

REGULAR COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF FLAT ROCK, MICHIGAN

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2013

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, Councilmembers Martin, Borden, Wilkins, Wrobel, Gagne and Moore

ALSO PRESENT: Fire Chief/Building Director Vack, Police Chief Rossow, Interim DPS Director Matt Sype, Recreation Director Joann Pawlukiewicz, Treasurer Lani Rozga, Building Inspector Bernie Ciupak, Attorney Grunow and Clerk Bachman

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Resolution 11-18-01

Motion by Borden
Supported by Gagne

RESOLVED, to approve the minutes of the regular City Council meeting of November 4, 2013 as amended to reflect Councilman Borden's request to Chief Vack to research companies that will dispose of used smoke detectors

Motion carried unanimously

4. **PRESENTATIONS**

4-A-Presentation by Bruce Hammond of Charles E. Raines Company on Stormwater, Asset Management, and Wastewater (SAW) grant and approval of SAW grant resolution for application. In January 2013, a new grant opportunity was created by the Michigan Legislature for Municipalities throughout the State to assist in developing asset management plans, innovative sanitary sewer/storm water projects and designing needed, wastewater and storm projects. The MDEQ has been authorized to distribute approximately \$495 million to Municipalities. A local unit of government can apply for up to \$2 million with a 10% match for the first million dollars and 25% match for the second million dollars. Grant awards are based on first come, first serve basis. The MDEQ will be distributing \$97 million in 2014 with applications due December 2, 2013. As the City's Consulting Engineer, C. E. Raines is currently assembling the necessary information to apply for a grant that would result in the City having an asset management plan for its sanitary sewer system and its stormwater system. We are recommending the Council approve up to \$2 million for the grant authorizing resolution. The City's match would be \$350,000.00 and the project would take three years to complete. The following resolution was made:

Resolution 11-18-02

Motion by Martin
Supported by Moore

RESOLVED, to approve the resolution to apply for the SAW grant through Charles E. Raines Engineering Company

Motion carried unanimously

4-B-Presentation by Rizzo Environmental Service for Rizzo Rewards Recycling Program . This program offers every household in the City of Flat Rock the opportunity to save money each year on purchases from area businesses. Every time residents recycle, your home will be credited so that residents have access to savings from several area businesses.

5. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

Sue Farrar of the Beautification Commission announced Santa Clause is coming to town on Tuesday, December 3, 2013 and at 6:30 PM the Mayor will light the Christmas tree, the glee class from Simpson Jr. High will be performing and a bake sale will take place to raise money for the animal shelter. Santa's mailbox will be at the library from December 3rd – December 20th. The Christmas home decorating contest judging will take place on December 12th from 6 – 11 PM. DTE will provide the city with prize money for the winners.

Joe Pagano, DDA Chairman announced small business Saturday on December 30th. He asked people to shop the small business in town and support them. He announced a couple new businesses, Tim Horton's, Little Dixie and On Deck Transportation (26082 E. Huron River Drive). He noted On Deck is collecting Toys for Tots and will even pick up toys from local businesses.

He presented the Riverfest Committee members an award for supporting the community and Riverfest. He noted the past three years have been great for the community and the businesses in Flat Rock. He announced the hard work the committee puts into the Riverfest and appreciates the hard work done by all.

6. REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Building Director Bernie Ciupak announced he is ready to hire a part time inspector/ordinance officer and the ad will be published. He noted complaints are being addressed as possible. He noted 3 new residential applications were submitted since the last council meeting.

Police Chief Neal Rossow thanked Judge McNally from the 33rd District for hosting Court to Classroom at Simpson Middle School. He sentenced 4 drunk drivers and thanked all who participated. He noted Toys for Tots drop off is in the Police Department Lobby and applications for families interested in the program. He reminded residents of the prescription drop box located in the lobby as well.

Recreation Director Joann Pawlukiewicz announced upcoming activities at the center. She noted the Recreation Center holiday hours; rec will be closed on Thanksgiving and the day after hours will be 9 am – 4 pm. Christmas and New Year Day will be closed, Christmas Eve 8 am – noon. She noted the Community Lutheran Church is accepting donations of food and a drop off is available at the Community Center. She announced at the CSO meeting, Judy Donaldson announced they will have a shortage of food and they have 30 additional families that they will try and help. Councilwoman Moore asked if residents can contact Judy, yes she can be reached at the Community Lutheran Church her name is Judith Watkins.

City Clerk Meaghan Bachman thanked the election workers for their hard work on the November 5, 2013 election. She welcomed the new Councilmembers and congratulated the incumbents on their re-election. She also reminded residents the Clerk's office accepts passport applications.

7. **REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

Councilwoman Wilkins congratulated the new elected officials. She also congratulated the City Clerk and her workers for a wonderful job on the election.

Councilwoman Wilkins made a motion to hire two police officers as their positions are in the budget she noted moral is bad and overtime is very high.

Resolution 11-18-03

Motion by Wilkins
Supported by Borden

Discussion: Councilwoman Moore noted she would like to see an Ordinance Officer not the two police officer positions.

RESOLVED, to hire two police officers as their positions are in the budget
Motion Failed 2-5 with Dropiewski, Martin, Wrobel, Gagne and Moore voting NO

Councilman Borden congratulated John Bergeron and Dawn Thomas to Council and welcomed back Mayor Dropiewski and Councilman Martin. He thanked the DDA for the award and thanked the Riverfest committee for their hard work and dedication. He announced a fundraiser event for families in need, the Goodfellows and Girl Scouts. There is no age limit. On November 29th Michaels on the River will host the event which is free. On November 30th Salutes will host a special event and it is \$25 per ticket and all proceeds will go to help families in need. He thanked and acknowledged his neighbor's father for donating \$20.00 to the event.

Councilman Martin thanked everyone for supporting him for the election. He welcomed and congratulated the newly elected Councilmembers and the Mayor. He noted he looks forward to working with them. He asked Russ Wittman the status of the road assessment. Russ noted the field study is completed and looking to have it complete by late January 2014. He asked Matt Sype if the Ice Rink is ready. The Mayor noted it will be open and staffed the way it should be and we will be keeping record on usage patterns. Councilwoman Moore asked if we could host a children's activity at the ice rink through the community center, Joann said she will look into it and it was done in the past.

Councilman Wrobel welcomed the new elected officials and the incumbents. He noted the City Clerk did a fine job along with the election workers. He welcomed the new Rubbish company, Rizzo.

Councilman Gagne thanked the voters for voting in the library millage. He noted it shows the community is concerned about the library and noted the library should be ok for the next 30 years without asking for more because of this millage increase. He congratulated the elected candidates and welcomed them. He noted a vacancy exist on the library board and suggested the new councilmembers could possibly take that seat. He noted he has 2 years left on the library board and is slowly easing away from activities due to age and projects at home that will need to be finished. He noted it has been an incredible experience.

Councilwoman Moore congratulated the newly elected councilmembers and Councilman Martin and Mayor Dropiewski. She acknowledged the academic scholars and had the opportunity as a parent of a 7th grade Simpson Middle School student inducted into the National Jr. Honor Society. She noted the students and parents are wonderful and noted Councilman Borden has worked to do more with the youth of our community. She noted it is a goal for her as a parent to work with the youth and Councilman Borden on achieving this.

8. MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Mayor Dropiewski announced the annual Holiday Home Tour hosted by the Soroptimist Club on December 7th at 10:00 AM, this is a fundraiser for the club and tickets are available at Dosan's or the Flat Rock Library on the day of the event. He noted this is a wonderful event.

Mayor Dropiewski the bake sale to support the Flat Rock Animal Shelter is Tuesday, December 3rd between 11:00 AM – 5:00 PM at the Community Center and will continue in the evening at City Hall during Santa's visit and the tree lighting.

The Mayor noted Christmas decorating will be done on Garden Blvd. by the DDA.

He spoke on the cost analysis on the Inspector/Ordinance Officer position. He noted the three options we have: 1) Outsourcing around \$40.00 per hour 2) sharing the service with another community, around half of the outsourcing cost 3) hire our own part time employee \$15.00 per hour. After talking with the Building Inspector and Fire Chief, they would like to hire one person for both duties. The ordinance officer would be around 15-16 hours a week and seems to be a reasonable amount of time for the duties and if we need to factor in court time we will keep under the 29 hours a week. Councilman Gagne noted he supports this decision. Councilman Wrobel asked about an ACO and the Mayor noted the police are doing fine with it and with the help of the 30+ volunteers they are ok, he noted a possibility would be to call upon other communities to assist with animal control if needed. Wrobel noted he doesn't want to see police officers enforcing animal control and rather would see them on the road. Mayor Dropiewski announced we applied for a grant to spay and neuter animals. Councilman Martin asked if the ordinance officer would also do building inspections. The Mayor noted that is what they plan to do. Councilmen Borden asked if the time frame would be 2 months. The Mayor noted the position should be trained and ready by spring time when it gets busy.

Mayor Dropiewski congratulated the elected officials and looks forward to working with them. He also thanked the voters of Flat Rock and noted we have critical issues to work with the next couple years. He noted Councilman Gagne and Councilwoman Moore will be missed.

9. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Item 9-A-Recommendation for progress payment No. 1 (final) for the Olmstead Road Sanitary Sewer Lift Station Pump Repairs

Resolution 11-18-04

Motion by Wrobel
Supported by Martin

RESOLVED, to approve the progress payment No. 1 (final) for the Olmstead Road Sanitary Sewer Lift Station Pump Repairs

Motion carried unanimously

Item 9-B- 2nd reading of ordinance amending weed control

Resolution 11-18-05

Motion by Martin
Supported by Wrobel

RESOLVED, to suspend the 2nd reading of ordinance amending weed control

Motion carried 5-2 with Borden and Wilkins voting NO

Resolution 11-18-06

Motion by Dropiewski
Supported by Martin

Discussion: Councilman Borden gave a presentation on the city and noted his concern with changing the ordinance. His presentation showed a filming of Flat Rock and noted we worked hard to improve the community and attract businesses. He noted the current weed control ordinance isn't enforced and asked why we are changing the ordinance. The Mayor noted the new ordinance is more restricted and detailed and noted this will give the ordinance department the ability to enforce weed and grass control. Matt Sype noted the previous ordinance all grass and weed would be violated if over 12" and the new ordinance specifies what is a weed and what is grass along with a height of 6" would have to be cut. Councilman Borden asked if we are making an exception for one resident who didn't want to cut his lot and threatened people and noted all residents should follow the ordinance. The City Attorney explained the changes to the ordinance.

RESOLVED, to approve the amendment to the weed control ordinance as presented by the City Attorney and to publish the amended ordinance in the News Herald; this ordinance shall be effective immediately

Motion carried unanimously

10. NEW BUSINESS

Item 10-A- Accident policy renewal certificate for the Fire Department

Resolution 11-18-07

Motion by Wrobel
Supported by Martin

RESOLVED, to approve Accident policy renewal certificate for the Fire Department

Motion carried unanimously

Item 10-B- Request from the Rockwood Area Lions International Club to sell Christmas candy on Friday, December 13th and Saturday, December 14th, 2013 in the City of Flat Rock (East HRD & Telegraph)

Resolution 11-18-08

Motion by Gagne
Supported by Martin

RESOLVED, to approve the Request from the Rockwood Area Lions International Club to sell Christmas candy on Friday, December 13th and Saturday, December 14th, 2013 in the City of Flat Rock (East HRD & Telegraph)

Motion carried unanimously

CLOSED SESSION:

To convene into closed session to discuss City of Gibraltar v. City of Flat Rock

Resolution 11-18-09

Motion by Dropiewski
Supported by Martin

RESOLVED, to convene into closed session at 9:40 PM to discuss City of Gibraltar v. City of Flat Rock

Motion carried unanimously

Reconvene into open meeting

Resolution 11-18-10

Motion by Wrobel
Supported by Borden

RESOLVED, to reconvene into the regular council meeting

Motion carried unanimously

11. ADJOURNMENT:

Resolution 11-18-11

Motion by Wrobel
Supported by Martin

RESOLVED, to adjourn the regular City Council meeting of November 18, 2013 at 9:57 PM

All voting yes; motion carried unanimously.

JONATHAN DROPIEWSKI, MAYOR

DATE: _____
Approved

MEAGHAN K. ARMSTRONG, CITY CLERK