

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING

November 12, 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:

- None

Approval of Agenda and Receive and File all Communications:

- Mayor Pro Tem Bedwin moved to amend the agenda for agenda item 9-A – Discussion and Possible Action regarding Rehmann Bill and receive and file all communications. Seconded by Councilwoman Mills. Nays by Councilwoman Raab. Motion carried.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

- Councilwoman Mills moved to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of October 8, 2024, as presented. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Bedwin. Motion carried.
- Councilwoman Dodd moved to approve the Regular City Council meeting minutes of October 22, 2024, as presented. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Bedwin. Motion carried.

Departments, Boards, and Commissions:

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

Bills and Disbursements:

- Prepaid Bills and Disbursements for the Month of October 2024.
 - Councilwoman Mills moved to approve the prepaid bills and disbursements for the month of October 2024 in the amount of \$2,816,315.02. Seconded by Mayor Pro Tem Bedwin.
 - Council and City Manager Sabolsky discussed the General Fund and the presented prepaid bills. Treasurer Clear provided a breakdown of said bills and the funds from which they were paid. Sabolsky offered to have a meeting with Councilwoman Darling to discuss the City's finances.
 - A roll call vote was taken. Councilwoman Dodd abstained from voting on check number 37304 to Dodd's Tree Service. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business:

- Discussion and Possible Action regarding Rehmann Bill.
 - Mayor Mallory read the results of his investigation regarding the Rehmann bill. In conclusion, Mayor Mallory's results have found that Councilwoman Darling was the Councilperson who called Rehmann group and incurred the costs. Given all of this evidence, Mayor Mallory believes Councilwoman Darling should be held accountable for her misconduct in office according to Charter section 4.7.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Bedwin moved to have Councilwoman Darling reimburse the Rehmann bill incurred without authorization of the City Council or City Manager in the amount of \$1,125.00. Seconded by Councilwoman Mills.
 - Councilwoman Darling discussed her reasoning for contacting Rehmann. Councilwoman Darling stated she felt she had to go to Rehmann because she wasn't getting the report she wanted from City staff. Council thoroughly discussed the action taken by Councilwoman Darling regarding contacting Rehmann.
 - A roll call vote was taken. Ayes from Councilwoman Mills, Councilman Kwiatkowski, Councilwoman Dodd, Mayor Mallory and Mayor Pro Tem Bedwin. Nays from Councilwoman Raab and Councilwoman Darling.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Bedwin moved that Councilwoman Darling will reimburse the City by January 1, 2025, or the matter will be referred to the Attorney General to institute a civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction for the recovery of the funds pursuant to MCL 141.440. Seconded by Councilwoman Mills.
 - Mayor Pro Tem Bedwin explained the reasoning behind his motion, stating that spending funds without authorization also violates State law.
 - A roll call vote was taken. Ayes from Councilwoman Mills, Councilwoman Dodd, Mayor Mallory and Mayor Pro Tem Bedwin. Nays from Councilwoman Raab, Councilman Kwiatkowski and Councilwoman Darling.
 - Councilwoman Darling voiced she thinks everyone that received a copy of the report she requested should also help pay the bill.

General Business:

- Consideration to approve the Special Use of an Adult Foster Care (AFC) Small Group Home and Site Plan at 521 Stempky St, Parcel ID# 055-006-300-001-00.
 - Councilwoman Dodd moved to approve the Special Use of an Adult Foster Care (AFC) Small Group Home and Site Plan at 521 Stempky St, Parcel ID# 055-006-300-001-00. Seconded by Councilman Kwiatkowski.
 - Sabolsky and Council discussed the location of the parcel, the Zoning Board of Appeals approval of the special use of the adult foster care small group home and why this was being presented to Council today. Council and Sabolsky further discussed.
 - A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried unanimously.

City Manager's Report:

- Sabolsky reported that our Assessor will be leaving his position in January due to other employment opportunities. The City will be putting an RFP out soon for Assessing services. Sabolsky discussed the Assessor role for the City.
- All of the new equipment has been purchased and is here. The only piece of equipment that has not arrived yet is the front-end loader. Fleet Manager Wiltfong and DPW staff wanted to express their gratitude to Council for purchasing that equipment.
- Sabolsky discussed how the City of Cheboygan and the OPRA redevelopment downtown was mentioned in Governor Whitmer's recent press release. Sabolsky also discussed two proposed downtown projects but the uses, according to the zoning code, require parking. Sabolsky and Executive Assistant Martin are working to solve the parking issue.
- Treasurer Clear and Rehmann have almost all the documentation prepared for the audit. Clear is out of town this week for a conference.
- Sabolsky has started discussions with the non-police union. Their contract does not expire until July, but Sabolsky wants to make sure everything is done on time.
- Sabolsky told Mayor Pro Tem Bedwin, Councilwoman Raab and Councilman Kwiatkowski that it has been a pleasure serving for them and congratulated Sierra Oliver, David Martin and Leroy Ormsbee for being elected to serve on Council.

City Clerk's Comments:

- Singles thanked all of the election inspectors that worked the November 5th, 2024 General Election. The election ran smoothly and everything was balanced at the end of the night.

Public Comments:

- David Martin positively commented on Mayor Pro Tem Bedwin's time on Council and thanked Mayor Pro Tem Bedwin, Councilwoman Raab and Councilman Kwiatkowski for their service. Martin congratulated all the other newly elected officials.
- David Sullivan also positively commented on Mayor Pro Tem Bedwin's actions and time on Council and encouraged him to stay involved.

Committee Updates:

- Councilwoman Darling discussed the Board of Commissioners meeting she attended this morning. Councilwoman Darling reported that the next Parks and Recreation meeting is November 20th here in Council Chambers at 5:00pm. Councilwoman Darling also gave an update about the dog park and the Dog Park Committee, they will be receiving a matching grant from the State for the dog park.
- Councilwoman Mills reported that the next Housing Commission meeting is November 21st.
- Councilwoman Dodd reported that Ladies Night Out is tomorrow downtown.

Messages and Communications from Mayor and Council Members:

- Councilwoman Darling expressed her feelings about the actions taken regarding the Rehmann bill. Explaining that the charter says it has to be done with malice and stated there was no malice to this. Councilwoman Darling addressed some members of the Council individually. Councilwoman Darling stated she wants the itemized bill from Rehmann.
- Councilman Kwiatkowski reflected on his time serving as a Clerk/Treasurer and then a Councilman. Councilman Kwiatkowski gives kudos to anyone who runs for Council.
- Councilwoman Dodd asked about communications with our City contractors so we don't run into something like this again in the future. Sabolsky told Council that that discussion has been had with our contractors.
- Councilwoman Raab expressed her enjoyment of being on Council for the last four years and commented on the progress that Cheboygan has made. Councilwoman Raab expressed that she would like the Council to revisit this business and reconsider Councilwoman Darling's actions as Councilwoman Raab does not believe this was done with malice.
- Mayor Pro Tem Bedwin reflected on his time on Council. Mayor Pro Tem Bedwin commented on the progress the City Council and the City have made. Mayor Pro Tem Bedwin stated he looks forward to staying involved.

Adjournment:

- Mayor Mallory adjourned the meeting at 7:56pm.

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