

**City of Marine City  
City Commission  
August 1, 2013**

A regular meeting of the Marine City Commission was held on Thursday, August 1, 2013, in the Fire Hall, 200 South Parker Street, Marine City, Michigan, 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, Skotarczyk and Turner; City Manager Gabor; and, City Clerk Kade.

**Absent:** Commissioner Phelan

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

**Communications**

There were no Communications presented.

**Public Comment**

Rita Roehrig, 162 South Third Street, Marine City, protested the Commission's consideration of a millage proposal, and said cuts had not been made. She commented about changes that could have been made in the Treasurer's Department, with the Police Chief's vehicle, and the custom lights purchased for the LaBuhn Bridge; and, spoke about the purchase of a retirement plaque for a former police officer.

**Approve Agenda**

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

## **Approve Minutes**

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to approve the Minutes of the Regular City Commission Meeting held July 18, 2013, as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

## **Consent Agenda**

The following Consent Agenda items were presented:

- Historical Commission Minutes ~ April 16, 2013
- T.I.F.A. Minutes ~ June 18, 2013

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

## **Presentation - *Trail Towns***

Lori Eschenburg, Planner I of the St. Clair County Metropolitan Planning Commission, and Harry Burkholder, Planner II of Land Information Access Association in Traverse City, provided a slide presentation about *Trail Towns*. Mr. Burkholder explained that a *Trail Town* was a community in which local officials have used their trail system as the focal point of a tourism-centered strategy for economic development and local revitalization. During the presentation, Mr. Burkholder briefly discussed how to establish a *Trail Town* - organization, promotion, design and economic restructuring.

Mrs. Eschenburg reported that they had toured Marine City throughout the day, and commented that the Belle River was under-utilized, especially for kayakers; and said they had a hard time finding the Bridge-to-Bay Trail, and then how to get to the downtown district from the trail. She also spoke of US Bike Route 20 and the water paths.

Mrs. Eschenburg discussed the possibility of available grant monies; and, said their next step would be to hold a larger meeting with stakeholders of the community. She said she would contact the City Offices about scheduling the meeting.

Both presenters heard comments and answered questions from the Commission with regards to the *Trail Town* concept.

## **Unfinished Business**

### ***Adopt Ordinance #13-05 ~ Licensing Requirements of Dogs***

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to adopt an Ordinance to amend General Regulations Title IX, Chapter 94, Section 3 entitled "Licensing Requirements of Dogs"; Ordinance No. 13-05. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

### ***Adopt Ordinance #13-06 ~ Uses Not Otherwise Included Within a Specific District***

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to adopt an Ordinance to amend Land Use Title XV, Chapter 160, Section 5 entitled "Definitions", and Section 217 entitled "Uses Not Otherwise Included within a Specific District"; Ordinance No. 13-06. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

### ***Adopt Ordinance #13-07 ~ Construction and Alteration of Permanent Docks, Wharves, Etc.***

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Skotarczyk, to adopt an Ordinance to amend Land Use Title XV, Chapter 150 "Waterways", by adopting Section 6 entitled "Construction and Alteration of Permanent Docks, Wharves, Etc."; Ordinance No. 13-07. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

### ***Adopt Ordinance #13-08 ~ Prohibition on Overnight, Non-Emergency Dockage***

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to adopt an Ordinance to amend Land Use Title XV, Chapter 150 "Waterways" by adopting Section 7 entitled "Prohibition on Overnight, Non-Emergency Dockage"; Ordinance No. 13-08. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

## **New Business**

### ***Proposed Resolutions Calling for Election***

- ***Headlee Override Millage Proposal***
- ***Special Assessment District Pursuant to Public Act 33 of 1951***

City Manager Gabor presented two proposed resolutions for the Commission to consider per their request from the last meeting.

Commissioner Skotarczyk said he was impressed watching the debate from the last meeting, which he did not attend, but said he did not hear how employee costs would be affected. He said that salary and benefits were the biggest part of the budget, and that City employees needed to take a 5% reduction across the board as an incentive to get the millage passed. Commissioner Skotarczyk stated that he researched both proposed resolutions, and said the PA 33 Resolution was the best way to go.

Commissioner Hendrick said she agreed with the comments by Commissioner Skotarczyk; and, said she did not think either millage proposal would pass. She said there were a lot of things that could be done, and said they needed to see the detail for each department. Commissioner Hendrick spoke of the costs for the police department and said the Commission should not approve buying a new police vehicle in order to show the residents that they were making cuts before presenting millage proposals. She also commented on the police department's clothing expenditures.

Commissioner Skotarczyk noted that Algonac was getting the same level of police coverage at a lower cost than Marine City.

City Manager Gabor explained that they could adjust the rate up or down each year on a PA 33 when doing the budget, and said that one mil would generate approximately \$95,000. He reported that the shortfall was \$300,000 for the current fiscal year.

Commissioner Turner agreed that they needed to show good faith and make some cuts.

Mayor Browne said he supported putting the issue on the ballot so the voters could let the City know what they thought. He said they needed to provide the whole truth and facts to the voters so they could make good solid decisions. Mayor Browne agreed that the Commission needed to be responsible and review all lines of the budget; and, that there was always a way to reduce costs.

Commissioner Lovett thanked everyone for putting forth their comments and insights, and said it should be up to the people of Marine City to decide.

Motion by Commissioner Skotarczyk, seconded by Commissioner Lovett, to adopt a Resolution to Submit a Police Protection Special Assessment District for Voter Approval Pursuant to Public Act 33 of 1951 for an amount not to exceed 3.5 mills for a period of five

years for the operation and maintenance of police services; Resolution No. 023-13. Ayes: Browne, Lovett, Skotarczyk, Turner. Nays: Hendrick, Meli. Motion Carried.

***Set Dates for City Manager Evaluation***

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to have all City Manager Performance Appraisals for City Manager Gabor returned by August 15, 2013. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Skotarczyk, to conduct the City Manager evaluation review at the September 5, 2013 City Commission Meeting. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

***Removal of Fees ~ 235 North Fourth Street***

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to approve the removal of property clean-up fees in the amount of \$125.00 for property located at 235 North Fourth Street, Marine City; Parcel ID #02-925-0036-000. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

***Police Vehicle Purchase***

City Manager Gabor reported that Police Chief Donald Tillery had requested sealed bids for a 2014 Chevrolet Tahoe Police Patrol Vehicle. The City received one sealed bid, as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Buff Whelan Chevrolet, Inc.	40445 Van Dyke Avenue Sterling Heights, Michigan	\$36,651.00

The City had also received the State Contract Quote via the State of Michigan MIDEAL Program, as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Address</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Berger Chevrolet, Inc.	2525 28 <sup>th</sup> Street S.E. Grand Rapids, Michigan	\$25,562.90

Commissioner Hendrick commented that the Marine City Police Department had three patrol vehicles, an unmarked car, and the Police Chief's car. She said that half of the purchase price of the vehicle would save the Department of Public Works layoff. Commissioner Hendrick asked the Commission to show its citizens good-faith that they were going to cut costs, and not purchase the vehicle.

Commissioner Lovett commented on the City's police vehicles and said that the Chief's car was part of his contract, a detective used the unmarked vehicle for court, that the two Chargers were leased, and that the Tahoe was bought with Stone Garden monies. She said all cars needed to be available by the department.

City Manager Gabor explained that the insurance company was paying for the cost of the vehicle, and he recommended replacing the patrol vehicle now.

Commissioner Skotarczyk inquired if the Police Department needed a minimum of three cars. He said he liked the idea of saving money, but said they needed vehicles for police services.

Commissioner Meli spoke about the maintenance and insurance costs that could be saved if they did not add an additional vehicle.

City Manager Gabor clarified that they were not adding a vehicle, but replacing a vehicle.

Commissioner Hendrick commented about the Commission's decision last year to lease two vehicles. She asked why the City needed four vehicles for two officers working each day, and stated that they did not need more than three cars.

When asked, City Manager Gabor responded he did not know what the up-fitter costs would be for the new police vehicle.

Motion by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Lovett, to accept the State Contract Quote via the State of Michigan MIDEAL Program and approve the purchase of the 2014 Chevrolet Tahoe Police Patrol Vehicle in the amount of \$25,562.90 from Berger Chevrolet, Inc. of Grand Rapids, Michigan. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Browne, Lovett, Skotarczyk, Turner. Nays: Hendrick, Meli. Motion Carried.

## **Financial Business**

### ***Disbursements***

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to approve total disbursements, including payroll, in the amount of \$534,071.37, as presented. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Browne, Hendrick, Lovett, Skotarczyk, Turner. Nays: Meli. Motion Carried.

### **City Manager's Report**

City Manager Gabor provided updates on the following items:

- LaBuhn Bridge
  - ✓ Bridge is closed to all types of traffic – it is not safe to cross at this time
  - ✓ Deck will be poured next Wednesday
  - ✓ Bridge expected to open the end of August
- Maritime Days support is going well
- Pole for King Road Field was in – to be installed soon
- Façade Grant – qualifying another building (110 Broadway)
- Blight Prevention Ordinance is now in effect – had meeting with building official and city attorney

### **Commissioner Privilege**

Commissioner Lovett commented that the police union contract provided for uniforms; and, said that the polo shirts were saving the City money, and the officers were purchasing their own pants. She said that Police Chief was a part-time employee who was getting paid for 32 hours a week but who was working more than 56 hours a week. Commissioner Lovett said that police officers were eligible for 10 minute breaks every hour, and that they used their time establishing a rapport with the public. She stated that the Police Department's professional service had gone from 0% to 100%, and that the City had a great caliber of part-time employees in the Police Department.

Commissioner Hendrick commented that the Police Department did provide the needed service to the public, but there were some officers that needed to know how to deal with the public. She also said the Commission needed to show the public that they were willing to tighten its belt. Commissioner Hendrick reported that the decorative lights had been humming at night and were not always working in the downtown parks, and asked that they be checked.

Commissioner Meli wondered how raising taxes would bring up the property values. He said he opposed any tax hike; that he felt that they could cut other costs; and, that their

public service to the community was to save money. Commissioner Meli said that asking for more money was hard. He also said that he was proud of Maritime Days coming up, and wished the City could sponsor the event 100%.

Commissioner Skotarczyk commented that there was a lot of criticism about capital spending, and said they were obligated to provide a safe environment to the residents of the community. He continued that they needed to attract visitors, and could not be one-sided all the time.

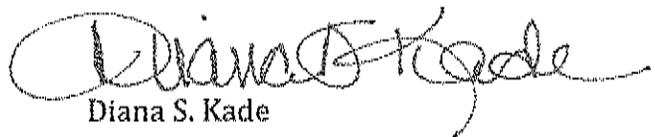
Commissioner Turner congratulated the Snug Theatre on its huge success.

Mayor Browne also commented on the success of the Snug Theatre, and said many visitors had attended and left with positive comments. He spoke of what provided a positive town, and said that they could not just cut continuously. Mayor Browne said he was excited about the *Trail Town* program, and said Marine City had the ability to have it here. He asked residents to stay off the bridge, and to wait a couple more weeks for the project to be completed.

### **Adjournment**

Motion by Commissioner Hendrick, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to adjourn at 9:05 PM. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Diana S. Kade". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Diana S. Kade  
City Clerk