



MINUTES
Regular Meeting of Newaygo City Council
July 10, 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, DeVries, Engemann, Fedell, Johnson, Walerczyk
Absent: Burns

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by Black, second by Engemann to approve the Consent Agenda which includes approving the council regular meeting minutes from 06/26/2023 and approval of accounts payable of \$23,738.64, \$61,610.93, \$5,562.59, \$97,414.54, \$64,363.00, \$768.45, and \$3,818.00. Roll Call: Yeas: Black, DeVries, Engemann, Fedell, Johnson, Walerczyk Absent: Burns Nay: None. CARRIED

RESERVED TIME

COMMITTEE & BOARD REPORTS

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Schneider discussed legislative update sheet that was included in packets and gave information on how to sign up to receive these updates from State Representatives if interested. He gave an update on Public Safety Study and Powerhouse Building. Schneider said that GM Wood Products bought the building at 579 Industrial Drive and had requested this parcel be designated as an Industrial Development District (IDD) and stated that a public hearing would be held at the August Council Meeting. Schneider asked for any additional thoughts regarding the possibility of changing the restrooms at The Stream and the City to unisex restrooms. One response was made stating to leave restrooms as they are currently. Schneider said that he would not be in attendance at the August Council meeting as he will be on vacation.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Ron Wight, DPW Superintendent, gave updates on road paving projects that were completed in the City during the FY 22/23 and said that they are discussing potential road paving projects for the current FY 23/24.

Chief Andres said that some potential Park Ordinance amendments had been sent to the attorney for review and would be discussed in detail at a future Council meeting. She stated that her main concern for park rentals in the City is safety and appropriate security. Chief gave update on Newaygo Police Department staffing and stated that a Newaygo Public School (NPS) Middle School Resource Officer was recently hired by the Newaygo Police Department and would be funded by a grant that NPS had received. She said that she met with the new NPS Superintendent and that safety and security seem very important to him.

BOARD BUSINESS

Motion by Black, second by DeVries to approve Resolution 2023-25 which exercises the City’s right to exempt itself from the requirements of PA 152 of 2011 for coverage beginning 08/01/2023. AIF/MC

Motion by Johnson, second by Walerczyk to approve Resolution 2023-26 amending the City of Newaygo’s retirement plans allowing in-service distributions at the normal retirement age and changing the normal retirement age to 59½ . AIF/MC Schneider stated that the current 401 Retirement Plans do not allow in-service distributions until 70½ and the original Resolution presented was to amend in-service distribution age to the normal retirement age listed in the plan which is 65. Discussions included: normal retirement age, employee contribution, employer contribution and when employees become vested. Consensus of Council was that the normal retirement age for in-service and retired employees should be amended to 59½.

Motion by Engemann, second by Johnson to approve request by Wayne Kauffman for the use of Brooks Park to have a free BBQ open to the public on Sunday, August 20th from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm stating that any signs or displays are restricted to the time period of the event. AIF/MC Fedell stated that Kauffman held this event each year and that there had not been any issues.

Motion by Black, second by Johnson to approve the members recommended on the MML Workers’ Compensation Fund to serve as trustee to the MML Workers’ Compensation Fund Board. AIF/MC

PUBLIC COMMENTS

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Fedell gave an update on a conversation he had with Chief Andres regarding a recent event held in Brooks Park and discussed potential violations that occurred during the event.

Council comments were:

- Glad that due-diligence being done reviewing Park Ordinances
- Discussed incident that occurred in Brooks Park on June 27th
- Good news on new officers in the Newaygo Police Department
- Council member said that he attended the recent event held in Brooks Park and stated that all the people in attendance seemed well mannered and stated that he did not personally see any violations and recognized many people at the event.
- Main concern when City Parks are rented is safety and security.
- Status on new pizza place, Subway and Christian Health Care Center

Schneider stated that Kelly Tinkham, Newaygo Library Director, was retiring October 31, 2023 and would stay on part-time as Assistant Director of Finance.

Motion by Walerczyk, second by Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 PM. AIF/MC

Mayor – Ed Fedell

Clerk – Kim Goodin