

**REGULAR COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

**CITY OF FLAT ROCK, MICHIGAN**

**MONDAY, MARCH 16, 2009**

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 Members Dropiewski, Martin, Gagne, Painter and Wrobel.

**ABSENT:** Council Member Tefend.

03-06-01 Motion by Painter supported by Dropiewski to excuse Council Member Tefend.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

03-16-02 Motion by Dropiewski supported by Martin to approve the regular minutes of March 02, 2009 as presented.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

**4. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:**

Bob Brown, Executive Director of The Senior Alliance and Area Agency on Aging 1-C, was present and gave Mayor and Council an overview of the Agency. He said they supply Meals on Wheels, holiday meals, helps citizens and disabled folks stay in their home longer – quality of life vs. an institution. He said three years ago he reported they were one half million dollars in debt. Presently, they are approaching a million dollars in the black. They have gone from nine million in revenue to eleven million. Their last audit was without a management letter and they are very proud of that. He stated the service area covers 34 communities in Southern Western Wayne. In 2008 Flat Rock’s match was \$679.00 and Flat Rock received \$44,813.00 in services.

Mr. Brown stated that this year the Sate wants to do “evidence based disease prevention”. He said what they want to do is combine the two programs so they can continue the senior staffing at the same level. If they partner with all the cities to do evidence based disease prevention we will still fund the senior citizen staffing because we need that person out there to deliver the program plus it will qualify the agency for additional funding. He said they are going to apply for this funding as they create this

model. Mr. Brown also stated they are working with the Veterans Administration to do community care on behalf of our Veterans in the U.S. and their service area. The Senior Alliance Agency was chosen as the pilot in Southeast Michigan.

Patrick Van Buren of Fairlawn Drive requested the track at the Recreation Center be more clearly marked with signs showing “walking-slow jogging-running” due to people not staying in their proper lane.

Mayor requested the Recreation Director have the person in charge of the track pay more attention to the people on it.

Raphael Rodriquez introduced a piece of equipment for energy conservation. He said it can reduce consumption of natural gas and electric 10% annually per building. He said he has installed it at Trenton City Hall and some school districts.

Mayor Jones referred him to John Russ, Building Director.

## **5. DEPARTMENT HEAD REPORTS:**

DPS Director, Bruce Hammond, stated the Wayne County Department of Environment is having a Public Information and Board of Determination meeting Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup> in the Flat Rock Council Chambers. The County of Wayne is assessing the City and residents who have property along the Cooke and Gladding Drain. The Board of Determination meeting begins at 5:30. The Public Information meeting begins at 6:00 p.m. to discuss the scope of the work. Mr. Hammond said the road crossing at Seneca and Cook is being replaced. Also, work is being done on Arsenal, E. Huron River Drive, Gibraltar Road, James Street, W. Huron River, etc. He said it is a very large project. The public is invited to attend the meeting.

Fire Chief Vack stated the grant that all Downriver Mutual Aid went together to apply for and have worked on for about three and half years came through two weeks ago. The City’s portion is about \$25,000. He said there will be a computer and printer on each ambulance. Software and link ups are included and can transmit run reports and transmit data to the billing agency which will reduce cost of collection. He said this comes about because we are mandated to report our EMS runs via electronic media to the State and in turn the data gets loaded into Federal data bases. They are looking for certain trends like accidents, illnesses, etc.

Chief Rossow informed Council that the Police Department was visited by the State of Michigan auditors looking into a state wide computer network system for police called Law Enforcement Network. He said it is critical because that is how we access the SOS and criminal histories for information. Chief Rossow thanked Jill Evans for the work she did preparing for it and catching some of their listing up to date. He said the department did very, very well in the audit.

George Mans, Economic Director, addressed his written report on the progress at the K-Mart site. He said the new owners have begun cleaning out the in-store debris starting with buildings on the south end and working northward. They are working with the building department and have necessary permits to proceed with the cleaning process. He said the new owners understand they must rehabilitate all structures to comply with existing code prior to obtaining an occupancy permit and they must meet with the Planning Commission with regard to exterior plans. Mr. Mans stated occupancy will take some time.

**6. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

Council Member Paul Gagne reported on the 33<sup>rd</sup> District Court meeting he had attended and will try to make all three meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>.

Council Member Painter asked Chief Rossow to put together a summary to Council for the next meeting regarding a discipline problem in the Police Department and asked if it had to be in closed session.

Mayor Jones said there is a standard rule – if you are going to discuss discipline of an individual that individual has a right to choose whether it is in open session or closed session.

Attorney Grunow said Mayor Jones is right providing it pertains to a specific individual and Painter said it is a specific individual. Painter asked the Police Chief to submit a confidential summary for the next meeting and the Attorney said that is fine.

**7. MAYOR'S COMMENTS:**

Mayor Jones said there was a misunderstanding about what he said about the auditors' last meeting. There was \$6-\$8,000 difference between the high bid and the low bid and two firms tied for the low bid. He said he had gone to Hungerford and asked them to reduce their price to \$25,000. He said he also went to Plante and Moran and told them they don't have to have a single audit and asked them to reduce their bid. They adjusted their bid down \$3,500. In keeping with our intention of asking the engineer and planner for a reduction, he said he asked Hungerford to take \$3,000 off their quote which is 5% lower than our previous auditor.

Mayor Jones addressed Item B under New Business: Block Grant Public Hearing. He said we want to reschedule the public hearing for April 6<sup>th</sup> council meeting. At that public hearing we are looking at paving Seneca from the bend in the road to Sheeks. We have no doubt it will be approved. It will use all our Block Grant funds and we may have to pre-commit the next few years.

Mayor Jones said he met with Meijer last week. He said they are going to finalize the PUD after they fix a couple problems then will go back to the Planning Commission but they are sure it will be alright. Due to the economy and Meijer having construction of

five other stores in progress, Flat Rock construction may be delayed. Once the PUD is approved, they have 18 months to begin construction.

Mayor Jones said he had several e-mails from the school regarding the sidewalk and the mud. The section of sidewalk was taken out to do a water tap by the contractor who is doing work for the school. The City has no control over the school construction – the contractor has to fix the sidewalk.

Mayor Jones said Council extended the period of time to tear down the old K-Mart center and he feels we are making a mistake by allowing that to be a strip mall. He passed out an article which shows the strip mall is pretty well dead. He said he feels we could have done better to tear it down and have more creativity as to what goes in there and asked Council to read the article.

**8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Item A – Bid recommendation for 1999 Mercury Cougar.

There were three (3) bids received - \$106.00, \$300.00 and \$927.00.

03-16-03 Motion by Gagne supported by Martin to award the bid to Bernie Ciupak in the amount of \$927.00.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

**9. NEW BUSINESS:**

Item A – Public Hearing: and Resolution to apply for funding from State of Michigan Nat'l. Resources Trust Fund.

Mayor Jones opened the public hearing at 8:15 p.m. Hearing no comments he closed the public hearing at 8:16 p.m.

03-16-04 Motion by Painter supported by Martin to approve the Resolution as presented.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Item B – Public Hearing: to reallocate CDBG funds 2007-2008.

03-16-05 Motion by Martin supported by Dropiewski to reschedule the public hearing for April 6, 2009 at 7:30 p.m.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Item C – The Guidance Center 2008-2009 Voluntary Assessment.

03-16-06 Motion by Painter supported by Dropiewski to pay the invoice in the amount of \$2,500.00.

Martin asked if Block Grant funds could be used to pay for the invoice. City Clerk to check into it.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Item D – Property & Casualty Risk Management March 2009-March 2010.

03-16-07 Motion by Jones supported by Painter to pay the invoice in the amount of \$149,678.00.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Item E – Resolution to add streets to the Local Street System.

DPS Director Hammond stated this has to be done in accordance with Public Act 51 so the city can receive gasoline tax funds from the state to help maintain local streets.

03-16-08 Motion by Martin supported by Dropiewski to add Essex Drive, Parkland Drive, Greenlawn Drive, Celtic Drive and Trinity Drive to the local street system.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Item F – Lion’s Club request to solicit for “White Cane Week”.

03-16-09 Motion by Gagne supported by Martin to approve the Lion’s request to sell white canes in Flat Rock April 24 – May 3, 2009 and to proclaim that week “White Cane Week” in the City of Flat Rock.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Item G – Reappointments to Historic Preservation Commission, Planning Commission and Election Commission.

03-16-10 Motion by Gagne supported by Painter to approve the Mayor’s recommendation and reappoint Barbara Fedon, Ronald Klingel and Donald Fesko to the Historic Preservation Commission with term to expire 02/07/2012; Charla Micallef to the Planning Commission with term to expire 02/15/2012 and Jevetta Smith to the Election Commission with term to expire 12/31/2011.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

**10. CORRESPONDENCE:**

Item A – Cell phone policy.

Item B – Basketball incident of 2/21/09 (Recreation Dept.)

**11. ADJOURNMENT:**

03-16-11 Motion by Dropiewski supported by Martin to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:20 p.m.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

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**RICHARD C. JONES, MAYOR**

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**LORENE BUTSKI, CMC CITY CLERK**

**DATE: 04-06-09  
approved**