

## COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

### Regular Meeting

Monday, April 13, 2009

**CALL TO ORDER:** By Mayor Shaughnessy on Monday, April 13, 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 Pro Tem Smith followed by the pledge of allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF MARCH 23, 2009 AND SPECIAL MEETING OF MARCH 30, 2009:** Motion by Councilmember Lewis, second by Baker to approve the minutes of March 9, 2009 and March 30, 2009, as presented. Carried. 7 Yeas. 0 Nays.

**EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS:** None

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Colleen Quinlin-Fortino, 303 North Cochran, received a notice of violation in the mail regarding chipping paint on her house, she will submit an "action plan" as required; however, she is interested in why council has chosen to actively pursue this type of activity during difficult economic times.

Heather Briggs, 420 Pleasant, expressed support for the Hockey Rink project, and asked for Council to consider using some recreation funds to help make it happen

**CHARLOTTE HIGH SCHOOL LIAISON:** Damian Spielmaker reported that the schools are back from spring break on Tuesday, April 14, 2009. Prom is coming up, and student council just hosted a dodge ball tournament to raise funds for it. He will be talking to Student Council members this week about possible fundraisers to benefit the hockey rink project.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Smith, second by Spielmaker to approve the agenda with the deletion of item 11A, because the sign has been removed. Carried. 7 Yeas. 0 Nays.

### **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

- A. Appoint Gene Conley to fill the unexpired term of Kathleen Cook on the District Library Board, expiring 6/30/2010.
- B. Confirm Eaton Townships Appointment of Dave Roberts to the Airport Advisory Board, expiring 4/1/2012.
- C. Accept Bid and Approve Contract for Farmland from Williams Bros. Farm for \$72 per acre for 13.2 acres on Island Highway.
- D. Approve Blanket Contract with FTCH for Water/Wastewater Services.
- E. Adopt Proclamation in support of VFW Buddy Poppy Days, May 7, 8 and 9, 2009.
- F. Adopt Proclamation in support of American Legion Poppy Days, May 21, 22 and 23, 2009.
- G. Adopt Resolution recognizing April 22, 2009 as Earth Day in Charlotte.
- H. Adopt Resolution recognizing April 24, 2009 as Arbor Day in Charlotte.
- I. Accept bid for weekly mowing from low bidder, Gardenscapes in the amount of \$1,200 per week.

- J. Accept bid for monthly and 3 times a year mowing from low bidder, Douma Lawn and Snow of \$3,087.
- K. Approve Dee Smith to attend the Small Towns & Rural Development Conference April 21 – 23 in Thompsonville, Michigan.
- L. Second Reading and Approval to Rezone 204 Foote Street from I2 to RT.

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

**ITEMS OF BUSINESS:**

- A. **Presentation Regarding Eaton County’s 10-Year Plan to End Homelessness**  
Rebecca Benjamin, Housing Services for Eaton County, presented a power point presentation regarding Eaton County’s 10-year plan to end homelessness. She presented many statistics, goals and the philosophy of Eaton County’s plan and introduced the “Housing First” Initiative.
- B. **Presentation Regarding Springport Township Equine Project (S.T.E.P)**  
Bill Russell, founder of STEP, indicated that, pursuant to the results of a feasibility study paid for by a USDA Grant, the Michigan Equine Partnership has requested proposals for a multi-million dollar Equine facility to be located in the State of Michigan. STEP is an organization that has submitted a proposal for that location to be in Springport Township. Springport Township, STEP believes is a good location because of the proximity to airports, expressways and major cities in Michigan. Mr. Russell requested the assistance of City Council by way of a letter of support.
- C. **Claims and Accounts – Total Claims of \$549,255.31**

**Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Smith, second by Lewis to approve the claims, less the claim for \$5,200 from Charlotte Insurance, for a total of \$544,055.31. Carried. 7 Yeas. 0 Nays.**

**Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Smith second by Councilmember Spielmaker to approve the claim from Charlotte Insurance in the amount of \$5,200. Carried. 6 Yeas. 0 Nays. 1 Abstain (Baker).**

**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. Additionally, he referred to the budget that was distributed to each Councilmember at the meeting. He briefly discussed some of the highlights in his Budget Message and asked that the Councilmembers review the budget before scheduling special meetings. The budget will be on the next agenda for discussion.

**COUNCILMEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Mayor Pro Tem Smith attended the Planning Commission held on April 7<sup>th</sup>. At that meeting, the Planning Commission recommended the rezoning of 204 Foote Street to City Council; approve the temporary use for the Downtown Farmer’s Market; and approved a site plan review for Autoglass of Michigan (Harmon) with some contingencies.

Councilmembers Arnold and Spielmaker met with the ad-hoc committee to review the Sidewalk Snow Removal Ordinance. The group is leaning toward recommending a city-wide ordinance, and there is some support for that. They may also include in the

recommendation sending a notice before snow is removed by city employees.

Mayor Shaughnessy reported that the City/Township Group met at the former Felpausch building, which is now owned by Hayes Green Beach. HGB CEO Matt Rush and other representatives shared their vision for the future of the building. She also indicated that the DDA has initiated a Special Assessment District for Downtown Snow Removal; she asked that the issue be well publicized before it comes to City Council for a vote.

**COMMENTS ON REPORTS:**

Councilmember Baker asked about the procedure the Code Enforcement Department will use to follow up on the Notices of Violation sent out for chipping paint, etc. City Manager Guetschow answered that Code Enforcement has requested action plans from the home owners, if they do not receive them, there will be follow-up contact made, up to and including fines, etc. There has been no change in the process, it is the same procedure that has been in place for a while, the difference is that Council is receiving reports on the activity now.

Mayor Shaughnessy indicated that she liked reading about the “cases of interest” and thanked the Police Chief for adding them to his report.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Councilmember Lewis thanked staff for their work on the budget.

Councilmember Arnold announced the final gathering of “Evening with the Experts” was April 7, 2009. He thanked all who were involved including Bryan Myrkle, The County Journal, Chamber of

Commerce, and Can-Do. He thanked Chief Callahan for the new Police Blotter section in the paper.

Councilmember Spielmaker thanked MML for their assistance in procuring sample sidewalk snow removal ordinances from other communities. She also thanked Chief Callahan and Bryan Myrkle for their support of the neighborhood watch meeting, there were 14 in attendance.

Mayor Shaughnessy announced that she received a call thanking the Fire Department for their quick response to an incident last week. She spoke at the DARE Graduation, and commended Officer Koning on the good job he is doing in the schools and with the DARE Program.

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.**

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Deb Shaughnessy, Mayor

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Michelle M. King, City Clerk