

**City of Marine City
City Commission
May 21, 2015**

A regular meeting of the Marine City Commission was held on Thursday, May 21, 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 Rev. Becky Lepley, the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Skotarczyk.

Present: Mayor Raymond Skotarczyk, Commissioners Terrance Avery, Elizabeth Hendrick, Dianne Lovett, Raymond Meli, David Simpson, and James Turner, Acting City Manager Donald Tillery, City Clerk Kristen Baxter

Absent: None

Communications

No Communications were received.

Public Comment

Kim Turner, 361 N. Main Street, said she observed issues with the trees affecting the sidewalks along S. Water Street and said it might be in the best interest of the city to remove them if they were going to put money into fixing the sidewalks.

Becky Lepley, 539 N. William, thanked the Board for their hard work and courage. She said who we are as a community is exposed on how we treat each other when we disagree. Rev. Lepley said she believes if we can obtain greater safety for our citizens, police officers and firefighters, it is worth the cost to do so.

Keith Jenken, 809 S. Water Street, said the average taxable value for a house in Marine City was \$25,000 to \$30,000. Mr. Jenken said he broke down the daily number for the proposed tax increase and it would cost 21 cents to 25 cents a day for property owners. Mr. Jenken suggested that people should invest a little money to support their hometown.

Joe Slankster, Marine City Area Fire Authority Chief, announced the purchase and arrival of their new fire truck. Chief Slankster invited everyone in attendance to take a look at the new truck following this evening's meeting.

Joe Moran, 710 Pleasant Street, made a suggestion to Commissioner Hendrick to fall in and support the city and not go after her own personal agenda. He said that because she was not being agreed with, doesn't mean she wasn't heard. Mr. Moran said Commissioner Hendrick wasn't doing what she was elected to do, which was to move Marine City forward.

Approve Agenda

The following items were **removed** from the Agenda:

★ **Public Hearing**

#9-A: Distribution of PA33 Special Assessment

★ **New Business**

#11-A: Resolution #09-2015 ~ Distribution of PA33 Special Assessment

The following item was **added** to the Agenda:

★ **New Business**

#11-A: Set Public Hearing Date for Disbursement of PA33 Special Assessment

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to approve the Agenda, as amended. 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 May 7, 2015, as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Consent Agenda

The following Consent Agenda items were presented:

- Special Event ~ Memorial Day Parade

- Special Event ~ Join the Blueways of St. Clair
- Business License ~ Garden of Peace
- Departmental Activity Reports
- Marine City Area Fire Authority ~ Run Report & Activity Log

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

Public Hearing

2015 / 2016 Proposed Budget

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to open the Public Hearing to receive public comments for and against the proposed Fiscal Year 2015 / 2016 Budget at 7:19 pm. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

No residents addressed the Commission.

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to close the Public Hearing at 7:20 pm. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

City Commissioner's Webpage

An updated description of what the City Commission does was presented for approval by the Board, in addition to changes previously made with the addition of Board member photographs and biographies. The Board, as a whole, approved the changes as presented.

NEW BUSINESS

Set Public Hearing Date for Disbursement of PA33 Special Assessment

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to set a Public Hearing date for Thursday, June 4, 2015 at 7:00 pm in the fire hall for the purpose of Disbursement of PA33 Special Assessment. Ayes: Skotarczyk, Avery, Lovett, Meli, Simpson, Turner. Nays: Hendrick. Motion Carried.

2015 / 2016 Fiscal Year Budget

Mayor Skotarczyk suggested taking steps to limit spending in certain categories until the city is assured that funding will come from the PA33, such as police department radios and replacement of their fingerprint machine.

Commissioner Hendrick made recommended cuts such as raises, reducing the painting budget in half, and looking into contracting out lawn cutting.

Commissioner Simpson concurred and said it was prudent to postpone expenditures. He suggested that department heads develop a prioritized list of capital expenditures to work from.

A discussion then took place about police services with Mayor Skotarczyk announcing that he was going to make a formal request to the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department for a bid to contract with the City of Marine City.

Commissioner Simpson suggested a bid spec be created to work from.

Mayor Skotarczyk said he would develop the bid spec to present for tweaking at the June 4, 2015 meeting before going to the Sheriff's Department for a bid.

Mary Ellen McDonald suggested to the Board that they make a list of capital spending priorities for the city administration to work from. The Board agreed that all capital spending be put on hold until the funding source is secure, except the following items:

- File Server at City Offices
- Patrol Car
- Police Departmental Computers
- DPW Tool Truck
- Park Improvements

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to approve a Resolution to adopt the 2015 / 2016 Fiscal Year Budget; Resolution No. 010-2015, and suspend all other capital improvement expenditures, including additional expenditures per City Treasurer's list, until the PA33 funding source is secure. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Skotarczyk, Avery, Lovett, Simpson, Turner. Nays: Hendrick, Meli. Motion Carried.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

Disbursements

Motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to approve total disbursements, including payroll, in the amount of \$310,219.94, as presented. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Skotarczyk, Avery, Lovett, Meli, Simpson, Turner. Nays: Hendrick. Motion Carried.

Preliminary Financial Statements

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

CITY MANAGER REPORT

- Met with Bob Klingler ~ Economic Development Group
- Met with St. Clair County Development Alliance
- Met with Sandra Brown ~ Lester House back open
- New office layout complete
- Announced Administrative Professionals Day and thanked City Administration
- Thanked Elizabeth McDonald for Commissioner's photos

COMMISSIONER PRIVILEGE

Commissioner Simpson thanked everyone for attending the meeting and working towards what they believe in. Mr. Simpson announced the Memorial Day Parade at 10:00 am on May 25, 2015.

Commissioner Avery asked that we remember the price that people paid for our freedom in our Memorial Day celebrations.

Commissioner Hendrick said she is always watching out for people and the tax payer's money. She said she didn't see how trying to save money and do the right thing for the city is a negative thing.

Commissioner Lovett reported that 99% of Marine City residents have seen a decrease in their taxes since 2007-2009. She also reported that a debt of 1.605 mil was recently satisfied meaning that the city is only increasing the millage by 1.5 mil with the proposed PA33. To most residents, this means an increase of less than \$1.00 a day. Mrs. Lovett said with less tax revenue, less revenue sharing, depreciating equipment, cutting costs in all areas and the city down from 32 full time employees with generous benefits to 11 full time employees who pay a \$6,000 to \$7,000 deductible, the city has done their due diligence in making cuts.

Commissioner Turner thanked everyone for attending the meeting and giving positive feedback. He thanked Commissioner Lovett for taking the time to put facts together and share them with the people.

Commissioner Meli said he didn't hear anyone say they didn't like Marine City, but only that they are proud of Marine City. Mr. Meli said he was excited that they came together and voiced their opinions.

Mayor Skotarczyk said regardless of what people think, the Board has a vision for the future and it doesn't include cutting until it hurts the city. He said decisions have been made for the growth of the city and to keep it on a good path moving forward.

Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Hendrick, seconded by Commissioner Meli, to adjourn at 8:32 pm. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Baxter

Kristen Baxter
City Clerk

