

**City of Marine City
City Commission
February 4, 2016**

A regular meeting of the Marine City Commission was held on Thursday, February 4, 2016, 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, James Turner, City Manager Elaine Leven, City Clerk Kristen Baxter

Communications

The following Communication was received:

- Mr. Al Kodet ~ Community Blight

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to accept and file the Communications. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to bring back community blight at the February 18, 2016 meeting for discussion. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Public Comment

Louann Douglas, 108 N. Water Street, spoke on behalf of herself and her husband, Jim Douglas, about the proposed beach pavilion and restroom. Mrs. Douglas questioned the plans regarding the location and size of the structures as it is adjacent to their property.

William Haas, 203 Pleasant Street, asked what responsibility the city has to its homeowners regarding services. He also spoke about the upcoming city proposal for the PA33 Special Assessment and code enforcement issues.

Allen Reichle, 559 N. Belle River Avenue, said he was not in favor of the city proposal for the PA33 Special Assessment on the March 8, 2016 ballot. Mr. Reichle reported that Marine City currently had the 3rd highest tax rate in the county.

Janet Demist, 308 Ward Street, spoke in favor of contracting with the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department for police services. She said the city's police budget was out of sight. She also spoke of the need for road repairs.

Joseph Moran, 710 Pleasant, spoke in favor of the PA33 Special Assessment. Mr. Moran said that the city's budget was in deficit due to property values not supporting the growth of the city. With the current budget, he said the streets could not be fixed. Mr. Moran said passing the PA33 Special Assessment would show support for the safety of Marine City's citizens.

Robert Blanchard, 622 Alger Street, showed support for the Marine City Police Department and said he would be in favor of keeping our local police as long as they could keep their budget under the proposed number by the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department.

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 City Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of January 21, 2016, as presented. Ayes: Skotarczyk, Avery, Lovett, Meli, Simpson, Turner. Nays: Hendrick. Motion Carried.

Consent Agenda

The following Consent Agenda items were presented:

- Historical Commission Meeting ~ July 21, 2015
- Pension Board Meeting ~ October 27, 2015

- Pension-Retiree Health Care Board Meeting ~ October 27, 2015
- TIFA Board Meeting ~ November 17, 2015
- TIFA Special Meeting ~ December 7, 2015
- Business License ~ The Lazy Llama

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Ready to Serve Fee Amendment ~ Ordinance No. 2016-01 (Adoption)

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to approve the adoption of Ordinance No. 2016-01 ~ Amend Public Works Title V, Chapter 51 by adding “Exemption from Ready to Serve Fees”, as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

City Police Services

In a memo to the Board, City Manager Leven weighed out the option of keeping the Marine City Police Department, or contracting with the St. Clair County Sheriff’s Department for police services. Due to the lack of significant cost savings, and future costs with the Sheriff’s Department’s defined benefit contribution not being in line with what the city offers its employees, City Manager Leven said the city was best served by our local police department at this time.

Commissioner Avery thanked City Manager Leven for a well-written memo and said it was evident that she spent a lot of time researching the options. Mr. Avery said he was pleased to support the retention of the Marine City Police Department.

Commissioner Lovett commended Interim Police Chief Heaslip and the Marine City Police Department for the work they do. Mrs. Lovett said the service the city receives is far greater with a community police department.

Commissioner Simpson said he also supported retaining the Marine City Police Department and said he could not commend the staff of the department enough for the work they do. He said he appreciated how departmental members stepped up with recent staff changes and absorbed additional responsibilities. Mr. Simpson said it didn't pay to lose the control the city has with a local police department and complimented City Manager Leven for her due diligence in comparing the services between the Marine City Police Department and the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department.

Commissioner Meli inquired about hiring a new Chief of Police, possibly with a car allowance, and said it could potentially drive costs up in the police budget.

Commissioner Turner thanked City Manager Leven for putting all the information together comparing police services. He also thanked Marine City Police Department and said he appreciated the work that they do.

Commissioner Hendrick also said she appreciated the letter City Manager Leven compiled with all the facts and figures. She said she fully supported City Manager Leven's recommendation to stay with the Marine City Police Department, but said she was disappointed that the Board did not receive the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department quote sooner. Mrs. Hendrick requested that a comprehensive report be put together to show the public all the proper facts and figures. She said because they are tax payers, they needed to see the information. She also commended Interim Police Chief Heaslip for an excellent job in bringing the police budget back in line.

Mayor Skotarczyk informed the Board that there was a delay in bringing the bid to them due to conversations and agreements he made with the St. Clair County Sheriff. He said it took a little coaxing to get the requested bid. Mayor Skotarczyk said he was ready to endorse the services of the St. Clair County Sheriff's Department, but would back whatever decision the Board decided on. He said he was very happy with the Marine City Police Department and said there was great benefit in community policing.

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to continue to keep the Marine City Police Department. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Commissioner Hendrick, at this time, requested a Town Hall Meeting be scheduled to hear what the community wants.

Proposed Fence Ordinance

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Hendrick, to table the proposed fence ordinance discussion until a final copy could be introduced. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Board Appointment

Historical Commission

An application was received from the following resident:

- Margaret Micoff ~ 237 N. 2nd Street

Motion by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Lovett, to approve the appointment of Margaret Micoff to the Historical Commission for a term expiring December 31, 2018. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Resolution No. 002-2016 ~ 2016 Northeastern, Belle & Anchor Bay Watersheds

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to approve a resolution of support for the Northeastern Watersheds 2016 Budget, as presented; Resolution No. 02-2016. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Cottrellville Township Contract

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Avery, to accept the Sewer Rate Computation for Year Ended June 30, 2015, and Sewer Rate Computation Estimate for the Year Ended June 30, 2016, as compiled by McBride, Manley & Company P.C., and place it on file. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Engagement Letter ~ McBride-Manley & Company, PC

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to approve the Audit Engagement Letter with McBride-Manley & Company, PC for the fiscal years ending June 30, 2016, June 30, 2017, and June 30, 2018; not to exceed \$28,360 for each year. Roll Call Vote. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Resolution No. 003-2016 ~ MDOT Individual Permit for Use of State Highway Right of Way

Motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to approve Resolution No. 003-2016 ~ MDOT Individual Permit for Use of State Highway Right of Way. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

FINANCIAL BUSINESS

Disbursements

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to approve total disbursements, including payroll, in the amount of \$189,563.00, as presented. Roll Call Vote. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Leven provided updates on the following:

- Attended City Manager Conference.
- Conducting a professional contract review of the city's contracts.

COMMISSIONER PRIVILEGE

Commissioner Turner said the Board made the right decision on the unanimous decision to keep the Marine City Police Department. He said it was time to put the matter to rest.

Commissioner Lovett thanked the citizens that spoke at this evening's meeting and asked them to share their findings with the city's Code Enforcement Officer and Building Inspector. Mrs. Lovett also thanked the Planning Commission for the hours spent reviewing the old fence ordinance. She announced that the Safe Routes to School grant application was turned into the State of Michigan, which will provide many benefits to area walkers.

Commissioner Simpson appealed to community members to vote in the March 8, 2016 primary election and express what was important to them.

Mayor Skotarczyk spoke about the departure of former Chief of Police, Donald Tillery. The Mayor reported that Mr. Tillery was not wrongfully terminated, but left for another position with the City of Milan, contrary to what was said by a resident during the Public Comment portion of the meeting. Mayor Skotarczyk agreed that the city needed to step up

their enforcement of blight within the city and asked that the Sidewalk Program be placed on the February 18, 2016 agenda.

Adjournment

Motion by Commissioner Hendrick, seconded by Commissioner Meli, to adjourn at 8:50 pm. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Baxter

Kristen Baxter
City Clerk