

**REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

**September 10, 2024**

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

Absent:

**Public Comments on Agenda Items Only:**

- Louis Vallance spoke regarding the proposed public comment policy. Vallance spoke his concerns of censorship. Vallance expressed his opinions on how the public comment policy should be changed and how public comments should be conducted.

**Approval of Agenda and Receive and File all Communications:**

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

**Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:**

- Councilman Kwiatkowski moved to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of August 27, 2024, as presented. Seconded by Councilwoman Mills. Motion carried.

**Departments, Boards, and Commissions:**

- Cheboygan Fire Department, August Report.
- Cheboygan Police Department, August Report.

**Bills and Disbursements:**

- Prepaid Bills and Disbursements for the Month of August 2024.
  - Mayor Pro Tem Bedwin moved to approve the prepaid bills and disbursements for the month of August 2024 in the amount of \$3,859,097.26. Seconded by Councilwoman Mills.
  - City Manager Sabolsky discussed some of the prepaid bills. Explaining the property tax disbursement payments and payments made for the construction projects.
  - Councilwoman Raab asked about the ELAN Financial payment. Sabolsky explained the items broken down under the ELAN Financial payment are purchases from the City's credit card. Councilwoman Darling asked about check number 37088: Bri-Car Roofing and Sheet Metal. Sabolsky explained.

- A roll call vote was taken. Councilwoman Dodd abstained from voting on check number 37077 to Dodd's Tree Service. Motion carried.
- Unpaid Bills and Disbursements for the Month of August 2024.
  - Councilwoman Mills moved to approve the unpaid bills and disbursements for the month of August 2024 in the amount of \$56,355.00. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Bedwin.
  - Councilwoman Darling inquired about the payment made to Thomas Hungerford and asked for clarification on his employment. Sabolsky explained that he is finishing up his cases with the City. Councilwoman Dodd inquired about the Consumers Energy bill. Councilwoman Mills asked about the Rehmann bill and 'Council Call' in the description. Sabolsky itemized the Rehmann bill. Council discussed the bill. Councilwoman Mills expressed her concern regarding the memo and if someone on Council spent funds without the authority to do so. Council discussed looking into this further and getting more information from Rehmann. Each person on Council stated they did not call Rehmann. Councilman Kwiatkowski inquired about the monthly bank reconciliation. Sabolsky explained that Treasurer Clear is doing most of the reconciliation and Rehmann is double-checking her work. Sabolsky discussed the progress being made with bank reconciliation. Councilwoman Mills asked Mayor Mallory to research the Rehmann bill. Mayor Mallory stated he will look into the Rehmann bill and stated Council cannot spend money without being authorized. Council further discussed the bill, the breakdown of Rehmann's invoices and the authorities of Council.
  - A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

**General Business:**

- Consideration of Public Comment Policy.
  - Councilwoman Darling moved to approve the Rules for Public Comment Policy for the City of Cheboygan. Seconded by Councilwoman Dodd.
  - Councilwoman Raab expressed her concerns regarding the public comment policy. Councilwoman Raab is unsure why we need a policy and it feels like overreach and censorship. Councilwoman Raab stated that she is opposed to this. Mayor Mallory explained that there have been some instances where people turn public comment into a question and answer and don't know how a City Council meeting is conducted. Having the policy written and available may help. Councilwoman Raab discussed responding to citizens when they have questions during public comment that Council doesn't immediately have answers for. Mayor Pro Tem Bedwin noted that in order for the public comment rules to be valid, they need to be written and that is being done with this policy. Council further discussed public comments and their opinions on the proposed policy. Sabolsky discussed a recent issue that occurred because the rules of public comment weren't written in a policy. Councilwoman Darling discussed her experiences on Council and her disapproval of this policy.
  - Mayor Pro Tem Bedwin called the question. Supported by Councilwoman Mills.
  - A roll call vote was taken. Ayes from Mayor Mallory, Councilwoman Mills, Councilman Kwiatkowski, Mayor Pro Tem Bedwin, and Councilwoman Dodd. Nays from Councilwoman Darling and Councilwoman Raab. Motion carried.

**City Manager's Report:**

- Sabolsky reported Officer Engler is retiring this year after his 20+ years of service to our police department. We have posted that we are hiring a new police officer.
- Sabolsky discussed the security update to the front desk area. Sabolsky thanked the DPW for their work on that project.
- Sabolsky discussed the transition in legal counsel. Thomas Hungerford is finishing up what cases he has with the City and most of the other cases have been transferred over to our new lawyers, Cummings, McClorey, Davis and Acho (CMDA). Stephen Lindsay is still working on some civil matters with us.
- Regarding the concession stand, the plumbing and electrical have been roughed in. The concrete floor has been poured and the pillars should be installed this week.
- Regarding the Great Lakes Initiative project, Zoe and her staff will be in town on September 24<sup>th</sup> to meet with some stakeholders and staff.
- Sabolsky met with Owen Goslin, Executive Director of the Opera House, to discuss the issues with the City Hall/Opera House building. Sabolsky has talked with Hubbell, Roth and, Clark about looking at some of our doors, restrooms, etc. to address some of our energy issues and ADA issues. Sabolsky also discussed officially forming the Opera House Committee.
- Sabolsky gave Council an update on the sandwich board policy, stating it will be posted online. DDA Executive Director Schneider and Executive Assistant Martin drafted a letter regarding the sandwich board sign policy to send to businesses to inform them of the changes.
- The next meeting for the Master Plan and Zoning Ordinance Committee is October 26<sup>th</sup>. Sabolsky discussed the survey that is out for the public to take. That survey will help the committee with this project. The survey closes October 1<sup>st</sup>. This survey will also help us with our 5-Year Recreation Plan.
- Sabolsky informed Council of the Softball Exposure Tournament happening in town this weekend.
- Ice has been poured at the ice rink. The City and the Hockey Association are cleaning out the conference rooms. The Hockey Association is looking at buying some new tables and chairs for the conference rooms, as well as some TVs to do some trainings. Sabolsky thanked Scott Hancock, Craig Coxe and their employees for revamping the ice rink.
- There is new equipment at Gordon Turner Park. Painting has been done for the year. Next year, we will be painting the Crib Light. The mural at the bathrooms was done by a local artist and that is complete.
- The new water tower is up on the East side of town. It is painted and the logo is on there. The old water tower will also be painted and have the same logo.
- Sabolsky discussed some water and sewer construction issues. Staff has been meeting with the engineers and the contractors. Staff has communicated to the engineers and contractors to let us know here at City Hall when there are issues so we can get the word out to the public. Council and Sabolsky discussed the different issues that have come up during construction, issues with old records and old water and sewer lines.

**Public Comments:**

- Susan Kailey explained to Council that she is a bit confused regarding the ability to ask questions during public comment. Mayor Mallory explained the policy. Discussing that people can ask questions, but the questions will not be answered by the Council during public comment, they

may be answered during Messages and Communications from Mayor and Council if Council or City Manager Sabolsky have the answer at the time.

- Ray Lofgren stated he had some questions for the Council. Lofgren asked about the budget, the curbs in town and brought up the blighted building on the corner of Main Street and State Street. Lofgren inquired about Triple D Sanitation and K-Mart.
- Joe Derk suggested before each session of public comment, to review the policy with the public before they make their comments.
- Louis Vallance discussed following Robert's Rules of Order. Vallance discussed a tree that blocks the stop sign at the corner of Gerow and Lafayette. Vallance discussed other brush and weed issues around the City.

**Committee Updates:**

- Councilwoman Darling informed Council about the County Board of Commissioners meeting she attended. Discussing topics such as the MSU Extension Program, and the detention cells coming to completion. Next Friday and Saturday is tire recycling day at the Fairgrounds. Councilwoman Darling also reported on the progress of the dog park. Councilwoman Darling stated that the Parks and Recreation Commission is meeting September 18<sup>th</sup>. Councilwoman Darling discussed the success of the Labor Day Bridge Walk.

**Messages and Communications from Mayor and Council Members:**

- Councilwoman Darling stated that she believes everyone should be treated with respect. Councilwoman Darling also stated that Council is here to make decisions that are in the best interest of the citizens of the City of Cheboygan.
- Councilwoman Mills reported that the Cheboygan Locks are closing early this year on September 29<sup>th</sup>. Major repairs are being done by the DNR.
- Councilman Kwiatkowski asked about the Cheboygan Commons meeting that was at the Opera House. Councilwoman Raab informed him that he can watch the whole presentation on Facebook.
- Councilwoman Raab expressed her excitement for the Cheboygan Commons project.

**Adjournment:**

- Mayor Mallory adjourned the meeting at 8:04pm.

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Mayor Brett Mallory

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Clerk Alyssa Singles

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Mayor Pro Tem Adam Bedwin

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Councilwoman Diane Mills

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Councilman Kenneth Kwiatkowski

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Councilwoman Mary Darling

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Councilwoman Diane E. Raab

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Councilwoman Hayley Dodd