

REGULAR COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF FLAT ROCK, MICHIGAN

MONDAY, JUNE 02, 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, Wrobel, Tefend and Dropiewski.

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, and Building Director John Russ.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

06-02-01 Motion by Gagne supported by Martin to approve the Regular Minutes of May 19, 2008 and Special Minutes of May 27, 2008 as presented.

All voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

4. **CITIZENS TO BE HEARD:**

Residents at 26151 E. Huron River Drive addressed Council regarding the property next door to them at 26157 E. Huron River. He said debris and the smell of mold is very bad and a homeless person is living there. He said the house has been empty for two years and they have complained many times. They would like to know if anything is going to be done. John Russ, Building Director stated the house is red tagged and he was going to ask Council tonight for permission to bid for demolition; however, after talking with the City Attorney he is retracting that request and is going to use the Dangerous Building Officer (Russ Wittman) and have him write it up and proceed from there. Mr. Grunow, City Attorney, said there is a procedural process set forth in our ordinance to be followed before we can take someone's property down. Mr. Grunow said the Building Department can ticket the owner of the property and Council authorized Mr. Russ to start doing that. Mayor Jones requested the Police Chief to check out the homeless person living there.

Jerry Page, President of the Police Officers Union, requested Council to look at other avenues to cut the budget in order to save two people in the Police Department.

5. **REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

Joan Pawlukiewicz, Recreation Director, reminded everyone that Saturday, June 7th is Kid Fest at the park from 11:00 am to 4 pm. There will not be any fireworks. She addressed the budget saying the Recreation was cut 12.7% and the Community Center 11%. She said that in the Council packet are additional cuts on “if need be” basis. She could cut the Senior Coordinator hours, some of the summer staffing, no score keepers at the ball field and a reduction in staffing for the warming building.

6. REPORTS FROM COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Council Member Painter said the Relay for Life had a good turn out at Huroc Park and the committee expressed their appreciation to the City, the DPS and Fire Department. He asked the Fire Chief why there was no fire truck in the Memorial Day Parade. Mr. Vack said he was out of town for the weekend and did not leave a direct order so no one participated. The situation has been corrected.

Council Member Martin asked Mr. Hammond to put the signs up for ball field regulations so teams know what they can and cannot do.

7. MAYOR’S COMMENTS:

Item B – South Huron Valley Authority. (taken out of order)

Mayor Jones referred to a letter written by VanBuren Township Supervisor tearing him apart. Flat Rock had asked to be put on the agenda for the SHVA (South Huron Valley Authority) to change attorneys. They held the letters until the day of the meeting. I am requesting we have Mr. Grunow file suit to get Attorney McCauley out of the SHVA. Secondly, they have ignored the dispute resolution for the later part of ‘02, ’03 and ’04. I would ask Council to authorize Mr. Grunow to file suit on the look-back adjustment for the later 9 months of 2002, 2003 and 2004. They have ignored our requests for a hearing. Council asked if we could have the Attorney General give an opinion and Attorney Grunow said the Attorney General cannot give an opinion to cities. Our State Representative can get an opinion from the Attorney General but our Representative represents half of the communities on the SHVA Board. Mayor said Huron Township voted to give all their remaining plant capacity to the race track. If both Huron Township and Van Buren go to capacity and it rains Flat Rock basements are going to be backed up. When we lost the case with the Supreme Court it established the fact that allocation of cost is based on usage so if we don’t have sewage going through that line we don’t have to pay for it. When we file suit to get the SHVA attorney out, we want to state in the lawsuit that the new attorney cannot be connected to either member of the SHVA because of conflict of interest.

Council Member Dropiewski suggested Mayor write a letter to supervisors, Mayors and Council Members of the other members with an explanation of our problems and reason for the lawsuits and bring the letter back to Council for approval.

06-02-02 Motion by Jones supported by Gagne to file both lawsuits (1) direct Attorney Grunow to go to court to remove Mr. McCauley from the SHVA because he is

under the incompatibility of public office act (2) File suit for what they owe us for 2002, 2003 and 2004 look-back adjustment.

Discussion. Mayor Jones said part of the problem is some of the members haven't been on the board for more than a year or two.

All voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Item A – Public Hearing: 2008-2009 Budget.

Mayor Jones opened the public hearing at 7:10 p.m. and asked the audience and Council for comments. No one spoke from the audience.

Council Member Gagne suggested soliciting for advertisement on the baseball field walls.

06-02-03 Motion by Gagne supported by Dropiewski to authorize the Recreation Director to solicit for advertisements on the ball field walls.

All voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion continued with Mr. Gagne questioning the Assistant Fire Chief's job, canceling the recycle trash pickup, reducing the number of Lts. and Sgts. in the Police Department, "no show-no pay" for Council Members and a suggestion box program.

Council Member Painter asked the Mayor how much the budget is off. Mayor told him \$200,000 but technically about \$6,000,00-\$700,000 because there is \$400,000 for Blue Cross that the unions haven't approved yet.

Mayor Jones said the big fear is next year. We can't do "no capital outlay" year after year. If we lose 20 million in SEV depreciation from AutoAlliance we will be in big trouble. We need to balance this budget and make permanent cuts.

06-02-04 Motion by Gagne with no support to resurrect the suggestion program. Motion died due to lack of support.

The DPS Director's letter recommended to transfer \$100,000 from Local Street Construction to General Fund and transfer \$135,000 from Major Street Construction to General Fund.

Mr. Gagne went over the Library budget and made a suggestion to sell off all obsolete items from all departments.

Mr. Painter asked if we would consider a millage to run the Recreation Department – a separate funding like the Historical Society and Library. Discussion continued. Mayor said you set the mills according to how much money is needed. The Clerk said the deadline is past for putting an item on the November ballot.

Council Member Dropiewski suggested a local hotel tax and paid parking at Huroc Park.

06-02-05 Motion by Martin supported by Dropiewski to reduce inspector fees from 75% of the permit fee to \$50.00 or 50% whichever is less.

All voting yes except Mayor Jones voting no. Motion carried 6-1.

Mayor Jones said asking for a Millage is an easy political fix and we will have a serious problem if it is turned down by the voters. He said he has been talking with the City of Rockwood regarding a joint agreement for Ordinance Officer, Dispatcher for Police and Fire, DPS and use of our jail. He said we could take DDA money to balance the budget but the big worry is next year and the year after. He said they should adopt the budget and go forward.

Council Member Tefend stated he would not approve the budget unless the Police Secretary is kept in the budget. Mr. Dropiewski said he believes the Police budget is real.

Mr. Painter asked about refinancing. Mayor Jones said he will call and find out if we can save by refinancing.

Council Member Wrobel asked about the \$102,604 in the TIFA Construction Fund and was told it can only be used for construction.

Mayor Jones closed the public hearing at 9:02 p.m.

8. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

9. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Item A – 1st. Reading: Proposed Ordinance #403 – Regulating Street Vendors.

06-02-06 Motion by Painter supported by Dropiewski to suspend the 1st reading.

All voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

Item B – Catering Contract – Flat Rock Community Center.

Item tabled until the Mayor has a chance to review it.

Item C – Request to demolish dangerous building.

See Citizens to be Heard.

10. **CORRESPONDENCE:**

Item A – Planning Commission Minutes of April 28, 2008.

Item B – Thank you letter from VFW to City of Flat Rock.

11. ADJOURNMENT:

06-02-07 Motion by Gagne supported by Jones to adjourn the Regular Meeting at 9:15 p.m.

All voting yes. Motion carried unanimously.

RICHARD C. JONES, MAYOR

LORENE BUTSKI, CMC CLERK

DATE: _____
approved