

**City of Marine City
City Commission
April 21, 2016**

A regular meeting of the Marine City Commission was held on Thursday, April 21, 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 Doroh, 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 Leven, City Clerk Kristen Baxter

Absent: None

Communications

The following Communications were received:

- St. Clair County Board of Commissioners
- Pending City Commission Agenda Items

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

Public Comment

William Haas, 203 Pleasant, said the city needed to bring in additional revenue from parking tickets, beach parking, and rental properties.

Melissa Fisher, 240 South Water Street, said the city should choose a new Building Inspector who was considerate of the needs of the businesses, and have a desire for the job.

Gary Kohs, 430 South Water Street, spoke about parking in downtown Marine City and said there were plenty of spots available – the city just needed signs directing people to the spots.

Joseph Moran, 710 Pleasant, spoke about the critical role that trees played in highly-walkable cities. Mr. Moran reported that, in addition to their beauty, trees provided shade and slowed traffic. He said the city needed to keep and cultivate trees on South Water Street.

Tim Kozchek, Ontario, Canada, said he was thankful to Marine City for turning it around into a city with a lot to do. He reported that he had never experienced a problem with parking.

Keith Jenken, 809 South Water Street, said he recently attended an event hosted by the Chamber of Commerce and said everyone there was pleased with the performance of the Mayor and City Commission. They also said it was their hope that the division of politics, within the city, would calm down one day.

Rosalie Skwiers, 211 Michigan, reported the death of Martin Smith who she said was a good citizen who cared about the community. She also said the city needed to be wiser with their spending on trees, flowers, and pavers in the downtown area.

Joan Derue, 256 South Water Street, reported that the removal of trees on South Water Street, also removed the perennial plants that were planted to beautify the city. She said that, in the future, open lines of communication were needed when improvements were made in the city.

Mayor Skotarczyk, read a letter from the Marine City Garden Club, in support of replanting trees on South Water Street.

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 Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Lovett, to approve the City Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of April 7, 2016, as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Consent Agenda

The following Consent Agenda items were presented:

- Departmental Activity Reports
- MCAFA Run Report & Agenda Packet
- Election Commission ~ February 4, 2016
- Zoning Board of Appeals ~ March 2, 2016
- Planning Commission ~ March 14, 2016
- Special Event ~ Bayside Flea Market
- Special Event ~ Spring Flea Market

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Water Street Trees

Mayor Skotarczyk started the conversation and reported that he had received comments from several business owners regarding replacing the trees on South Water Street and said they were all favorable. He also conducted an informal survey on Facebook and received a 3 to 1 response in favor of replacing the trees. He said, because of the response, he strongly recommended putting trees back in.

Commissioner Simpson also said the people he spoke to were supportive of having trees put back on South Water Street. He implored the Board to have a good selection process to eliminate future problems.

Commissioner Hendrick said she thoroughly researched the topic and found all ornamental pears cross pollinate and cause problems. So much so that, in numerous states, they have been banned as an invasive species. She reported that the City of Chicago had created a list of allowable trees within the city. She recommended creating a committee and using the list for reference, in addition to talking to an arborist to develop a better plan.

DPW Superintendent Itrich spoke about the option of spreading the trees out, as well as placing them between parking spots, not in the middle, as was done in the past.

Commissioner Lovett suggested DPW Superintendent Itrich work with the Marine City Garden Club to find an alternative tree to suit the city's needs. She said that trees also needed to be considered for Broadway and South Parker Streets to beautify the whole city.

Commissioner Avery inquired what impact the root system would have if taller trees were utilized, as suggested earlier in the conversation.

Commissioner Simpson recommended additional tree research be completed by City Manager Leven and DPW Superintendent Itrich, and suggested a review of the city's ordinance on trees be made available to the Board prior to them making a decision.

Motion by Commissioner Avery, seconded by Mayor Skotarczyk, to offer support from the Commission in favor of replanting trees on South Water Street, based on the recommendation of tree species from City Manager Leven and DPW Superintendent Itrich. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Beach Attendant Fun Raiser

Local business owner, Gary Kohs, spoke about the Beach Fun Raiser being underway, which was co-sponsored by the Marine City Chamber of Commerce. The goal of the Beach Fun Raiser was to raise funds for beach attendants, beach sand replacement, and restroom renovations. He reported that plumbing and electrical updates were being donated by area contractors.

Mr. Kohs informed the Board that he had researched the concept of matching funds versus traditional grants and discovered Patronicity, which is a civic crowdfunding company that provides matching funds to projects that qualify. Patronicity confirmed that the Beach Attendant Fun Raiser would qualify for matching funds, however to do so, the city must create a separate account for the funds.

Commissioner Hendrick asked if someone could start their own fundraising and put the money into the beach fund account. She also questioned the advertising costs that were provided to the TIFA Board.

Mayor Skotarczyk said Patronicity presented a viable solution if someone official from the city would serve as an administrator.

City Manager Leven suggested having City Attorney Downey draft a resolution affirming what the money was going to be used for and bring it back to the Board for approval.

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to instruct City Manager Leven to act as administrator for Patronicity funds. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Teen Center Discussion

Kyle Pond, Trevor Fields, Isaac Jozefiak, Justin Brack, and Chris Lawery, student representatives from Riverview East High School, informed the Board that Living Faith Lutheran Church was a possible location for their proposed River Rec Teen Zone (RRTZ). The space at the church would provide room for basketball, pool, air hockey, videos, movies, and many other activities for area teens. The teens said they were hoping to launch RRTZ in July, 2016.

In order to proceed with the River Rec Teen Zone, the student representatives advised that a special ear-marked account would need to be set up with the city for money raised for the River Rec Teen Zone.

Commissioner Simpson complimented the fund raising efforts by the students and said it is a good example of project-based learning.

Commissioner Turner applauded the students for their efforts and said that, several years ago, he attempted to also create a teen center. Their effort was “adult-driven” and not “teen-driven”, which may have resulted in more support. He offered a pool table and vending machine for RRTZ when they are up and running.

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to set aside an ear-marked account to accept River Rec Teen Zone funds. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Mayor Skotarczyk asked City Manager Leven to have City Attorney Downey draft a resolution, for approval by the Board, outlining what the money is going to be used for, who can access the money, and what to do with the money if the account is inactive for a period of time.

Medical Marijuana Dispensary Moratorium

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to approve the adoption of Resolution No. 013-2016, Medical Marijuana Dispensary Moratorium, as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Set Public Hearing Date for 2016/2017 Budget

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to set a Public Hearing for Thursday, May 19, 2016 at 7:00 pm in the fire hall for the purpose of approving the proposed 2016/2017 Budget. 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 \$233,343.16, as presented. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Skotarczyk, Avery, Hendrick, Lovett, Meli, Simpson, Turner. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Preliminary Financial Statements

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to approve the Preliminary Financial Statements, as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Leven provided updates on the following:

- Attended Planning Commission, TIFA, Historical Commission, and Marine City Area Fire Authority meetings.
- Had a conference on Transportation Asset Management.
- City offices very tied up with 2016-2017 budget workshops.
- Met with representative from Boy Scouts' Explorer Program.
- Met with owner of Tag-A-Long Park – starting to move forward with improvements.
- Attorney working on language for Pedestrian Crossing.

- Working with the county on a parking map.
- Reached out to SEMCOG to look at parking and transportation issues in the city.

COMMISSIONER PRIVILEGE

Commissioner Meli commended Gary Kohs and said he was 100% grateful for him and said he was all for making small communities work. He also said he was strongly in favor of having lifeguards back at the beach, and trees replanted on South Water Street.

Commissioner Turner thanked Gary Kohs and said St. Clair's loss was Marine City's gain. Mr. Turner said he was impressed with the young men initiating the teen center and would like to help out with a project that is near and dear to his heart.

Commissioner Lovett commented that tonight's meeting was the most positive meeting she's attended as a Commissioner. She thanked the audience for coming out and being positive about the community. Mrs. Lovett asked for others to step up and vote to be heard and said that we can't let a small minority lead the city.

Commissioner Hendrick said that she was not against the beach, but that she was obligated to ask questions because she had people to represent and said that everyone deserves a voice. She asked why a difference of opinion was interpreted as something negative.

Commissioner Avery said a small minority of people who voted in March made the decision on how we were going to run the city for the next year. He encouraged people to come to the budget workshops scheduled for April 26-27-28, 2016 at 6:00 pm.

Commissioner Simpson spoke about parking and zoning and reminded people that there was a specific zoning designation downtown. The designation states the city cannot attach parking mandates to new businesses and said signage should help the situation.

Mayor Skotarczyk thanked Gary Kohs for a wonderful job with the presentations he made this evening. He said it wasn't about making money; Gary Kohs was doing it out of love for Marine City. Mayor Skotarczyk said it was wonderful to see so many people at the meeting, and said he was happy with the development of the town and the great business owners.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Hendrick, seconded by Commissioner Meli, to adjourn at 9:20 pm.
All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Baxter

Kristen Baxter
City Clerk