

**REGULAR COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

**CITY OF FLAT ROCK, MICHIGAN**

**MONDAY, JULY 18, 2011**

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 Wrobel, Martin, Painter and Gagne.

**ABSENT:** Council Members Tefend and Moore

**07-18-01** Motion by Painter supported by Wrobel to excuse absent members.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

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

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**07-18-02** Motion by Gagne supported by Wrobel to approve the regular minutes of July 05, 2011 as presented.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

**4.** Grant Brooks, SEMCOG, was present and talked about the outreach programs SEMCOG offers. Three of those were: 1) Water Quality 2) Mirideshare and 3) Ozone Action. Mr. Grant gave Council a brochure on each program.

**5. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:**

Richard Jones had questions on the 1.75 mills the Mayor and Council were going to put to the vote of the people. He stated at the present time the Council was levying 16.25 mills of the charter limitation of 20 mills and that they could levy the 1.75 without vote of the people. He asked if the proposed 1.75 mills would be over and above the charter limitation. The City Attorney stated that it would be over the Charter limitation. He also commented on the restriction that the Police and Fire services could not be reduced under this proposal.

Regarding Item B in Unfinished Business – Update on Flat Rock Connector Project, Mr. Jones offered his services (since he knows the Mell family) to write the Mell family and tell them what we think the value of their property is for their contribution. Mayor Dropiewski thanked Mr. Jones for his help.

Sue Farrar, Beautification Chairperson, announced the next City Wide Garage Sale is September 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. Permits are \$5 in the Clerk's Office and maps and lists will be available both days. St. Vincent DePaul trucks will be in City Hall parking lot for leftovers and donations but no mattresses please. Volunteers are needed to load trucks and anyone who wants to do community service hours will be given a letter stating hours served.

Deborah Wilkins spoke on behalf of the Humane Society of Monroe County and thanked the city for the use of the animal shelter while the floor is being refurbished at the Humane Society. She said they have 56 cats and 9 dogs and asked anyone who would like to adopt an animal to contact her.

**6. REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

Joan Pawlukiewicz, Recreation Director, said the Community Center has been declared a "Cooling Center" for seniors without air conditioning. They can call for a ride to the center. Also the Smart Start Baseball program will start Monday (weather permitting) and they have plenty of room and equipment. The Soccer program at the ball fields is from 9:00 am to noon and 1:00 pm to 4:00 – 72 kids are enrolled. She introduced one of the four coaches, Nathan Keylock, who is from South Wales.

Bruce Hammond, DPS Director, announced the Cooke and Gladding Drain Excavators are beginning work on Gibraltar Road at Evergreen. He said traffic will be maintained in both directions.

**7. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

Council Member Painter said the scoreboard at field #2 is not working and Mr. Hammond said he would check it out.

**8. MAYOR'S COMMENTS:**

Mayor Dropiewski said he and Council Member Gagne attended a meeting at the Downriver Community Conference with Governor Snyder. The Governor said he intends to keep setting the bar higher as to what he expects communities to do. Mayor also announced Flat Rock Family Café is closing tomorrow and wished Steve and his family the best. Mayor said they were not only generous on holidays but were generous on a daily basis.

**9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Item A – Resolution placing Proposal on City Election Ballot.

**07-18-03** Motion by Painter supported by Wrobel to approve the proposal as presented.

**RESOLUTION PLACING PROPOSAL ON CITY ELECTION BALLOT**

BE IT RESOLVED that the City Clerk is instructed to place on the ballot for the city election scheduled for November 8, 2011, the following proposal:

Shall the authorized millage for the City of Flat Rock be increased up to 1.75 mills (\$.75 per \$1,000 of taxable value) for a period of five (5) years, 2012 to 2017, both inclusive, to provide funds to be allocated equally for the operations of the police and fire departments to maintain current service levels, in addition to such other funds as may be allocated by the City Council, raising an estimated \$656,250 in the first year the millage is levied.

Council Member Painter stated service for police and fire should be maintained the way they are now.

Council Member Gagne stated the wording is very broad.

Motion passed 4 – 1 with Council Member Gagne voting no.

Item B – Update on Flat Rock Connector Project.

George Mans, Economic Development Director, said there are three things that remain to be done: 1) a side agreement with Huron Township 2) easement from the Mell family 3) signing of the contract with the State of Michigan.

Mayor Dropiewski said he has talked with Huron Township and there is no problem there.

No action taken.

#### **10. NEW BUSINESS:**

Item A – Amendment to Health Reimbursement Arrangement.

**07-18-04** Motion by Wrobel supported by Martin to approve the amendment which will retain the \$10/\$20 drug card for those pre-65 year old retirees from the command unit.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Item B – Resolution modifying Employment Policies for full-time department heads and non-union employees.

#### **RESOLUTION MODIFYING EMPLOYMENT POLICIES- ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS AND FULL-TIME NON-UNION EMPLOYEES (ADMINISTRATIVE EMPLOYEES)**

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that paragraph VI(A) of the employment policies for full-time administrative officers and full-time administrative employees which currently **reads**:

VI(A). Medical and Hospitalization Insurance.

1). The City shall at the City's expense provide all employees covered by the terms of this policy hospitalization and medical coverage. The hospitalization and medical insurance provided shall be equivalent to the following health insurance benefits: Midwest Security Select Plan with prescription \$10G/425B/\$50F; Ameritas Group (VSP); Ameritas Group Dental. In network deductibles for hospitalization and lab work shall be reimbursed to the employee and paid by the City in

accordance with a plan established in accordance with the regulations of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended (“ERISA”).

**Shall be amended to read as follows:**

**VI(A). Medical and Hospitalization Insurance.**

1.) The City shall provide all employees covered by the terms of this policy a medical benefit plan with such benefits as established from time-to-time by resolution of the City Council. The cost to the City for the medical benefit plan shall be determined by resolution of Council, but shall not exceed eighty percent (80%) of the total annual cost for the medical benefit plan offered to the employee. Upon written authorization of the employee, the employee’s portion of the cost of the medical benefit plan shall be deducted from the employee’s compensation, with such deduction to be made bi-monthly. An employee not authorizing such deduction shall not be eligible for the medical benefit plan.

(a) As used herein, “medical benefit plan” shall mean a plan established by a carrier that provides for the payment of medial, optical, or dental benefits, including, but not limited to, hospital and physician services, prescription drugs, and related benefits to the city employee.

b) As used herein, “costs” of a medical benefit plan and “total costs” of a medical benefit plan do not include co-payments, co-insurance, deductibles, other out-of-pocket expenses, or other service-related fees assessed to the covered employee or other beneficiary of the medical benefit plan.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that paragraph VI(A)(3), relating to the opt-out of a medical benefit plan is deleted in its entirety. An employee shall no longer be paid any amount to be excluded from the medical benefit plan provided by the City.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the changes to the employment policies set forth in this resolution shall be implemented as soon as possible, except that this amendment shall not take effect earlier than thirty (30) days after the date of this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, in accordance with Article XIII of the employment policies for administrative officers and administrative employees, the City Council by resolution may revoke, amend, or supplement, in whole or part, the employment policies at any time in its sole discretion, without the consent of an administrative officer or employee, except that any revocation, amendment, or supplement, shall not take effect earlier than thirty (30) days after the date of this resolution.

**07-18-05** Motion by Martin supported by Wrobel to approve the resolution as presented.

Attorney Grunow stated this is the first group of employees to pay 20% of health care and it ends opt-out. He said the fire department is in negotiation, the police department has been asked to re-open their contract and the other unions have been sent letters requesting cooperation.

When asked what will happen if the unions refuse to cooperate Mayor Dropiewski said the city will be forced to take other necessary actions.

Motion passed 4-1 with Council Member Painter voting no.

Item C – DDA (Downtown Development Authority) budget for 2011-2012.

**07-18-06** Motion by Gagne supported by Painter to approve the budget as presented.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Item D – Huron Woods Sub. #2.

**07-18-07** Motion by Martin supported by Wrobel to list the lots for sale through RE/MAX Masters, Inc., as recommended by the City Attorney in his letter dated 7-12-2011.

The Attorney reminded everyone that the city foreclosed and took ownership of nine (9) lots in the Huron Woods Phase 11. Neighboring property owners have expressed an interest to purchase a couple of the lots to extend their lawn area. The city would like to see the construction of residential structures which would add tax revenues. Mr. Grunow said whoever purchases the lots has five (5) years to build a residential home on it.

On a separate issue as to this subdivision, the taxes on the open areas have not been paid. The Huron Woods Subdivision No. 2 would be responsible for paying the taxes but the developer has not turned the association over to the homeowners. Mr. Grunow will draft a letter to the homeowners.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Item E - AARP Senior Community Service Employment Program.

**07-18-08** Motion by Gagne supported by Martin to approve renewing the contract as presented.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Item F – Annual software support contract renewal (Recreation Center).

**07-18-09** Motion by Martin supported by Wrobel to approve renewal of the contract with RC Systems, Inc. as presented in the amount of \$2,800.00.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Item G – PROTEC membership dues for 7/1/11 thru 6/30/12.

**07-18-10** Motion by Martin supported by Gagne to pay the dues in the amount of \$1,234.75.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

## **11. CORRESPONDENCE:**

Item A – Update from the Flat Rock Train Club.

The 2011-2012 season begins September 10<sup>th</sup> and will be open for the Riverfest September 17, 2011.

Item B – Thank you from the 2011 Relay Planning Committee.

The Relay for Life of Flat Rock raised \$50,000 to fight cancer and the Committee thanked the city for their support.

**07-18-11** Motion by Martin supported by Gagne to go into Closed Session to discuss the Fire Fighters Negotiations.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Open Session resumed at 8:35 pm.

**07-18-12** Motion by Wrobel supported by Painter to schedule a closed session with Lynn Ferguson and Joan Pawlukiewicz.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

**07-18-13** Motion by Dropiewski supported by Painter to grant the Police Chief, Neal Rossow, an extra week of paid vacation time.

Motion failed 3-2 with Wrobel and Martin voting no.

**12. ADJOURNMENT:**

**07-18-14** Motion by Martin supported by Painter to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:42 pm.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

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**JONATHAN D. DROPIEWSKI, MAYOR**

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**LORENE BUTSKI, CMC, CITY CLERK**

**DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_