

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
Regular Meeting
Monday, February 9, 2009

CALL TO ORDER: By Mayor Shaughnessy on Monday, February 9, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmembers Baker, Lewis, Spielmaker, Weissenborn, Mayor Pro-Tem Smith, Mayor Shaughnessy, City Manager Guetschow and City Attorney Hitch

ABSENT: Councilmember Arnold

The invocation was offered by Mayor Shaughnessy followed by the pledge of allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF JANUARY 26, 2009: Motion by Councilmember Lewis, second by Spielmaker to approve the minutes of January 26, 2009, as presented. Carried. 6 Yeas. 0 Nays.

EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS: Motion by Councilmember Spielmaker, second by Smith to excuse Councilmember Arnold from the Regular Council Meeting held on February 9, 2009. Carried. 6 Yeas. 0 Nays.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CHARLOTTE HIGH SCHOOL LIAISON: No report.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Councilmember Smith, second by Lewis to approve the agenda as presented. Carried. 6 Yeas. 0 Nays.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Accept the recommendation of the Elected Officers Compensation Commission
- B. Second Reading and Approval of an Amendment to the Zoning Ordinance Section 82-108, Conditional Uses
- C. Accept the recommendation of the Planning Commission to Approve a Conditional Use Permit for 114 S. Cochran which will allow the addition of two apartment units on the second floor.
- D. Adopt Proclamation Naming the Week of February 22, 2009 as Youth Appreciation Week. (Optimist Club)
- E. Approve appointment of Laura Phelps to the Utility Board of Appeals, term expiring November 30, 2011.
- F. Set Public Hearing for Recreation Plan Amendment for February 23, 2009 at 7:00 p.m.
- G. Approve West Side Fire Station Meeting Room Use Policy
- H. Claims and Accounts – Total Claims - \$235,086.14

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Motion by Councilmember Spielmaker, second by Lewis, to postpone action on the West Side Fire Station Meeting Room Use Policy until the next Council meeting. Carried. 5 Yeas. 1 Nays.

Motion by Councilmember Lewis, second by Spielmaker to approve the consent agenda as amended. Carried. 6 Yeas. 0 Nays.

Mayor Shaughnessy read the following Proclamation:

WHEREAS, the vast majority of youth are well informed, concerned, kind, knowledgeable, and responsible citizens who are willing and interested in becoming involved in efforts to improve our society; and

WHEREAS, the accomplishments and achievements of these young people deserve the recognition and praise of their elders; and

WHEREAS, Optimist International has, since 1954, developed and promoted a program entitled, YOUTH APPRECIATION WEEK; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Charlotte, Michigan have indicated a desire to join the Charlotte Optimist and Optimist International in expressing their appreciation and approval of the contributions of youth.

NOW, THEREFORE I, Deb Shaughnessy, Mayor of the City of Charlotte, do hereby proclaim the week of February 22nd as YOUTH APPRECIATION WEEK in Charlotte, Michigan. By this action, let it be known that we have faith in the ability of today's youth as they assume responsible roles in the future of mankind.

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that this Resolution be entered into the official proceedings of the Charlotte City Council on the 9th day of February, 2008.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

A. First Reading of an Ordinance Changing the Sidewalk Snow Removal District

City Manager Guetschow indicated that this ordinance reflects the changes requested by Council at the last Council Meeting. It eliminates West Lawrence from Lincoln Street to Bostwick Street from the Sidewalk Snow and Ice Removal District.

Motion by Councilmember Smith, second by Weissenborn to approve first reading of an Ordinance amending the Snow Removal district removing West Lawrence Avenue from Lincoln to Bostwick. Carried. 6 Yeas. 0 Nays.

B. First Reading of an Ordinance to Amend Chapter 52 Property Maintenance Code

Attorney Hitch explained that this ordinance updates the Property Maintenance Ordinance to adopt the International Property Maintenance Code 2006 version, including all nuisance abatement currently contained in the City Code.

Motion by Councilmember Lewis, second by Spielmaker to approve first reading of an Ordinance amending the Property Maintenance Ordinance. Carried. 6 Yeas. 0 Nays.

C. Discussion Regarding Budget Forecast for 2008 - 2013

City Manager Guetschow indicated that the purpose of putting this item on the agenda is to engage Council in a discussion that would provide direction to staff regarding the budgeting priorities of Council. Council concurred that the outlook is challenging, and that some unpopular cuts may need to be made in the upcoming budget. It was the consensus of council and staff that if they are to consider levying the one mil available to be levied, that the taxpayers should receive a benefit for that increase, in the area of Capital Improvements. Council will consider scheduling a one-day work session to delve deeper into the budget and options available to Council.

D. Discussion Regarding Neighborhood Revitalization Initiatives

City Manager Guetschow explained that the report provided to Council is in response to Councils' request for ideas to improve neighborhoods. He is providing a number of ideas to Council and is interested in hearing which ideas they are most interested in pursuing. Through discussion it was revealed that most of the ideas have merit, especially enhancing some of those programs we currently offer, such as the Rental and Owner Occupied Rehabilitation Programs.

E. Discussion Regarding Nuisance Abatement

City Manager Guetschow indicated since there has been a fair amount of discussion on other issues that Council could postpone this discussion for another time. Mayor Shaughnessy suggested Council review, on their own time, the information provided by City Manager Guetschow, respond to him with their comments, and Manager Guetschow can compile that responses and put this item on an agenda at a later date. Council concurred.

COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT: Attorney Hitch highlighted the information in his written report. He has been in contact with the attorney for the owners of Lawrence Manor and is expecting to reach a settlement to pay the fines and costs of clean-up levied upon the property. He has given advance notice to the attorney that when relicensure for the Mobile Home Park comes up in September or October, the City will oppose it. He has received the preliminary scheduling orders for the Crittenden trial.

CITY MANAGER REPORT: City Manager Guetschow reviewed the information in his written report and indicated that the Fire Department took occupancy of the West Side Fire Station on Friday. The telephones and computers are working. There is still a small amount of things to be done, but they should be complete shortly. There is a public hearing scheduled for the Trail Project next Council meeting. This will allow the coordinators to begin seeking grants for the project. At this point it is not anticipated that they will ask the City for funding.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilmember Spielmaker attended the Airport Advisory meeting in January. The Board is working well together, and had very good discussions. Although the Kids Day America Event is being moved

from the Airport to the Fire Station, the Airport has picked up another event to replace it. They will be hosting an Event sponsored by the Michigan Aviation Group during Frontier Days, and they will be approaching the Frontier Days organizers to see about including it in the official events.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith attended the Planning Commission meeting in which they approved the site plan on Aaron's Rental across the street from Team One Chevrolet, with some contingencies. They held a public hearing on the amendment to Ordinance 82, Section 108, which Council approved this evening, and recommended approval of a Conditional Use permit for 1114 S. Cochran to build two second story apartments in a commercial building, which Council also took action on tonight.

Councilmember Lewis attended the CARA (recycling) meeting on Tuesday, January 27. CARA is outgrowing the facility and that Board has given Amy and Dave Sheedy the okay to look at alternatives. The Townships and City were encouraged to let their respective Boards know about the possibility for expansion. Recycling prices are highly volatile right now.

Councilmember Baker also attended the Airport Advisory Meeting. The Board will be asking MDOT to install a sign on Lansing Road indicating that the Airport is accessed by Island Highway.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilmembers thanked City Manager Guetschow for the number of very thorough reports presented, and staff for the budget and Capital Improvement reports presented.

Councilmember Baker attended the Leadership Forum held last Wednesday and commended Councilmember Arnold on his work organizing the Leadership Forum.

Councilmember Spielmaker acknowledged Bryan Myrkle's professional contributions to the Airport Advisory Board.

Mayor Shaughnessy reminded the Council that Charlotte will be taking part in the MML Mayor Exchange this year.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Deb Shaughnessy, Mayor

Michelle M. King, City Clerk