

**City of Marine City  
City Commission  
April 4, 2013**

A regular meeting of the Marine City Commission was held on Thursday, April 4, 2013, in the Fire Hall, 200 South Parker Street, Marine City, and was called to order by Mayor Pro Tem Raymond Skotarczyk at 7:00 PM.

After observing a moment of silence, the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Pro Tem Skotarczyk.

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

**Absent: Mayor Browne**

Motion by Commissioner Hendrick, seconded by Commissioner Phelan, to excuse Mayor Browne from the meeting. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

**Communications**

There were no Communications presented.

**Public Comment**

Raymond Skwiers, 211 Michigan Drive, Marine City, said he was in favor of the Police Department sharing with the public in order to build a community rapport, including information on police events. He said he wanted all phases of government to be open and transparent, and that there was no justification to be secretive.

Rosalie Skwiers, 211 Michigan Drive, Marine City, reported on three separate incidents at her residence when unknown individuals had entered her home, and the police department was called.

Jennifer Knightstep, Treasurer for Marine City Festival Inc., said that they had received the cost estimate for 2013 Maritime Days. She said that they would ask the Commission at the

April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting to co-sponsor the event in order to reduce costs; and, distributed documentation to the Commission to review in preparation of that meeting.

Georgia Phelan, 6004 Lozon Road, Cottrellville Township, congratulated Commissioner Patrick Phelan and business owner Todd May for being honored by the Times Herald.

Robert Blanchard, 622 Alger, Marine City, a representative from Marine City Festival Inc. spoke of numerous fundraisers for Maritime Days; the high cost estimates for the festival; and, that he was glad to see police vehicles patrolling in his neighborhood.

Representative Dan Lauwers introduced himself to the Commission and residents, providing his cell phone number (810-343-4203) and office phone number (517-373-1790) to anyone wishing to call with questions and/or comments.

### **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 Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Phelan, to approve the Minutes of the Regular City Commission Meeting held March 21, 2013, as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

### **Approve Consent Agenda**

The following Consent Agenda items were presented:

- T.I.F.A. Minutes ~ February 19, 2013
- Special Event Permit ~ Marine City Music Festival
- Special Event Permit ~ MC Chamber of Commerce Flea Market
- Special Permit ~ Marine City Antique Show
- Special Permit ~ Pride & Heritage Concert Series

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

## **Public Hearing**

### ***Change City Election Years***

At 7:26 PM, Mayor Pro Tem Skotarczyk opened a Public Hearing to receive comments relating to changing the City of Marine City's regular election schedule for city offices and ballot issues from odd-year elections to even-year elections; any change adopted by the Commission to be effective January 1, 2014.

Rosalie Skwiers, 211 Michigan Drive, Marine City, commented that even though the change would be cheaper and more electors would come out to vote, excessive campaigning and too many issues on a ballot could be negative.

No other comments were received.

Mayor Pro Tem Skotarczyk closed the Public Hearing at 7:28 PM.

## **Unfinished Business**

None

## **New Business**

### ***Change City Election Years from Odd to Even-Numbered Years***

Commissioner Phelan spoke of his concerns, such as *ballot fatigue*, which he said could be an issue for local candidates. On the other side, he said, the even-year elections may draw more voters. Commissioner Phelan noted that there were a lot of communities moving to the even-numbered election years.

Commissioner Lovett commented that the change would be a good use of resources, and she liked more voter turnout.

Commissioner Turner commented on the positive cost savings and having a larger voter turnout.

Commissioner Hendrick agreed, and commented that when it was just a Marine City election or issue, there was generally a low turnout.

Mayor Pro Tem Skotarczyk said he was in favor of the change.

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Hendrick, to approve a Resolution to change regular and primary elections for city offices and ballot issues from odd to even-numbered years; Resolution No. 008-13. Roll Call Vote. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

### ***Establishing an Illicit Discharge Elimination Program ~ Introduce Ordinance***

City Manager Gabor reported that the purpose of this ordinance was to provide for the health, safety, and general welfare of the citizens of the City of Marine City through the regulation of non-storm water discharges to the municipal separate storm sewer system to the maximum extent practicable as required by federal and state law.

Motion by Commissioner Phelan, seconded by Commissioner Lovett, to introduce Ordinance 13-01 Establishing an Illicit Discharge Elimination Program. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

### ***Set Budget Workshop Dates***

Discussion ensued regarding the tentative 2013/2014 Budget Workshop dates of April 29<sup>th</sup> thru May 1<sup>st</sup>, with the following comments:

- Commissioner Lovett – will not be available for any of the recommended dates
- Commissioner Phelan – will not be available on April 29<sup>th</sup>
- Mayor Pro Tem Skotarczyk – suggested the Budget Workshops be moved to the week before, beginning April 22<sup>nd</sup>

Commissioner Phelan also requested that the budget book be provided to the Commission further in advance than had been in previous years for review prior to the workshops.

Motion by Commissioner Hendrick, seconded by Commissioner Meli, to set the 2013/2014 Budget Workshop dates and times, as follows:

- Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup>                      6:00pm ~ 9:00pm
- Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>                    6:00pm ~ 9:00pm
- Wednesday, May 1<sup>st</sup>                    6:00pm, if necessary

Ayes: Hendrick, Meli, Phelan, Skotarczyk, Turner. Nays: Lovett. Motion Carried.

## **Financial Business**

### ***Disbursements***

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to approve total disbursements, including payroll, in the amount of \$188,368.52, as presented. Roll Call Vote. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

## **City Manager's Report**

City Manager Gabor provided updates on the following items:

- LaBuhn Bridge Project
  - ✓ Still 5 days ahead of schedule
  - ✓ 1000 yards of contaminated dirt was removed, which added \$10,000 to costs
  - ✓ First span to be set on April 18<sup>th</sup>
  - ✓ Road work to start the end of April
- Michigan Economic Development Corporation ~ to review façade grant possibilities on April 8<sup>th</sup>; also looking for other interested South Water Street property owners
- 300 Broadway
  - ✓ Will begin painting when weather warms up
  - ✓ Working on balcony repairs
- Budget Reviews with department heads are being held this week
- Will attend MML Capital Conference in Lansing on April 9<sup>th</sup> and April 10<sup>th</sup>
- MSHDA approved apartments above theatre on South Water Street

## **Commissioner Privilege**

Commissioner Phelan thanked everyone for taking part of lighting up the community for autism awareness.

Commissioner Hendrick inquired as to the work at the intersections. *City Manager Gabor responded that MDOT was replacing the traffic signals at three intersections.*

Commissioner Hendrick inquired as to when the Commission would receive updates on the two pending lawsuits. *City Manager Gabor responded that they were currently going through depositions on the Snay lawsuit; and, that the other was still ongoing.*

Commissioner Hendrick inquired as to when the Personnel Policy and Procedures, and the contracts would be posted on the City's website, including any other procedures. *City Manager Gabor responded that those items would be posted online after the budget process; and, that they City also had a purchasing policy.* Commissioner Hendrick commented that she also wanted to relook at the City's credit card policy.

Commissioner Hendrick thanked the festival volunteers, and said she wanted to work with them to resolve the issue with the costs.

Commissioner Lovett displayed the Times Herald article about Todd May and Commissioner Phelan entitled "Visions for Communities". She also thanked everyone for the blue lights and signs acknowledging autism awareness. Commissioner Lovett recommended residents look at the pictures on the City's website detailing the work being done at the LaBuhn Bridge. She commented that she had been doing a lot of walking, and said it was hard to cross in certain areas. Commissioner Lovett thanked the festival committee for their comments.

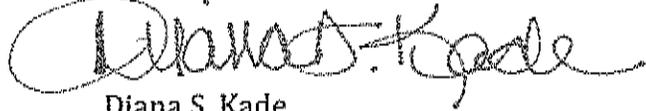
Commissioner Turner also thanked the festival board with presenting the City's estimated costs for this year's Maritime Days. He said that these costs would drive events out of Marine City, and noted that this issue had been going on for a couple of years. Commissioner Turner commented that he felt some of the costs could not be justified.

Mayor Pro Tem Skotarczyk responded to Mr. Skwiers' comments and said the Police Department's runs and activities were part of its regular Departmental Activity Report, which was included and posted online with the meeting agenda each second meeting of the month. He said that the Police Procedures were different, and would be reviewed in detail at a later date. Mayor Pro Tem Skotarczyk said it was great to see all the special event applications on the agenda, and commented that it would be a great summer. He thanked the Maritime Days volunteers, and said he would try to help out.

**Adjournment**

Motion by Commissioner Hendrick, seconded by Commissioner Phelan, to adjourn at 8:02 PM. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Diana S. Kade". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "D".

Diana S. Kade  
City Clerk