



MINUTES
Regular Meeting of Newaygo City Council
March 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, Johnson
Absent: Walerczyk

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Burns, second by Johnson to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the council regular meeting minutes from 02/13/2023 and accounts payable of \$110,506.06, \$24,393.91, \$2,243.98, \$40,143.40, \$17,740.07, \$260,692.97, \$1,419.32, \$21,658.83, \$1,601.48 and \$6,682.60. Roll Call: Yeas: Black, Burns, DeVries, Engemann, Fedell, Johnson Absent: Walerczyk Nay: None. CARRIED

RESERVED TIME

COMMITTEE & BOARD REPORTS

Ramona Deters, representing Newaygo Farmer's Market, was present and gave updates on the Newaygo Farmer's Market held in Brooks Park stating that the Market will start on Friday, June 9th. She discussed a Market Kids Program and a Sr. Project Fresh Program that the Farmer's Market will promote this year.

Newaygo Fire Chief Otteren and Fire Board Members Russ Kolski and Danielle Hummel were present and gave updates on the Newaygo Fire District staffing challenges that occur Monday-Friday from 6:00 am-3:00 pm and discussed missed calls during this time frame. Kolski stated that the Fire Board has been exploring options to alleviate this challenge and one option would be to hire a full-time Fire Chief and full-time Fire Fighter to work Monday-Friday from 6:00 am-3:00 pm. Kolski said that they were looking to answer questions and provide information to Council Members. Questions from Council related to:

- What does a missed call mean?
- Who responds to Newaygo Fire District missed calls?
- LIFE EMS ambulance (#units in County, location of units, contract/agreement between LIFE and County)
- What is a Level 1 Priority and how are priority levels determined?
- Wages of proposed positions and affect to the Fire District Budget.
- How proposed positions would affect number of volunteers needed.
- Questions related to surrounding Fire Departments/Districts staffing challenges and how are they handling challenges.
- How are multiple calls at the same time handled?
- Has a study been done by a 3rd party unbiased organization or person?

Otteren, Kolski, and Hummel answered all questions as best as they were able and said any concerns with contract/agreement between LIFE EMS and the County should be directed to the County. Schneider stated that this topic had been discussed at the recent Public Safety Committee and said that the following alternative ideas for addressing volume of medical calls were discussed:

- Consolidation between Fire Districts.
 - Contracting for services
 - Multiple roles for full-time person. (Example-person hired full-time to handle Code Enforcement throughout the District and serve as Fire Chief or Fire Fighter)
 - Police, DPW, and Fire District work together
- Council Final Comments were related to the potential need for a study to be completed by an unbiased outside organization or individual to determine what is the best option to alleviate the staffing challenges and Council would like all options to be considered. Council Members said that they are concerned with the potential lack of contract/agreement between LIFE EMS and the County.

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Schneider gave updates on water/sewer projects and said that an inventory of composition of water service lines, per State Requirements, was in process and almost complete. He said that the City had recently been awarded a Land Bank Blight Grant, in the amount of \$150,000, to be utilized towards a new roof for the Powerhouse Building. Schneider stated that Dalman, Newaygo Code Enforcement Officer, would be starting to work on Property Maintenance Code and discussed a house on Water St. that is in very bad shape. He said that he met with representatives from Brooks Township to discuss the potential need for additional land for additional Industrial Park parcels stating that our Industrial Park parcels have all been sold. Schneider stated that the State submitted plans for E-Vehicle Charging Stations and they will focus on locations along Interstates and said that the City may have to start thinking about E-Vehicle Charging Stations in the future. Schneider reminded Council that a special Council Meeting will be held on Monday, March 27th at 7:00 pm to approve and award Water/Sewer Projects.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Ron Wight, DPW Superintendent, said that the DPW has been very busy.

Chief Andres stated that the Police Department has been very busy and discussed the Police Reserve Academy that Newaygo Police are currently having. She said that Boat Patrol training is also occurring during the Reserve Academy and that Boat Patrol will start in May. She discussed a grant that was awarded to Newaygo Public Schools for a School Resource Officer and said that the grant funds cannot be used for any School Resource Officers already in place. Chief said that the Police Department is working with a potential recruit and that the City would pay for the recruit to attend the academy and they will work at the City upon completion of the academy.

BOARD BUSINESS

Motion by Engemann, second by Johnson to approve Ordinance 2023-02 to Rezone Parcel #62-19-19-404-002 (413 S. Division St.) to B-1 and to amend the Zoning Map of the City of Newaygo Zoning Ordinance. AIF/MC Fedell said that this had been approved at Planning and that the parcel adjacent to 413 S. Division St. is zoned B-1.

Motion by Black, second by Burns to approve Easement Agreement with 8170 Mason Drive: Parcel #62-18-25-230-028. AIF/MC Schneider stated that this is for the water main extension from the floral shop to Burger King and the only easement still needed is from Burger King.

Motion by Burns, second by Johnson to approve Resolution 2023-09 adopting certain rules and regulations to govern parks of the City of Newaygo pursuant to Section 46-4 of the City Code. AIF/MC Schneider said that changes to this Resolution were primarily addition of statements about insurance riders being required for events with alcohol.

Motion by Black, second by Burns to approve Resolution 2023-10 setting the rental fees for the City of Newaygo Parks. AIF/MC Schneider stated that this had been discussed at the February Council Meeting and changes were made according to the recommendations made by Council Members.

Motion by Burns, second by Engemann to approve Resolution 2023-11 setting the cemetery fees for the City of Newaygo Cemetery. AIF/MC This had been discussed at the February Council Meeting.

Motion by Burns, second by Black to approve the Capital Improvement Plan. AIF/MC Schneider said that the Capital Improvement is a six year plan and includes potential projects. He said that these projects are not guaranteed and stated that many funding sources ask if the project is in your Capital Improvement Plan.

Schneider stated that a Consumers Energy Impact Study Information Sheet was included in packets and wanted Council's input about possibly submitting a letter to Consumers Energy in support of the dams on the Muskegon River remaining in place. Council members said that they are generally supportive of submitting a support letter to keep the dams in place.

Motion by Burns, second by DeVries to approve Ordinance 2023-03 to amend Chapter 82-Vegetation, Article II. AIF/MC Chief Andres stated that the City must post a notice every March about process that the City will follow if residents do not maintain their lawn according to the Ordinance.

Motion by Johnson, second by Burns to approve Resolution 2023-12 appointing David Wright as Hearing Officer regarding dangerous/unsafe buildings and adding a statement that the City Manager has authority to negotiate and pay reasonable compensation for the services of the Hearing Officer. AIF/MC Schneider said that it was a requirement to appoint a non-City employee to handle this role and he will work with Dalman, City Code Enforcement Officer, when needed.

Motion by Black, second by Engemann to approve the request by Family of God Community Church for the use of Brooks Park to have a concert in the park event with live music on Thursday, June 22nd from 5:00 pm-10:00 pm. AIF/MC

Motion by Burns, second by Black 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 2nd from 8:00 am-12:00 pm. AIF/MC

The Personnel Committee held its annual review process of City Manager, Jon Schneider, and written meeting minutes were in Council packets along with Schneider's goals and accomplishments. Comments from Council included: thanking Schneider for all he does, appreciate that he looks at the big picture, he does a fantastic job, appreciate Schneider being transparent, Schneider has been great to work with over the years, and wanting to make sure that Schneider can effectively handle his work load and to continually evaluate this over the coming years to determine whether an assistant would be needed. Schneider thanked everyone for their comments and said it is a joy to work with Council, City Boards, and City Staff. Schneider said that Newaygo is a great place to work.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ramona Deters, Newaygo Farmer's Market, asked if it would be possible to have a semi-permanent sign, during the Farmer Market season, in the City advertising the Farmer's Market.

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Multiple Council Members stated that they appreciated the information on the Farmer's Market and Fire District that had been presented during the meeting.

Motion by Burns, second by Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 PM. AIF/MC

Mayor – Ed Fedell

Clerk – Kim Goodin