

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

November 24, 2020

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

Roll Call:

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

Absent:

Public Comments:

- Mr. Zach Mastin congratulated all of the new councilmembers, he is excited for the future.
- Ms. Trudy Lofgren commented on the hazardous corner at Water Street and State Street, someone removed the barrier but never finished putting in the pavers.
- Mr. Louis Vallance commented that someone has been rewriting the Ordinances and Charter for the City without the proper authorization. He would also like to see the City Treasurer go through the tax roll and verify that all parcels are marked correctly.
- Ms. Connie Rieger discussed the Christmas event at the Children's Trail on December 12th and whether that should be reconsidered due to the pandemic.

Council Response to Public Comments:

- City Manager Tom Eustice commented that he will check on the pavers at the corner of Water Street and State Street. He also commented that no changes should be made to the Charter or the Ordinances without the proper process, he will reach out to Louis Vallance to discuss further. City Manager Eustice suggested moving forward with the Children's Trail Event, it falls after the current executive order/partial shutdown expires.
- Mayor Tebo responded to Ms. Rieger regarding the event and suggested moving forward with the event but reaching out to the local Health Department.

Approval of Agenda and Receive and File All Communications:

- Councilman Kwiatkowski 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 Special City Council Meeting minutes of November 17, 2020 as presented, seconded by Councilwoman Brandt. Motion carried unanimously.

Communications and Petitions:

- Circuit Court operations and activities update, Mr. Aaron Gauthier, Chief Judge 53rd Circuit Court.
 - Judge Gauthier discussed the increased communications between the courts and the community and efficiencies that have been implemented in the court system along with changes to the drug court.

- Judge Gauthier commented that December jury trials have been cancelled due to COVID.
- Judge Gauthier discussed the YouTube channel that is available to view court sessions, most sessions are currently being conducted via Zoom.

Departments, Board and Commissions:

- Department of Public Safety Monthly Statistics, September & October 2020.

General Business:

- Consideration of School District Annual Tax Collection Request.
 - Councilman Mallory moved to approve the School District annual tax collection request pursuant to the Cheboygan Area Schools Annual Summer Tax Resolution dated October 12, 2020, seconded by Councilwoman Brandt. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.

City Clerk's and Treasurer's Comments:

- City Clerk/Treasurer discussed the funded ratio of the MERs pension plan. As of December 31, 2019 the plan was 58% funded. Since 2011, the funded ratio has ranged from 58%-68%. Clerk/Treasurer Brown recommended waiting to see what the current funded ratio is for year end 2020 and determine if additional contributions need to be made to the plan.
- Councilman Kwiatkowski inquired what the plans with the Wastewater Treatment Plant Project were over the winter and specifically whether the City would continue to see large outlays for the project. Councilman Kwiatkowski is concerned with the sewer cash balance being depleted.
 - DPW/Water/Wasterwater Director Jason Karmol responded that over the winter months the engineers would be working on the funding source for the project. The funding will likely be disbursed in September of 2021 and will reimburse the City for any expenses incurred back to February of 2020.

City Manager's Report:

- City Manager Eustice reported that the December Board of Review would be at 5:15 p.m. on December 15th.
- City Manager Tom Eustice discussed a request from the Housing Commission Director Kate Schulz to appoint a Councilmember to the Board of the Housing Commission as a non-voting member. Councilwoman Raab volunteered to work with Ms. Schulz on bringing Housing Commission Board Information to the Council. Councilwoman Brandt offered to back up Councilwoman Raab with the Housing Commission.

Committee Updates:

- Mayor Pro Tem Johnston reported that the Organizational Committee has selected six candidates for a brief pre interview. The first week of December will involve background and reference checks and the following week they are hoping to schedule interviews.

- Mayor Tebo reported that he is forming a Finance Committee of three councilmembers to review how City dollars are being spent. The Committee will include Councilman Kwiatkowski, Councilman Hocquard, and Councilwoman Brandt.

Messages and Communications from Mayor and Council Members:

- Councilwoman Raab read a letter into record from the Bishop Family regarding comments that were made during the November 17th Council Meeting about a fence that was installed on their property.
 - Mayor Tebo would like to schedule a meeting with the Bishop Family to address their concerns.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Johnston requested copies of the permits that were approved by the City.
- Councilwoman Johnston inquired about the alley approach and whether there have been any communications with the Michigan Department of Transportation regarding whose responsibility it is to repair.
 - DPW/Water & Wastewater Director Jason Karmol reported that he is working with the State to fix water infiltration issues near the bridge and is hoping that he can have them address this issue at the same time.
- Councilman Mallory reported that the interviews for the City Manager position will likely be scheduled the first or second week of December.
- Councilwoman Brandt reported that Ms. Sharen Lange is on the call and has an update on the Broadband Initiative. She also inquired if the Mayor had spoken with the Cheboygan County Economic Development Committee regarding Meijer.
 - Mayor Tebo responded that he will reach out to other agencies if Meijer is responsive to the letter.
- Councilwoman Raab inquired where the December Board of Review would be meeting.
 - City Manager Eustice responded that it will depend on if the partial shutdown is extended.
- Ms. Sharen Lange updated Council on the Broadband Initiative. The Cheboygan County Broadband Initiative Launch Meeting is scheduled for December 1st from 9:00 to 10:30 a.m. Ms. Sharen Lange also commented that she is happy to facilitate a meeting with Meijer and the Mayor.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 8:30 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

