

REGULAR COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

**CITY OF FLAT ROCK, MICHIGAN
25500 GIBRALTAR ROAD
FLAT ROCK, MI 48134**

MONDAY, MAY 20, 2019

The regular meeting of the Flat Rock City Council convened at the Municipal Building, 25500 Gibraltar Road, Flat Rock, Michigan 48134, on the above date at 7:30 p.m.

1. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

2. ROLL CALL OF COUNCIL MEMBERS:

PRESENT ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mayor Dropiewski

Council Members: Bergeron, Little, Martin, Maul, Tefend, Wrobel

ALSO, PRESENT: City Attorney Matthew Zick, City Clerk Meaghan Bachman, Fire Chief Bill Vack, Police Chief John Leacher, Assistant DPS Director Justin Danosky, Recreation Director Rodney Wade, Treasurer/City Administrator Brian Marciniak, Economic Development Director Liz Hendley.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Resolution 05-20-19-01

Motion by Martin

Supported by Tefend

RESOLVED, to approve the minutes of the regular City Council meeting of May 6, 2019 as presented.

Motion carried unanimously 7-0

4. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

Sue Farrar spoke of the Flat Rock City Wide Garage Sale that was May 18th and 19th, 2019. She thanked the residents who participated and the volunteers who helped at the event and presented them with certificates of appreciation. The following individuals were awarded certificates:

- Melissa Cunningham, St. Vincent DePaul Representative
- Heather Farrar
- Heather Larson
- Kim Pardo
- Joel Sherrard
- Tammy Reames

- Alisa Maul
- Mark Maul
- Mike Goudreau
- Mary Goudreau
- Todd Arnoldi
- The Clerk's Office, Meaghan Bachman and Katie Tomasik

Sue Farrar noted many of the donated items leftover from the sale will go the schools for sports, shoes for Shelter to Home, baskets for little Lindsay, books for the seniors and churches, supplies for dogs and cats to the animal shelter, and much more. Sue mentioned 110 permits were sold for this event and the next sale is September 7th and 8th, 2019.

Lila Fedokovitz of the Flat Rock Historical Society announced they were contacted by the group Downriver for Veterans. The group is interested in helping clean up the cemeteries in the area. She noted Oak Wood Cemetery on Will Carleton is scheduled for clean up on June 8th at 7:00 AM and they need help with the clean-ups. She also noted Flat Rock has three (3) cemeteries, Vreeland, Huron Valley and Oak Wood, but there is no ordinance for restoration on damaged cemeteries. She asked the City Attorney draft and ordinance. The Attorney noted he spoke to Lila regarding this concern and found a State Law that references this subject matter.

5. REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS:

Department of Public Services Assistant Director Justin Danosky reminded residents that water bills can be set up to automatically deduct from a checking account. Residents will need to complete a form and bring in a voided check.

6. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

City Council Member Jim Martin congratulated the 33rd District Court on their 50th Anniversary. He attended their anniversary event and noted is was very nice. He noted it was nice to see the former judges and former City Council Member Paul Gagne. Council Member Martin also noted, it was interesting to see the original building on Van Horn was built under former Flat Rock Mayor Max Angel and the addition was put up under former Flat Rock Mayor Richard Jones.

7. MAYOR COMMENTS:

Mayor Dropiewski congratulated the 33rd District Court on their 50th Anniversary. He noted it was a nice ceremony.

The Mayor reminded everyone of the annual Memorial Day Parade on May 27th at 10:00 AM, that will begin at the American Legion and end at City Hall.

Mayor Dropiewski noted he attended a news conference with Liz Hendley regarding the Ralph C. Wilson Jr. Foundation. It was announced that a grant was awarded, under the foundation, for the Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance and they received a \$255,000 grant to help turn the vision of the 315-mile long Great Lake-to-Lake Trail into reality. The Alliance will use the funds to continue working with the managers of 28 trails including the Iron Belle and Flat Rock is part of this grant. We have been granted around \$100,000 to design and build the Southern Gateway to the Downriver Linked Greenway. This will provide a unique recreational

experience that increases fitness opportunities for our citizens while driving tourism to the region and state. The Mayor noted we cannot spend the money on anything else and the grant is dedicated to this purpose. He noted the construction might begin this fall. The City is always in search of funds to maintain the bike path. Note from the Department of Natural Resources website: The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation is a grant-making organization dedicated primarily to sustained investment in the quality of life of the people of Southeast Michigan and Western New York. The two areas reflect Ralph C. Wilson, Jr.'s devotion to his hometown of Detroit and greater Buffalo, home of his Buffalo Bills franchise. Prior to his passing in 2014, Mr. Wilson requested that a significant share of his estate be used to continue a life-long generosity of spirit by funding the Foundation that bears his name. The Foundation has a grant-making capacity of \$1.2 billion over a 20-year period, which expires January 8, 2035. This structure is consistent with Mr. Wilson's desire for the Foundation's impact to be immediate, substantial, measurable and overseen by those who knew him best.

The Mayor spoke of Huron River Drive and truck traffic. He spoke with Wayne County Officials about the problem and noted the best process to move forward to make the change would be a formal resolution from City Council requesting Wayne County to declassify Huron River Drive as a Class A truck route and remove truck traffic. He noted the proposed route would be Telegraph to Vreeland to Hall back to Gibraltar Road. He noted this might involve Wayne County taking ownership of Vreeland Road. The County owns Vreeland Road East of I-75, Flat Rock & Woodhaven share Vreeland Road to a point going West, then becomes all Flat Rock. This will have to be worked out with the County. The following motion was made:

Resolution 05-20-19-02

Motion by Maul
Supported by Martin

RESOLVED, to have the City Clerk draft a resolution to request Wayne County to declassify Huron River Drive as a Class A truck route and remove truck traffic. The resolution shall also include the proposed route would be Telegraph to Vreeland to Hall back to Gibraltar Road. He noted this might involve Wayne County taking ownership of Vreeland Road.

Discussion: Council Member Wrobel asked if we can ask the County to fix the road as well. There was no further discussion to add this to the resolution from the motion maker and supporter.

Motion carried unanimously 7-0

The Mayor discussed options for solid waste and recycling. He passed out a spreadsheet to the City Council Members with three (3) options including, normal trash pickup/weekly recycling/yard waste, trash pickup/every other week recycling/yard waste, trash pickup/yard waste/no recycling.

Wrobel: If we choose the recycling do they take it to a recycling center, or will they throw it in the regular trash?

Mayor: I believe they are required to take it to a facility, current provider approached us about taking the recycling to the Detroit incinerator to turn into renewable energy, which is no longer an option. The increase is not just a Flat Rock issue, it is all over because China has stopped taking our recycling.

Bergeron: I heard it was contaminated.

Mayor: That is what is being said. People throw pizza boxes in recycling and that contaminates it.

Mayor: difference in cost over the three (3) years. About \$70,000 per year to keep recycling. If

we don't use recycling, our landfill fess will go up. Wanted to bring to Council to get an idea of what we want to do. The current provider gave us an alternate bid but would be only one (1) day pickup. Council will have to decide what value we place on recycling and if we want to continue. Maul: Will we make this spreadsheet and information available to the public.

Mayor: yes, it is bid results. Not asking for a decision tonight, need to know how we feel. Our budget for next year is "ugly". Our number from the state for this year is \$57,000 and last year was \$260,000, due to the Personal Property Tax Reform. There is tremendous budget sensitivity, and this is the largest contract we give out.

Bergeron: over a three-year period is \$200,000 difference and comes down to dollar and cents and he is sensitive to recycling but that is a bit of money over three years.

Maul: how many tons were recycled because that is now going back into the trash and the cost is going to go up.

Mayor: about an extra \$10,000 per year extra in landfill fees.

Martin: so that's \$190,000 instead of \$200,000

Mayor: Jim Lancaster is looking at what potential other recycling alternatives we can use such as taking it to a facility.

Martin: When we first started, we had a drop off at KMART and that was a mess.

Mayor: we really don't have the space and the cost.

Bergeron: we can chip seal roads for the cost of recycling.

Mayor: if we decide to go that route and if things changes, hopefully we can change it back.

Maul: what are surrounding communities doing.

Mayor: we are one of the first to come up and others are finishing their current contracts. Trenton does not have it, Riverview does not but can take it to the landfill. Woodhaven has curbside and their contract if not up yet.

The Mayor noted Bergeron is a leaning towards no recycling.

Bergeron: he noted he is not against recycling he is for less cost.

Martin: the expense is the concern. I don't think people would appreciate a line item on their tax bills for trash collection.

Maul: would like to talk to other communities to see how they are handling it.

Wrobel: it's hard, someone must take a stand. He understands the cost, but we must take a stand and do something.

Maul: Do you legally have to recycle? You can't just throw an item in the trash?

Attorney: I do not believe there is mandatory recycling in Michigan but will investigate it.

Mayor: don't think we could bid it out if it was mandatory.

Little: we need recycling but hate to pay that much for it.

Mayor: if we went to less mixed recycling, glass, paper and metals are not causing the problem. He is looking into that.

Wrobel: don't buy plastic, such as water bottles

Bergeron: the plastics weren't meant to breakdown in the past and now they are making some advancements for them to breakdown.

Maul: Rotary has a bench made from recyclable material.

He asked Chief Leacher to speak about that. The Mayor spoke about it stating it was made from recycled stuff. He mentioned trex decking.

Martin: Ford is making things out of water bottles

Mayor: BASF is making the rubber soles of tennis shoes.

Martin: what is the cost to remanufacture the recycled items vs. making from raw materials.

Little: could we have a representative from one of the companies come and talk to us about this.

Mayor: we could have our current provider GFL come in and discuss the cost.

The Mayor spoke about Summer Blast in the Park on June 7, 8, 9th at Huroc Park and encouraged all to attend.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None

9. NEW BUSINESS

Item 9-A-Request to set Public Hearing for the 2019-2020 Budget

Resolution 05-20-19-03

Motion by Martin
Supported by Bergeron

RESOLVED, to set a public hearing for the 2019-2020 budget on Monday, June 3, 2019.

Motion carried unanimously 7-0

Item 9-B-MML Workers' Compensation Coverage Renewal

Resolution 05-20-19-04

Motion by Bergeron
Supported by Martin

RESOLVED, to approve the Michigan Municipal League Workers' Compensation coverage renewal for the period July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020, in the amount of \$17,588.00.

Motion carried unanimously 7-0

Item 9-C-Bid Award – Historic Smith Hotel Balcony Project

Resolution 05-20-19-05

Motion by Martin
Supported by Tefend

RESOLVED, to approve bid award for Historic Smith Hotel Balcony Project to Haase Construction Inc. in the amount of \$19,347.00.

Motion carried unanimously 7-0

Item 9-D-Bid Award – ADA Ramps and Sidewalks – CDBG Project

Resolution 05-20-19-06

Motion by Wrobel
Supported by Bergeron

RESOLVED, to approve the bid award for the ADA Ramps and Sidewalks, CDBG Project, to Dominic Gaglio Construction in the amount of \$33,023.00.

Motion carried unanimously 7-0

10. **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:**
None

11. **LATE CORRESPONDENCE:**

Item 11-A-Fireworks Permit for Flat Rock Summer Blast and Riverfest

Motion by Martin
Supported by Bergeron

RESOLVED, to approve the fireworks permit for Flat Rock Summer Blast and Riverfest.

Discussion: Council Member Wrobel noted dogs do not like the fireworks and for that reason he will vote no.

Motion carried 6-1 with Wrobel voting no

12. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Resolution 05-20-19-07

Motion by Martin
Supported by Wrobel

RESOLVED, to adjourn the regular City Council meeting of May 20, 2019 at 8:12 PM.

All voting yes; motion carried unanimously 7-0

DATE: _____
Approved

JONATHAN D. DROPIEWSKI, MAYOR

MEAGHAN K. BACHMAN, CITY CLERK