiring the fence to be moved, if not relocated Mr. Bishop will be cited. Councilwoman Johnston also inquired about Mary Kujawa's concerns about the approach to the alley between C and D Street, Councilwoman Johnston is concerned about the way the issue has been handled and would like to see if the City can take care of the problem.
- Councilman Mallory welcomed the new councilmembers.
- Councilman Kwiatkowski congratulated the Clerk on the election.
- Councilwoman Brandt inquired about the status of the roof replacement at the Recreation Center. City Manager Eustice responded that Doyle roofing should be starting on the roof still this fall.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Mayor Leslie A. Tebo

Clerk/Treasurer Bridget E. Brown

Councilman Brett Mallory

Councilwoman Ashley Brandt

Councilman Ken Kwiatkowski

Mayor Pro Tem Sara Johnston

Councilwoman Diane E. Raab

Councilman Kasey Hocquard