

REGULAR COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF FLAT ROCK, MICHIGAN

MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2012

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. ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL MEMBERS:

PRESENT: Mayor Dropiewski, Council members Martin, Borden, Wilkins, Wrobel and Gagne

EXCUSED AS LATE: Councilwoman Moore

ALSO PRESENT: DPS Director Hammond, Recreation Director Pawlukiewicz, Police Chief Rossow, Economic Development Director Mans, Fire Chief/Building Director Vack, Treasurer Rozga, City Attorney Grunow and Clerk Armstrong

Resolution 10-15-01

Motion by Borden
Supported by Martin

RESOLVED, That Flat Rock City Council hereby **EXCUSES** Councilwoman Moore, as late at the regular City Council meeting of October 15, 2012.

Motion carried unanimously

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Resolution 10-15-02

Motion by Gagne
Supported by Martin

RESOLVED, to approve the minutes of the regular City Council meeting of October 1, 2012

Motion carried unanimously

4. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

Don Townsend of Mr. Beans asked for approval of a hayride from the Farmers Market to the Downtown Area of Flat Rock. This request was denied.

A resolution was made as follows: **Resolution 10-15-03**

Motion by Borden
Supported by Gagne

RESOLVED, to approve a hayride in Huroc Park on Saturday, October 27, 2012 between 2:00 pm – 3:30 PM

Motion carried unanimously

Arlen Fadely questioned the chain of command for department heads and if a City employee can be a member of the City Council. He had concerns that the Council is not focusing on what is best for the City.

Bill LaVoy, candidate for the 17th District State House of Representatives spoke of the upcoming November 6, 2012 election. He spoke of his professional experience and work history and why he is a candidate.

5. REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Sergeant Kevin Murphy of the Police Department reported an arrest was made for home invasions at Deerfield Estates.

Economic Development Director George Mans gave an update on Flat Rock Plaza; Style U Boutique and I thee Wed are now open. He reported only three empty buildings are left and may be occupied after the 1st of the New Year.

Joann Pawlukiewicz, Director of the Community Center, reported the Ladies Day Out on Thursday, October 25, 2012. She also reminded residents of the Senior Christmas Dinner which will be on December 6, 2012. She spoke of the Rotary, Senior Lunch and Wayne County Clerk Lunch all held on October 10, 2012 and how the staff members did a great job.

Bill Vack, Fire Chief and Building Director, spoke of safety issues. He stated the power was out throughout the community on October 14, 2012 - October 15, 2012 between 10:45 pm and 12:00 pm. Power lines were down at Cahill Road. Chief Vack reported about fire prevention week and reminded everyone of fire safety issues and to change smoke detector batteries when you turn your clocks back.

6. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Councilman Gary Borden thanked the Fire and Police Department for all their efforts to keep the community safe. Councilman Borden asked about the sidewalk at the gas station on Telegraph. He said 20 feet of sidewalk was taken out and only replaced 8 feet.

Councilman Borden welcomed Wendy Smith to the DDA and Wendy Clark to the Library Commission.

He inquired about hiring an ordinance officer and part time DPS employee. He noted that the Yarn Tree on Gibraltar Road is vacant and the grass is high.

Councilman Borden gave his condolences to Felicia Moore for the loss of her Mother in Law.

Councilman Jim Martin asked about the progress on the 2 mile bike path.

Councilman Ken Wrobel stated it was nice to see Arlen Fadely back at the Council meetings and appreciates citizens taking their time to attend the meetings.

Councilman Paul Gagne spoke about citizens concerns that Council members speak too much about projects than what is best for the City. Councilman Gagne spoke about the Library and his interest and concerns for it.

7. **MAYOR'S COMMENTS:**

Mayor Dropiewski thanked the Police, Fire and DPS employees for their assistance with the Power outage. The Mayor reminded residents to stay away from down power lines.

Mayor Dropiewski attended the Grand Opening and ribbon cutting for the two new businesses in the Flat Rock Plaza, Style U Boutique and I Thee Wed. He congratulated the Clerks office and Joann Pawlukiewicz for a successful Wayne County Clerks Association meeting at the Community Center.

9. **PUBLIC HEARING – AUTO ALLIANCE INTERNATIONAL, INC.
APPLICATION FOR INDUSTRIAL FACILITIES TAX EXEMPTION:**

To open the public hearing

Resolution 10-15-04

Motion by Martin
Supported by Gagne

Resolved, to open the public hearing for Auto Alliance International, Inc., Application for Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption

Motion carried unanimously

Resident, Arlen Fadely spoke to the Public Hearing. He questioned the percent of tax exemption and questioned the cost ratio to Flat Rock for the services we provided Ford in tax dollars. He questioned what will happen if Ford doesn't stay through the course of the abatement. He had concerns with the production numbers that Ford presented.

Mayor Dropiewski spoke to Mr. Fadely questions and expressed his thoughts on the abatement. He explained Flat Rock worked with Ford directly and came to an agreement that both sides determined was fair. The Mayor stated for will pay approximately 3.5 million in taxes this year. Mayor Dropiewski stated terms that Ford must agree to (the terms can be found in the resolution).

Rodney Haynes, the CFO of Auto Alliance spoke about his work with Ford and bringing the plant back to life. He spoke about the funds invested in plants to accommodate additional capacity within the plant and the flexible body shop.

Councilwoman Moore questioned the abatement and construction year period. Attorney Grunow spoke to her question. Councilwoman asked if construction was started. She questioned if the terms would be included in the language. She later asked about the 1200 jobs that will be available at the plant and asked the process of hiring. Councilwoman Moore stated her interest that the jobs to be available to Flat Rock residents. She asked if the City could be notified when the jobs become available so residents could apply.

Councilman Gagne stated the last tax exemption was contested the City lost half a million dollars but he realized this was done all over the Country. He stated how communities are suffering from the effects of Ford applying for the exemptions.

Councilman Wrobel stated that something has to be changed with the tax tables from the State of Michigan; this will have to be heard by our legislators.

Councilman Borden asked if Ford can do something beneficial for the City. The Mayor responded that the City cannot ask Ford to give or do anything else for the City. He welcomed Ford to the Flat Rock community.

The Government Relations Manager for Ford spoke to the Council regarding the plant and the danger that it was closing. She stated Ford's commitment to Flat Rock by investing \$550,000,000 to the plant and bringing new products to the plant.

Resolution 10-15-05

Motion by Martin
Supported by Borden

Resolved, to close the public hearing and convene into the regular council meeting

Motion carried unanimously

Resolution 10-15-06

Motion by Dropiewski
Supported by Martin

Resolved, to approve the application for Auto Alliance International, Inc., Industrial Facilities Tax Exemption with the following stipulations:

- Two year construction period and eight year abatement
- Pay all taxes full and on time
- No appeal of taxes for 3-5 years
- If they leave early, they must pay us back the taxes
- Ford must act as a co-signer to agreement

Yays: Dropiewski, Martin, Borden, Wrobel and Moore
Nays: Wilkins and Gagne

Motion carried 5-2

10. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Item 10-A - Flat Rock Goodfellows to hold their annual newspaper sale on Friday, November 16, 2012 from 7:00 am – 2:00 pm.

Resolution 10-15-07

Motion by Martin
Supported by Borden

RESOLVED, to approve Flat Rock Goodfellows annual newspaper drive on Friday, November 16, 2012 from 7:00 am – 2:00 pm

Motion carried unanimously

**Item 10-B - Invoice number 4008 from Downriver Community Conference for 2012-2012 membership dues and;
Item 10-C- Invoice number 4009 from Downriver Community Conference for Downriver Mutual Aid membership dues for 2012-2013**

Resolution 10-15-08

Motion by Martin
Supported by Moore

RESOLVED, to approve the Downriver Community Conference invoice number 4008, in the amount of \$4750.00 for membership dues from October 2012 – September 2013 and invoice number 4009, in the amount of \$6,585.88 for Downriver Mutual Aid Membership dues for 2012-2013.

Motion carried unanimously

Resolution 10-15-09

Motion by Martin
Supported by Moore

RESOLVED, to convene into closed session to discuss the City of Gibraltar vs. City of Flat Rock

Roll Call Vote: Unanimously Passed

Resolution 10-15-10

Motion by Moore
Supported by Martin

RESOLVED, to reconvene into the regular Council meeting

Motion carried unanimously

Resolution 10-15-11

Motion by Dropiewski
Supported by Moore

RESOLVED, to approve Attorney Grunow to file an appeal for the litigation of City of Gibraltar vs. City of Flat Rock

Roll Call Vote: with Councilman Wrobel voting NO

Motion carried 6-1

11. ADJOURNMENT:

Resolution 10-15-12

Motion by Martin
Supported by Borden

RESOLVED, to adjourn the regular City Council meeting of October 15, 2012

All voting yes; Motion carried unanimously.

JONATHAN DROPIEWSKI, MAYOR

DATE: _____
Approved

MEAGHAN K. ARMSTRONG, CITY CLERK