

REGULAR COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF FLAT ROCK, MICHIGAN

MONDAY, MAY 19, 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, Martin and Wrobel.

Council Members Tefend and Dropiewski were absent.

05-19-01 Motion by Painter supported by Martin to excuse Council Members Tefend and Dropiewski.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

05-19-02 Motion by Gagne supported by Martin to approve the Regular Minutes of April 21, 2008 as presented.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

4. CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:

A resident at 24865 Huron River Drive said it had come to her attention that Council may be considering eliminating the animal control officer. If that is the case she said it would be a disservice to the community. She said she is on the Board of Directors at the Humane Society in Monroe and knows first hand how important an animal control officer position is. She asked Council to reconsider,

5. REPORTS FROM DEPT. HEADS:

George Mans, Economic Development Director, gave a brief report on the Downriver Link Greenways. Flat Rock hosted a meeting under the auspices of Congressman John Dingell as well and Downriver Link Greenways. Mr. Mans said Flat Rock is one of three entities that are involved in this project; the other two being Huron

Township, because the Mell property falls in Huron Township, and the Huron Clinton Metro Park Authority. Flat Rock had two easements to get, those being the CNN RR and the Mell property. At this point Congressman Dingell is working to try to get funding. There may be a proposal coming that Flat Rock inter into an intergovernmental with Huron Township and Huron Clinton Metro Park Authority. The goal is to get everything set this year with construction in 2009.

6. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Councilmember Gagne reported receiving an answer to his letter from Congressman Dingell regarding the excessive cost for utilities. He said Congressman Dingell always answers his letters.

Councilmember Martin asked Fire Chief Vack about HASMATS spill at Gateway. Chief Vack said the spill cost thousands of dollars to clean up and it hasn't been determined who dumped the material. He said they know where and what but not who.

Councilmember Painter asked if the Meadows Street bridge is open yet. Mr. Hammond stated not officially but the barricades are gone and the bridge is being used.

7. MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Mayor Jones stated the Preliminary Budget on the agenda was prepared with the 12 % cut by department heads. He said Council will have the Mayor's budget for the public hearing at the June 2nd Council meeting. He said the department heads did an excellent job.

Council Member Gagne stated that as a member of the Library Board he recommends cutting their budget from \$90,000 to \$45,000. Mr. Gagne also stated that the Ordinance Officer, being the lowest paid of the 4 to be laid off, should be reconsidered because she is the lowest paid and does a good job. He said he hates to see anyone get laid off but drastic times calls for drastic measures.

Mayor clarified lay offs by saying if anyone gets laid off in the Police Department there are proper channels to follow per union contracts and also sonority. If there is any possible way when I finalize the Mayor's budget not to lay anyone off I can assure you I'm going to do that. I will work on the budget next week and get it ready for June 2nd and we will see what it says.

Council Member Painter said everybody made a 12% cut across the board. Public services is always your largest chunk so for them to cut you already start getting into bodies. I would hope this Council and Mayor would prioritize the entire City and make cuts accordingly. If loss of a body vs. cutting a service, you should do the reduction in service before you try to cut the body, if that can be done. Mr. Painter requested a list of

employees in each department at present. Mayor said it is in the Preliminary budget you have before you.

Council Member Wrobel said he agrees with Painter. He feels the Recreation Center should take a hit first.

Attorney Grunow addressed his letter sent to the TPOAM Union representing the Clerical and DPS Departments in which an impasse has been declared implementing a part of the City's last best offer as to medical and the opt out. So there is no questions as far as the other department heads, in this case the Treasurer pays out those things, I would like Council to ratify/reaffirm that correspondence to those two unions or tell me that something different should be done. Mayor asked if he meant the insurance and Mr. Grunow said it meant to change the insurance and reduce the opt-out to \$300 per month.

05-19-03 Motion by Jones supported by Gagne to affirm the intent of change in insurance and change the opt-out as specified in the Attorney's letter dated May 9, 2008. Opt-out to be effective June 1, 2008.

Mr. Grunow said the letter does three things: (1) declares an impasse as to negotiations (2) implementation of City's last best offer as to the opt-out of medical at \$300 effective June 1, 2008 (3) as quickly as possible to implement the new insurance.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

8. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Item A – Public Hearing: Single Premise Special Assessment.

Mayor opened the public hearing at 7:55 p.m. The single premise special assessment is for delinquent invoices for water bills, weed cutting, sidewalks, etc. These bills will be added to the taxes. Mayor asked if the audience had any comments and hearing none closed the public hearing at 7:59 p.m.

05-19-04 Motion by Gagne supported by Martin to adopt the Special Premise Assessment as presented.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Item B – Falling Water Subdivision PUD.

City Attorney referred to his letter which states in part; City Council referred the matter of amending the Zoning Ordinance to the Planning Commission and after further review, it appears that the Developer has never received final site plan approval. Under the terms of the PUD Agreement and Zoning Ordinance, each phase of the PUD must be commenced within 24 months or the plan shall become null and void. The ordinance is silent as to whether Council can extend the time period required under

the project, but requires that the City Council affirmatively commence to rezone the property upon the expiration of the PUD. Attorney Grunow recommends that the Developer be notified that the City Council will not take action to rezone the property for a period of 12 months, with this commitment to expire May 15, 2009.

05-19-05 Motion by Painter supported b Martin to notify the Developer that Council will refrain from taking action to rezone the property for a period of one year.

All present voting yes except Mayor Jones voting no. Motion carried 4-1.

9. NEW BUESINESS:

Item A – Recreation Director’s request to re-hire.

05-19-06 Motion by Gagne supported by Jones to approve re-hire of Susan Martin (wife of Councilman Martin) and Joseph Grunow (son of Attorney Grunow).

All present voting yes except Councilman Martin abstained due to interested party. Motion carried 4-1.

Item B – Letter from George Mans, Economic Development Director re: CDBG transfer of funds.

05-19-07 Motion by Gagne supported by Jones to transfer \$12,000 from #07-06-05E (the Senior Mini-Van) to #07-06-03A (Senior Center Garage) due to having purchased the van before the funds were released from the County.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

10. CORRESPONDENCE:

Item A – Notice from Detroit Water & Sewer Department re: 2008-2009 rates and charges.

The new rate per thousand cubic feet is \$11.16. Mayor said he will probably ask Council to raise the water rates in the near future.

11. LATE CORRESPONDENCE:

Item A – Proposed ambulance fee increase.

Fire Chief stated the increases is based on an investigation done with the billing company and also because we recently completed our registration with the Medicare as advanced life support service provider. Once we did that we are allowed to charge rates for ALS service based on service provided each individual patient. These rates take effect June 1, 2008:

	<u>Current</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
ALS1	\$350.00	\$525.00
ALS2	\$500.00	\$600.00
BLS	\$325.00	\$375.00
Mileage	\$ 7.00	\$ 8.50

05-19-08 Motion by Martin supported by Painter to increase rates as proposed.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

05-19-09 Motion by Martin supported by Wrobel to adjourn the regular meeting at 8:10 p.m.

All present voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

RICHARD C. JONES, MAYOR

LORENE BUTSKI, CMC CITY CLERK

DATE: _____
approved