

REGULAR COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF FLAT ROCK, MICHIGAN

MONDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2008

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 Painter, Gagne, Dropiewski, Martin, Tefend, and Wrobel.

ALSO PRESENT: City Clerk Butski, Police Neal Rossow, Attorney David Grunow, Building Director John Russ, DPS Director Bruce Hammond, Recreation Director Pawlukiewicz, Treasurer Debra Lambrix, Fire Chief William Vack and George Mans, Economic Development Director.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

10-06-01 Motion by Dropiewski supported by Gagne to approve the Regular Minutes of September 15, 2008 as presented.

All voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:**

Mary Saint Peter stated she found a lost dog on Walnut near Huron River and called all the downriver shelters and rescue services to try and find someone to take the dog but to no avail. She wanted to know what will happen to lost animals now that the city has no animal shelter/ordinance officer. She finally got Brownstown to take the dog even though it was not their jurisdiction. Police Chief Rossow stated he is looking for a long term solution and Mayor Jones said a solution is forthcoming in the near future.

A citizen asked for the status on the “bridge to nowhere” (Huroc Park). Bruce Hammond, DPS Director, stated the city, Huron Clinton Metro and the greenways people have a meeting in a couple of weeks to decide who will pay for it, who will write the grant, etc. There are three entities involved (City of Flat Rock, Brownstown and Huron Township. Metro Parks only wants to pay for the part on their land. Mayor Jones said after the election we will try to set up a meeting between Flat Rock, Park Authority and Huron Township’s new Supervisor to see if we can get those two parties going to get this project completed.

Arlen Fadely asked about the status of the hole in West Huron River Drive. Mr. Hammond told him he has received the permit from Wayne County and the project will start in about two weeks.

5. REPORT FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS:

George Mans, Economic Development Director, updated Mayor and Council on three items: (1) He stated the city is attempting to get assistance addressing Vreeland Road and thanked Bruce Hammond and Russ Wittman for their assistance in the matter. He said two weeks ago he was in Lansing and met with State Representative Law and MDOT officials. They have money there for job creation; however, they have money there for job retention also, which is what we are attempting to argue. This city has been generous to Ford Motor, Mazda and AutoAlliance and we are indicating to them we need assistance on Vreeland Road. We will find out in the next couple months if they will come thru on that.

(2) K-Mart situation: At the DDA meeting last week Oakwood Builders did ask the DDA to join them for an unspecified amount of money to see if we could come to an agreement with Allied Capital and allow Oakwood to be the developer of the site. There was no resolution. The DDA needs more information. Mr. Mans referred to the late item before Council from Allied Capital regarding mall closures and vacancies. It is possible the auction scheduled for October 22 for the K-Mart site may be put on hold due to the economic situation.

(3) Meijer situation: Mr. Mans stated that Mayor Jones has said it is important to him to keep everybody in communication as to where we are with Meijer. Meijer still wishes to locate in Flat Rock. After due diligence looking at a couple sites, they still want the Vreeland Road-Telegraph site and have presented a concept for a smaller store at that location. At this time they are meeting with the county. He said he was at a meeting with the County and Meijer last week looking to make sure we can resolve drainage issues. If those issues can be resolved I believe Meijer will come in front of the Planning Commission and ask that the issue, which is tabled at the Planning Commission, be taken off the table and that a new site plan be considered by the Planning Commission at that time. I would guess that will be November but at this time we have nothing official. That will have to come to John Russ and I don't believe he has anything official yet.

Lastly, regarding Meijer, there are a number of issues that need to be resolved. One is the Vreeland Road issue. If Meijer does get approved by the Planning Commission to come here, that will have to turn into some type of joint development. I understand from Bruce Hammond and Russ Wittman that the way we engineered Vreeland Road that if Meijer comes in the cost can be shared by both parties.

Mayor Jones stated that at the present time Meijer has not submitted anything and John Russ confirmed it but they have submitted something to the MDEQ. Once they submit something to the city we will notify the residents whether a public hearing is necessary or not.

Chief Rossow presented Tim Huddleston, Chief of the Auxiliary Police Officers, with a plaque honoring him for his years of service. In addition, the Auxiliary Police Officers had some funds remaining in their account and since the program is discontinued, the members have elected to donate their remaining funds to the Police and Fire Benevolent Fund. Chief Rossow thanked them for that donation.

City Attorney addressed his report regarding “Skateboards” and Mayor Jones requested the two students who inquired about skateboarding be sent a copy of the report. The City Clerk will comply.

6. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Council Member Painter asked if a “Deer Crossing” sign could be erected at Baker and Walnut Creek Streets.

Mr. Painter asked if there is a hiring freeze and did someone get hired at the Recreation Center. Joan Pawlukiewicz, Recreation Director, stated there was a person hired to replace Corrine who left. Mayor Jones said there is a hiring freeze except in that particular case. He said we don’t have any full time that we can afford not to have. There are only four full time employees, the Director, Banquet Manager, Aquatics person and Corrine’s replacement. Council Member Painter asked if that position was posted so that someone who might get cut next year could apply for that position. Did we make it known throughout the city employees that there was an opening? Terry Miller stated they did not advertise but used existing applications.

10-06-02 Motion by Painter supported by Wrobel to adopt the Rental Inspection Ordinance (proposed #406) as presented at the last meeting.

Motion passed 5-2 with Mayor Jones and Council Member Gagne voting no.

Council Member Gagne asked about the sign at Aspen and Gibraltar Road “No Turn” certain hours and the light on Vreeland Road at AutoAlliance. Police Chief will give a report a the next meeting.

Council Member Dropiewski congratulated the Flat Rock High School on the Homecoming parade and football game. He also thanked George Mans for his efforts in getting Gibraltar Road paved from I-75 to Crest Ford. Mr. Mans was instrumental in having that included in the construction of I-75.

7. MAYOR’S COMMENTS: None

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Item A – Personal property audit – AutoAlliance.

Al Consiglio of Tax Management Associates. Inc., was present to answer

Questions regarding the proposed audit of AutoAlliance. Eric Painter asked Mr. Consiglio if he would expect to find they made more mistakes and Mr. Gagne asked how intense the audit is. Mr. Consiglio stated the proposal is to do a complete book reconciliation of their tax records. The audit is for 3 years, 3 assessments and auditing all 3 accounts. Mayor Jones said the audit of 2006 must be done by the end of this year or we lose it.

There was discussion regarding TIFA paying for all or part of the audit.

10-06-03 Motion by Jones supported by Gagne to authorize Tax Management Assoc., Inc. to conduct the audit for \$48,000 and request to have TIFA pay 50% or all of it.

Motion carried 4-3 with Dropiewski, Wrobel and Painter voting no.

Item B – Building Director: Sidewalk replacement/lifting bid recommendation.

10-06-04 Motion by Painter supported by Dropiewski to approve the Building Director's recommendation and award the bid to Ultra Concrete Lifting, Rockwood, Mi. in the amount of \$53,525.00 approximately.

The area includes Red Cedar to Hickory Ridge. Mayor Jones said the City will pay half and the homeowner will pay half.

Motion carried 6-1 with Mayor Jones voting no.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

Item A – Police Chief: Talks with Woodhaven/Brownstown Police Departments.

Chief Rossow stated he has been engaged in talks with Brownstown Police Department and the Woodhaven Police Department to see if there is a possibility of lodging some of their sentenced prisoners in exchange for utilizing their Animal Control Officer and shelter.

10-06-05 Motion by Jones supported by Dropiewski to support the outline in Chief Rossow's memo.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item B – Police Chief's request to bid/sell forfeited vehicles.

10-06-06 Motion by Gagne supported by Martin to advertise four (4) forfeited vehicles for sell.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item C – Letter of resignation from Elizabeth Hoover re: Planning Commission.

10-06-07 Motion by Jones supported by Painter to accept the recommendation as submitted.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item D – Recommendation from Mayor Jones re: various commission and board re-appointments.

10-06-08 Motion by Martin supported by Gagne to approve the Mayor's recommendation and re-appoint the following:

Anita Twardesky, DDA, 6-13-12

James Martin, Lila Fedokovitz, Historic Preservation Commission, 2-7-11

Janice Friend, Library Board of Directors, 8-17-13

John Fiorelli, Patricia Simeck, Debra Lambrix, Michael Cox, Tom Havera, TIFA, 6-11-11

William Fashing, Joseph Pagano, Beth Klenczar, Kimberly Marcyan, Darrin Wright, Tricia Balan & Jann Stahr, Recreation Committee, 6-1-09

Luigi Fiorelli, Election Commission, 12-31-11.

Motion carried 6-1 with Wrobel voting no.

Item E – Mayor Jones recommendation to appoint Planning Commission member.

10-06-09 Motion by Gagne supported by Martin to approve Mayor Jones recommendation and appoint Charla Micallef, 28151 E. Huron River Drive, to the Planning Commission to fill the unexpired term of Elizabeth Hoover. Her term will expire February 15, 2009.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item F – Trick or Treat day and time.

10-06-10 Motion by Dropiewski supported by Gagne to set Trick or Treat for Friday, October 31st from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item G – Historical Preservation Commission request to bid for repairs to 2nd story hotel rooms.

10-06-11 Motion by Gagne supported by Painter to approve request as presented with bids to be returned by October 23, 2008 at 3 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item H – Aquatic Therapy Program Agreement/Recreation Center.

10-06-12 Motion by Gagne supported by Martin to approve the agreement as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item I – Recreation Grant/Tennis Courts agreement.

10-06-13 Motion by Gagne supported by Martin to approve agreement as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

Item J – Fire Chief request to bid for 75’ aerial truck.

10-06-14 Motion by Painter supported by Tefend to approve request to bid as presented.

Discussion. This vehicle is partially funded by the 2007 Assistance to Firefighters Grant that we received earlier this year in the amount of \$475,000 and has a total estimated cost of \$710,000. With the lengthy build time the payment balance will not likely be due until October, 2910.

Motion carried unanimously.

10. CORRESPONDENCE: None

LATE CORRESPONDENCE:

Item A – Letter from Wayne County Department of Environment re: CLEAN program.

Mayor Jones said Flat Rock will sign up to be a Host City for the cleanup of old tires next year.

Item B – Rear Yard Drainage Improvement- Croft Avenue.

10-06-15 Motion by Jones supported by Martin to table this item until the next meeting.

Motion carried unanimously.

Council Member Wrobel asked if the roots growing along the bike path near AutoAlliance could be taken care of and Bruce Hammond said it would be.

10-06-16 Motion by Martin supported by Dropiewski to go into Closed Session.

Motion carried unanimously. Mayor Jones called a 10 minute recess at 8:20 p.m.

Open Session was declared at 8:34 p.m.

10-06-17 Motion by Dropiewski supported by Wrobel to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Motion carried unanimously.

RICHARD C. JONES, MAYOR

LORENE BUTSKI, CMC, CITY CLERK

DATE: _____
APPROVED

