

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

June 14, 2022

The Regular City Council meeting was called to order by Mayor Tebo in the Council Chambers at City Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Kwiatkowski, Tebo, Raab, Mallory, Darling, Bedwin and Mills

Absent:

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 Mills. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

- Councilwoman Raab moved to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of May 24, 2022, as presented. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Mallory. Motion carried unanimously.

Communications and Petitions:

- Sustainable Built Environment Initiative Update, Anna Sangster.
 - Sangster wanted to give Council an update that we did get approved for the MSU Extension SBEI program that they wrote a letter of support for. They will come in and work with the 220 Water Street property. The DDA did budget the money for this program. The project will not start until May of 2023.
- Great Lakes Tissue Update, Kip Boie.
 - Boie stated that they want to reinvest and create future growth in the community. Boie reported what's been going on since closing in March and on many different projects they want to do in the future such as fixing the roof and updating the plant, upgrading equipment, making the plant more energy efficient, and looking into methods for them to create an outsource for their byproduct – such as St. Mary's Cement factory taking poly from them, burning it, and turning it into cement.
 - Councilwoman Mills wondered about the toxicity from burning plastic elements.
 - Boie explained that the systems he looked at are 100% self-contained – all turned into a gas or liquified gas.
 - Councilwoman Darling asked what brought Boie up to Cheboygan.
 - Boie responded this opportunity with the plant.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Mallory asked if there were any plans to update the driveway/not-so-nice looking areas.
 - Boie talked about plans of beautification.
- Cheboygan County Road Commission, Ken Paquet.
 - Paquet discussed the proposed millage renewal for 2022-2027. Asking for support from the City regarding this millage.

- Mayor Pro Tem Mallory stated that he likes the road selection.
- Councilwoman Mills asked if this is a proposed millage for the November election.
- Paquet explained it is for the August Primary. It is a request for 1 mill for 4 years. It is not new; it is a renewal.

Departments, Board and Commissions:

- Office of Emergency Management, May Monthly Report.
 - Lt. Jeremy Runstrom introduced himself to Council and gave a history of his career. He started his role as Officer of Emergency Management just last year. Runstrom discussed his position as Officer of Emergency Management.
 - Councilwoman Mills asked Runstrom if he is involved with Emergency Management with the State of Michigan down in Lansing.
 - Runstrom said he is.
 - Councilwoman Raab asked if Cheboygan has emergency plans or sirens.
 - Runstrom responded that we do not have sirens but we do use BeAlert through CCE Central. They recently got the rights to use iPause which is a system to use incase of emergency that can reach any cellphone user.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Mallory asked about iPause.
 - Runstrom said it is for any major event such as flooding, tornadoes, etc.
 - Councilwoman Raab commented on how much she appreciates his monthly reports.
 - Councilwoman Darling thanked Runstrom for his reports.
- Cheboygan Police Department Monthly Stats, April and May.
- Cheboygan Fire Department Monthly Report, May.

Bills and Disbursements:

- Prepaid Bills and Disbursements for the Month of May 2022.
 - Councilwoman Raab moved to approve the prepaid bills and disbursements for the month of May 2022 in the amount of \$2,323,022.07. Seconded by Councilwoman Mills. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.
- Unpaid Bills and Disbursements for the Month of May 2022.
 - Councilman Kwiatkowski moved to approve the unpaid bills and disbursements for the month of May 2022 in the amount of \$143,685.95. Seconded by Councilwoman Darling. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.

General Business:

- Consideration to place 6-Month Delinquent Water/Sewer Utility Bills as Liens on the 2022 Summer Tax Roll.
 - Treasurer Brown explained that Utility Biller/Deputy Treasurer Sarah Swanberg sent out 2 letters to these delinquent customers with past due amounts and explaining the process.
 - Councilman Kwiatkowski asked in regards to the amount.
 - Brown responded that this does seem to be an average amount compared to years past.
 - Councilwoman Darling asked if people actually pay these with their taxes and if they don't, what happens next?

- Brown explained the process and stated what happens when taxes aren't paid.
- Mayor Pro Tem Mallory asked about those who are tax exempt.
- Brown explained that they will get a tax bill, where as the owner will most likely call City Hall, it is then explained that this is a lien and does need to be paid.
- Councilwoman Mills moved to approve the placing of 6-month delinquent water/sewer utility bills as liens on the 2022 Summer Tax Roll and direct the City Assessor to spread these amounts against the properties. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Mallory. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.
- Consideration of County Foreclosed Properties.
 - Brown explained that when taxes go unpaid for 3 years they go to a tax auction that the County handles. These are properties within the City limits that the City has rights to purchase.
 - Councilwoman Mills commented that 4 of the parcels are boat slips but are listed as residential condominiums.
 - Brown said her best explanation is that's how the development was set up. She said she will bring this question to our assessor.
 - Councilman Kwiatkowski moved to allow all foreclosed properties in the City of Cheboygan to go to auction and authorize the Clerk to sign the Waiver of First Right of Refusal. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Mallory. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.
- Consideration of Recommended 2022-2023 Property Tax Millage Rates for the Bonds and City Operation Requirements.
 - Brown explained the setting of the 2022-2023 property tax millage rates for the City.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Mallory moved to approve the recommended property tax millage rates for the bonds and operation requirements as presented. Seconded by Councilwoman Darling. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.
- Consideration of Cheboygan County Humane Society Funding Request.
 - Councilman Kwiatkowski commented that for years as treasurer, he would issue the Humane Society \$7,000 a year and it suddenly changed for reasons unknown to him. He agrees with the Humane Society's request of \$4,000.
 - Jim Pratt explained that in the 2008-2009 crash, they cut the donation and hasn't changed since then.
 - Chief Jones commented that the Humane Society does a wonderful job.
 - Councilwoman Raab moved to approve the Cheboygan County Humane Society's Funding request in the amount of \$4,000 for the Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2022. Seconded by Councilman Kwiatkowski. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.
- Consideration to Schedule a Public Hearing.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Mallory moved to schedule a Public Hearing for June 28th, 2022 for Water and Sewer Related Rates and Fees. Seconded by Councilwoman Raab. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.
- Discussion and Action Regarding Cemetery Parcel.
 - Clerk Singles explained the situation that the 1977 staff double sold 2 parcels. Family asking for burial fee to be waived.

- Councilman Kwiatkowski moved to waive burial fees for Velma and Henry Scott due to clerical error by the City in 1977. Seconded by Councilman Bedwin. A roll call vote was taken, motion carried unanimously.

City Manager's Report:

- City Manager Sabolsky reported on a software program that would allow us to track work orders. That software is about \$5,000.
- Regarding cemetery repairs, the footbridge needs some help. A power washer was purchased and our Sexton, Gracie Larson, will be trained on that. The railings of that bridge also need to be fixed. The erosion of the creek bank has received two bids and should be taken care of soon. Someone did drive through guardrail and into the culvert and some estimates will come about to fix that as well.
- For the fishing piers, everything was good and approved but then one segment of the Army Corps of Engineers has decided that they think it may be too close to their dredging area. Continuing to work with the Corps to get that sorted out.
- Sabolsky attended the Children's Trail event over the weekend where there were 3 ribbon cuttings. Ron Cronk from Cheboygan High School created and donated a metal bee sculpture to the Trail.
- Still in union contract negotiations with the 'regular' union. Met with the police department union regarding a grievance that was filed over a schedule change.
- Getting a bid for the Non-Motorized Transportation Plan. Once that is received, Sabolsky will pass it onto Council.
- As we are looking to raise the water and sewer rates, we are also looking into meter repairs. There are a lot of old outdated meters that need replaced.
- Chris Bauer and Sabolsky met with MEDC's Community Development team. Showed them around town for different projects such as 220 Water Street. They are excited to partner with the City.
- Regarding the letter Sabolsky sent out to Council to review regarding infrastructure and development; many good comments and questions. Sabolsky has a few minor things to change and that will be sent out to some of the parties in the community.

City Treasurer's Comments:

- Revenue & Expense by Fund as of May 31, 2022.

Committee Updates:

- Councilman Kwiatkowski said Finance Committee has been looking at the rate tables and hopefully they will have something next week.
- Councilwoman Mills has a Housing Committee meeting next week. They are waiting on the letter of support from Council; she has reiterated to them that until Council knows exactly what they are going to do, Council can't submit a letter of support.
- Sabolsky commented that Mr. Lindsay sent a letter to the Housing Commission explaining that they have split the parcels and now there is a new parcel number. Now waiting on the deeds and the Declaration of Trust and a couple other items.

Messages and Communications from Mayor and Council Members:

- Councilwoman Mills asked Councilwoman Raab if she contacted the woman who reached out about the historic letters.
- Councilwoman Raab responded that she did.
- Mayor Pro Tem Mallory said that the DDA approved the issuing of the bonds. There will be a special meeting held to state who can sign those bonds.
- Sabolsky said the DDA also approved spending the money to hire HRC to study the walk-way and come up with proposed solutions for the footbridge.

Adjournment:

- Mayor Pro Tem Mallory moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25pm. Seconded by Councilwoman Mills. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Leslie A. Tebo

Clerk Alyssa Singles

Mayor Pro Tem Brett Mallory

Councilwoman Diane Mills

Councilman Ken Kwiatkowski

Councilwoman Mary Darling

Councilwoman Diane E. Raab

Councilman Adam Bedwin