

**City of Marine City
City Commission
June 2, 2016**

A regular meeting of the Marine City Commission was held on Thursday, June 2, 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 were received:

- Proclamation ~ Edward Terhune
- Pending City Commission Agenda Items
- Master Plan Letter
- Certificate of Membership ~ MML
- Michelle Dietlin

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

Public Comment

Mike Hilferink, 218 Pleasant, commented that with blight issues and bad roads, it was time for new direction and leadership for the city.

Louise Beutell, 535 N. Main, announced an update to the Beach Fun Raiser and said that a total of \$32,000 had been raised (including matching funds).

Bill Haas, 203 Pleasant, spoke about rental properties and landlords, sidewalks, and a tax for waterfront maintenance. He volunteered his time in an effort to bring about rental reform for the city.

Terence Dawe, 617 Carroll Street, announced that he was running for the position of Mayor of Marine City. He said it was time for Marine City to go in a new direction.

Gary Kohs, 430 S. Water Street, said it was his goal to make Marine City the number one community in the State of Michigan within two years. He spoke about an alternative of televising City Commission meetings and asked to present it at the June 16, 2016 meeting.

Approve Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to add Life Ring Station Communication to the Agenda as item #10-J. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to approve the Agenda, as amended. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Approve Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to approve the City Commission Budget Workshop Minutes of April 26, 2016, the City Commission Budget Workshop Minutes of April 27, 2016, and the City Commission Regular Meeting Minutes of May 19, 2016, as presented. Ayes: Skotarczyk, Avery, Lovett, Meli, Simpson, Turner. Nays: Hendrick. Motion Carried.

Consent Agenda

The following Consent Agenda items were presented:

- TIFA Minutes ~ April 19, 2016
- Business License ~ Captain Dave's Beach Cafe
- Business License ~ Triple Star Trottin Trolley

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Maritime Days Site Plan

Commissioner Simpson spoke on behalf of the Maritime Days Committee and announced that an outdoor movie was being added to schedule on firework night.

A discussion then ensued regarding concern by business owners on the placement of vendors in the street. Mr. Simpson replied that the committee had worked up a plan where vendors in the street were being spaced out so as to not block businesses, to their best ability, due to the limitations of power and water sources.

Commissioner Lovett pointed out that an expense and profit report had been requested, but had not been provided, by the Maritime Days Committee. She said, as a non-profit organization, there should be accountability. She also expressed concern over the protection of runners in the 5 K River Run.

Commissioner Turner suggested that the event schedule be communicated with the downtown businesses, especially those affected by the closing of the streets.

Motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Hendrick, to approve the Maritime Days Site Plan, as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Maritime Days Fireworks

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to approve the fireworks permit for Maritime Days. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Water Street Trees

In a letter to the City Commission, DPW Superintendent Itrich informed them that additional research had been completed on what tree would work for the downtown area and, again, the Cleveland Pear was chosen as the best tree by local experts, as well as other municipalities within Michigan.

Commissioner Hendrick said there were numerous choices for trees and, due to the ban of the Cleveland Pear in many states, said it was irresponsible for the city to plant them.

Commissioner Simpson said he was in support of planting the Cleveland Pear and said a lot of time had been put into the decision making. He said, with proper management and follow through for the trees, it was the right decision.

City Manager Leven complimented DPW Superintendent Itrich and Elizabeth McDonald on putting together a very concise report on researching, planting, and spacing the trees.

Commissioner Turner suggested leaving the trees out, saying that they were nothing but trouble.

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to approve of the plan to replant Cleveland Pear trees in the downtown area, as presented. Ayes: Skotarczyk, Avery, Lovett, Simpson. Nays: Hendrick, Meli, Turner. Motion Carried.

Commissioner Hendrick qualified her vote by reading a statement. The statement is attached to the meeting minutes.

Sidewalk Inspection Program

Commissioner Avery informed the Board that several minor modifications were made on the existing Sidewalk Inspection Program and a calendar had been set for the program.

City Manager Leven said there was a concern that the program would place a financial burden on some residents.

Mayor Skotarczyk commented that it sounded like a fair program – 30 years overdue.

Commissioner Hendrick asked for clarification for section 9, page 3 which addresses who is responsible for corner areas.

Commissioner Meli inquired if homeowners, who were making payments on the new sidewalks, could have the 6% interest fee waived.

Commissioner Avery inquired about areas within the city that were missing sections of sidewalks, or sidewalks altogether.

The modifications were as follows:

- Clarify Page 3, Section 9 (ADA ramps)

- Remove reference of Tetra Tech

Motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Lovett, to approve the Sidewalk Inspection Program, with several modifications, as stated above. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Waive Permit Fees on DPW Roof and Library Air Conditioner

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Avery, to waive the permit fees for the DPW roof and Library air conditioner. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Library Gazebo

Lois Kaufman, Branch Leader for the Marine City Library, asked permission for a gazebo to be built on the library property. Mrs. Kaufman reported that the concrete and the labor had been donated, and the rest of the funds would come from a memorial fund for Robert Foster. She said that no city funds would be requested. According to Mrs. Kaufman, the gazebo would be used for special programs and would provide wireless internet service to residents 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, thus encouraging people to use the library more.

Mrs. Kaufman also announced her retirement on July 30th after 30 years on the job.

Motion by Commissioner Avery, seconded by Commissioner Meli, to allow the Marine City Library gazebo to be built. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Emergency Water Agreement

Motion by Commissioner Lovett, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to approve the Emergency Water Agreement with East China Township, as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

City Commissioner and Mayoral Debate

Local businessman, Gary Kohs, announced the City Commissioner and Mayoral Debate, set for September 22, 2016 at the Washington Life Center. Mr. Kohs said the purpose of the debate was to inform people about who they were voting for.

Mr. Kohs also spoke about the voter registration drive he was coordinating with St. Clair County RESA students, Marine City High School Students, Riverview East High School students, and City Clerk Baxter. He said the goal was to bring voter awareness and put Marine City on the map.

Mayor Skotarczyk and Commissioner Simpson said they thought the debate was a great idea and would be happy to attend. Commissioner Meli said he would not attend the debate, and Commissioner Hendrick said the date may be a conflict.

Commissioner Avery thanked Mr. Kohs for his efforts in facilitating a larger election turnout, which would, in turn, help the Commission better serve the city.

Board Vacancies

Mayor Skotarczyk announced the following Board vacancies, effective June 30, 2016:

- Planning Commission > 3 Seats
- Tax Increment Financing Authority > 1 Seat
- Marine City Area Fire Authority > 1 City Commissioner Representative Seat
- Marine City Area Fire Authority > 1 Seat
- Library Board > 1 Seat
- Historical Commission > 1 Seat
- Zoning Board of Appeals > 2 Alternate Seats

Tetra Tech Contract

Ken Kingsley, Regional Office Manager for Tetra Tech, provided a contract for Water and Wastewater Operation and Maintenance Services for the city. Mr. Kingsley said the contract contained a 2.3% increase, due to a change in the employment index. He explained that the original contract was for 5 years and was renewed for an additional 5 years beginning July 1, 2014. Tetra Tech was able to hold the original price for 7 years and the increase would affect years 3-5.

Mr. Kingsley offered a solution to reduce the increase to 1.9%-2% by passing the responsibility of invoice payments to the city which would, in turn, reduce Tetra Tech's accounting fees.

Commissioner Avery commented that he was impressed that Tetra Tech had been able to operate for years without an increase. He said it showed good management.

City Manager Leven agreed that the city could take over the payment of invoices to reduce the proposed increase.

Mayor Skotarczyk asked that Tetra Tech bring back a revised contract at the June 16, 2016 meeting for consideration.

IT Contract

City Manager Leven reported that SYO Computer Engineering Services had presented a letter containing a reduction in costs for the city's Information and Technology Services, per her request. The letter explained that the 10% reduction of fees would equate to a savings of more than \$10,000 for the city, and would extend the contract for one year. City Manager Leven asked the Board, at this time, if they wanted to accept the reduced bid for an extended term, or bid it out.

Commissioner Turner said, due to the city's current budget, every service should be bid out.

Commissioner Simpson agreed and said it was the responsible thing to do.

Mayor Skotarczyk said the city should go out for other bids and asked City Manager Leven to bring them back to the Board for review.

Attorney RFP

City Manager Leven prepared an RFP for legal services for consideration by the Board.

Motion by Commissioner Avery, seconded by Commissioner Lovett, to proceed with the request for quotes for legal services. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Commissioner Turner commented that this was not a reflection of our current City Attorney, but a request for cost purposes only.

Introduction of Ordinance No. 2016-03 (Pedestrian Rights of Ways)

Motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to approve the introduction of Ordinance No. 2016-03, as presented. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Meeting Cancellation for July 7, 2016

Motion by Commissioner Simpson, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to approve the cancellation of the July 7, 2016 City Commission meeting date. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Life Ring Stations

Resident Erin Doetsch presented a Life Ring Station Project, where life ring stations would be installed along the waterfront. She reported that the life rings, materials, and installation services, would be donated and the city would have zero cost impact.

Motion by Commissioner Hendrick, seconded by Commissioner Simpson, to approve of the life rings with the city’s direction on installation. 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 \$139,847.46, as presented. Roll Call Vote. Ayes: Skotarczyk, Avery, Hendrick, Lovett, Meli, Simpson, Turner. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager Leven provided updates on the following:

- Friends of City Hall replacing exterior lighting with LED with no cost to the city
- SEMCOG parking
- Beach volunteers needed for one more weekend
- Plans have been submitted for the beach pavilion
- Safe Routes to School still working on Chartier crossing
- Ad for Police Chief
- POAM contract
- Chasing down concerns and complaints
- Street ends can’t restrict water access
- Demolition of house on S. William Street
- Collected money from office staff for flowers to be planted in front of city offices

COMMISSIONER PRIVILEGE

Commissioner Lovett shared that she received a warm, welcoming experience walking downtown over Memorial weekend.

Commissioner Hendrick recommended installing **No U Turns** signs downtown and an emergency phone at the beach.

Commissioner Avery thanked everyone who was putting forth effort in getting a larger voter turnout for the upcoming elections.

Commissioner Simpson thanked Ed Terhune for his service to the community and wished Lois Kaufman well in her retirement.

Commissioner Turner thanked Erin Doetsch for her efforts with the Life Ring Station Project. He said she saw a need for something and sought out help to get it done.

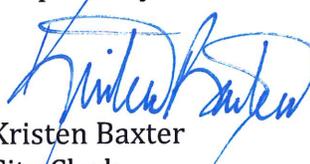
Commissioner Meli also thanked Erin Doetsch and said he appreciated what Commissioner Turner said about the benefit of not replanting trees downtown.

Mayor Skotarczyk said that the city was richly blessed with volunteers who help make the city a better place, and thanked all the groups and volunteers for their efforts and hard work.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Hendrick, seconded by Commissioner Meli, to adjourn at 9:51 pm. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Kristen Baxter
City Clerk

**FOR THE RECORD RESPONSE FROM COMMISSIONER HENDRICK
ITEM #9-C June 2, 2016**

I find it totally irresponsible for this community to put in a tree that has been identified as an invasive species by so many states and banned. The trees are currently listed on the Midwest Invasive Species Information System. It's obvious that people here don't care about the damage this can do to our environment and how the results can destroy local habitat. Haven't you learned from the phragmites, the emerald ash borer, zebra mussels, gobies ... the list goes on. It's very disgusting and disturbing for people who say they love this area to be reckless after being provided with information to make a proper decision.

The cross-pollination of the Bradford Pear and the Cleveland Pear can lead to viable seeds that get dispersed by birds. The offspring of those well-mannered ornamental pears are aggressive thugs. They spread rapidly and the resulting plants are thorny invaders, choking out native wildlife habitat wherever the seedlings take hold. The problem is severe enough that many localities/states have banned the pear altogether. I love trees but I will not vote for this choice when alternatives were provided but not investigated enough. Very sad.