



MINUTES

Regular Meeting of Newaygo City Council February 13, 2023

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, Burns, DeVries, Engemann, Fedell, Walerczyk
Absent: Johnson

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

Motion by Burns, second by Black 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 council regular meeting minutes from 01/09/2023, council closed session meeting minutes from 01/09/2023 and accounts payable of \$32,938.48, \$1,874.00, \$28,945.97, \$21,111.48, \$12,434.88, \$67,576.13, \$410.07, \$327,484.96, \$1,584.00, \$44,869.77, \$100.00, and \$57.62. Roll Call: Yeas: Black, Burns, DeVries, Engemann, Fedell, Walerczyk Absent: Johnson, Nay: None. CARRIED

RESERVED TIME

COMMITTEE & BOARD REPORTS

Ken DeLaat, County Commissioner, gave an update on Dragon Trail usage statistics, a grant received from the State for public input on Recycling, unemployment rates in the County and stated that a Task Force is looking at the possibility of establishing a Drug Court in the County. He discussed the Human Trafficking Task Force that has been working with various schools in the County.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Schneider stated that MDOT plans to have lane closures on the bridge over the Muskegon River during the spring/summer of 2024 and said he asked them to try and avoid the festival weekends. He said that he was notified by the US Patent & Trademark Office that they will not trademark the City Logo as they do not trademark City Seals. Schneider stated that the City did not receive the DNR Spark Grant that he applied for and said that he is still waiting to hear on the Blight Grant. He gave updates on water/sewer projects, water booster station on the North side of the river and said that an inventory of composition of water service lines, per State Requirements, will begin soon. Schneider said that Amy Dalman, Code Enforcement Officer, recently attended training and will be taking over City rental house inspections in the coming months. He said that the Chamber will hold Gus Macker in Grant this year.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Ron Wight, DPW Superintendent, said that the DPW is working on the retention pond behind Tractor Supply at Industrial Drive and Neway St.

Sgt. Walerczyk stated that the Police Department has been very busy and discussed the Police Reserve Academy that Newaygo Police is currently having. He said that the Police Social Worker and Officer Rood are part of the Human Trafficking Task Force that Commissioner DeLaat discussed.

Sgt. Walerczyk, representing the Newaygo Fire Board, handed out information that included some estimate salaries being proposed by the Fire Department for a full-time firefighter or a full-time chief to work M-F during the day. Sgt. Walerczyk said that he was asked to get Council Member input regarding the potential extra expenses should

a full-time firefighter or full-time chief be added. He said that the Newaygo Fire Department had missed 6 calls this year because they have a hard time getting firefighters to respond to calls during the day on M-F. Questions and comments from Council Members and Schneider included:

- Is there enough work that can be done by a firefighter or the chief full-time? Job Description?
- Hard to justify the extra costs without additional details.
- Suggested a study be done to explore all options.
- Feel there needs to be a solution, but need additional information.
- Feel that the information handed out is a good starting point.

Consensus of Council was that additional information was needed before any decision could be made.

BOARD BUSINESS

Motion by Burns, second by Walerczyk to approve request by the River Country Chamber of Commerce for use of City Parks for several events/festivals for the 2023 calendar year stipulating that the Logging Festival Lumberjack events can be held at Shaw Park and the Logging Festival Parade can be held on Sunday, September 3rd at 1:00 pm or 3:00 pm. AIF/MC Fedell stated the Chamber had requested use of Shaw Park or Linda's Chapel area for the Lumberjack events and said that the City does not own the Linda's Chapel property. Schneider said that they are potentially proposing a time change for the parade so that it does not conflict with the finals of the logging competition.

The City was contacted on February 13th, from Mercury Broadband, that they were not ready to set a date for the Public Hearing for a Tax Abatement and will contact Schneider when ready to proceed, so Resolution 2023-07 was not acted upon.

Motion by Black, second by Engemann to approve Resolution 2023-08 to decertify Park St. between Main St. and Post St. within the City of Newaygo. AIF/MC Fedell said that Park St. was decommissioned and is now part of the Newaygo Elementary Parking Lot. Schneider said that this Resolution allows the State to take this portion of Park St. off the State Map so that the City does not get money for the portion of the St. that was decommissioned.

Schneider stated that information was included in packets relating to current issues being experienced at Loomis Lodge along with proposed changes. He said that the main two things being proposed were rate/deposit increases and the need for an insurance rider should alcohol be requested. Schneider said that seven (7) cameras were recently ordered and would be installed at Loomis Lodge. Goodin said she compared rates and rules with similar surrounding event facilities and discussed issues that have been occurring at Loomis Lodge and explained the current rates and deposits compared to proposed rates and deposits. Goodin said that all event facilities, except one, that she spoke with require insurance riders for any event that will have alcohol. Wight discussed time involved for the DPW staff to clean Loomis Lodge when it is not cleaned properly after an event. Council discussed: rental/deposit rates, not-allowing alcohol, insurance rider, holiday rentals, methods of payment, cleaning checklist, and current/future rental agreements and forms. Goodin will clean up Resolution and Agreements and bring back to the March Council Meeting.

Schneider stated that information was included in packets related to Cemetery Rates. He said that the purpose was to simplify rates and increase rates to make comparable to surrounding communities. Goodin stated that the City Cemetery Rates had not been raised since 2005. Goodin said her and Wight compared City rates to surrounding community rates and we were much lower than others on the majority of rates. Wight said that the City actually loses money based on many of the current fees. Council asked for clarification on the meaning of a few rates listed. Will bring back a clean version of cemetery rates at the March Council Meeting.

Motion by Black, second by Burns to approve Easement Agreement with 8152 S. Mason Drive: Parcel #62-18-25-230-026. AIF/MC Schneider stated that this is the second of four easements required to extend the water and sewer to building located at 8158 S. Mason Dr.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Walerczyk said that the handicap curbs behind some businesses in the South Parking lot are rough and uneven making it hard for people with walkers. Schneider said that he and Wight will look into this.

Engemann discussed sidewalks plowed, by the DPW, on Barton St. Schneider said that he and Wight are planning to look at the areas along City sidewalks this spring.

Motion by Walerczyk, second by Burns to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 PM. AIF/MC

Mayor – Ed Fedell

Clerk – Kim Goodin