

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF FLAT ROCK, MICHIGAN

MONDAY, JANUARY 16, 2007

The regular meeting of the Flat Rock City Council convened at the Municipal Building on the above date at 7:30 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

2. PRESENT ON ROLL CALL: Mayor Jones, Council Member Gagne, Martin, Tefend and Wrobel.

Absent: Council Members Dropiewski and Painter.

01-16-07-1 Motion by Wrobel supported by Martin to excuse the absent members Dropiewski and Painter. Motion carried unanimously.

ALSO PRESENT: Treasurer Brenda Tallman, DPS Director Bruce Hammond, Building Director John Russ, City Attorney David Grunow, Police Chief Steve Tallman, Fire Chief Bill Vack, Recreation Director Joan Pawlukiewicz, Economic Development Director and Acting Clerk George Mans, and Clerk Receptionist Jevetta Smith.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

01-16-07-2 Motion by Gagne supported by Wrobel to approve the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of 01/02/07 as submitted. Motion carried unanimously.

4. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

Mr. Gerald Mathews, 29732 Larches, asked if the City Hall Council Chambers were handicapped accessible in reference to his wife getting into the chambers tonight with her handicap. He spoke concerning ordinance enforcement on drainage of water in his backyard because of his neighbor raising his yard 6" higher than his causing flooding in his yard. Mayor Jones requested DPS Director Bruce Hammond and Building Director John Russ to go out to the property and investigate the issues.

5. REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Joann Pawlukiewicz, Recreation Director, discussed the Community Center's Quarterly Report through December 2006 and updated the Council on the banquet schedule and progress of the center for the upcoming year of 2007. Ms. Pawlukiewicz said the banquet facility was already booked up every Saturday thru December, a dozen in 2008 and four in 2009.

6. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS: (None)

7. MAYORS COMMENTS: (None)

Mayor Jones stated that the Audit Report of 2006 showed that the General Fund transferred \$178,000 to the Community Center. Jones used the overhead projector to show that in 2005, 2.2 million dollars was added to the General Fund for the naming rights of the Community Center. In 2004 another 1.9 million dollars was added to the General Fund from the naming rights agreement with AAI and in 2003, 2 million dollars was added to the General Fund for a total of 6.1 million dollars.

Mayor Jones said without the Community Center and the 6.1 million dollars in naming rights the City of Flat Rock would not have today a surplus budget of 2.3 million dollars. Mayor Jones said it would take a long time for the Community Center to use up 6.1 million dollars. He said up to this year, the Community Center would have only used 4-5 hundred thousand dollars of the naming rights 6.1 million dollars. He stated that the Community Center is not a financial burden to this city.

Mayor commented on the AAI negotiation with Flat Rock in reference to the tax abatement. He said from now on he would make sure Council gets all the newspaper stories about Ford Motor Company's investments, so everyone would see that Ford is here to stay in Michigan.

01-16-07-3 Motion by Jones supported by Gagne to open the Community Center up to other communities. Motion failed 3-2 for lack of support. (2- Tefend and Wrobel)

8. BID OPENING REPORTS: (None)

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

a. Letter from Acting City Clerk George W. Mans Re: Open the public hearing for CDBG 1) 2004-2005 Motion to re-approve the Truncated Dome Project for \$42,000 and to post a formal notice. 2) Discuss 2007-2008 proposed CDBG projects.

Mayor Jones opened public hearing at 8:02 P.M.

Item 1:

01-16-07-4 Motion by Gagne supported by Jones to re-approve the Truncated Dome Project as requested and post formal notice. Motion carried unanimously.

Item 2:

01-16-07-5 Motion by Jones supported by Martin to allocate the following funds of \$83,000 for the 2007-2008 proposed projects: \$12,000 Mini Van for Senior Citizens, \$10,000 ADA compliant restroom at the historical Flat Rock Hotel building, \$10,000 ADA compliant Handicap Accessible Doors at City Hall, and balance (\$51,000) to maintenance garage for senior citizen bus. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jones closed the CDBG public hearing at 8:10 P.M.

b. Acting Clerk George Mans spoke regarding the Wheels Of Time Car Club partnership with the City for the 2007 Riverfest and that they have agreed to get their own insurance. Mr. Mans stated that the City Department Heads met and they all feel that Riverfest is a doable event and could be accomplished with donations from local businesses and a \$5,000-\$10,000 gift from the City budget.

Mr. Bob Bucko, City's Insurance Representative from the Stevenson

Company, stated that the insurance that the City already provides covers special events and is adequate insurance and said that he will donate \$1,000 toward the Riverfest event.

Mr. Chuck Wheeler, spokesman for the Wheels Of Time Car Club, spoke on the revitalization or rebirth of the Riverfest event and said that they have contracted adequate insurance for the Riverfest for the Wheels of Time Car Club members and has great anticipation for the Riverfest activities that they have planned. Proposed entertainment includes Reflections Group, clowns with balloon animals, teenage entertain, crafter booths, inflatables for young kids, sock hop and polka on Saturday. Mr. Wheeler stated that they have been working for the last 2 months on developing the background of this program and in order to go forward in their commitment to a top notch operation they would need an x-amount of entertainment and that they need to know from Council how they should go forward as co-sponsor. He also said they are looking for sponsors from corporate and local businesses and that they would need \$5,000 to \$10,000 local seed money for entertainment and to cover the cost of their insurance. He said they would be going to AAI, Comcast, ATT and many other local sponsors. He said this being their 1st year it would be a learning experience and that entertainment will probably be dictated by sponsorship. Mr. Wheeler says he believes the Wheels Of Time has what it takes and it is their objective to have the best Riverfest in the downriver area.

01-16-07-6 Motion by Gagne supported by Jones to go forward with the Riverfest and propose the City of Flat Rock give \$10,000 in seed money for the event. Motion carried unanimously.

Councilman Jim Martin asked if civic groups and local charities could setup food sales for their charities at the event. Mr. Wheeler said they have an offer from Big Boy to sponsor a pancake breakfast in the AM and a chicken dinner in the evening. He said they have already had offers from 4 other vendors and he would be open to any other groups.

c. Letter from City Engineer Russ Wittman Re: Payment No. 1 for \$19,070.30 to A Land Construction for the 2006 Sidewalk Replacement Program.

01-16-07-7 Motion by Martin supported by Gagne to approve payment No. 1 for \$19,070.30 to A Land Construction for the 2006 Sidewalk Replacement Program. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Jones stated that he would like to revisit the Community Center for a second time (using the overhead projector) in reference to the \$178,000 transfer of funds from the General Fund to the Community Center. Mayor stated that the confusion generated over the naming of Maguire Street caused a 5-month delay on the liquor license and caused a loss of revenue due to the scheduling of banquets and weddings. Mayor stated that it's the simple things that cause more hurt to the Community Center, along with financial loss, than most people realize.

In regard to opening the Community Center to the general public, Mayor Jones stated that by opening the center up to the public would increase the revenue and accommodate people who need it for medical rehab from adjoining communities.

Councilman Tefend stated he did not want to open up the Community Center to the general public that when the banquet facility gets running full time he feels it will operate on a budget. He said he's against open membership because of the crowds. Now that the banquet facility has its liquor license, he proposed waiting on it for revenue.

Councilman Wrobel said open membership could chase the residents out. He said that the Community Center would then be a “club” and kids that need it can’t afford it and that the whole idea of a “Community Center” is for the “Community” (Flat Rock).

Mayor Jones stated that the Community Center is already available to everyone by using their daily passes (\$8 per day), but by offering outside memberships it would create more revenue and interest.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Lettering from Acting Clerk George Mans Re: Splitting Election Precinct #4, Old High School on Division Street.

01-16-07-8 Motion by Wrobel supported by Gagne to approve the request for splitting election precinct #4. (Item not voted on... Tefend concern with Precinct Map layout of Precinct #3)

Councilman Tefend questioned the layout and wondered if there was a mistake on the new and old map which encompasses Hunter Lane and Hunter Court that shows they should vote at Precinct #3 (Flat Rock Library) and still he goes to Precinct #2 at Simpson School to vote. He wanted to know if there was a mistake on his part or is there a mistake on the drawings of the maps.

Councilman Tefend suggested that if we’re changing precincts we should include this area.

Mr. Mans suggested tabling this until further research can be done.

Councilman Martin requested that we get projected new figures on the number of voters in the precincts.

01-16-07-8 Motion by Jones supported by Tefend to table splitting Election Precinct #4 until the next meeting until further investigation of the precinct layout of the map. Motion carried unanimously.

b. Letter from Woodrow Patterson, Tootsie Roll Chairman of the Knights of Columbus request permission to solicit funds on the streets of Flat Rock on March 30, 31st and April 1st from 9 AM to 6 PM.

01-16-07-9 Motion by Martin supported by Wrobel to approve Knights of Columbus request as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

c. Letter from DPS Director Bruce Hammind Re: Approval of financing for DPS boom truck.

01-16-07-10 Motion by Wrobel supported by Martin to approve the request to finance the DPS boom truck with Fifth Third Bank as proposed. Motion carried unanimously.

d. Letter from DPS Director Bruce Hammond Re: Michigan Dept. of Transportation Performance and Indemnification Resolution.

01-16-07-11 Motion by Martin supported by Gagne to approve the resolution from MDOT as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

e. Letter from DPS Director Bruce Hammond Re: Permission to bid on Water Service Relocation Project, Vreeland Road.

01-16-07-12 Motion by Jones supported by Wrobel to approve permission to place bid as requested. Motion carried unanimously.

f. Letter from Police Chief, Stephen C. Tallman Re: Request Council’s approval for Traffic Control Order on Vreeland Road parking.

01-16-07-13 Motion by Martin supported by Jones to approve the request for the Traffic Control Order on Vreeland Road parking. Motion carried unanimously.

g. Letter from Police Chief, Stephen Tallman Re: COP III Grant from DCC (Downriver Mutual Aid).

01-16-07-14 Motion by Gagne supported by Wrobel to approve Police Chief's recommendation for the COP III Grant for \$26,500 that can be used to purchase equipment for patrol cars as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

h. Letter from Police Chief, Stephen Tallman Re: Bid and Sell patrol vehicles.

01-16-07-15 Motion by Gagne supported by Martin to approve Police Chief's recommendation to bid and sell recommended vehicles. Motion carried unanimously.

11. CORRESPONDENCE: (None)

01-16-07-16 Motion by Gagne supported by Martin to go into Closed Session at 9:00 p.m. to discuss Firefighters Contract Negotiations. Motion carried unanimously.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

01-16-07-17 Motion by Wrobel supported by Martin to adjourn the meeting at 9:10 P.M. Motion carried unanimously.

RICHARD C. JONES, MAYOR

DENNIS R. MOWBRAY, CITY CLERK
By George W. Mans, Acting Clerk

Date: 02/05/07
Approved