

**City of Marine City
City Commission
June 18, 2015**

A regular meeting of the Marine City Commission was held on Thursday, June 18, 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 Whetstone, 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, City Attorney James Downey

Absent: None

Communications

No Communications were received.

Public Comment

Joseph Moran, 710 Pleasant Street, spoke in favor of the Board approving the PA33 Special Assessment.

Approve Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to approve the Agenda, as amended. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Approve Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Avery, to approve the Minutes of the Special City Commission Meeting held May 27, 2015, as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to approve the Minutes of the Regular City Commission Meeting held on June 4, 2015, as amended. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Lovett, to approve the Minutes of the Special City Commission Meeting held June 11, 2015, as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Consent Agenda

The following Consent Agenda items were presented:

- Departmental Activity Reports
- Marine City Area Fire Authority ~ Run Report
- Special Event ~ Praise in the Park
- Special Event ~ Movie & Concert in the Park
- Special Event ~ International River Crossing
- Business License ~ Grace Production Services

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Adopt Ordinance #04-2015 ~ Water & Sewer Rates

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to adopt Ordinance #04-2015 that amends Section 8 of Ordinance No. 57 relating to Water and Sewer Rates. Ayes: Skotarczyk, Avery, Lovett, Simpson, Turner. Nays: Hendrick, Meli. Motion Carried.

Board Appointments

Planning Commission

- Rosalie Skwiers 211 Michigan Drive
- Joseph Moran 710 Pleasant
- Kathleen Moran 710 Pleasant

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to appoint Joseph Moran to the Planning Commission for a term that expires June 30, 2018. Ayes: Skotarczyk, Avery, Lovett, Simpson, Turner. Nays: Hendrick, Meli. Motion Carried.

Tax Increment Financing Authority

- Craig May 231 Huron Lane
- Frederick Babchek 251 Superior

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Avery, to appoint Craig May and Frederick Babchek to the Tax Increment Financing Authority for terms that expire June 30, 2019. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Marine City Area Fire Authority

- Mark Posey 838 South 4th Street

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to appoint Mark Posey to the Marine City Area Fire Authority for a term that expires June 30, 2016. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Library Board

- Frederick Babchek 251 Superior
- Jill Scheel 304 N. Main Street

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to appoint Frederick Babchek and Jill Scheel to the Library Board for terms that expire June 30, 2018. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

City Manager Interviews ~ Discussion

Board members agreed that City Manager interviews went well on June 11, 2015, which resulted in two strong possible candidates. The City Manager Search Sub-Committee conducted an additional interview of candidates Brian Redshaw and Don Hoyt, via telephone and skype. The sub-committee reported that the additional interview gave them better insight and understanding of the candidates.

Commissioner Hendrick said both candidates were good, but she favored Don Hoyt, saying she felt he was a better fit for the city.

Mayor Skotarczyk said he felt lucky to have candidates with the type of experience they both had, and recommended Brian Redshaw.

Commissioner Lovett and Meli concurred.

Motion by Commissioner Avery, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to make an offer of employment to Brian Redshaw, subject to salary negotiation. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Skotarczyk, Avery, Hendrick, Lovett, Meli, Simpson, Turner. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

At this time, Acting City Manager Tillery suggested a primary and secondary candidate be chosen, in the case that an offer falls through.

Commissioner Avery amended the original motion, seconded by Commissioner Lovett, to make a primary offer of employment to Brian Redshaw, and a secondary offer of employment to Don Hoyt, both subject to salary negotiation. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Skotarczyk, Avery, Hendrick, Lovett, Meli, Simpson, Turner. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Commissioner Meli inquired about a background check for the proposed candidates. Acting City Manager Tillery replied that the MML contract included a background check, but he was not sure how in-depth it was. If it wasn't sufficient, Acting City Manager Tillery said he would like to hire a firm to do a more thorough job.

Motion by Commissioner Meli, seconded by Commissioner Avery, to authorize Acting City Manager Tillery to follow-up on Michigan Municipal League's background investigation if he feels it is deficient in any way. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Commissioner Simpson said he hoped that the Board would stay within the published salary range and suggested a discussion of providing a moving expense allowance.

Mayor Skotarczyk suggested that the Board authorize Acting City Manager to approach Brian Redshaw to see what he is looking for in the way of compensation, with follow-up negotiations made by the City Manager Search Sub-Committee.

St. Clair County Sheriff's Department Bid Request

Mayor Skotarczyk reported that he met with St. Clair County Sheriff Tim Donnellon and St. Clair County Commissioner Bill Gratopp to discuss police protection for Marine City. In a follow-up letter drafted to Mayor Raymond Skotarczyk, Sheriff Donnellon declined to quote the City of Marine City, due to maintaining a policy of not entering into negotiations with

municipalities with a functioning police force. In addition, the Sheriff said the cost savings to do so would be minimal.

NEW BUSINESS

Request for Titanic Memorial in Drake Park

Margaret Micoff, on behalf of the Great Lakes Titanic Connection, requested permission to place a Titanic Memorial Plaque in Drake Park.

A discussion ensued and the Board questioned what the memorial would look like and specifically where it would be placed. Mrs. Micoff said that the plans weren't yet finalized.

Motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to give contingent approval for a Titanic Memorial in Drake Park, upon Board approval of the final draft. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Request for Guardrail

A request for installation of a guardrail in the city-owned alley located behind 204 West Boulevard was received. Mr. Cain cited the safety of neighborhood children and destruction of his property, as reasons for the request.

Acting City Manager Tillery reported that the guardrail would stop through traffic, but would allow access to the alley.

Commissioner Hendrick said guardrails have been installed in the past and she didn't see a problem with the request.

City Attorney Downey suggested that the City Engineer be involved to make sure the guardrail is situated in the right place. In addition, Mr. Downey said that nearby property owners should be notified.

Mayor Skotarczyk made the recommendation that everyone within 300 feet be notified.

Commissioner Simpson said he checked out the site and said it appears there was a safety issue. Mr. Simpson suggested that the request be sent to the Zoning Board of Appeals to follow their process and have property owners notified.

Motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Hendrick, to send request to the Zoning Board of Appeals to consider and send notification to nearby property owners. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Fee Schedule Amendment ~ Department of Public Works

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

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

Disbursements

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to approve total disbursements, including payroll, in the amount of \$248,633.59, as presented. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Skotarczyk, Avery, Hendrick, Lovett, Meli, Simpson, Turner. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Budget Amendments

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to approve a Resolution to amend the Fiscal Year 7-1-14 to 6-30-15 Budget to adjust for changes in anticipated revenues and expenditures, as presented; Resolution #011-2015. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Fund Transfer Resolutions

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Hendrick, to approve a Resolution that approves the Fund Transfer from Water/Sewer Fund to Special Assessment Fund in the amount of \$1,650.00; Resolution #014-2015. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to approve a Resolution that approves the Fund Transfer from Cemetery Trust Fund to Cemetery Fund in the amount of \$16.00; Resolution #015-2015. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to approve a Resolution that approves the Fund Transfer from General Fund to Cemetery Fund in the amount of \$13,000.00; Resolution #016-2015. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to approve a Resolution that approves the Fund Transfer from General Fund to Major Street Fund in the amount of \$8,000.00; Resolution #017-2015. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Hendrick, to approve a Resolution that approves the Fund Transfer from General Fund to Local Street Fund in the amount of \$16,000.00; Resolution #018-2015. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Hendrick, to approve a Resolution that approves the Fund Transfer from General Fund to Local Street Fund in the amount of \$15,000.00; Resolution #019-2015. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Designation of Funds Resolutions

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to approve a Resolution that approves the designation of funds, restricting \$15,000.00 in the Local Street Fund for purchase of a dump truck in the 2015-2016 fiscal year; Resolution #012-2015. Ayes: Skotarczyk, Avery, Lovett, Meli, Simpson, Turner. Nays: Hendrick. Motion Carried.

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to approve a Resolution that approves the designation of funds, restricting \$15,000.00 in the Major Street Fund for purchase of a dump truck in the 2015-2016 fiscal year; Resolution #013-2015. Ayes: Skotarczyk, Avery, Lovett, Meli, Simpson, Turner. Nays: Hendrick. Motion Carried.

2015 Summer Tax Roll Addition Resolution

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to approve a Resolution authorizing the Special Assessment for Delinquent Accounts related to property clean-up invoices, water/sewer construction, and water/sewer accounts; Resolution #020-2015. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Preliminary Financial Statements

Motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to accept the Preliminary Financial Statements for May, 2015, and place them on file. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Acting City Manager Tillery provided updates on the following:

- Attended Planning Commission meeting.
- Conducted Building Inspector interviews; offering employment next week.
- Meeting with Dan Casey, St. Clair County EDA.
- Attended TIFA meeting.
- Sirens checked out by Sideline Electric; power is good. Problem lies with the radio system, which activates the sirens. Nick Oldenkamp from All Warning Systems, Inc. is working with Mike Itrich and Chief Slankster to resolve.
- Working on a solution for trucks on S. Water Street.
- Strategic Communications Solutions working to appeal the loss of low/moderate income rating to open up grants (CDBG).
- Investigation into patrol vehicle responding to crash of another Marine City Police Department patrol car. It was found that the officer did not violate departmental policy, nor state law.
- LED lighting project with Department of Public Works, Strategic Communications Solutions, Detroit Edison; potential savings of thousands of dollars.

COMMISSIONER PRIVILEGE

Commissioner Meli wished everyone a safe and Happy 4th of July.

Commissioner Lovett thanked Acting City Manager Tillery for his hard work as City Manager.

Commissioner Hendrick said there is a need to evaluate a more maintainable option for the second half of the Broadway streetscape.

Commissioner Avery reminded citizens and visitors that sidewalks must be left open to walkers and motorized chairs.

Commissioner Simpson suggested using “fix it” tickets to address the blight issue in town and said he would like to discuss the topic in the near future.

Mayor Skotarczyk responded to Commissioner Simpson’s suggestion and reported that Marine City is one of two communities in St. Clair County whose property values haven’t increased and questioned if blight played a big part in the lack of increase. Mayor

Skotarczyk advised that the Historical Society's Gingerbread Project was available for those who wished to spruce up their homes. He also asked that dog walkers bring bags with them and pick up after their dog.

Motion by Mayor Skotarczyk, seconded by Commissioner Lovett, to enter into Closed Session at 8:52 pm for the purpose of discussing Police Officer Association of Michigan (POAM) contract negotiations, confidential attorney/client communication on legal opinion, and, consideration of Closed Session Minutes of April 16, 2015. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Skotarczyk, Avery, Hendrick, Lovett, Meli, Simpson, Turner. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

CLOSED SESSION

The following was discussed in Closed Session:

- POAM Contract Negotiations
- Confidential Attorney/Client Communication on legal opinion
- Closed Session Minutes of April 16, 2015

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to return to Open Session at 9:28 pm. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

OPEN SESSION

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to authorize Acting City Manager Tillery to proceed with his recommendation for negotiation with POAM. Ayes: Skotarczyk, Avery, Lovett, Meli, Simpson, Turner. Nays: Hendrick. Motion Carried.

Motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to approve the Closed Session minutes of April 16, 2015, as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Hendrick, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to adjourn at 9:29 pm. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Baxter

Kristen Baxter
City Clerk

