

**City of Marine City
City Commission
June 4, 2015**

A regular meeting of the Marine City Commission was held on Thursday, June 4, 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 Commissioner Lovett, 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

Also in Attendance: Treasurer/Finance Director Mary Ellen McDonald

Absent: None

Communications

- St. Clair County Board of Commissioners
- Joseph McCarthy, Jr.

Motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Lovett, to accept the Communications, as place them on file. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Public Comment

Bill Haas, 203 Pleasant Street, questioned if the in-car camera had been viewed, per his request at the May 7, 2015 City Commission meeting.

Ray Skwiers, 211 Michigan, said he has never seen data to support a flourishing downtown and new residents. Mr. Skwiers said people are consistently saying things are good and that he is being negative. He questioned who would want to live in Marine City with the upcoming tax increase.

Approve Agenda

The following items were added to the Agenda:

★ **Unfinished Business**

#10-A: City Manager Interview Questions

★ **New Business**

#11-I: St. Clair County Board of Commissioners ~ Set Meeting Date

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 Special City Commission Meeting held May 20, 2015, as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to approve the Minutes of the Regular City Commission Meeting held on May 21, 2015, as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Consent Agenda

The following Consent Agenda items were presented:

- Special Event ~ Marine City Music Festival (Modification of Original Application)
- Business License ~ The Alley on Broadway

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

Public Hearing

Disbursement of PA33 Special Assessment

Motion by Mayor Skotarczyk, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to open the Public Hearing to receive public comments for and against the proposed Disbursement of PA33 Special Assessment at 7:20 pm. Roll Call Vote. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Mark Tiedeman, 505 Union, said the police business costs were getting out of control. He said police officers don't live in the city anymore and aren't giving back. Mr. Tiedeman said the city should look at officers who live in the city for employment.

Treasurer/Finance Director McDonald pointed out that Lieutenant Jim Heaslip lives in town.

Mayor Skotarczyk mentioned that Lieutenant Heaslip and others were very active in the community.

Motion by Mayor Skotarczyk, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to close the Public Hearing at 7:24 pm. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

City Manager Interview Questions

Commissioner Hendrick said that she was concerned that the time allotted for each candidate would not be sufficient to answer all the questions thoroughly. Acting City Manager Tillery responded and advised the Board that two candidates had withdrawn their request to interview, which would free up more time for the remaining candidates.

NEW BUSINESS

The Council in Aging ~ Request for Financial Support

Laurie Adair, Washington Life Center supervisor, appealed to the Board for financial assistance for maintenance funds and building expenses. Motion by Commissioner Hendrick, seconded by Commissioner Avery, to provide a \$500 donation to the St. Clair County Senior Center. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Skotarczyk, Avery, Hendrick, Meli, Simpson, Turner. Nays: Lovett. Motion Carried.

Resolution #09-2015 ~ Disbursement of PA33 Special Assessment

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to approve a Resolution to adopt Disbursement of PA33 Special Assessment; Resolution No. 09-2015, to be placed on the winter tax bill, as presented. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Skotarczyk, Avery, Lovett, Simpson, Turner. Nays: Hendrick, Meli. Motion Carried.

Recreation Department ~ Fee Schedule Amendment

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to approve the Recreation Department fee schedule amendment, as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Cancellation of July 2, 2015 City Commission Meeting

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded to Commissioner Turner, to approve the cancellation of the July 2, 2015 City Commission meeting date. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

St. Clair County Sheriff's Department ~ Bid Specifications

A preliminary bid specification letter was provided to the Board for review and input. Mayor Skotarczyk said he tried to make an "apples to apples" comparison between the Marine City Police Department and the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department. The Mayor said he tried to get the bid specification as close as he could to the Marine City Police Department but said it would not be exact, due to different operations.

City Attorney Downey informed the Board that the solicitation of the bid would be for informational purposes only. Mr. Downey explained that any negotiations for a real bid must be done in collective bargaining.

Acting City Manager Tillery noted that the bid was missing 8 hours a day for the Lieutenant position. The 40-hour weekly schedule adds up to 2,080 hours a year. Mr. Tillery said the position was vital to the department, providing administrative support and an additional patrol vehicle as back-up.

Commissioner Lovett said she was against the whole process and said she believed that the city cannot adequately compare the services. Mrs. Lovett reported that crime was down and said that Marine City had an excellent police force.

Commissioner Avery said the bid was needed because, without true numbers, people would have doubt. Mr. Avery said that he hoped, once the numbers were received, people would see that Marine City Police Department as the best, cost effective, police protection for the city.

Commissioner Simpson said he believes that the Marine City Police Department is what the city needs, but said the responsible thing to do was to get the data and discuss numbers to numbers.

Mayor Skotarczyk asked permission from the Commission to approach the county and have a meeting with them to discuss the bid specification request with the following two changes: operating hour's added and 3-year contract added.

Motion by Commissioner Avery, seconded by Commissioner Hendrick, to allow Mayor Skotarczyk to meet with the county request a bid from the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department. Ayes: Skotarczyk, Avery, Hendrick, Meli, Simpson, Turner. Nay: Lovett

Appointment of Deputy Clerk

City Clerk Kristen Baxter requested Commission approval to designate Elizabeth McDonald as Deputy Clerk for the City of Marine City.

Commissioner Hendrick questioned the process of selecting Ms. McDonald, since the positioned was not posted, as per Marine City's Policy and Procedures guidelines. City Clerk Baxter replied that Ms. McDonald had transferred from the Water Department to the Clerk's Department, upon the departure of Lynn Zyrowski. Due to the known work ethic of the employee, and the Charter stating that the City Clerk may designate their own deputy subject to written approval of the Commission, City Clerk Baxter said she saw no reason to post the position.

City Attorney Downey said that the Charter would trump the Marine City Policy and Procedures.

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to approve the City Clerk's designation of Elizabeth McDonald as Deputy Clerk for the City of Marine City. Ayes: Skotarczyk, Avery, Lovett, Meli, Simpson, Turner. Nays: Hendrick. Motion Carried.

Introduction of Ordinance #04-2015 ~ Water & Sewer Rates

Motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to approve the introduction of Ordinance #04-2015 ~ Water & Sewer Rates for 2015-2016, as presented. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Skotarczyk, Avery, Lovett, Simpson, Turner. Nays: Hendrick, Meli. Motion Carried.

Upcoming Board Appointments

Upcoming Board vacancies were announced, effective June 30, 2015:

- Planning Commission ~ 1 Seat
- Tax Increment Financing Authority ~ 2 Seats
- Marine City Fire Authority ~ 1 Seat
- Library Board ~ 2 Seats

Residents interested in serving on a Board were asked to submit a letter of interest and an application form to the City Clerk's office, prior to the June 18, 2015 meeting.

St. Clair County Board of Commissioners ~ Set Meeting Date

City Clerk Baxter was given direction to contact the St. Clair County Board of Commissioners with an offer to host their September 17, 2015 meeting.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

Disbursements

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to approve total disbursements, including payroll, in the amount of \$110,850.28, as presented. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Skotarczyk, Avery, Lovett, Simpson, Turner. Nays: Hendrick, Meli. Motion Carried.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Acting City Manager Tillery provided updates on the following:

- Attended the TIFA Board Meeting.
- Attended a Community Foundation meeting.
- Interviews for new City Manager to take place on June 11th.
- Interviews for new Building Inspector to take place on June 10th.
- Police department working on (2) grants for bullet proof vests and radios.
- Met with Bruce Johnson regarding rental rehab over dentist office on S. Water Street.
- Marine City joining the Economic Development Alliance.
- Damaged records in Guy Center basement (water/mold).

COMMISSIONER PRIVILEGE

Commissioner Simpson congratulated the Class of 2015 from Marine City High School, Cardinal Mooney High School and Riverview East High School.

Commissioner Avery said the Commission is doing what they feel is best for the city with the proposed PA33. He said it is a decision that would benefit the community by maintaining necessary services.

Commissioner Hendrick questioned why the fire department sirens weren't working. Acting City Manager Tillery said the radio people had checked out the sirens and said they were receiving a strong signal. He also said the electrical was checked and it was working, as well. Commissioner Hendrick said that something had to be done to get the sirens up and running and Acting City Manager Tillery said he would continue to look into the matter further. She also thanked Jackie Owens for the beautiful community garden she recently planted.

Commissioner Lovett commended those who have been working to improve Marine City and asked for community support of new businesses.

Commissioner Turner reported good news from the June 3, 2015 Zoning Board of Appeals meeting. Mr. Turner said he was glad to see the enthusiasm from new business owner, Gary Kohs, who will soon open Fine Art Models at 430 S. Water Street.

Commissioner Meli congratulated the senior class and asked them to keep going forward with their education to hopefully return and become part of our city as an anchor.

Mayor Skotarczyk congratulated the Marine City Girls Soccer team who recently won districts. The Mayor addressed Mr. Skwiers' comment about rich river boys and said they were the ones who were going to have to foot the majority of the increase. He said Marine City is trying to be proactive as they were only one of two cities in St. Clair County whose property values haven't bounced yet. Mayor Skotarczyk said that Marine City is on the right path.

Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Hendrick, seconded by Commissioner Meli, to adjourn at 9:18 pm. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Baxter

Kristen Baxter
City Clerk