

REGULAR COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF FLAT ROCK, MICHIGAN

MONDAY, APRIL 05, 2010

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 Dropiewski, Council Members Martin, Gagne, Wrobel and Tefend.

ABSENT: Council Members Painter and Moore. (Painter arrived at 9:10)

04-05-01 Motion by Wrobel supported by Martin to excuse absent Council Members.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

ALSO PRESENT: Fire Chief Vack, DPS Director Hammond, Treasurer Lambrix, Recreation Director Pawlukiewicz, Lt. Metz for Chief Rossow, Building Director Russ, Economic Director Mans, City Attorney Grunow, and Clerk Butski.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

04-05-02 Motion by Gagne supported by Wrobel to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of March 15 and Special Meeting of March 16, 2010 as presented.

All voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

4. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

Mark Hammond, Deputy Director of Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, reminded Mayor and Council to make plans to attend the Wayne County Public Officials Conference to discuss the Fermi 2 Power Plant Up-date and Exercise over View. The date is April 8th at Embers Grill, 26125 E. Huron River Drive in Flat Rock beginning at 5:30 p.m. for hors d'oeuvres and networking, dinner at 6:00 and a short presentation will follow the dinner.

Steve Tallman, who coaches a major 14U baseball team, stated he is planning a tournament in June and asked about the fees for the community fields. He said the fees quoted him in the fall would have cost about \$400.00 for 8 games a day for 4 days. The new fees will cost over \$2,000.00 and the team cannot afford it. He said the concession

stand would bring in between \$3,000.00 to \$4,000.00 to the City funds. He asked the City to help him out. There was discussion regarding the cost to groom the fields after each two games and the lights at night. Mr. Tallman said he would look else where.

Matthew Kozmor, who was terminated from the Community Center in 2009, requested a hearing before Council to get his job back. No action.

5. REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Fire Chief Vack reported the turn-out gear for the fire fighters arrived today and the boots should be in next week. Cost of these items was 95% covered by a Federal Grant. He reported the new fire truck will be on the road in about a week.

6. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Council Member Gagne reported he attended a SHVA meeting on March 17th, a Command Officer negotiation on March 22nd, 33rd. District Court meeting on March 23rd, Library Board meeting on March 24th, POAM negotiations on March 29th and Crystal Gardens with John Dingell March 29th.

7. MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

04-05-03 Motion by Dropiewski supported by Martin to reappoint Charles E. Raines Company as the City Engineer, McKenna Assoc. Inc. (John Jackson) as the City Planner, and Hungerford & Company for audit service.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Dropiewski began his presentation by stating that most everyone knows the financial situation the City is facing. The 2009-2010 budget currently has a \$350,000 deficit. The 2010-2011 outlook with the old depreciation tables gives us a fund balance of (\$474,574); however, in December 2009 the State Tax Commission issued new multiplier tables which apply only to automotive manufacturers. Therefore, the 2010-2011 outlook with the new depreciation tables gives us a fund balance of (\$1,671,510). All cities with automotive manufacturing are taking a large hit. We depend on AAI for over 40% of our tax base. About 76% of the budget goes to wages and benefits (\$6.3 million) and bond payments are (\$600,000).

Mayor's recommendations: (1) implement two furlough days per month for all departments except Police and Fire. City Hall would be closed and the Community Center would be open (2) transfer the Reading Building back to the schools and (3) either lease or shut down the old Senior Building. His proposed adjustments for the Police Department are the elimination of the Administrative Assistant, the Dispatcher, Animal Control Officer and one Patrol Officer. This change plus changes proposed by the Police Chief has a net budget impact of \$350,000. Unless labor contracts, including health

insurance, opt-out and potential retirements, are resolved before June 30th significant additional actions will be required.

Proposed adjustments for the Fire and Building Departments are (1) combine the department heads into the Fire, Building & Safety Departments which would mean laying off the current Building Director and Ordinance Officer. The Fire Chief assumes control over both departments. Part time inspector will now assist with ordinance enforcement unless another agreement is reached. Clerical support will cover both departments. Also, finalize negotiations with MAFF over the switch to new health insurance, opt-out and overtime clauses. The changes will impact the savings by about \$100,000.

Proposed changes for Clerk and Treasurer's Department: (1) eliminate both Receptionist positions (2) City Clerk to go to part time 1-1-11 (3) hire part time Assistant Clerk before August with experience in running elections (4) charge for notary service.

Mayor stated he will recommend accepting all of Mr. Hammond's recommendations: (1) bid trash collection with another city (2) early retirement of one DPS worker (3) do not replace two open positions (4) no operation of ice rink or the fountains. All of Mr. Hammond's recommendations equal a total savings of almost \$500,000 to general fund.

Recreation adjustments will be (1) Recreation Director salary will now be 30-70 with the Community Center being the majority (2) Programmer will now be 50% split with the Recreation Center and spend at least 4 hours a day staffing the front desk (3) re-invigorate the Recreation Commission to gain more volunteer assistance with programming efforts (4) explore the sale of beer during adult softball games and tournaments at the baseball games.

Community Center proposals are: (1) 2 of 3 full time employees will be moved to part time (maintenance manager and front office manager) (2) front office manager will spend at least 3 hours a day staffing the front desk (3) complete renewal of catering contract and marketing plan for the banquet facility.

Status of Economic Development (1) diversifying our tax base is critical (2) economic development efforts are beginning to pay off with Burger King, AutoZone, Farmer's Market and Kmart Plaza (2) new DDA program (loans for façade improvements) (3) new planner focused on business friendly processes (4) Economic Development Director is paid through TIFA & DDA and will be moved to part time with a pay reduction of 10%.

Outside Consultants: (1) City Attorney agreed to a 10% reduction in his retainer (2) City Engineer agreed to 10-20% reduction in charges to the City (3) City Assessor will be asked for a 10% reduction (4) City Planner assigned a new primary planner and reduced retainer 26% (5) City Auditor agreed to a 5% reduction.

Other areas impacted: (1) asking the Library Board to give back to general fund \$90,000 (2) asking the Historical Commission to give back \$90,000 (3) Beautification budget further reduced (4) charge the DDA for bookkeeping and DPS utility expenses (5) charge TIFA for DPS services done in their district.

Mayor Dropiewski said all the things he has talked about amount to about 1.2 million in cuts. He said the outstanding major issues for 2010-2011 budget are (1) Police & Fire labor agreements (2) Police retirements (3) Recreation Center catering contract (4) No capital investments (5) budgeting for the depreciation tables.

Mayor said they are not voting on these proposals tonight but will vote at the next meeting on April 19th. Council will be receiving a breakdown on the projections.

Council Member Tefend asked about AAI giving the City vehicles as they did when they first came to Flat Rock. Mayor said he would contact them.

Council Member Gagne suggested ways to get revenue including a City tax. Mayor stated Council could explore that option but he would not support it.

Joan Beard asked if the Mayor had considered taking a contribution from water and he replied the DPS will be absorbing a lot of water funds. She asked if the Mayor's figures included insurance for Police and Fire and he said no. Discussion regarding paying AAI continued as to whether it had to be paid all at once or in increments. She asked how many hours the Economic Development Director would be working when he goes to part time and a 10% decrease in salary. The Mayor replied about 20 hours a week and other part time people, such as the Clerk, would work about 30 hours a week. Ms. Beard asked if the City Attorney would give the City a break on negotiations as well as the retainer and the Mayor said he hopes we won't be spending as much time on negotiations in the future. The issue of putting it to a vote of the people about raising taxes 2 mills for the Fire Department was discussed. Ms. Beard stated the clerical has settled their contract with lowered opt-out, a 1% raise over 4 years and the new insurance while Police and Fire have done nothing. She said Fire Department opt-outs get over \$10,000 each for a year, Police opt-outs get over \$4,000 per person per year more than the Clerical or DPS. Insurance for a Clerical family is \$1,239.00 a month and Police & Fire insurance for a family is over \$2,000 a month. She asked why Council would want Clerical & DPS to take furlough days, a pay cut, etc. when Police & Fire have not given anything. Mayor said he knows things are not fair but Council is doing the best it can.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Item A – Linc Mechanical contract.

04-05-04 After a short presentation motion was made by Martin supported by Wrobel that Council does not approve the program at this time.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously

9. NEW BUSINESS:

Item A – 1st Reading: Proposed Ordinance #185-C, City-Wide Garage Sales.

04-05-05 Motion by Gagne supported by Wrobel to suspend the 1st Reading.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Item B – Business Associate Agreement (HIPAA).

04-05-06 Motion by Martin supported by Wrobel to approve the agreement.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Item C – 1st Reading: Ordinance amending the zoning ordinance to prohibit uses contrary to Federal, State or Local Laws to be referred to Planning Commission.

04-05-07 Motion by Gagne supported by Martin to suspend the 1st reading and refer to the Planning Commission.

Item D – Resolution to approve 33rd District Court 2009 Financial Report.

04-05-08 Motion by Martin supported by Gagne to approve the audit and resolution.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Item E – Request from City Engineer to proceed with plans & specs for Evergreen Street replacement with Block Grant funds.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Item F – 1st Reading: Proposed Ordinance re: Abandoned Structures.

04-05-09 Motion by Wrobel supported by Martin to suspend 1st reading.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Item G – Request from VFW to hold annual Buddy Poppy Drive May 6-8, 2010.

04-05-10 Motion by Martin supported by Gagne to approve as requested.

Item H – Request from American Legion Post #337 to hold annual Memorial Day Parade and to hold Poppy sale.

04-05-11 Motion by Martin supported by Gagne to approve both sale & parade.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

10. CORRESPONDENCE:

Item A – Thank you letter from The Guidance Center for the City’s contribution of \$2,500.00.

Item B - Resolution from City of Southgate in support of proposed House Bill language in regard to publishing legal notices.

04-05-12 Motion by Martin supported by Wrobel to adopt a similar resolution.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Item C – Planning Commission minutes of February 22, 2010.

Item D – Flat Rock Public Library minutes of January 27, 2010.

Item E – Flat Rock Public Library minutes of February 5, 2010.

04-05-13 Motion by Martin supported by Wrobel to go into closed session to discuss (a) Police and Fire negotiations (b) Consult with Attorney re: AutoAlliance Int’l vs. City of Flat Rock MTT Docket #0371082.

Roll Call Vote: Yes - Gagne, Martin, Painter, Tefend and Wrobel

No - None

Absent - Moore

Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Dropiewski called a ten minute recess at 9:20 p.m.

04-05-14 Motion by Gagne supported by Martin to return to open session at 10:29 p.m.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

04-05-15 Motion by Gagne supported by Painter to adjourn the regular meeting at 10:40 p.m.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

JONATHAN D. DROPIEWSKI, MAYOR

LORENE BUTSKI, CMC, CITY CLERK

DATE: _____