



MINUTES
Regular Meeting of Newaygo City Council
January 13, 2025

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, Engemann, Fedell, LaFontsee, Walerczyk

Absent: Burns, DeVries

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

Motion by Walerczyk, second by Engemann to approve the amended agenda moving topics “A” and “B” from Board Business to Reserved Time. AIF/MC

PUBLIC COMMENTS

CONSENT AGENDA

Motion by LaFontsee, second by Engemann to approve the Consent Agenda which includes Council regular meeting minutes from 12/09/2024 and approval of accounts payable of \$679.33, \$41,508.25, \$5,438.47, \$725.68, \$18,488.07, \$69,126.37, \$43,364.11, \$174,116.00 and \$157.52. AIF/MC

RESERVED TIME

Chief Andres stated that the City K-9, Bella, was 11 ½ years old and is experiencing some medical issues and that the veterinary recommended that Bella be taken out of service. Chief stated that at the December Council meeting that the Council had approved allowing Officer Nelson, Bella’s handler, to adopt Bella. Chief thanked Officer Nelson and Bella for their years of service at the Newaygo Police Department and read a letter of retirement for K-9 Officer Bella and a letter of merit for Officer Nelson. Schneider spoke about how impressed he has been over the years with how Officer Nelson has handled Bella and thanked him for his work with Bella over the years. Chief Andres presented Officer Nelson and Bella with a Retirement Certificate.

Motion by Engemann, second by LaFontsee to approve Canine Adoption and Hold Harmless Agreement. AIF/MC
Chief Andres stated that when the time comes that David Fields, with Trusted Journey, had donated cremation services for Bella that would include cremation, a memorial urn (with remains) and a clay paw print with her name engraved at the bottom.

COMMITTEE & BOARD REPORTS

CITY MANAGER REPORT

Schneider gave updates on the Powerhouse Project, sidewalk projects and discussed “Match on Main” Grant that is available for downtown businesses. He said that the Wood St. and Water Service Line Projects would start in the spring and discussed the possible sewer main work that may be done at Wood St. while the Water project is being done. Schneider said that the demolition of the building at 8 State Rd. should be completed by May or sooner.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Ron Wight, DPW Superintendent, stated that they have been very busy with snow removal and preparing for upcoming projects this spring and summer.

Chief Andres said that the Michigan Law Enforcement Accreditation hearing would be held on February 4th and she discussed a new Police Recruit that graduates on June 26th and would be available to start with the department shortly after that. She gave an update on the MCOLES Grant that the City received for the Police Social Worker that goes until December 31, 2026.

BOARD BUSINESS

Motion by Black, second by Walerczyk to award Powerhouse Structural/Deck project to Patron Construction, and approve the construction agreement with Patron Construction with a base bid amount of \$133,141.00 and added alternate work of \$10,900.00 for a total of \$144,041.00, and approve the City Manager as the Authorized Agent to sign all documents, agreements, pay request, change orders and other relevant documents to bring the project to completion. Roll Call: Yeas: Black, Engemann, Fedell, LaFontsee, Walerczyk Absent: Burns, DeVries Nay: None. CARRIED Schneider stated that a bid tabulation for the project was included in packets and that the engineer had vetted the contractor with the lowest bid, Patron Construction, and suggested we proceed with Patron Construction.

Motion by Black, second by Walerczyk to approve up to \$45,000 in match funding for the Pocket Park Project at 8 State Road and to approve covering the entire cost of the project (estimated to be \$523,000) until reimbursement can be obtained under available grant funds. Roll Call: Yeas: Black, Engemann, Fedell, LaFontsee, Walerczyk Absent: Burns, DeVries Nay: None. CARRIED Schneider stated that the estimate of the Pocket Park Project was included in packets and discussed a \$250,000 grant from the State that the City may get awarded for the Project.

Fedell stated that the City Charter has a lot of outdated information and that the City would like to look at a revision of the entire charter instead of multiple charter amendments over the years. Schneider said that many sections of the City Charter are not valid as State Law supersedes what is in the Charter. Schneider said that he anticipates that a charter revision could be a two year process and that he had contacted the City Attorney on developing an outline and costs of Charter revisions. Schneider will bring this information, from Attorney, back to a future Council meeting.

Fedell discussed Charter Amendment that passed at the November Election allowing Planning Commission Members to be paid a stipend per meeting putting them in line with other boards which already have the ability to receive compensation. The City Council approved the amount per meeting stipend for various boards at the December Council meeting. He said that under the City Ordinances that an Officers Compensation Commission has to decide the rate of stipend for City Council Members. Fedell said that the Officers Compensation Commission had not met in at least 15 years and he discussed the rules of the Commission stating that 5 City residents needed to be appointed to the Commission. Fedell discussed member criteria for the commission, term of office and meeting rules and procedures. He said that if any Council Members have suggestions on residents that might be interested in being part of this Commission to let him know.

Motion by Engemann, second by Black to approve Resolution 2025-01 approving the appointment of Chad Miller to the TIFA/LDFA Board. AIF/MC

Motion by Black, second by LaFontsee to approve 2025 Council Committee appointments from list included in packets. AIF/MC

Schneider said that the budget reflects six months of activity and discussed some highlights. He explained some revenues and expenditures and said that overall the budget is right where it should be.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

COUNCIL MEMBER COMMENTS

Council member comments related to appreciation for receiving grant for Police Social Worker and looking into the possibility of taking and displaying a picture of City Council and City staff.

Motion by Walerczyk, second by LaFontsee to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 PM. AIF/MC

Mayor – Ed Fedell

Clerk – Kim Goodin