



MINUTES
Regular Meeting of Newaygo City Council
September 12, 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: Black, DeVries, Engemann, Fedell, Johnson, Walerczyk
Absent: Burns

Motion by Black, second by Johnson to excuse absent members. AIF/MC

Motion by Johnson, second by Walerczyk to approve the agenda as presented. AIF/MC

PUBLIC COMMENTS

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Black, second by Walerczyk to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the council regular meeting minutes from 08/08/2022 and accounts payable of \$71,000.00, \$30,879.48, \$171,699.82, \$90.00, \$157,977.82, \$500.00, \$11,927.42, \$9,712.66, \$1,012,058.45, \$1,731.72, \$4,172.04, and \$100.00. Roll Call: Yeas: Black, DeVries, Engemann, Fedell, Johnson, Walerczyk Absent: Burns Nay: None. CARRIED

RESERVED TIME

Ramona Deters, Newaygo Farmer's Market Coordinator, was present and gave an update on the Farmer's Market that has been held every Friday over the summer at Brooks Park. She said that they are partnering with the museum to hold an indoor market from approximately October 1st through December 2nd.

COMMITTEE & BOARD REPORTS

A Newaygo District Fire Board Report was included in packets.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Schneider said that MDOT is working on the final punch list from the M37 Rehab Project that occurred last year. He said that he and Wight have started working with engineers for future water/sewer projects. Schneider said that the County has requested bids for a timber sale at Henning Park and he hopes that the Disc Golf Course can be completed after the timbering is completed. He said that the Chamber has ordered product and material for the Social District and will be holding a meeting with the business owners in the next couple of weeks to discuss next steps.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Chief Andres gave an update on the 2021 Police Department Annual Report that was included in packets. She discussed some concerning comments about the municipal Police Departments in the County that were made by the Under-Sheriff at a community forum in White Cloud. Chief said that a School Officer, employed by the Newaygo County Sheriff's Department, would be working with NCRESA to assist with truancy in Newaygo County Schools. She stated that Officer Rood, Newaygo Public School Resource Officer, is an employee of the Newaygo Police Department and continues to report to herself.

Ron Wight, DPW Superintendent, said that a contractor (Anlaan) will be in the City at the end of the week working on the punch list from M37 Water Main Project.

BOARD BUSINESS

Motion by Walerczyk second by Black to approve Special Land Use Request by Timberland Equipment to allow for an outdoor storage area and outdoor display of equipment at 8003 S. Mason Dr. AIF/MC Fedell stated that the Planning Commission had recommended approval of the special use permit at 8003 S. Mason Drive. He said that a few pieces of new equipment would be displayed outside the front of the building during business hours.

Motion by Johnson, second by Walerczyk to approve “Welcome to City of Newaygo Sign-Option E.” This sign includes the City logo, tag line, rounded top, top bracket, and mounts on a trestle which is on brick pillars. AIF/MC Myles Cronk and Hannah Harrington, from Third Coast Creative, were present and said that they had made various changes on sign designs based on Council suggestions last month. Schneider said that the City is going to hold off on the sign in front of City Hall until the Sign Ordinance is amended. Cronk, Harrington, Council Members, and Schneider discussed the multiple options that were included in council Packets. Schneider said he will move forward with next steps of discussing easement options with business owner where “Welcome to Newaygo” sign would be located.

Motion by Johnson, second by Engemann to approve the request to gate City ROW at Cooper St. & Edwards St. Yeas: 0, Nays: 6, Absent: 1 MOTION FAILED Mark Wagner and his wife, who live at 555 Cooper St. were present and said that they would like to put a gate on the Edward St. Right-of-Way (ROW) at Cooper St. Wagner said that he was told, by the previous home owner, that Randy Young, a past Newaygo City Manager, had given him permission to put a gate up at the end of Edwards St. ROW, but could not find any supporting documentation. Fedell stated that Young would not have had authority to approve this request. Fedell said that a gate cannot be put on Edward St. Right-of-Way as other property owners on Edwards St. would not have access to their property. Fedell told Wagner that he could definitely put a gate up, on his property, at the end of his driveway.

Motion by Johnson, second by Engemann to approve offering \$274,000 to purchase building at 8 W. State Rd., for Town Square Project, and allowing Schneider and the Mayor to negotiate closing costs. AIF/MC Schneider distributed appraisal information regarding 8 W. State Rd, to Council Members and stated that the original Purchase Agreement was for \$300,000 with contingencies related to the appraisal and environmental work. Schneider stated that the Environmental work is still being completed. Fedell and Schneider explained that the appraisal included Income Approach Value and Sales Approach Value and explained each value. Fedell said that the City cannot purchase the building for \$300,000 because of the appraisal value and that Council needs to decide if they want to proceed with a lower offer, within the appraisal value. Council discussed appraisal values and closing cost options.

Motion by Black, second by Engemann to reimburse the Heritage Museum of Newaygo County \$300 that they had recently paid for a Site Plan Application Fee. AIF/MC Fedell said that once the museum was expanded and renovated that they had always planned to rent conference rooms and space for events, but had not mentioned this in their original site plan request, which was approved prior to the renovations and addition to the museum. The museum had paid the \$300 Site Plan Application Fee also at that time. Fedell said that most of the museum’s funding is from private contributions and the Fremont Area Community Foundation and he would like to recommend reimbursing the museum for the \$300 recently paid for the Site Plan Application Fee. Board discussed how nice the museum looks and how much it has added to the downtown.

Motion by Walerczyk, second by Johnson to approve Ordinance 2022-04 amending Chapter 4 entitled “Nonconforming Lots, Uses, and Structures.” AIF/MC Fedell stated that the Planning Commission had recommended approval of Ordinance 2022-04. Schneider discussed recommended changes to Chapter 4 of the Zoning Ordinance entitled “Nonconforming Lots, Uses, and Structures” and said that a version was included in the packets showing the recommended changes.

Motion by Engemann, second by Black to approve Land Donation Agreement for Parcel # 19-19-178-002 at E. Washington St., currently owned by Maxene Gillhespy. AIF/MC Schneider showed parcel being discussed on Newaygo County GIS map. He said that the land is very wet, is next to Road Right-of-Way, and that he and Wight could not find any reason not to accept the land donation.

Motion by Fedell, second by Black to remove Pine Tree by the playground area at Brooks Park and allow Schneider and Wight to determine if a replacement tree or additional products are needed in this area. AIF/MC Schneider showed pictures of the large pine tree by the playground area at Brooks Park and said that the tree makes a mess in the sand and surrounding area. He would like to have the tree removed and possibly a different type tree that is less messy, planted.

Motion by Johnson, second by Walerczyk to approve the Michigan Municipal League Annual Meeting Notice. AIF/MC

PUBLIC COMMENTS

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Black thanked Myles Cronk and Hannah Harrington for their work on City signs and said that he would like updates from our County Commissioner and County Representatives occasionally.

Council Members discussed feedback they have received on the Labor Day festivities being held at Shaw Park and the feedback seemed to indicate a preference for holding the festival downtown as has been done in past years.

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

Meeting adjourned at 8:52 PM.

Mayor – Ed Fedell

Clerk – Kim Goodin