



MINUTES

Regular Meeting of Newaygo City Council

February 8, 2021

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Fedell called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM. The meeting was held at City Hall located at 28 N. State Road, Newaygo, MI 49337 and via teleconference due to the MDHHS COVID-19 Emergency Order.

Presiding officer: Mayor Fedell

Secretary: Clerk, Kim Goodin

Roll Call: Present at City Hall: Black, Burns, Fedell, Hikade, Walerczyk
Present via teleconference: None
Absent: Ederer, Johnson

Motion by Hikade, second by Walerczyk to excuse absent members. AIF/MC

Motion by Burns, second by Hikade to approve the agenda as presented. AIF/MC

PUBLIC COMMENTS

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Black, second by Burns to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the regular council minutes from 01/11/2021 and accounts payable of \$7,773.11, \$56,627.82, \$49,084.33, \$17,585.29, \$87,333.10, \$45,293.34, \$1,572.00, \$135,543.89, and \$853.55. Roll Call: Yeas: Black, Burns, Fedell, Hikade, Walerczyk Absent: Ederer, Johnson Nay: None. CARRIED

RESERVED TIME

COMMITTEE & BOARD REPORTS

Ramona Deters, representing the Newaygo Farmers Market, said the Farmers Market will begin on Friday, June 15th and end mid-September. She gave an update on 2020 Farmers Market, said she has approximately 12-13 farmers/vendors signed up for 2021, and is working with additional farmers.

Diane Schindlbeck, representing Senator Bumstead's Office, was present and gave an update on Senator Bumstead's current committee appointments. She said that Senator Bumstead will begin office hours in March and urged anyone to contact Senator Bumstead's office if they need assistance with unemployment.

Mike Hikade, representing the Newaygo Fire Department, stated that they had approved a conflict of interest policy and Chief Kroll was working on quotes for new radios. He said that the Fire Department Budget was complete and that they had approved a tentative agreement with Garfield Township.

Scott Faulkner, Economic and Community Development Coordinator, discussed information in packets explaining various NEDO project updates. He gave an update on the Disc Golf Course and stated that Christian Healthcare Center hopes to break ground in the spring. Faulkner stated that potential apartments are still being discussed behind the United Church of Christ and gave an update on a donor that will be working with a group from Newaygo High School on potential improvements to the Football and Track Fields.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Schneider stated that he will be working on budgets the next couple of months.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Chief Andres discussed the current Mutual Aid Agreement and stated that it is currently being updated and will come to Council in the coming months. She said that the Public Safety Committee will be holding its first meeting on Friday, February 12th. Chief Andres stated that Sgt. Walerczyk has been attending Zoning Administrator Training and discussed a feasibility study that will be done to explore options for growth related to the Police Department, Fire Department, and Public Safety. She said that one of the Newaygo Police Officers will be joining the Central Michigan Enforcement Team (CMET).

Ron Wight, DPW Superintendent gave an update on a watermain break that had occurred on M-37 hill and stated that they would be working on snow removal from parking lots in the coming days.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Motion by Hikade, second by Walerczyk approving Resolution 2021-05 adopting the Disc Golf Course Project Budget for Fiscal Year 2020-2021. Roll Call: Yeas: Black, Burns, Fedell, Hikade, Walerczyk Absent: Ederer, Johnson Nay: None. CARRIED Schneider discussed revenues that had been contributed to the project thus far and that potential grants are being discussed for the remaining funding. He said the expenses are on track and that the County is working on a Forestry Management Plan that may help reduce expenses.

Motion by Burns, second by Black to approve Tree Planting Plans as presented allowing minor adjustments as needed. AIF/MC Symon Cronk and Evan Farinosi were present and discussed the purpose and goals of Tree Initiative Grant that the City received. They gave a presentation discussing tree planting plans for the Skate Park, Riverfront Trail, and the hill area to the elementary school. The plans included number of trees, types of trees, location of trees, tree acquisition, tree planting, and maintenance of trees. They stated that they do not believe the plantings will create any extra work for the DPW.

Motion by Hikade, second by Burns approving Resolution 2021-06 designating a Social District that contain Commons Area in order to allow certain on-premises liquor licensees expanded use of shared areas for consumption of alcohol pursuant to Public Act 24 of 2020. Roll Call: Yeas: Black, Burns, Fedell, Hikade, Walerczyk Absent: Ederer, Johnson Nay: None. CARRIED Kamille Massey, River Country Chamber of Commerce Director of Events, gave a presentation on a potential Outdoor Social Zone in the City to help increase business with downtown restaurants and businesses. She discussed the timeline of project, location rationale, eligible businesses, and potential risk assessments related to the project. Massey discussed Social District Management and Maintenance Plan that was included in packets. She stated that the Chamber and businesses within the Principal Shopping District will assist the City with day-to-day operations of the Social Zone. Massey said that the Social Zone will be promoted as a community and family-friendly atmosphere. Council Members all voiced support for local businesses and asked questions and voiced concerns related to: potential increase in disorderly conducts or intoxications, the weather, amount of space where being proposed, the appearance of the area, summer tourists from the river and the hours of operation. Massey and Chief Andres answered questions and Chief stated that the cities they have contacted were not experiencing any problems currently and that the Social Zone could be shut down at any time if problems occur. Schneider explained the steps that the City and businesses would have to follow with the Liquor Control Commission to get approved.

Faulkner stated that Third Coast Creative had been hired to work with the City on branding. He said that they had designed 15 images to go along with "Heart of Muskegon River" theme and that he and Schneider had shown and discussed images with various businesses and staff and narrowed the choices down to 4 images. Myles Cronk and Hannah Harrington, owners of Third Coast Creative, were present and discussed images stating that there were many possibilities with each image. Schneider said he was looking for Council Member thoughts and recommendations regarding images and what input the City should request. Consensus of Council was for Third Coast Creative to move forward with options utilizing 2 of the images and bring back to the March Council Meeting. Cronk stated that they would provide some mock samples and letterhead with the images for the March Council Meeting.

Motion by Hikade, second by Burns to waive fees that Newaygo Brewing pays the City for lease agreement to utilize outdoor seating area space in the alleyway between The Stream and the Brewery and allow them to utilize the outdoor space year around while the Social Zone exists. AIF/MC Fedell stated that Newaygo Brewing would not be able to participate in the Social Zone because the business is located on the other side of the street. He stated that the Brewery currently has an outdoor seating area that they lease from the City and utilize in the warmer months and was suggesting that they be able to utilize this area year-round with the City waiving the lease fees while the Social District is in place. Council Members were all in agreement.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Burns thanked all presenters and stated a lot of good discussion at meeting.

Walerczyk stated good meeting and glad Newaygo Brewing will have additional options with seating outside.

Hikade stated good presentations and said he asks questions because Council represents the residents.

Schneider said it was a great meeting.

Fedell thanked all for coming out.

Motion by Hikade, second by Walerczyk to adjourn the meeting. AIF/MC

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 PM.

Mayor – Ed Fedell

Clerk – Kim Goodin