



**MINUTES**  
**Regular Meeting of Newaygo City Council**  
**March 11, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Fedell called the meeting to order at 7:01 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, Fedell, Johnson, Walerczyk  
Absent: Engemann

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

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

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Motion by Burns, second by Walerczyk to approve the Consent Agenda which includes the Council regular meeting minutes from 02/12/2024, approval of accounts payable of \$46,004.94, \$9,888.63, \$19,632.03, \$39,541.30, \$149,320.34, \$2,240.14, \$1,487.86, \$166,533.26, \$12,882.82, and \$10,788.79, Resolution 2024-14 approving the appointment of Christian Burns to the Newaygo Area District Library Board, and Resolution 2024-15 approving the appointment of Denise DeVries to the Board of Review. AIF/MC

Goodin gave oath of office to Christian Burns and Denise DeVries.

**RESERVED TIME**

**COMMITTEE & BOARD REPORTS**

Tim Liberty, representing River Country Chamber of Commerce, gave updates on the upcoming Clover Crawl, Business Resource Meeting and Customer Service Presentation that the Chamber would be hosting.

**CITY MANAGER REPORT**

Schneider discussed numerous projects in the City and said that a City Manager's Report was included in the packets that listed the projects being discussed and many other projects. Council Members and Schneider discussed short-term rentals and Schneider said that the Planning Commission needs to begin contemplating regulations for short-term rentals. Schneider said that he was working with an engineer on demolition and initial design work for the Town Square Project. Council Members discussed obtaining input from businesses in the area regarding the Town Square Project and discussed the idea for public restrooms downtown.

**DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

**BOARD BUSINESS**

Motion by Black, second by Walerczyk to approve the Total Trek Quest (TTQ) Community 5K event to be held on May 18, 2024 beginning at 9:00 am with the same route that is utilized by the St. Nick Kick each year. AIF/MC Vicki Kavanaugh, with Arbor Circle, was present and explained the TTQ Program and stated that they would provide volunteers to cover all intersections and crossing during the 5K event. Chief Andres stated that the Police Department did not have any concerns with the event.

Motion by Johnson, second by Black to approve request by Newaygo River Country Chamber of Commerce for the use of Brooks Park for the Farmer's Market each Friday from 12:00 pm-6:00pm, which includes set up time, starting on Friday, June 7, 2024 through Friday, September 20, 2024. AIF/MC Council Member asked about the

possibility of extending the Farmer's Market season and Ramona Deters, Farmer's Market Manager, said that there is not enough foot traffic through the Farmer's Market after mid-September and many of the farmers do not find it financially beneficial to come after mid-September. Deters discussed the indoor late fall market they had tried previously and said that it was not financially beneficial and she actually had to utilize some of her personal money to keep it going during the later fall months.

Motion by Johnson, second by DeVries to approve request by Newaygo Public Schools Band for the use of Brooks Park to have a band concert in the park on Sunday, May 12, 2024 from 1:00 pm to 6:00 pm, or in the event of rain to hold the concert on Tuesday, May 14, 2024 or Tuesday, May 21, 2024 from 4:00 pm to 9:00 pm, and to have a food truck for their event. AIF/MC

Motion by Burns, second by Black to approve new City Assessor Contract which begins on April 1, 2024 and is for a three year term. Roll Call: Yeas: Black, Burns, DeVries, Fedell, Johnson, Walerczyk Absent: Engemann Nay: None CARRIED Schneider stated that the City's current assessor was retiring at the end of March and that the City would like to offer the position to Jeff Miller. Schneider discussed the interview process and said that the new contract was very similar to the current assessor's contract stating that it was included in the packets along with Miller's resume.

Motion by Johnson, second by Walerczyk to approve Resolution 2024-16 requesting an amendment to the Newaygo County Brownfield Redevelopment Plan to support Multi-Family Development at 120/160 Pine Lake Dr. AIF/MC Fedell discussed the amendment that the State made to the definition of Brownfield related to housing developments. Schneider stated that the County had requested a Resolution from the City that showed support of the Multi-Family Development at 120/160 Pine Lake Dr.

Motion by Johnson, second by Burns to approve Birding Trail Partnership Memorandum of Understanding between the City and Newaygo County Tourism Council. AIF/MC

Motion by Burns, second by Johnson to award the bid for the M82 Sewer Lift Station to Bazen Electric Company, to approve the Agreement between the City and Bazen Electric Company for the M82 Sewer Lift Station, and to approve Change Order 1 for the M82 Sewer Lift Station. Roll Call: Yeas: Black, Burns, DeVries, Fedell, Johnson, Walerczyk Absent: Engemann Nay: None CARRIED Fedell stated that five bids had been received and that Bazen Electric Company was the lowest bid. Schneider said that the engineer had vetted Bazen Electric Company and that he and Ron Wight, DPW Superintendent, were comfortable moving forward with Bazen Electric Company.

Motion by Johnson, second by Burns to approve Afton & Sons Excavating quote, up to \$20,000, to repair the sidewalk in front of Newaygo Brewing Company. Roll Call: Yeas: Black, Burns, DeVries, Fedell, Johnson, Walerczyk Absent: Engemann Nay: None CARRIED Schneider said that part of the Brewing Company's foundation had failed causing the sidewalk to sink and stated that the insurance companies were working with each other. He said that the City got quotes for the sidewalk repairs if necessary and they were included in packets. Schneider discussed quotes and stated that sidewalk repairs would have to be coordinated with repairs to the Brewery's foundation.

Motion by Fedell, second by Burns to authorize the City Manager to negotiate and approve work, sign/approve contracts, payments, and other relevant documents to complete the following projects:

- 8 State Rd/Town Square demolition and design
- Expansion of Social Zone (straightening of curbs) in south parking lot downtown
- Striping of parking lots downtown

The above motion was approved AIF/MC Fedell stated that all projects have been discussed at previous Council Meetings.

Motion by Black, second by Burns to approve the Ordinance 2024-02 amending sections of Chapter 1, Chapter 30, Chapter 42, and Chapter 46 of the City Code of Ordinances. AIF/MC Schneider said that the changes made were based on conversations held at previous Council Meetings. He said that Chief Andres, the City Attorney and himself had worked together to make necessary changes.

Motion by Black, second by Burns to approve Resolution 2024-17 amending the paragraph regarding the Chamber and government sponsored events to read: "The Newaygo Area Chamber of Commerce, Newaygo Public School, Newaygo Area District Library, and government sponsored events are not charged for use of the parks and Loomis Lodge, except the City may charge for expenses incurred, including but not limited to, cleaning, repairs due to damage, and public safety." AIF/MC

Motion by Black, second by Burns to approve Resolution 2024-18 adopting rules and regulations for City Parks adding "Pickleball Courts" to Paragraph 16. AIF/MC Schneider and Council discussed changes related to special events of 30 people or less and the change that all Park rental applications for 31 or more people and requests for alcohol must be approved by City Council. Schneider said that the City Attorney had assisted with the amendments. Council discussed potential challenges should more than 2 groups with 30 or less try and hold events in the park at the same time or if a group ends up having more than 30 people. Schneider stated that wording in Resolution addresses many scenarios and if something needs to be amended in the future that changes can be made.

Motion by Black, second by Burns to approve Rental Agreement and Permit Application for City Parks. AIF/MC Schneider said that biggest change was related to time frame for submission of applications.

Motion by Burns, second by Walerczyk to approve Traffic Control Orders #30-#201 and #204-#207 which generally cover traffic and speed signs for Streets in the City of Newaygo. AIF/MC Fedell stated that Traffic Orders had been emailed to all Council Members a few weeks ago to review.

Motion by Burns, second by DeVries to approve Resolution 2024-19 to amend Section 6.8 of the City Charter that will allow members of the Planning Commission to be compensated. AIF/MC Fedell stated that currently the City Charter does not allow the City Planning Commission to be compensated. He stated that the proposed Charter amendments would be on the November 2024 ballot.

Motion by Burns, second by DeVries to approve Resolution 2024-20 to amend Section 5.11 of the City Charter to permit the salary of City Officers to be increased or decrease after their Election or Appointment. AIF/MC

Motion by Walerczyk, second by Black to approve Resolution 2024-21 to approve and submit the question of whether to amend Section 2.3(G) of the City Charter to allow the City Council to determine the method of publication of any matter required to be published in instances where there are no other publication methods required by law. Yeas: 5, Nays: 1, Absent: 1 Motion CARRIED

The Personnel Committee held its annual review process of City Manager, Jon Schneider, and written meeting minutes from the Personnel Committee were in Council packets. Comments from Council included: thanking Schneider for all he does, he does a great job, and appreciate Schneider being transparent. Schneider thanked everyone for their comments and said it is a joy to work with Council, City Boards, and City Staff and it is a great place to work.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Two City residents were present and asked questions about City police staffing levels and tax millage rates in the City. Council, Schneider, and Chief Andres answered questions and had discussion about police staffing and City tax millage rates.

### **COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS**

Johnson said that Schneider doing a good job and he appreciates conversations with Schneider.

Black said he appreciated public comments.

Fedell thanked everyone for coming out and stated that he plans to run for another term as Mayor.

Goodin gave an update on Council seats that expire at the end of 2024.

Motion by Walerczyk, second by Burns to adjourn the meeting at 8:42 PM. AIF/MC

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Mayor – Ed Fedell

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Clerk – Kim Goodin