

REGULAR COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF FLAT ROCK, MICHIGAN

MONDAY, APRIL 19, 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, Moore, Gagne, Wrobel and Tefend.

ABSENT: Council Member Tefend.

04-19-01 Motion by Painter supported by Wrobel to excuse absent Council Member.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

04-19-02 Motion by Gagne supported by Martin to approve the minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of April 05, 2010 as presented.

All voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

4. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

Ron Czapski, 23328 Port Street in Pebblebrook Sub, said he was at the May 4, 2009 Council Meeting regarding the drainage problem on Port and Meadows Streets. At that meeting he told Council that John Russ, Bernie Ciupak and Matt Sype were at the scene and agreed the situation needed to be addressed. He said the water comes up half way the yard and sits there for days. At that meeting a motion was made, supported and adopted to authorize the City Engineer to shoot a grade elevation from Dover west to the catch basin on Port Street. He said nothing has been done. Council asked Mr. Russ to follow up with the Engineer and report back to Council. Once again Mr. Czapski asked when Pebblebrook would get paved.

Susan Daddario, President of the Library Board of Directors, said she disagrees with using the Library's fund balance for the City's general fund. She said the City

collects 1 mill for the Library and out of that they pay the bond payment which is approximately ½ a mill. She said they have a fund balance of \$200,000 at the end of the current fiscal year. The Mayor has requested we pay back \$90,000 this fiscal year and \$90,000 next fiscal year. She said they have set the funds aside to pay the bond payment and expenses until the City revenue picks up. Without a fund balance we will have to cut many services including closing 1-3 days a week. The bond payment is \$162,000 and this Library is the only building in the City that pays its own bond payment. The Mayor said he and the Library Board are talking to another community about using our Library – the City of Rockwood already does. Ms. Daddario stated that if another community contracts with our Library, they are going to expect at least the service we have now. She said she did not think \$180,000 would solve the City's problem and it would hurt the citizens by closing the Library. Mayor said every decision we are going to make tonight and over the next several months is going to have a profound impact on the citizens of this city.

She asked that Mayor and Council consider her comments.

Debbie Wilkins, Ordinance Officer, stated she is asking Council for payment of her accumulated sick time she has earned over the last nine years. She said it would help her afford health insurance while she is looking for other employment. She said she would like a 100% but would be happy with 75%. She said she lacks one year to be vested in the pension. Mayor Dropiewski said it would be discussed when the budget amendments are discussed.

Ed Nykiel, 33rd. District Court Judge, approached the podium and said he stopped by to kick off his re-election campaign for another six year term.

5. REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS:

John Russ, Building Director, told Council he has eleven months to go to be vested in the pension and asked if he could work for eleven months so he can be vested and have medical insurance. He stated the budget shows the Building Department is up to 89% currently which is almost where the budget should be. He asked Council to consider his request.

Joan Pawlukiewicz, Recreation Director, informed everyone the newsletter will be out the first week in May. Effective the first of May the monthly, individual and family membership for the summer is buy 2 get 1 free to encourage college students to come in when they get home from school. Resident rate is \$25 for individual, \$45 for family. The non-resident rate is \$40 for individual and \$60.00 for family.

George Mans, Economic Development Director, gave an update on the Kmart Plaza. He stated the owners have two tenants prepared to come into the plaza. The owners of the plaza will go before the Planning Commission to request a waiver on the complete renovation of the façade and allow them to renovate the two stores on the south side. Mr. Mans said he is hopeful the Planning Commission will cooperate. Also, the

owners of the plaza have applied to the DDA for assistance with the façade renovation. Mayor Dropiewski stated he is also hopeful the Planning Commission will cooperate.

Police Chief Rossow asked Mayor and Council to consider the sick time of the three very talented employees he is losing in his department due to budget cuts.

Chief Rossow called Officer Craig Natt to the podium. He presented Officer Natt with a “Life Saving” award. Officer Natt was present when a man had his artery cut by the blade of an ice skate and he applied pressure until rescue came. This quick thinking action saved the man’s life.

Chief Rossow presented Lt/Det. Metz with “Officer of the Year” award for 2009. He was nominated by his co-worker Det/Sgt. Chris Cook. The Chief read a long list of Jeff’s accomplishments with the police department as well as the many accomplishments with the school and children. He ending by saying it is City of Flat Rock’s good fortune that Lt/Det. Metz’s application to the State Police Department was never processed twenty four years ago.

6. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Council Member Painter confirmed with DPS Director that the park restrooms are open during the day and locked at night. Mr. Hammond said due to construction on the Huroc Park Sanitary Sewer the restrooms are closed for a couple hours a day at times.

7. MAYOR’S COMMENTS:

Mayor Dropiewski presented Walter “Wally” Little with a \$200.00 check and a plaque for 27 years of service with the City as a DPS employee meter reader for the water department. Council concurred he will be truly missed.

Mayor Dropiewski reminded everyone it is critical for them to return their census form.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Item A – Proposed amendments to the 2009-2010 budget.

Mayor made a couple of changes to the recommendations (1) change the effective date of the lay-off of the one receptionist position from June 30th to August 30th (2) under the current ordinance we are not able to lay-off the Building Director at this point without a change in the ordinance. We will have to change the ordinance or find an alternative way to save about \$100,000 (3) It is not on the list because it is funded out of the DDA and TIFA - the recommendation is still to make the Economic Development Director a part time position. The issue of sick time that a couple of people brought up

tonight has to be addressed if we proceed. In the Administrative Policy there is no provision for payment of sick time currently in this situation. Outside of that the Mayor said these changes have been personally extraordinarily gut wrenching. He said he is open to suggestions from Council. He stated he does not have a full budget recommendation for next year. We still have a couple of outstanding labor contracts that have a significant impact on what further actions we may need to take. Any change to these recommendations will have to be offset by something else. We have a COAM, a POAM and a Fire Contract under negotiations plus a couple issues at the Recreation Center that have yet to be settled. If either one of these do not fall into place there could be further recommendations forthcoming.

10-19-03 Motion by Gagne supported by Moore to postpone the vote on the proposed amendments for two weeks.

Mayor Dropiewski stated that even settling the two union contracts would not affect the recommendations he is making.

Council Member Martin asked why we need to tap the Library and Historical for \$90,000 each now – why not wait until we need it. Mayor said the auditors require a balance budget.

Council Member Painter asked if the police contract had a clause that if someone is laid off they can be on the call back list for two years. He then asked if/when that person is called back will their accumulated sick time still be there. City Attorney stated we cannot change a contract – changes have to be negotiated. He said several of the changes the Mayor has recommended have to be discussed, like laying off the Building Director. Many things have to be started as opposed to going into immediate effect. For instance the patrol officer has to be given 30 days written notice. Council Member Painter asked if there is a plan to deal with clerical in the Police Department. Mayor said the Chief and Treasurer will work out a plan where the Treasurer's current staff would be allocated to the Police Chief. Martin said he cannot support \$46,000.00 sick pay for a Lt. to retire. Mayor stated he would get sick and vacation pay anyway if he retired normally and the difference between what he would automatically get and the extra amount (25% sick pay) he is asking for is only \$9,000.00.

Council Member Martin stated the City voted for 1 mill for the Library and it has been collected – he questioned how that money could be transferred to the general fund. City Attorney stated the Library Board can authorize it be transferred. The Library Board can modify their budget if they want to.

On the motion: all present voting yes except Mayor Dropiewski and Council Member Wrobel voting no. Motion carried 4-2.

04-19-04 Motion by Dropiewski supported by Painter to issue 30-day layoff notices to Animal Control/Ordinance Officer, Dispatcher and one (1) Patrol Officer.

Discussion regarding a notice to the Administrative Secretary and the Attorney stated the only notice required is to the Patrol Unit.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Item A – 1 – Letter from Administrative Secretary, Chris Mitchell, requesting pay for accumulated sick time.

04-19-05 Motion by Painter supported by Martin to table Item A-1.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Item B – 2nd reading: Proposed Ordinance #185-C – City Wide Garage Sale.

04-19-06 Motion by Martin supported by Gagne to suspend the second reading.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

04-19-07 Motion by Martin supported by Gagne to adopt Ord. #185-C with a change in hours **from** 10:00 am to 7:00 pm **to** 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Item C – 2nd reading: Proposed Ordinance – Abandoned Structures.

04-19-08 Motion by Martin supported by Painter to suspend the second reading.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

04-19-09 Motion by Dropiewski supported by Martin to adopt as presented.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

Item A – Request from Treasurer to set a Public Hearing for May 3, 2010 to confirm the Special Assessment Roll.

04-19-10 Motion by Dropiewski supported by Martin to set the Public Hearing as requested by the Treasurer.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Item B – Proposed new fee schedule for Private Lot Mowing from DPS Director.

04-19-11 Motion by Martin supported by Gagne to approve the new fees as presented:

<u>Occupied Lot</u>	<u>Open Field</u>
\$228.00 per lot	\$180.00 per lot
\$ 65.00 per half hour after the first hour	\$ 50.00 per half hour after the first hour

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

10. CORRESPONDENCE:

Item A – Letter from Mr. Mans, Economic Development Director, re: Grand Opening Celebration of the Vreeland Road, Saturday, May 15th from 8 am to 5 pm.

Item B – Resolution from City of Rockwood re: 33rd District Court.

04-19-12 Motion by Wrobel supported by Painter to adopt a similar resolution recommending to the State Legislature and the Governor’s Office that they implement a reduction in the number of judges in the 33rd District Court.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

11. LATE CORRESPONDENCE:

Item A – Two resolutions from Ada Township Board of Trustees re: urging the State to increase funding for roads and bridges, in order to match Federal funding and presses for the preservation of funding for Michigan roads and for passing legislation aimed at helping states like ours be able to more easily match the Federal funding.

04-19-13 Motion by Gagne supported by Martin to adopt similar resolutions.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

04-19-14 Motion by Martin supported by Gagne to go into Closed Session at 8:45 p.m.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Dropiewski called a ten (10) minute recess.

Open Session resumed at 9:40 p.m.

12. ADJOURNMENT:

04-19-15 Motion by Gagne supported by Moore to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:10 p.m.

All present voting yes except Mayor Dropiewski voting no.

Motion carried 6 – 1.

JONATHAN D. DROPIEWSKI, MAYOR

LORENE BUTSKI, CMC, CITY CLERK

DATE: _____