

**City of Marine City
City Commission
March 19, 2015**

A regular meeting of the Marine City Commission was held on Thursday, March 19, 2015, in the Fire Hall, 200 South Parker Street, Marine City, Michigan, and was called to order by Mayor Skotarczyk at 7:00 pm.

After a prayer offered by Pastor Wilson, the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Skotarczyk.

Present: Mayor Skotarczyk; Commissioners Avery, Hendrick, Lovett, Meli, Simpson, and Turner; Acting City Manager Tillery; and, Office Clerk Assistant Zyrowski.

Absent: None

Communications

No Communications were received.

Public Comment

Rita Roehrig, 162 S. Third Street, commented the City Commissioners should request a balanced budget from the Acting City Manager. She is opposed to spending City funds to replace the Tot Lot Park with public parking.

Chelsey Manning, Blue Water Safe Horizons, informed the public that April is Sexual Assault Awareness month and she left informational flyers for the public.

Bill Haas, 203 Pleasant Street, said he moved here for the waterfront, and feels it is diminishing. He commented the city should set aside rent or funds, for using the Guy Center and give it to the community's youth in the future. He suggested the city ticket persons who park incorrectly downtown and apply a surcharge to generate revenue for the city.

John LaCroix, Sunset West Tanning, 521 West Boulevard, asked the City Commission to reconsider the St. Clair American Legion's request to sell poppies the weekend of May 1st, 2015.

Christine Bramlin Haus, St. Clair County Allied Veterans Council, stated the funds from the Poppy Sales can only be given to veteran's families that are in an emergency situation. She asked the Commission to reconsider their previous denial and allow their organization to sell Poppy's on the first weekend in May.

Approve Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to approve the Agenda, as presented.

Commissioner Hendrick requested the Commission postpone Item(s) #9-A and #10-A, because there was a misunderstanding with granting the parcel. Commissioner Hendrick said the family did not want to vacate the entire street, just the end, to allow for access to their garage; therefore the wording will need to be changed.

Motion by Commissioner Hendrick, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to postpone the vote on Item #10-A, Adoption of Resolution #06-2015. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Mayor Skotarczyk called for the vote to approve the Agenda. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Approve Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Lovett, to approve the Minutes of the Regular City Commission Meeting held March 5, 2015, as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Consent Agenda

The following Consent Agenda items were presented:

- Departmental Activity Reports
- Marine City Area Fire Authority ~ Run Report
- Business License application ~ Shear Style (New Location)

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to accept the Consent Agenda and file, as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Sidewalk Inspection Program ~ Discussion

Acting City Manager Tillery stated approving the ordinance at the meeting allows them to go forward with the Sidewalk Inspection Program. The ordinance repeals the old sidewalk ordinance and promulgates the new sidewalk program; the old ordinance is unyielding and won't work with the new program.

City Attorney Jim Downey stated an actual new ordinance could rescind the old ordinance and allow for the new ordinance and sidewalk program to be flexible and modified as needed.

Discussion ensued regarding sidewalk ownership, and whether the city or homeowner is liable for injuries incurred on a sidewalk in need of repair. Additionally, Commissioners wanted the language on the Sidewalk Inspection Program to be clear regarding who is responsible for repairing the sidewalk.

Mayor Skotarczyk requested the discussion on the Sidewalk Inspection Program be put back on the agenda for the next regular meeting, along with a copy of the ordinance. The Commission will also review the answers to the legal issues.

NEW BUSINESS

Banners and Christmas Decorations ~ Replacement

Department of Public Works Supervisor, Michael Itrich, reported to the Commission that the Tax Increment Finance Authority approved the expense for the project in their 2015-2016 budget. Mr. Itrich explained if the Commission allowed him to order the decorations and banners by March 20th, 2015, he would get 25 percent off the order, a savings of \$5,050.45.

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to purchase the banners and Christmas decorations, in an amount not to exceed \$21,254.30, as presented. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Avery, Lovett, Meli, Simpson, Turner, Skotarczyk. Nays: Hendrick. Motion Carried.

Marine City Police Department ~ Annual Report

Lieutenant Jim Heaslip, 455 Maple Street, presented the Marine City Police Department Annual Report:

- The department's personnel structure has been reduced to a very minimal amount of staff, (3) full-time officers, (8) part-time officers, (2) reserve officers, (2) clerks and (2) chaplains. Unfortunately, the part-time officers tend to receive excellent training, but leave for a full-time job.
- The Stonegarden funds, monies received from the federal government, have decreased significantly. There were \$100,000.00 available in 2008 and half of the funds were used to purchase a patrol car and equipment. Currently only \$4,000.00 is available.
- Chief Tillery started the Marine City Facebook page with a Twitter account and Word Press Word blog that combines all three, it has been a good tool for tracking information.
- The Marine City Police Department opened the Cleemis System on July 1st, 2014. The program allows the officers to share information with other agencies in St. Clair County. Officers have been recording their daily reports online, and the reports revealed, in the course of completing daily duties, only 24% of their time was spent patrolling the area. Lt. Heaslip recommended more coverage was needed.
- The Marine City Police Department's Annual Report will be posted on Word Press, Facebook and Twitter for public viewing.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

Disbursements

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to approve total disbursements, including payroll, in the amount of \$433,746.60, as presented. Roll Call Vote. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Preliminary Financial Statements

Motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to accept the Preliminary Financial Statements for February, 2015, as presented, and place them on file. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Acting City Manager's Report

Acting City Manager Tillery provided updates on the following items:

- Reported the budget process is continuing and on time.
- Attended a meeting regarding the hotel project along with Tom and Kathy Vertin, Strategic Communication Solutions, Inc., Michigan Economic Development Commission, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality, St. Clair County BRA, Commissioner Gratopp, the St. Clair County Economic Development Association and others; the project is moving forward with Phase I completed.
- Met with Strategic Communication Systems regarding boating and docking infrastructure along the Belle River.
- He is scheduling meetings with St. Clair County Parks and Recreation and Infuz Architects to determine the costs for the project, and looking for alternative funding.
- He is scheduling meetings with the DNR to look into DNR Trust Fund Grants for beach improvements.
- Presented a "State of the City" presentation at the Town Hall Meeting.
- Met with the Marine City Music Festival coordinators to coordinate the music festival for this year.
- Met with Bob Klingler to explore a business development czar for the city to assist in business growth.
- Marine City Dental, 162 S. Water, completed the pro-forma and are going ahead with the rental rehab project.

Commissioner Privilege

Commissioner Simpson reported the City Commission webpage subcommittee meets on March 30th, 2015, Commission Simpson and Mayor Skotarczyk are members. He met with the Music Festival Committee, all the City Department Heads, and Mr. Klingler to discuss the upcoming Festival; stated it is a good partnership.

Commissioner Avery thanked the Commission for a good Town Hall meeting and encouraged residents to attend the Budget Workshops.

Commissioner Hendrick encouraged the St. Clair Auxiliary submit a special event application for May 1st or 2nd. She reported the speed limit signs on West Boulevard are confusing; there may be a speed limit sign missing.

Commission Hendrick motioned to remove the parking lot proposal for the Tot Lot from the budget and to rescind it at the regular City Commission meeting.

Discussion ensued; Mayor Skotarczyk objected to voting on the project at the Commission meeting, felt it should be discussed and decided at the Budget Workshops.

Motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to postpone the motion until the Budget Workshop and allow the Commission to discuss it. Ayes: Skotarczyk, Avery, Lovett, Simpson, Turner. Nays: Meli, Hendrick. Motion Carried.

Commissioner Lovett stated in April the Safe Routes to School committee will need volunteers to help with surveying elementary and middle school routes. She thanked Acting City Manager Tillery for organizing the Town Hall meeting.

Commissioner Meli thanked the audience that attended the meeting.

Mayor Skotarczyk thanked the audience that attended the Town Hall meeting. He cautioned the Commissioners and the public to be discreet when posting information on Social Media. He encouraged the public to attend the Budget workshops. He felt this area needs economic development, and it will grow and progress, but it will maintain its quaint charm.

Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Hendrick, seconded by Commissioner Meli, to adjourn at 8:29 pm. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Zyrowski
Office Clerk Assistant

Kristen Baxter

Kristen Baxter
City Clerk