

**City of Marine City
City Commission
January 17, 2013**

A regular meeting of the Marine City Commission was held on Thursday, January 17, 2013, in the Fire Hall, 200 South Parker Street, Marine City, and was called to order by Mayor Charles R. Browne at 7:00 PM.

After observing a moment of silence, the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Browne.

Present: Mayor Browne; Commissioners Hendrick, Lovett, Meli, Phelan, Skotarczyk and Turner; City Manager Gabor; and, City Clerk Kade.

Absent: None

Communications

There were no Communications presented.

Public Comment

Larry Biscorner, 415 Carroll Street, Marine City, said that the Department of Public Works, with its limited resources, did a very good job in removing the snow from the bridge sidewalks and streets; and, said the residents should be proud of their DPW. Mr. Biscorner asked for more enforcement in making sure pet owners clean up after their dogs in the colder weather, noting the droppings on sidewalks in both residential and business areas.

Approve Agenda

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

Approve Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Skotarczyk, seconded by Commissioner Lovett, to approve the Minutes of the Regular City Commission Meeting held December 20, 2012, 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 ~ December 2012
- Business License ~ BB Bradford Sales, Inc.
- Business License ~ Waterford Financial Management, LLC
- Special Event ~ Lions White Cane Sale

Motion by Commissioner Meli, seconded by Commissioner Phelan, to approve the Consent Agenda, and place it on file. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Unfinished Business

None

New Business

Maritime Days 2013

Melisa Blanchard, President of Marine City Festival Inc., announced the dates of August 2nd thru August 4th for Maritime Days 2013; and, reported that they had secured Schmidt Amusements of Standish, Michigan. Mrs. Blanchard discussed their fundraising campaign, which included a Sweethearts Dinner at the Marine City Fish Company on February 11th.

Mrs. Blanchard asked the Commission if they would consider becoming a co-sponsor of Maritime Days in order for Marine City Festival, Inc. to receive financial support by reducing the special event fees for City police, public works, and fire services by 50%.

After a brief discussion, Mayor Browne requested that the Marine City Festival put together a presentation with cost estimates to be presented to the Commission at a future meeting.

Request for Financial Support ~ Discover the Blue

The City of Marine City received a request from Georgia Phelan of the Marine City Chamber of Commerce for an allocation of \$2,500 to assist in its economic development efforts. The financial support would be applied to Marine City's 2013 participation in the "Discover the Blue" regional tourism campaign. Marine City's fee to participate in 2013 is \$4,300, and Mrs. Phelan said they would also ask T.I.F.A. for financial support.

Mrs. Phelan responded to questions from the Commission regarding how the requested monies would be spent by the Chamber; and, spoke of the benefits for the community being part of the "Discover the Blue" program.

Commissioner Hendrick said she wanted to see a detailed budget for how the monies were spent.

Commissioner Phelan commented that it was important to have a vision for an economic future for Marine City, and bringing people into Marine City would provide growth in the community.

City Manager Gabor stated that the Commission had budgeted \$3,500 for Community Promotions for the 2012/2013 Fiscal Year.

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Phelan, to approve \$2,500.00 for financial support to the Marine City Chamber of Commerce for the "Discover the Blue" regional tourism campaign for 2013. Ayes: Browne, Lovett, Meli, Phelan, Skotarczyk, Turner. Nays: Hendrick. Motion Carried.

Letter of Understanding for Employment Status Change ~ Finance Director/Treasurer

City Manager Gabor announced that Mary Ellen McDonald had retired from the City of Marine City on January 2, 2013, and rehired on January 3, 2013 as a part-time employee. He presented a Letter of Understanding for Employment Status Change for Mrs. McDonald, and asked for Commission approval.

Commissioner Lovett said this would be a win/win for the City, and noted the City's 100% rating received during last year's audit.

Commissioner Hendrick made numerous inquiries and comments regarding Mrs. McDonald's retirement and immediate return to the City as a part-time employee. She

noted that Mrs. McDonald had previously stated that she wanted to keep working ten more years, and asked why Mrs. McDonald was not continuing to work as a full-time employee instead of retiring and collecting both a pension and paycheck from the City at the same time. Commissioner Hendrick also questioned Mrs. McDonald's start time, which was different from other office staff employees, and the 80 hours of paid leave time. She said that there was a need for written procedures regarding all part-time employees and/or the rehiring of City retirees in the City's Personnel Policy & Procedures, which required Commission approval, because not all part-time employees were receiving the same consideration as other part-time employees.

City Manager Gabor responded to Commissioner Hendrick and said Mrs. McDonald's new hourly wage was \$27.50 per hour, which resulted in a 8.4% increase. He continued that her overall income would be approximately \$43,000 annually, resulting in a \$35,000 annual savings to the City.

Commissioner Hendrick asked why the City was not promoting the Deputy Treasurer and hiring a new part-time employee at a lower wage in order to save the City money.

Commissioner Turner commented that Mrs. McDonald's performance was outstanding, that the City did not have to train a new employee, and would save the City \$35,000 annually by re-hiring Mrs. McDonald.

City Manager Gabor stated that the City would make the Treasurer's position full-time and the Deputy Treasurer's position part-time when those employees leave the City's employ.

Commissioner Lovett called for the question; however, there was no support.

Commissioner Meli commented about the Michigan unemployment rate, and said he wished Mrs. McDonald well, but believed that when someone wanted to retire, they should retire instead of collecting both a retirement check and paycheck. He asked that the City post the position and accept applications.

Mayor Browne commented that the vast majority of finance experts were not unemployed, and would not work for \$15.00 per hour. He said the City did not want to hire someone to learn on the job.

Motion by Commissioner Meli, seconded by Commissioner Hendrick, to postpone the matter for one month. Ayes: Hendrick, Meli. Nays: Browne, Lovett, Phelan, Skotarczyk, Turner. Motion Failed.

The City received applications from the following residents and/or business owners:

- Rebecca R. Lepley 539 North William Street
- Todd M. May 6168 North River Road
- Kim A. Turner 361 North Main Street

Motion by Commissioner Hendrick, seconded by Commissioner Lovett, to appoint Todd M. May and Kim A. Turner to the Historical Commission for terms that expire December 31, 2015. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Tax Increment Financing Authority (TIFA)

The City received applications from the following residents:

- Robert C. Lepley 539 North William Street
- Raymond Skwiers 211 Michigan Drive

Motion by Mayor Browne, seconded by Commissioner Lovett, to appoint Raymond Skwiers to the Tax Increment Financing Authority for a term that expires June 30, 2013. Ayes: Hendrick, Lovett, Meli, Phelan, Turner. Nays: Browne, Skotarczyk.

Motion by Mayor Browne, seconded by Commissioner Lovett, to appoint Robert C. Lepley to the Tax Increment Financing Authority for a term that expires June 30, 2014. Ayes: Lovett, Phelan, Turner, Skotarczyk. Nays: Browne, Hendrick, Meli. Motion Carried.

Financial Business

Disbursements

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Skotarczyk, to approve total disbursements, including payroll and bond payment, in the amount of \$474,472.44, as presented. Roll Call Vote. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Preliminary Financial Statements

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to accept the Preliminary Financial Statements for December 2012, and place them on file. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

City Manager's Report

City Manager Gabor provided updates on the following items:

- Worker's Comp Review was completed on January 9th
- LaBuhn Bridge is scheduled to close February 4th
- Changes under Act 253 affecting Elections
- Attended DNR Workshop – land purchase grants
- EVIP due February 1st
- Ice rink to be filled next week if there is enough frost in the ground
- New truck was delivered to Department of Public Works

Commissioner Privilege

Commissioner Meli requested that the City's sign announcing the enforcement of snow removal and winter parking be reinstalled on King Road at DeGurse Avenue.

Commissioner Hendrick spoke of residents not clearing snow from the sidewalks, and asked for more enforcement by the City. She said that the Department of Public Works had done a great job clearing snow from the streets and sidewalks.

Commissioner Phelan announced that after a lot of thought, he had decided not to seek re-election for his Commission seat, and looked forward to serving out the rest of his term.

Commissioner Lovett commented on the dangerous situation along the M-29 sidewalks that were snow-covered; said the Department of Public Works was doing a great job, but it was hard to walk; commented that residents had a hard time finding out about the boil water alert during the holidays and recommended that an emergency plan be in place; and, announced that Friends of City Hall would hold Heritage Day on September 24, 2013.

Commissioner Skotarczyk commented about the boil water alert and said that the best system was the neighborhood system. He said it was long over-due for an electronic sign,

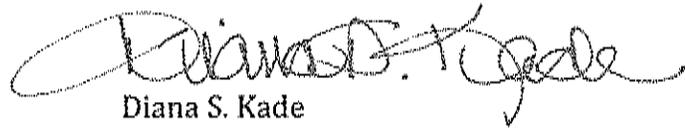
and said that if the City got some pricing on a sign, he would volunteer to take a proposal to the TIFA Board for possible funding.

Mayor Browne echoed the comments by the Commission, and thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

Adjournment

Motion by Mayor Browne, seconded by Commissioner Phelan, to adjourn at 8:26 PM. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diana S. Kade". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a tail that extends to the right.

Diana S. Kade
City Clerk