

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
Regular Meeting
Monday, March 9, 2009

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

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

ABSENT: None

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 23, 2009: Motion by Councilmember Lewis, second by Baker to approve the minutes of February 23, 2009, as presented. Carried. 7 Yeas. 0 Nays.

EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: Michael Mann, 815 N. Cochran, voiced concerns regarding his property taxes

CHARLOTTE HIGH SCHOOL LIAISON: Damian Spielmaker reported that he attended the MML Conference in Lansing on Wednesday, March 4, 2009, and was present when lawmakers passed a bill. He also attended the Charlotte Can-Do Swim Party. He has been seeking input from other teens on things that the community could do that would interest teenagers, and has heard some useful feedback.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Councilmember Weissenborn, second by Lewis to approve the agenda with the addition of item 11C “Pavilion Reservation Policy Discussion”. Carried. 7 Yeas. 0 Nays.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Approve request to waive the bidding requirements to order Road Salt from MiDEAL
- B. Set a Special meeting for the Purpose of Budget Review for March 30, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.
- C. Approve Proclamation Naming May 7, 2009 as National Day of Prayer in the City of Charlotte
- D. Approve Water Tower Inspection Proposal
- E. Approve Change in the Standard Streetlight Contract with Consumer Energy dated April 1, 1977
- F. Accept the resignation of Frank Pawli as a Regular Member of the Board of Review and appoint Gus Patrick to fill his unexpired term ending 12/31/2013.
- G. Appoint Frank Pawli as an alternate member of the Board of Review, term ending 12/31/2013
- H. Approve request to Reserve Pavilion in Bennett Park – Eastern Stars
- I. Approve request to Reserve Pavilion in Bennett Park – Owens Illinois Retirees
- J. Claims and Accounts – Total Claims - \$223,738.53

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Smith, second by Baker, to approve the consent agenda removing items H & I. Carried. 7 Yeas. 0 Nays.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

- A. **Discussion Regarding Nuisance Abatement**
City Manager Guetschow provided City Council with handouts to generate discussion to set goals for nuisance abatement. He is interested in hearing what measurable

outcomes councilmembers are interested in seeing. Some of the outcomes suggested included:

1. Increase in property values
2. Using the county “coding” process that has been presented in the past, and reducing those coded RED (the lowest grade) by 5% - 10%
3. Building and upgrading sidewalks until there are sidewalks on at least one side of every street
4. Involving the residents in community enhancement encouraging pride in their property and neighborhood
5. Individuals investing in their homes as indicated by building permits
6. Individuals remaining in their homes rather than moving out of the community
7. Fuller use of grant programs available, so all funding is used from those programs and not reverting back to the state/federal government

B. Approve Policy for West Side Fire Station Meeting Room Use and City of Charlotte Community Room Use

The City Manager will review the policy to see about ways to allow smaller groups with no funds to use the rooms.

**C. Pavilion Rental/Reservation Policy Discussion
Motion by Councilmember Weissenborn, second by Lewis to direct the City Manager to create a Rental/Reservation Policy for the Park Pavilions and bring it to City Council for Review. Carried. 7 Yeas. 0 Nays.**

COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT: Attorney Hitch summarized his written report for Council.

CITY MANAGER REPORT: City Manager Guetschow reviewed the information in his written report.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilmember Spielmaker stated that she and Councilmember Arnold are working together on the ad hoc snow removal committee. The committee will meet March 12, at 12:30 in the Community Room at City Hall.

Councilmember Weissenborn attended a meeting of the City/Townships group; they had a good discussion on strategies for meeting the needs and goal of the community. He also thanked Custom Home Interiors, Dr. Falik, Eaton County Education Employees Credit Union and Meijer for their generous donations toward the Hockey Rink.

Councilmember Arnold met with the Recreation Committee they are still working on draft language for the intergovernmental agreement. He hopes to bring a preliminary draft to the next City Council meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Brice Story, representing the Retiree Committee of Owens Illinois, indicated that the OI Retirees are willing to move the date of their Retiree Picnic to the 11th or the 25th of July, but it is important that they have a reservation because people come to the picnic from all over the country and the mailing will be going out soon to announce the date.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Motion by Councilmember Arnold, second by Lewis to approve the use of the pavilion for Owens Illinois Retiree Picnic Committee and the Eastern Stars and to direct staff to work out the conflicting dates. Carried. 7 Yeas. 0 Nays

Councilmember Arnold announced that the next meeting of “An Evening with the Experts” is March 17th and will feature the Charlotte City Manager, Gregg Guetschow on the subject of Mentoring.

Councilmember Spielmaker attended the Michigan Municipal League Capital Conference and reported on a couple of the sessions she attended. She also announced that on April 2nd, at 7:00 p.m., she and Police Chief Bill Callahan will present an informational meeting on organizing neighborhood watch groups. The meeting will be held at City Hall.

Mayor Shaughnessy congratulated Councilmember Spielmaker who was accepted to the Michigan State University Political leadership Program. She also attended the MML conference last week and reported on what she learned. The Mayor will be organizing a care basket for Scott Cuttle, a City resident and Planning Commission member, who has been deployed to Iraq. If councilmembers want to take part, she will get them more details.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

Deb Shaughnessy, Mayor

Michelle M. King, City Clerk