

**City of Marine City
City Commission
March 5, 2015**

A regular meeting of the Marine City Commission was held on Thursday, March 5, 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 Dusheke, 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 Lynn Zyrowski.

Absent: None

Communications

No Communications were received.

Public Comment

Bill Haas, 203 Pleasant Street, spoke about the lack of parking spaces available for the downtown businesses. He suggested high school students work as valets for the businesses on the weekend and the revenue collected would be donated to the student's extracurricular organization. He recommended the City should provide lifeguards at the public beach and suggested City employee Grace Halpin work with the high school swim team to provide volunteer lifeguards.

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 Simpson, to approve the Minutes of the Regular City Commission Meeting held February 19, 2015, as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Consent Agenda

The following Consent Agenda items were presented:

- Special Event ~ Flea Markets
- Special Event ~ Concerts at Drake Park
- Special Event ~ Antique Show
- Special Event ~ Farmer's Market
- Special Event ~ K of C Tootsie Roll Drive
- Business License ~ Riverbank Theatre, LLC

Commissioner Simpson questioned if Resolution #06-2015, a Resolution to vacate High Street, may interfere with item #8-D, where the Special Event ~ Farmer's Market is held on High Street. City Attorney, James Downey, replied the Resolution refers to High Street and South Belle River, it does not refer to the area hosting the Farmer's Market.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Superintendent of Public Works Employment Agreement

Acting City Manager Tillery commented that a clothing and cell phone stipend were addressed in the Employment Agreement.

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Avery, to approve the Superintendent of Public Works Employment Agreement. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

City Manager Job Description and Announcement

Discussion on the City Manager Job Description and Announcement ensued:

Acting City Manager Tillery commented Commissioner Hendrick has input that was added to the Job Description.

Commissioner Lovett stated the City Manager Employment Opportunity Announcement information regarding the Date of Incorporation for the City of Marine City is incorrect; the correct date is 1887.

Commissioner Hendrick felt the deadline to submit an application should be sooner than May 31, 2015 or leave the date off of the Announcement.

Motion by Commissioner Lovett to approve the City Manager Job Description and Announcement with the following changes: change the Date of Incorporation to 1887 and remove the deadline date for candidates to submit a detailed resume and salary history. Seconded by Commissioner Hendrick. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

City Manager Search

Acting City Manager Tillery presented a review of three search firms. He made a recommendation to go with the Michigan Municipal League because using a search firm protects the confidentiality of the applicant pool and this firm had the lowest cost to the City with similar search criteria when compared with the other firms.

Commissioner Simpson stated he preferred a Michigan group because of their familiarity with the area and he was more comfortable with Michigan Municipal League's fee.

Commissioner Hendrick stated she doesn't feel the City needs to hire a company to find the new City Manager, the City Subcommittee could do the search on its own.

Commissioner Lovett supported using a research firm because of their vast resources and she has confidence in their expertise in their field.

Commissioner Meli commented that the City Managers recommended by the research firms had brought jobs to the cities that hired them, and going with a research firm allows the candidates to apply for jobs without the fear of losing their current job. He also didn't see any harm in advertising the job in the newspaper without using a research firm.

Commissioner Avery stated the City does not have a Human Resources Department to rely on and the process of searching for a City Manager will be time consuming. He does not believe the City Commissioners have the time to do the search.

Commissioner Turner agreed with Commissioner Avery. He preferred using a professional research firm because they will recommend the best candidates to the Commission.

Mayor Skotarczyk felt the City should hire a professional firm to find a candidate because the search process itself is so time consuming.

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Avery, to vote on the motion made at the February 19th, 2015 City Commission meeting to waive competitive bidding, and hire Michigan Municipal League to conduct a City Manager search for Marine City. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Avery, Lovett, Simpson, Turner, Skotarczyk. Nays: Hendrick, Meli. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution ~ 2015 Friends of City Hall

Motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Avery, to approve a resolution to receive and hold property from The Friends of City Hall, as presented; Resolution No. 05-2015. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Resolution ~ 2015 Vacation of High Street

Motion by Commissioner Hendrick, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to introduce Resolution No. 06-2015 for the purpose of vacating High Street, with any revisions made to the resolution by Attorney James Downey, as presented; Resolution No. 06-2015. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Town Hall Meeting Dates

Motion by Commissioner Avery, seconded by Commissioner Lovett, to schedule a Town Hall Meeting at 7:00pm on March 12, 2015 to discuss the State of the City. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

Disbursements

Motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to approve total disbursements, including payroll, in the amount of \$177,068.18, as presented. Roll Call Vote. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Acting City Manager's Report

Acting City Manager Donald Tillery provided updates on the following items:

- Attended a TIFA Special Budget meeting and approved the budget.
- The Computerized Cemetery Project is on hold for now; the project cannot be funded using the Local Roads Funds.
- City Offices closed at 12:00pm on March 3, 2105 due to inclement weather.
- Michigan Municipal League recently lost an employee that contracted work with the City of Marine City regarding policies and worker's compensation within the City.
- The City renewed a three month contract with our St. Clair County Assessor. The Supervisor of the Assessing Department will be retiring shortly and the new Supervisor will negotiate terms of future contracts once in Office.
- EBTV will be taping at the Snug Theatre and the Riverbank Theatre on March 11th for a future broadcast.
- Residents have had complaints about Emterra's service; they are cooperating to the best of their ability.

Commissioner Privilege

Commissioner Avery thanked the Department of Public Works for working diligently on snow removal.

Commissioner Hendrick questioned if the M-29/West Boulevard traffic light has had the timing checked.

Department of Public Works Supervisor Mike Itrich stated MDOT has checked the lot and found nothing wrong. Mr. Itrich stated he will give Commissioner Hendrick the phone number for his contact person at MDOT for follow-up.

Commissioner Hendrick stated she would like the City to come up with a better plan next year for snow removal on the sidewalks along Parker Street and if there has been more progress on the Sidewalk Ordinance.

Acting City Manager Donald Tillery replied the previous City Manager, John Gabor, reported there wasn't funding for the sidewalk project.

Mayor Skotarczk stated the Commission was waiting for the answer to a legal question: is the Right of Way along the sidewalks the responsibility of the residents or the City.

Commissioner Hendrick asked if the Tot Lot Park was being considered for future parking, and she reported one of the towing companies from Marine City complained the City was not following the towing rotation. She stated it would have been better for the City office employees to go home at their normal time on March 3rd instead of closing the City offices at noon because more roads were cleared later in the day.

Acting City Manager Donald Tillery replied he was informed the Tot Lot was not used much and the idea had been discussed but no decisions had been made. He recommended the towing company contact him to resolve the towing rotation issue and he closed the City Offices so employees could get home safely before the inclement weather worsened.

Commissioner Lovett thanked the business, Ferruche, for the recent successful fundraiser and announced there will be a Wine & Beer Tasting fundraiser at the Heather House on March 17, 2015.

Commissioner Meli stated he appreciated Bill Haas's comments regarding the Life Guards.

Mayor Skotarczyk thought that having volunteer lifeguards at the beach was a liability for the City. He ended his comments with a quote from Steven Hawking.

Executive Session

Motion by Mayor Skotarczyk, seconded by Commissioner Meli, to enter into Executive Session at 8:18 pm for the purpose of discussing Confidential Attorney/Client Communication Regarding legal opinion, and, considering the Executive Session Minutes of February 19, 2015. Roll Call Vote. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Hendrick, to return to Open Session at 8:47pm. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to take the advice of the Attorney in the matter of Jordan Rataj v City of Marine City. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Avery, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of February 19, 2015. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

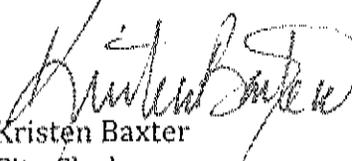
Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Hendrick, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to adjourn at 8:49 pm. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Lynn Zyrowski
Office Clerk Assistant



Kristen Baxter
City Clerk