

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
Regular Meeting
Monday, March 23, 2009

CALL TO ORDER: By Mayor Shaughnessy on Monday, March 23, 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 MARCH 9, 2009: Motion by Councilmember Lewis, second by Baker to approve the minutes of March 9, 2009, as presented. Carried. 7 Yeas. 0 Nays.

EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

CHARLOTTE HIGH SCHOOL LIAISON: No Report.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Councilmember Spielmaker, second by Smith to approve the agenda with the addition of item 11F “Discussion of Request for Rezoning,” and 11G “Reallocation of \$20,000 for Playground Equipment to Hockey Committee” Carried. 7 Yeas. 0 Nays.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Adopt Resolution authorizing use of Bennett Park for a 5K Run/Walk on Sunday, June 21, 2009
- B. Adopt Proclamation naming May 16, 2009 as Kids Day America/International
- C. Reappoint Patricia Abent, Mike Ranville and Corey Sanders to the Planning Commission, terms expiring 3/31/2012
- D. Reappoint Travis Silvas and George Wildern to the Downtown Development Authority, terms expiring 3/15/2013
- E. Reappoint Claudine Hannold and David Smith to the LDFA/EDAB/BRA Board, terms expiring 3/15/2013
- F. Reappoint Robert Monschein to the Airport Advisory Board, term expiring 4/1/2012
- G. Claims and Accounts – Total Claims - \$362,564,64

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Motion by Councilmember Spielmaker, second by Smith, to approve the consent agenda. Carried. 7 Yeas. 0 Nays.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

- A. **Public Hearing for Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant**
Public hearing opened at 7:07 p.m. Bryan Myrkle, Charlotte Community Development Director, indicated that this is a grant application to construct a recreational trail loop. The total cost is expected to be about \$302,900, approximately \$227,100 of which will be covered by the grant, if approved. The recreational trail will be used for walking, jogging, bicycling, bird and wildlife observation, fishing and will have some educational benefit. This project is a collaborative effort with the Battle Creek Water Shed and is supported by the Eaton County Parks and Recreation, City of Charlotte Parks Advisory, Hayes Green Beach Hospital, Charlotte Chamber of Commerce, Step-by-Step, the

Charlotte Area Recreation Cooperative (CARC), Eaton Township, and a number of other organizations. The intention is to try to find other sources of funding for the \$75,800 shortfall between the grant and the cost of the project. We will not know until December whether we have received the grant or not, but will know about secondary funding by August. Public hearing closed at 7:17 p.m.

B. Action on Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant

Motion by Councilmember Arnold, second by Lewis to approve a grant application to the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund in the amount of \$227,100.

Carried. 7 Yeas. 0 Nays.

C. Consider Proposals for Liability Insurance Beginning April 28, 2009

City Manager Guetschow indicated that the City is currently insured through the Michigan Municipal League (MML), and has had Property and Liability Insurance through them since 1986. Although we are very happy with MML, we decided to put it out for proposals to see if we could get the same coverage for less money. All of the proposals were reviewed but we concentrated on the lowest two bidders when making a recommendation. Representatives from MML and the Michigan Townships Participating Plan (Par Plan) were given the opportunity to present their proposals and answer questions.

Motion by Councilmember Weissenborn, second by Lewis to table a decision on this issue and add it to the March 30 Special Meeting Agenda. Carried. 6 Yeas. 1 Nay. (Baker)

D. Recreation Committee Update

Councilmember Arnold presented a draft of the Interlocal Agreement for Recreation between the communities taking

part in the Charlotte Area Recreation Cooperative (CARC). He emphasized that this is just a draft to update Council on where CARC is in the process. A clarification was made that the purpose of this group is facility oriented, and that the intention is not to interfere with the Charlotte Parks Advisory Committee whose role is program related.

E. Approve Policy for Use of West Side Fire Station and City Hall Community Meeting Rooms

City Manager Guetschow reviewed the changes in the policy made as a result of council's suggestions at the March 9th meeting. A deposit waiver clause has been added.

Motion by Councilmember Weissenborn, second by Baker to accept the Council Policy for Use of the West Side Fire Station and City Hall Community Meeting Rooms. Carried. 7 Yeas. 0 Nays.

F. First Reading of Rezoning of 304 Foote Street and Set Public Hearing for April 7, 2009 Planning Commission

City Manager Guetschow indicated that the property involved is a single family home which is zoned I-2 (general industrial) and therefore the potential buyer cannot get a bank loan to purchase it for its intended use. The Building/Zoning Official has recommended RT (two family residential) because that is what the adjacent properties are zoned. The future land use map also has it zoned as low density residential, so rezoning fits with the future land use.

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Smith, second by Baker to approve First Reading of rezoning 304 Foote Street and set a Public Hearing for the April 7, 2009, Planning Commission Meeting. Carried. 7 Yeas. 0 Nay.

G. Discussion Regarding Reallocation of \$20,000 for Accessible Playground to Hockey Rink

Councilmember Spielmaker requested this item be added to the agenda to discuss the possibility of reallocation the

\$20,000 reserved for the accessible playground project to the hockey rink project. Discussion was held and it was determined that this is a budget issue and should be discussed in budget meetings, however, some councilmembers were comfortable with reallocating the money, but toward “recreation projects” rather than a specific project.

COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CITY ATTORNEY REPORT: Attorney Hitch summarized his written report for Council. In addition, he indicated State license renewal for Lawrence Manor comes up the end of October and he and/or the City Manager plan to attend that hearing and ask that it is not renewed.

CITY MANAGER REPORT: City Manager Guetschow reviewed the information in his written report. He reported that work on the budget continues and asked if there are specific items council wants to see either background documentation or included in the budget. He also indicated that the Pavilion Reservation Policy will probably be presented to Council at the next meeting.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilmember Arnold reported that there will be a CARC meeting Wednesday, March 25th at 7:00 p.m. at the Eaton Township Hall. There is also a Sidewalk Committee meeting on Wednesday, March 25th at 12:30 p.m. in the Community Room.

City Manager Guetschow directed Council’s attention to the DPW report. Eaton County has received some federal stimulus package funds for 2009, however, Potterville has some “shovel ready” projects, which Charlotte did not, so it was determined that it would be more advantageous for us to forgo this round of funding for the next round.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilmember Spielmaker announced that on Wednesday, she will be attending the Strong Communities Summit; the subject will be community partnerships.

Mayor Pro Tem Smith announced that Can-Do will meet on March 25th at 7:00 am in the Spartan Room of the Charlotte District Library.

Councilmember Arnold announced the final gathering of “Evening with the Experts” is April 7, 2009. City Manager Guetschow was the keynote speaker for the March event. Video tapes are available for those who could not attend, but would like to view it. Councilmember Arnold also thanked Sgt. Bristol for taking him on a police ride-along. He found it very informative.

Mayor Shaughnessy reminded Councilmembers that she is taking donations of items to send to Planning Commissioner Scott Cuttle in Iraq. Donations may be dropped off at City Hall or at the VFW.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

Deb Shaughnessy, Mayor

Michelle M. King, City Clerk