

**City of Marine City
Tax Increment Finance Authority
March 15, 2016**

A regular meeting of T.I.F.A. was held in the Fire Hall, 200 South Parker Street, Marine City, Michigan, on Tuesday, March 15, 2016, and was called to order at 4:00 PM by Vice Chairperson Tisdale.

After observing a moment of silence, the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice Chairperson Tisdale.

Present: Vice Chairperson Tisdale; Board Members Babchek, Bryson, Lepley, Seigneurie, Weisenbaugh; City Manager Leven; Deputy Clerk McDonald

Absent: Chairperson May

Approve Agenda

The following item was added to the Agenda:

New Business

Item #9-C Discussion ~ Strategic Communication Solutions

Motion by Board Member Seigneurie, seconded by Vice Chairperson Tisdale, to approve the Agenda, as amended. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Approve Minutes

Motion by Board Member Seigneurie, seconded by Board Member Babchek, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Tax Increment Finance Authority Meeting held February 16, 2016, as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Communications

The following Communication was received:

- Discover the Blue Campaign

The Board decided to accept and file the Communication.

Public Comment

Mike Hilferink, 218 Pleasant, addressed the Board with regard to the Strategic Communication Solutions (SCS) contract and questioned how much grant money had gone towards the 300 Broadway project.

Unfinished Business

2016 - 2017 Budget

Board Member Seigneurie briefly reviewed the budget changes with the Board, detailing Capital Outlay and specific projects that were budgeted to occur within each T.I.F.A District.

Motion by Vice Chairperson Tisdale, seconded by Board Member Weisenbaugh, to approve the 2016 - 2017 Budget as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

New Business

Maritime Days ~ Request for Financial Support

Melisa Blanchard, President of Marine City Festival Inc., addressed the Board with regard to financial support for Maritime Days 2016. She thanked the Board for their support in the past and went on to give a brief summary of last year's festival as well as intended events for this year. She explained that the festival liked to promote local businesses and vendors, to positively impact the local economy. The total amount being requested was in the amount of \$4,455.95.

The Board began the discussion by inquiring if the festival had made a profit last year and whether or not the money the Board had given them in the past had helped make the festival sustainable. The estimated City department costs were also discussed, and it was suggested that the festival committee speak with the departments to try and reduce the estimated costs.

The Board decided to table the item until the April 19, 2016 meeting and requested that the Marine City Festival, Inc. present the Board with a lower financial support request amount at that time.

Marine City Lions Club ~ Request for Financial Support

Mark Ketcham, Marine City Lion's Club Secretary, approached the Board to request financial assistance with several projects. He noted that the only source of income for the organization was through fundraisers.

A conversation about the details of the proposed projects and the possible costs took place. It was decided that the item would be tabled until the April 19, 2016 meeting, and was requested that the Lion's Club provide costs of each project at that time.

Discussion ~ Strategic Communication Solutions

Board Member Seigneurie began the discussion by stating that he felt the annual cost exceeded what benefits the City had received from the company lately. Mr. Seigneurie said SCS did a great job at the beginning of the contract, but has not been giving the City much return on the investment in recent years.

City Manager Leven noted that Mike Hilfinger of SCS had been working with Tom and Kathy Vertin on the hotel project, as well as Safe Routes to Schools. She updated the Board that the hotel project would be on a future agenda for MEDC approval. She also noted that SCS had gone above their normal scope of services to provide support on some of the City's projects.

It was then discussed that SCS's presence at the Board meetings had been minimal and that requested information, such as, a list of all grants applied for; contacts; and yearly grant application submittal dates, had not been provided to the Board.

Motion by Board Member Lepley, seconded by Board Member Seigneurie, to seek competitive bidding for a grant writer at the end of the current Strategic Communication Solutions contract. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Financial Business

Invoice Approval

Motion by Board Member Babchek, seconded by Board Member Weisenbaugh, to approve Strategic Communication Solutions Invoice #10020 in the amount of \$5,000.00. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Motion by Board Member Seigneurie, seconded by Board Member Bryson, to approve Marine City Chamber of Commerce Invoice #1746 in the amount of \$500.00. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Motion by Board Member Seigneurie, seconded by Vice Chairperson Tisdale, to approve US Bank Invoice #269698 in the amount of \$2,425.00. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Preliminary Financial Statements

Motion by Board Member Lepley, seconded by Board Member Weisenbaugh, to accept the Preliminary Financial Statements for January 2016, as presented, and place them on file. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Adjournment

Motion by Vice Chairperson Tisdale, seconded by Board Member Babchek, to adjourn at 5:28 pm. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth McDonald

Elizabeth McDonald
Deputy Clerk

Kristen Baxter

Kristen Baxter
City Clerk