

**City of Marine City**  
**Tax Increment Finance Authority**  
**April 19, 2016**

A regular meeting of T.I.F.A. was held in the Fire Hall, 200 South Parker Street, Marine City, Michigan, on Tuesday, April 19, 2016, and was called to order at 4:00 PM by Chairperson May.

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

**Present: Chairperson May; Board Members Babchek, Seigneurie, Tisdale, Weisenbaugh; City Manager Leven; Deputy Clerk McDonald**

**Absent: Board Members Bryson and Lepley**

**Approve Agenda**

Motion by Board Member Tisdale, seconded by Board Member Seigneurie, to approve the Agenda, as presented. 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 March 15, 2016, as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

**Communications**

None.

**Public Comment**

Barb Basney, 6019 Indian Trail, addressed the Board with regard to Strategic Communication Solutions' involvement in Safe Routes To School. She was dissatisfied with

the knowledge the representative had on the topic and was not in favor for renewing the contract with SCS.

Mike Hilferink, 218 Pleasant, stated that he was dissatisfied with SCS and the amount of money being paid to the company. He then read comments from Facebook with regard to the opposition of SCS.

Kathy Vertin, 358 S. Water, stated that there were several positive Facebook comments that were being looked over and that the TIFA Board was created to encourage economic development.

Joe Moran, 710 Pleasant, discussed the importance of transparency with the Boards and the public and how that would help address the concerns residents have with the City spending and suggested utilizing the Marine City website to distribute information. He briefly discussed the hotel project and the positive impact it will have on economic development in the City.

## **Unfinished Business**

### ***Maritime Days***

Melisa Blanchard, President of Marine City Festival Inc., approached the Board and asked for financial support for the Maritime Days Festival. She stated that she had talked with the Interim Police Chief and he had reduced the Police Department cost estimate therefore, the revised request for support from the Board for Maritime Days was \$3,488.20. Lastly, she discussed that the growth in the festival, along with less financial burden on local businesses and increase in festival expenses, was the reason for an increase in the financial support request.

The Board briefly discussed their budget and what would be needed for this and other City events.

Motion by Board Member Seigneurie, seconded by Board Member Tisdale, to award the Maritime Days Festival \$3,000.00. Ayes: Babchek, Seigneurie, Tisdale, Weisenbaugh. Nays: May. Motion Carried.

### ***Strategic Communication Solutions ~ Update***

Robert Law of Strategic Communication Solutions (SCS), addressed the Board and outlined what SCS had put into grants and projects for the City, as well as provided the Board with a quarterly report, fund source and project list, and scope of work description for SCS. He

explained the process of acquiring grant monies and how much time and work went into these City projects. Mr. Law stated that private investors had provided funding for some of their projects, and that SCS had done its best to promote economic growth within Marine City and pointed out that the City had received a 948.56% return on investment since they had been hired. Lastly, he referred the Board to their quarterly reports, which provide greater detail about what SCS had done and specifics regarding each project.

Gary Roberts, of SCS, addressed concerns with regard to securing grant money for the 300 Broadway project. He stated that there were not many grants out there for the building, but said they could pursue the idea of capturing grant monies from the cultural/arts sector.

The Board discussed how they would like to see more information on each project, as well as what grants were applied for, contacts for the projects, and time put into them. City Manager Leven briefly discussed the status of Safe Routes To School and what SCS had contributed to the project.

## **New Business**

### ***Discussion on development plans for TIFA #2 & TIFA #3***

Preliminary plans were discussed by the Board regarding development plans for TIFA #2 and TIFA #3. Board Member Weisenbaugh stated that he would like the Board to focus on the following:

- More accessible information on the process and guidelines for business grants.
- Focus the development on the exterior of the buildings.

The Board briefly talked about what improvements could be made in TIFA #2 & TIFA #3. It was then decided to table the agenda item until the May 17, 2016 meeting.

### ***300 Broadway ~ Update by Rebecca Lepley***

Mrs. Lepley provided the Board with several documents that pertained to 300 Broadway and Friends of City Hall. She proceeded by stating that Friends of City Hall had worked to restore the historic building and created a project list based on donation funds from the public. She noted that the public was welcome to attend meetings, take part in City Hall tours, and sponsor a restoration project. It was reported that Friends of City Hall's financial report for March 2016 showed a Checking Account Balance (operational fund) of \$7,007.60 and a Building Fund Balance of \$18,458.35. Mrs. Lepley proposed the idea of having Michael Kirk, former employee of Neumann/Smith, who did the original building plan,

return to discuss the interior restoration of the building. Lastly, she expressed that the restored building would last longer than building with new construction.

***Competitive Bidding for Grant Writing Consultant(s)***

City Manager Leven reminded the Board that at the previous meeting they had discussed the possibility of seeking competitive bidding for grant writing consultant(s) and, therefore, she had put together a template request for proposals based on Strategic Communication Solutions' contract. She stated that the Board could either decide to bid out for the services or extend the SCS contract month by month if they were willing.

Motion by Board Member Babchek, seconded by Board Member Seigneurie, to extend the contract with Strategic Communication Solutions for 60 days, with an ending contract date of July 30, 2016. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

***Request for financial assistance ~ Marine City Beach FUN Raiser***

Erika DeLange and Laura Scaccia, of the Marine City Area Chamber of Commerce, approached the Board requesting financial support for advertising costs for the Marine City Beach FUN Raiser. Erika noted that \$5,000.00 had already been raised for beach improvements, and that all money collected would go directly to the beach. Projects that were proposed included beach attendant(s), bathroom restorations, and new sand.

Motion by Board Member Tisdale, seconded by Board Member Babchek, to award the Marine City Area Chamber of Commerce with \$2,000.00 for the Marine City Beach FUN Raiser for advertising to be split between TIFA #1, TIFA #2, & TIFA #3. Ayes: Babchek, Seigneurie, Tisdale, Weisenbaugh. Nays: May. Motion Carried.

**Financial Business**

***Invoice Approval***

Motion by Board Member Weisenbaugh, seconded by Board Member Seigneurie, to approve Strategic Communication Solutions Invoice #10027 in the amount of \$5,000.00. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

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

### **Adjournment**

Motion by Board Member Babchek, seconded by Board Member Seigneurie, to adjourn at 6:00 pm. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

*Elizabeth McDonald*

Elizabeth McDonald  
Deputy Clerk

*Kristen Baxter*

Kristen Baxter  
City Clerk