

**City of Marine City
City Commission
May 19, 2016**

A regular meeting of the Marine City Commission was held on Thursday, May 19, 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 Commissioner Lovett, 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

Absent: None

Communications

The following Communication was received:

- Pending City Commission Agenda Items

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

Public Comment

Laura Scaccia, 430 S. Water Street, on behalf of the Marine City Chamber of Commerce, announced an update on the Marine City Beach Fun Raiser and said \$30,000 had been committed thus far. A video promoting the event, in conjunction with Patronicity, was played for the audience.

Kathy Vertin, 160 S. Water Street, spoke about a conversation on social media involving a City Commissioner and asked for an explanation on how the hotel project was costing the citizens of Marine City money.

Rosalie Skwiers, 211 Michigan, announced that the city gave out its largest tax abatement to the hotel project. She said she didn't think that everyone who put money into a business in Marine City should get a pat on the back.

Bill Haas, 203 Pleasant Street, suggested a surcharge tax be put on theatre-goers to gain additional revenue. He said the city is giving away the waterfront for free.

Ray Skwiers, 211 Michigan, said the rich river boys were at it again with tax abatements. He said he didn't believe in handouts or corporate welfare. Mr. Skwiers said it was time to move in a new direction in town and focus on citizens who live there.

Grace Halpin, 5448 Belle River Road, East China, said she supported the theatres, hotel project, and other local businesses. She said people needed to stop being negative about other people doing good things and prospering.

Louise Beutell, 535 N. Main, said there are wonderful things going on downtown. She said the city should not stop thinking about the neighborhoods.

Dan Micoff, 237 N. 2nd, said that people who were complaining about new businesses and the hotel project, didn't understand the economics that go into place to build a community.

Gary Kohs, 430 S. Water Street, announced that the fundraising for the beach had raised over \$30,000. Mr. Kohs said he was disappointed with the number because he had two companies lined up to contribute, but asked them to hold off due to the mess that several people were creating on social media.

Malcolm Holcombe, 545 N. Main, was opposed to the negative people not supporting new business said if no one invested in the city, then the city wouldn't lose a dime in a tax abatement.

Approve Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to move item #11-E to #11-A and approve the Agenda, as amended. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Approve Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to approve the City Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of May 5, 2016, as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Consent Agenda

The following Consent Agenda items were presented:

- Pension Board Minutes ~ January 26, 2016
- Pension-Retiree Minutes ~ January 26, 2016
- Planning Commission Minutes ~ April 11, 2016
- Special Event ~ Farmer's Market
- Special Event ~ Fall Flea Market
- Departmental Activity Reports
- MCAFA Run Report

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

PUBLIC HEARING

Proposed 2016/2017 Budget

Mayor Skotarczyk opened the Public Hearing to receive public comments for and against the proposed 2016/2017 Budget at 7:44 pm.

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to open the Public Hearing. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Skotarczyk, Avery, Hendrick, Lovett, Meli, Simpson, Turner. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Rosalie Skwiers, 211 Michigan, said she didn't see the city struggle to balance the budget deficit of \$17,000 during the Budget Workshops. She further commented that the city should dissolve TIFA and add the money to the general fund.

Mayor Skotarczyk closed the Public Hearing at 7:47 pm.

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to go back into open session. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Riverview East Art Project for Safe Routes to School

Riverview East High School Teacher, Jason Stier, and student, Jonathan Gotler, asked for permission for the students of Riverview East to apply painted stencils to city sidewalks near other schools. Mr. Stier and Gotler said they hoped to inspire students to continue their education.

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to allow Riverview East High School to put signage on sidewalks along Ward Street and the bike path. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

2016/2017 Fiscal Year Budget

Mayor Skotarczyk began the discussion by stating that the 2016/2017 Budget was unsustainable, with very little money for capital improvement, and did not plan for the future. He suggested cancelling the contract with Channel 6 and eliminating the Recreation Department, which would cut the budget approximately \$50,000 a year.

Motion by Mayor Skotarczyk, seconded by Commissioner Avery, to modify the 2016/2017 Fiscal Year Budget by cancelling the contract with Channel 6, and to eliminate the Recreation Department.

Commissioner Hendrick said she was opposed to cutting Channel 6 without representation from Channel 6 at the meeting to discuss cuts. She said it wasn't fair to bring it up at the last minute.

Commissioner Meli said he was strongly opposed to the cuts and said Channel 6 was a vital tool for advertising within the community.

Commissioner Simpson said he also was not in favor of either of the cuts and said it wasn't fair to bring the idea of the cuts to the Board at the last minute, without a discussion. He said Channel 6 should have an opportunity to rebid their contract, and the Recreation Department should have an opportunity to reorganize in an effort to cut costs.

Commissioner Lovett said she would like the discussion tabled to allow for more discussion on the topic.

Commissioner Hendrick suggested dissolving TIFA 2 & TIFA 3 and moving the funds to the general fund.

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Hendrick, to table the discussion. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to approve a Resolution to adopt Fiscal Year 2016/2017 Budget/Appropriations Act, as presented; Resolution No. 019-2016. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Avery, Hendrick, Lovett, Meli, Simpson, Turner. Nays: Skotarczyk. Motion Carried.

Fee Schedule Updates

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to approve Fee Schedule Updates, effective July 1, 2016, as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Anchor at Lighthouse Park

A 10,000 pound Baldt Anchor, with ties to a local Great Lakes ship captain, was offered as a gift to the city from business owner, Gary Kohs. Mr. Kohs described the anchor as very historical because the Baldt Anchor Company had built every anchor for the U.S. Navy since the early 1900's.

Motion by Commissioner Turner, seconded by Commissioner Hendrick, to accept the generous offer of the anchor. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Commissioner Avery thanked Mr. Kohs for the donation and for working on our city so positively.

Historical Commission Board Member Absences

City Clerk Baxter, acting on behalf of the Historical Commission, informed the City Commission that Board Member Jennifer Urick was appointed to the Historical Commission on January 15, 2015. To date, Mrs. Urick had not attended a meeting. City Clerk Baxter provided Section 5.3 of the Charter that states that the seat shall be declared vacant by the Commission if four consecutive meetings were missed, unless excused by the Board.

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Hendrick, to declare the seat on the Historical Commission *vacant*. 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 \$174,390.69, as presented. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Skotarczyk, Avery, Hendrick, Lovett, Meli, Simpson, Turner. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Preliminary Financial Statements

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

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Leven provided updates on the following:

- Received two grants from St. Clair County Community Foundation -- \$5,000 for improvements to the beach and \$2,000 for the Farmer's Market.
- Patronicity site will go live on Friday, May 20, 2016.
- A new message on the city's website will give viewers a point of contact to our IT Department in the event they are blocked from accessing the website.
- Suggested that residents, who were seeking information on city-related topics, get their information from reliable sources such as the city offices or City Commission.

COMMISSIONER PRIVILEGE

Commissioner Simpson conveyed his condolences to the family of Tom McKenzie, who recently passed away. He also suggested an educational presentation on TIFA be considered.

Commissioner Hendrick also sent her condolences to Elaine McKenzie and said that Tom will be missed. She wished everyone a safe Memorial Day.

Commissioner Lovett agreed with Commissioner Simpson's suggestion of having an educational presentation on TIFA and said it would be helpful to find out the value it has and the loss the city would incur if it was dissolved.

Commissioner Meli clarified his comments on social media and sent his condolences to Elaine McKenzie and family.

Mayor Skotarczyk said that the city needed to come to a conclusion on Water Street trees, and get the Sidewalk Inspection Program going again.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Meli, to adjourn at 8:43 pm. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Baxter

Kristen Baxter
City Clerk