

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

November 14, 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:

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

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

- Councilwoman Mills moved to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of October 24, 2023, as presented. Seconded by Councilwoman Darling. Motion carried unanimously.

Communications and Petitions:

- Presentation by Opera House Executive Director, Owen Goslin.
 - Goslin was not present at the time of this agenda item. Mayor Mallory moved to Departments, Board and Commissions.

Departments, Board and Commissions:

- Cheboygan Police Department, September and October Reports.
- Cheboygan Fire Department, October Report.

Bills and Disbursements:

- Prepaid Bills and Disbursements for the Month of October 2023.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Bedwin moved to approve the prepaid bills and disbursements for the month of October 2023 in the amount of \$1,710,318.45. Seconded by Councilwoman Darling.
 - Council asked some questions regarding the October prepaid bills. Questions and discussion were had about the purchase of private sewer line on Clay Street, Dornbos Sign and Safety, Charter Communications – Footbridge, Collin, Elden, Charboneau Builders, and Rehmann Group.
 - Ray Lofgren made a comment regarding numbering the bills and disbursements.

- Sabolsky discussed with Council that we are keeping track of what the Tissue Depot Fire is costing the City.
- A roll call vote was taken. Councilwoman Dodd abstained from voting on check number 35947 to Dodd's Tree Service. Motion carried unanimously.

Communications and Petitions:

- Presentation by Opera House Executive Director, Owen Goslin.
 - Goslin arrived and gave his presentation regarding the Opera House. Goslin reported on the programs and events of the Opera House, as well as the 2023-2024 budget. Goslin also discussed a Consumers Energy grant the Opera House received.
 - Council asked Goslin some questions regarding the Opera House and the grant that was received.

Proclamations and Resolutions:

- Mayoral Proclamation.
 - Mayor Mallory read off the proclamation for Robert Friday.
 - Council thanked Mr. Friday for his heroic action.
 - Councilwoman Darling moved to approve the Proclamation of Special Recognition for Robert Friday. Seconded by Councilwoman Dodd. Motion carried unanimously.
- Spark Grant Resolution.
 - Sabolsky commented that this is for the \$871,000.00 grant that was awarded to us from the Department of Natural Resources. These documents and resolution need to be approved to move forward with the grant.
 - Councilwoman Mills moved to approve the resolution for the American Rescue Plan Act Local Parks and Trails – Michigan Spark Grant Agreement and authorize the City Manager to sign all grant related documents. Seconded by Councilman Kwiatkowski.
 - Councilwoman Raab asked regarding the Sparks grant.
 - Sabolsky reported on the details of the grant.
 - A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

General Business:

- Consideration of Travel Reimbursement Schedule.
 - Sabolsky discussed the changes to the Travel Reimbursement Schedule.
 - Councilwoman Darling moved to approve the Travel Reimbursement Schedule for the City of Cheboygan as presented. Seconded by Councilwoman Mills.
 - A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.
- Consideration of RFQ – Engineering Services.
 - Councilwoman Mills moved to authorize City Administration to select consulting engineering firms for City related projects from the attached list. Seconded by Councilman Kwiatkowski.
 - Sabolsky discussed the engineering list with Council.
 - A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.
- Listing of Public Auction Items.

- Councilwoman Mills moved to allow the City of Cheboygan to list the presented items online for public auction. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Bedwin.
- Sabolsky told Council that this auction would be online. Sabolsky and Council discussed the items presented for the auction.
- A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

City Manager's Report:

- Sabolsky reported on the concession stand project. Sabolsky stated that we have some solid quotes for the project. Two general contractors will be met with in the next week for this project. It will start when weather permits in the spring. Sabolsky discussed the City doing some of the water hook ups and excavation for this project to move it along quicker and save funds.
- Sabolsky reported that the Incident/Unified Command regarding the Tissue Depot fire is still meeting twice a week. Sabolsky discussed the demolition process and how that is moving along.
- Councilwoman Raab asked who is removing all the material.
- Sabolsky said it was being done through the insurance company, through the property owner and it is being done by a number of contractors with oversight from the EPA.
- Sabolsky discussed more regarding the tissue plant. Topics such as the owner's eviction notice to the tenants of the plant, the hydro facility and the dam that is at the plant.
- Sabolsky reported that Mill Street is open. The well buildings and the water tower are still being worked on and will be finished up in the spring. Regarding Court Street, it has been graveled and ready for the winter. The project will be finished in the spring.
- Council, Sabolsky and DPW Assistant Director Dailey discussed the Court Street project.
- Sabolsky said that the Zamboni has been wrapped with all the names of the people who donated. Donations will be coming in for the next five years for the Zamboni.
- Sabolsky reported that him and County Administrator Lawson have had some conversations regarding the Black River Watershed. EGLE has a grant coming out called the EGLE Dam Risk Reduction grant and the City and County were talking about applying. Sabolsky discussed the dam.
- Sabolsky reported the Police Union contract has been signed by the Police Union and he now will review it once more and sign.
- Sabolsky discussed working with the Northern Lakes Economic Alliance (NLEA) and meeting with a local business, Steel Max Manufacturing. They discussed what can be done to help them expand and move forward. For economic development, Sabolsky will continue to meet with more businesses with the NLEA.

Public Comments:

- No comments.

Committee Updates:

- Mayor Pro Tem Bedwin reported on the Finance Committee. The ~~taxable~~ assessed value for the City has risen by 20%. Finance Committee looked at some preliminary numbers concerning a potential Police and Fire millage.
- Councilwoman Raab reported that the Chairperson and Secretary of the Historic District Commission have resigned. Councilwoman Raab discussed that there are several people committed to historic preservation and restoration in the City. Those interested would like to

meet with Sabolsky. Councilwoman Raab discussed approaching historic preservation from a different angle.

- Councilwoman Dodd said the DDA has not met since the last Council meeting. Ladies Night out is tomorrow.
- Mayor Mallory added to the DDA report. The final visioning session was had for the riverfront from MSU Extension. Mayor Mallory discussed the visioning session.
- Councilwoman Mills reported on her attending an Airport Authority meeting. Councilwoman Mills reported on the history of the airport with the City. Councilwoman Mills learned that it used to be the Cheboygan City County Airport. Back in the 1980's, the Airport Authority was incorporated. Councilwoman Mills explained that if that all goes defunct, the articles of incorporation says everything goes back to the County and City. Councilwoman reported on the Special Meeting the Housing Commission had. Councilwoman Mills discussed all the progress that was made. Councilwoman Mills showed and discussed the lengthy environmental report for all three housing sites. According to HUD, Sabolsky needs to sign a letter stating everything is good and if anything happens, the City is held responsible. Going forward, this will be given to an environmental expert to review, and the letter that Sabolsky signs will be edited so the City is not held liable. They are still looking to remodel the sites in March/April of 2024.
- Sabolsky discussed the letter he has to sign regarding the environmental report.
- Discussion was had regarding the environmental report, the project, the City's involvement in this project and tax credits.
- Councilwoman Darling reported on attending the Board of Commissioners meeting. A NLEA board member is needed.
- Discussion was had regarding the NLEA and its board.
- Councilwoman Darling discussed the topics of the Veteran's in Cheboygan County, Planning and Zoning fees being increased, a new district judge being needed, and recycling. Councilwoman Darling said Lawson introduced the topic of the dog park to the Commissioners and a possible matching grant.
- Discussion was had amongst Council regarding the County recycling and the recycling agreement.
- Dale Rieger reported on the Parks and Recreation Commission as requested by Councilwoman Darling. Rieger reported that he is still the Chairman of the Commission. Rieger discussed a meeting that was had at the library regarding the dog park a couple of months ago. Rieger reported that Lawson told him about a potential alternate site on the County Fairgrounds property. Rieger also talked about the Children's Trail.
- Councilwoman Darling reported the reason another site for the dog park was considered was because the other site is by the DNR and to park in there, you need a DNR permit.

Messages and Communications from Mayor and Council Members:

- Councilwoman Raab communicated about the email she sent out regarding the Code of Ethics that was signed back in 2022 by Council.
- Mayor Mallory said that what he is drafting is more in depth compared to the Code of Ethics from 2022.

- Sabolsky told Council that the Bodman law firm has moved their firm out of the building we own. Sabolsky said that they do have a few years left on their lease. We do not own the lot behind that building, Bodman does. A potential buyer/renter has been through that building. Sabolsky is not sure what will be done with that building at the moment. Sabolsky further discussed the building with Council.
- Council and Sabolsky also discussed the BKC building.

Adjournment:

- Mayor Mallory adjourned the meeting at 8:33pm.

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