



**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting of Newaygo City Council**  
**February 14, 2022**

**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.

Presiding officer: Mayor Fedell

Secretary: Clerk, Kim Goodin

Roll Call: Present: Burns, Ederer, Engemann, Fedell, Walerczyk

Absent: Black, Johnson

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

Motion by Ederer, second by Burns to approve the amended agenda adding “Resolution approving the appointment of Susan Gray to the Board of Review” as letter “A” under Reserved Time and moving “Republic Services-Matt Biolette” to letter “B” under Reserved Time. AIF/MC

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Burns, second by Ederer to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the council regular meeting minutes from 01/10/2022 and accounts payable of \$44,964.84, \$14,614.71, \$56,201.38, \$106,317.16, \$27,611.62, \$2,735.12, \$251,990.15, \$36,933.33, \$58,282.60, and \$1,189.48. Roll Call: Yeas: Burns, Ederer, Engemann, Fedell, Walerczyk Absent: Black, Johnson Nay: None. CARRIED

**RESERVED TIME**

Motion by Walerczyk, second by Burns to approve Resolution 2022-04 approving the appointment of Susan Gray to the Board of Review. AIF/MC Susan Gray was present and introduced herself and gave a little history on her background.

Matt Biolette, from Republic Services, was present and gave an annual update on Republic Services and the industry. He discussed COVID Pandemic Recovery, Waste and Recycle Volumes, Industry Challenges related to worker shortage, Sustainability Commitments, Commodity Trends, increase in costs, and City of Newaygo current contracts.

**COMMITTEE & BOARD REPORTS**

**CITY MANAGER REPORT**

Schneider discussed 2020 census numbers for the City and the County that were included in packets and stated that the City of Newaygo had the largest percent of growth in the County. He discussed Christmas Decorations in the Peace Memorial stating that they were purchased years ago, are in need of some repairs, and are very labor intensive to install. Schneider asked Council for their input on possibly looking at new decorations. Council Members stated that they liked the current Christmas Decorations and if replaced would like to see something similar, but maybe less labor intensive. Council Members stated that current decorations are very welcoming and residents seem to like the current decorations. Schneider said he will research additional options. Schneider discussed the current composition of the Planning Commission stating that it currently has 9 board members with 2 current vacant spots. Schneider stated that he and the mayor had discussed the possibility of reducing the Planning Commission to 7 board members and wanted Council Members’ input. Consensus of the Council was to move forward with Ordinance Amendment to reduce Planning Commission Board Members to 7 members.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

Ron Wight, DPW Superintendent, said they have been busy dealing with winter maintenance.

Chief Andres said that the Police Department is looking for a Code Enforcement Officer.

### **BOARD BUSINESS**

Motion by Ederer, second by Burns to approve request by Charlie Kao to allow for an outdoor storage area along with proposed storage garages at 7981 S. Linden Ave as recommended by the Planning Commission. AIF/MC Fedell said that the Planning Commission had approved the request at their meeting last week. Schneider stated that the Planning Commission had stated that light cut off fixtures were required as lights must shine down, they must leave as many trees standing as possible, and that they must mow along Industrial Dr. and around retention pond.

Motion by Engemann, second by Burns to approve Resolution 2022-02 which approves the Law Enforcement Services Agreement between the City and Brooks Township. AIF/MC Chief stated that Brooks and Croton Township had approached the City to assist with code enforcement in their townships as at times they need a MCOLES licensed officer for code enforcement.

Motion by Engemann, second by Walerczyk to approve Resolution 2022-03 which approves the Law Enforcement Services Agreement between the City and Croton Township. AIF/MC

Motion by Ederer, second by Burns to approve TIFA/LDFA Bylaws. AIF/MC

Motion by Ederer, second by Burns to appoint Mayor Fedell and Lee Black to the TIFA/LDFA Project and Finance Committees. AIF/MC

Schneider discussed the City's Property Maintenance Code specifically related to rentals. He stated that per the Property Maintenance Code rental inspections are required every 2-3 years and that the City has contracted with North Country Inspection Services (NCIS) for these rental inspections. Schneider stated that since COVID began that NCIS has not done rental inspections. He said that himself and Chief have been discussing eliminating routine rental inspections and going to a complaint based system. Schneider said all maintenance codes would remain the same, but would not require routine inspections, but only inspecting based on a complaint. Chief said that the Police Department would still maintain a registry of rental units in the City. Schneider said that he was not asking for any decisions, but wanted Council Member thoughts. Consensus of Council was that they agree with going to a complaint based system, but feel that new rentals should initially be inspected. Schneider said that he would do some more research and discuss options with City Attorney.

Motion by Engemann, second by Ederer to allow the Mayor and City Manager to negotiate with a City of Newaygo business/property owner on the possibility of purchasing their building. AIF/MC Fedell discussed a building downtown whose property owner is interested in selling their building and has approached the City. He said that the City has discussed this property in the past stating that it could be utilized for an outdoor community gathering space.

Motion by Walerczyk, second by Burns to approve the request by the River Country Chamber of Commerce for use of City Parks for several events/festivals for the 2022 calendar year. AIF/MC

Motion by Ederer, second by Burns to approve the request by Family of God Community Church for the use of Brooks Park to have worship in the park on Sunday, July 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 am-12:00 pm. AIF/MC

Motion by Burns, second by Engemann to approve the request by Family of God Community Church for the use of Brooks Park to have an event with live music and talent on Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup> from 10:00 am-5:00 pm. AIF/MC

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

#### **COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

Burns said she had been approached by a City resident on the status of a parcel located on Washington St. that has only a basement foundation constructed and said that it has been that way for years. Chief discussed safety concerns with this property and said they have been working to contact the owner who lives out of the state. Chief said that the next step is discussing options with the City Attorney.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:03 PM.

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Mayor – Ed Fedell

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Clerk – Kim Goodin