

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

October 24, 2023

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

Roll Call:

Present: Raab, Mallory, Mills, Dodd, Kwiatkowski, Darling and Bedwin.

Absent:

Public Comments on Agenda Items Only:

- No comments.

Approval of Agenda and Receive and File all Communications:

- Councilwoman Mills moved to approve the agenda and to receive and file all communications. Seconded by Councilman Kwiatkowski. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

- Councilwoman Darling moved to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of September 26, 2023, as presented. Seconded by Councilwoman Raab.
- Councilwoman Mills commented that the minutes should reflect the 2018 Meeting Minutes policy. The minutes should be more a summary than transcript.
- Council discussed with Clerk Singles regarding how the meeting minutes will be typed/presented going forward.
- Motion carried unanimously.
- Councilwoman Mills moved to approve the Closed Session Council meeting minutes of September 26, 2023, as presented. Seconded by Councilwoman Dodd. Motion carried.

Departments, Board and Commissions:

- Office of Emergency Management, Quarterly Report.
- Cheboygan Fire Department, September Report.

General Business:

- Consideration of Appointment.
 - Councilman Kwiatkowski moved to reappoint Anthony Eustice to the Parks and Recreation Commission, term to expire July 1, 2025. Seconded by Councilwoman Raab.
 - A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.
- Agreement for Election Services.
 - Councilwoman Mills moved to authorize the City Clerk to sign the County Early Voting Site Agreement and work with the County Clerk for the 9 days early voting. Seconded by Councilman Kwiatkowski.

- Clerk Singles explained and discussed the 9 days early voting with Council.
- A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

City Manager's Report:

- Sabolsky told Council that the new Zamboni is working great.
- The City was awarded a Spark grant for \$871,000.00. With this money, the fishing piers will be finished and some accessible improvements will be made to the Children's Trail.
- Regarding the Community Center grant that was applied for, we were suppose to hear back in October, but we will probably know if the grant was awarded to us in December. Sabolsky discussed park improvements with the grants we have received. Sabolsky discussed the grants with Council. Sabolsky said if we receive the 2.5-million-dollar Community Center grant, he will probably come back to Council to hire a Project Manager for a short time to handle the reports, paperwork, etc.
- Regarding the concession stand project, Sabolsky said we are currently getting bids on that. Sabolsky said we are also getting time and material donations for this project.
- Sabolsky reported on the nine water main breaks that happened recently in the City. Sabolsky discussed the aging infrastructure and a reason as to why the water mains may be breaking.
- Sabolsky reported that the Police Union contract was sent to the Union today.
- A Finance Committee meeting has been scheduled for next Tuesday at 10:30am. Sabolsky reported what will be discussed at the meeting.
- Resolutions and documents are ready for the police and fire levy.
- Sabolsky reported that we are still dealing with things regarding the Tissue Depot fire. Sabolsky thanked all those involved and that are helping with everything.
- Council and Sabolsky discussed priority of street repairs and when an itemized budget will be available.

Public Comments:

- Dale Rieger spoke and expressed his appreciation for the Spark grant. Rieger also expressed his appreciation for City staff and help from City staff and Council.
- Kathy Johnson spoke regarding a citizen lead movement to save the hospice house. Johnson gave a history of the hospice house and that the steering committee is trying to get the hospice house back from McLaren or start a community-based hospice house in town. Johnson discussed an upcoming meeting.
- Wes LeMarble thanked Council for making those difficult decisions regarding water/sewer rate increases.
- Louis Vallance expressed his disappointment regarding some parts of the City not having water/sewer services. Vallance also commented about fires in town and the Tissue Depot fire.

Council Response to Public Comments:

- Mayor Mallory asked regarding the paving of the Children's Trail.
- Sabolsky said the paving will start with the parking lot by the gazebo, then connect in to get as far as we can to the fishing piers. Sabolsky said it will also depend on costs and different environmental factors.

- Councilwoman Dodd commented on the Children’s Trail Halloween event. Councilwoman Dodd also asked regarding the Children’s Trail Memorial.
- Dale Rieger commented that he is working on some benches for the Children’s Trail Memorial area as well.

Committee Updates:

- Mayor Pro Tem Bedwin said that Finance Committee is meeting next week.
- Councilwoman Dodd gave her report for the DDA. The meeting consisted of a grant for Nourish, discussing Christmas decorations, the final report from MSU Extension regarding the waterfront will be on November 7th and Halloween Downtown Trick-or-Treating.
- Councilwoman Mills gave her report regarding the Housing Commission. The Section 8 application is still being worked on. The relocation plan is still being worked on. Councilwoman Mills said the target time to start this is March 2024, but it will be delayed if everything is not in place.
- Councilwoman Mills and Councilwoman Raab discussed some Housing Commission concerns.
- Councilwoman Darling asked Dale Rieger to give a report regarding the dog park.
- Rieger gave an update regarding the dog park project progress. Rieger said if we are able to get a matching grant from the State, about \$25,000 would have to be raised.

Messages and Communications from Mayor and Council Members:

- Mayor Pro Tem Bedwin discussed some online commentary that concerned him. Mayor Pro Tem Bedwin expressed that if citizens are unhappy with the water rate increases, to not direct their frustration to the people who are doing their jobs and to come to Council meetings. Mayor Pro Tem Bedwin discussed various comments made regarding the reopening of Main Street due to the Tissue Depot fire.
- Council and Sabolsky discussed the comments that were made online.
- Sabolsky said that a striper was purchased to line the parking lots and do markings on the street. DPW will restripe come spring time.
- Councilman Kwiatkowski discussed that a lot of the things we are experiencing now are sins of the past. Councilman Kwiatkowski commented that he believes at one point it had been 18 years without a rate increase.
- Councilwoman Mills expressed her support of Mayor Pro Tem Bedwin’s comments. Councilwoman Mills commented that there are a lot of comments online that are simply not true regarding the fire. The City will keep citizen’s informed with their press releases.
- Councilwoman Darling expressed her gratitude for the grant the Opera House received.
- Sabolsky commented that the grant for the Opera House is going towards ADA compliance.
- Mayor Mallory discussed some of the improvements Owen Goslin talked with him about.
- Mayor Mallory told Council that he is working on a description of job duties and Code of Conduct for the Council.

Adjournment:

- Mayor Mallory adjourned the meeting at 7:58pm.

Mayor Brett Mallory

Clerk Alyssa Singles

Mayor Pro Tem Adam Bedwin

Councilwoman Diane Mills

Councilman Kenneth Kwiatkowski

Councilwoman Mary Darling

Councilwoman Diane E. Raab

Councilwoman Hayley Dodd