

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

**Regular Meeting
Monday, April 26, 2010**

CALL TO ORDER: By Mayor Smith Monday, April 26, 2010, at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Councilmembers Arnold, Cuttle, Kruger, Sanders, Weissenborn, Mayor Pro-Tem Baker, Mayor Smith and City Manager Guetschow

ABSENT: None

The invocation was offered by former mayor Deb Shaughnessy followed by the pledge of allegiance led by Ernie Meyers of the Charlotte Veterans of Foreign Wars Post.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF APRIL 12, 2010: Motion by Councilmember Arnold, second by Sanders to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 12, 2010, as presented. Carried. 7 Yeas. 0 Nays.

EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS: None

PUBLIC COMMENT: Deb Shaughnessy, 956 Chads Way, thanked City Council for their service to the Community; she is running for State Representative-71st District and would like the support of Charlotte voters.

Val Nelson, 405 Forest, asked what can be done about the railroad tracks on Clinton Street. City Manager Guetschow responded that CN Railroad intends to repair them by the end of summer or early fall.

CHARLOTTE HIGH SCHOOL LIAISON: No Report

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Motion by Councilmember Cuttle, second by Baker to approve the agenda as presented. Carried. 7 Yeas. 0 Nays.

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:

- A. Appoint Earl (Lee) Howser to the Planning Commission for a term expiring 3/31/2011
- B. Appoint Deb Shaughnessy to the HGB Hospital Finance Authority, term expiring 12/31/2012
- C. Reappoint Kristie Snyder to the Planning Commission, term expiring 3/31/2013
- D. Reappoint Richard Potter to the Utility Board of Appeals, term expiring 11/30/2012
- E. Reappoint Mike Ranville to the Compensation Commission, term expiring 1/14/2015
- F. Adopt Proclamation recognizing May 6, 7 & 8, 2010 as the VFW Buddy Poppy Days in Charlotte

WHEREAS, the annual distribution of Buddy Poppies by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States has been officially recognized and endorsed by governmental leaders since 1922; and

WHEREAS, VFW Buddy Poppies are assembled by disabled veterans, and the proceeds of this worthwhile fundraising campaign are used exclusively for the benefit of disabled and needy veterans, and the widows and orphans of deceased veterans; and

WHEREAS, the basic purpose of the annual distribution of Buddy Poppies by the Veterans of Foreign Wars is eloquently reflected in the desire to “Honor the Dead by Helping the Living.”

THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Charlotte, Michigan does hereby urge the citizens of this community to recognize the merits of this cause by contributing to its support through the purchase of Buddy Poppies on May 6, 7, and 8, 2010. These Poppies are symbols of appreciation of the sacrifices of our honored dead.

FURTHER, the City Council of the City of Charlotte, Michigan urges all patriotic citizens to wear a Buddy Poppy as mute evidence of our gratitude to the men and women of this country who have risked their lives in defense of the freedoms which we continue to enjoy as American citizens.

G. Adopt Proclamation recognizing May 20, 21 & 22, 2010 as the American Legion Poppy Days.

WHEREAS, in the World War I battlegrounds of Belgium, poppies grew wild amid the ravaged landscape as a result of the overturned soil of battle; and

WHEREAS, in 1920, the American Legion adopted the Poppy as the organizations memorial flower and pledged its use to benefit servicemen and their families; and

WHEREAS, American Legion Poppies are assembled by disabled veterans, in hospitals and poppy workrooms in forty states, and distributed each year by more than 125,000 volunteers; and

WHEREAS, the proceeds from the distribution of more than twenty five million Poppies is devoted to Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation work by the American Legion and the American

Legion Auxiliary, which includes aid to disabled and needy veterans and the widows and orphans of deceased veterans; and

THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Charlotte, Michigan does hereby urge the citizens of this community to recognize the merits of this cause by contributing to its support through the purchase of Poppies on May 20, 21, and 22, 2010. These Poppies are symbols of appreciation of the sacrifices of our honored dead.

FURTHER, the City Council of the City of Charlotte, Michigan urges all patriotic citizens to wear a Poppy as mute evidence of our gratitude to the men and women of this country who have risked their lives in defense of the freedoms which we continue to enjoy as American citizens.

H. Approve Schedule of Events to be held at the Eaton County Fair Grounds in 2010

I. Claims and Accounts – Total Claims - \$295,969.09

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA: Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Baker, second by Kruger to approve the consent agenda, as presented. Carried. 7 Yeas. 0 Nays.

ITEMS OF BUSINESS:

A. Presentation of Certificates by Ernie Meyers, Charlotte Veterans of Foreign Wars

Mr. Meyers presented former Mayor Deb Shaughnessy and current Mayor Deleski Smith with Certificates of Appreciation for “Americanism” from the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

B. Recognition by Step by Step of Charlotte Good Neighbors

Lisa Knowles and Cindy Vanneste introduced Val Nelson, Lee Howser, Greg McCrimmon and Ken Debler who were named Charlotte Good Neighbors by Step by Step for helping to remove snow from the sidewalks in their respective neighborhoods. These gentlemen not only removed snow from their own sidewalk, but snow from their neighbor's sidewalks as well. The best neighborhood award went to the Galewood/Pleasant Street neighborhood.

C. Presentation by Dr. Nancy Hipskind, Charlotte Public Schools, regarding the School Bond Issue on the May 4, 2010 ballot

Dr. Hipskind explained that this bond issue has been in the works for two years. The purpose is to perform much needed upgrades, repairs and maintenance to buildings throughout the district. The request is for an extension of the payoff of the current bond to the original 30 years. The millage will remain at 7.59 mills, with no increase.

D. Hearing Regarding 220 West Shaw Street

In January, City Council voted to reject bids for the demolition of 220 W. Shaw at the request of John Berry, son of the deceased owner of the home. Mr. Berry presented a plan for rehabilitation and habitation. Little action to rehabilitate the home has taken place and no response has been received by Mr. Berry in response to notices sent to him. There was no one present to speak on the issue.

Motion by Councilmember Arnold, second by Baker to repeal the action of January 11, 2010, rejecting the bids for demolition of 220 W. Shaw, and to reaffirm the original order of demolition. Carried. 7 Yeas. 0 Nays.

Motion by Councilmember Arnold, second by Cuttle to award the bid for demolition of 220 W. Shaw to the low bidder, Jack Cripe & Sons in the amount of \$6,800 and

waive any irregularities in the bid process. Carried. 7 Yeas. 0 Nays.

E. Appoint a Member Representative to the Michigan Townships Participating Plan

Motion by Mayor Pro Tem Baker, second by Sanders to appoint Scott Cuttle as the City of Charlotte member representative the Michigan Townships Participating Plan. Carried. 7 Yeas. 0 Nays.

F. Consider Renewal of the contract with Charlotte Air Services as Fixed Base Operator (FBO) at the Fitch H. Beach Airport.

The FBO contract at Fitch H. Beach Airport is about to expire and Staff is requesting either a two year extension to the current contract or a new two year agreement with the same terms (it will be up to City Attorney which to do) with Charlotte Air Services. Mark Cosgrove is leaving and the airport will no longer provide flight training and testing, however Todd Potter will stay and act as FBO and the airport will continue to offer airplane maintenance and repair.

Motion by Councilmember Cuttle, second by Baker to enter into a new contract or a contract extension with Charlotte Air Service as Fixed Base Operator at Fitch Beach Airport. Carried. 7 Yeas. 0 Nays.

G. Consider City Manager's Request to meet in closed session at the conclusion of regular business pursuant to MCL 15.268(c) for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining strategy.

Motion by Councilmember Sanders, second by Weissenborn to approve City Managers request to enter into closed session at the conclusion of the meeting this evening pursuant to MCL 15.268(c) for the purpose of

discussing collective bargaining strategy. Carried. 7 Yeas. 0 Nays.

H. Discussion Regarding Retiree Health Insurance

City Manager Guetschow gave a brief history of how and when the City began providing health care benefits to retirees, to whom it applies and how the policy has changed over the years. Staff has spent over a year researching options and believes we may have found some viable options. Medicare eligible employees would be moved to a Medi-gap plan and given a fixed sum of money in a Health Reimbursement Arrangement to pay for premiums and to help out with possible increased prescription drug costs, and retirees under 65, not eligible for Medicare, or those who are over 65, but the spouse is not, would be moved to a Blue Care Network option. This would require a new council policy. The ideal policy would address all non-union employees who fall under the previous policies, plus address future retirees as well. The City Manager will bring back a proposed policy to Council on May 10th.

I. Discussion Regarding Budget and Setting Work Sessions

The City Manager stated that the main reason for adding this item to the agenda is to consider a schedule for review and discussion of the budget. If Council wants to have one or more work sessions to go over the budget, at least the first one should be scheduled tonight. Council will also have the opportunity to discuss the budget at the regular meetings of May 10th and 24th. The budget should be adopted at the first meeting of June but can go longer if necessary.

Motion by Councilmember Kruger, second by Sanders to schedule a budget workshop on May 17, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. Carried. 7 Yeas. 0 Nays.

COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

CITY MANAGER REPORT: City Manager Guetschow indicated that the Police Patrol unit will be voting on the union who will represent them in June and he does not expect that negotiations will commence with that group until after that vote takes place. The new Camp Frances Board will meet Wednesday evening for their organizational meeting in Council Chambers. In light of recent publicity in regard to the budget and the proposed reduction of Police Officers, the City Manager has offered to meet with the Police Department employees to ensure that the information presented to council is useful information. He also provided Council with clarification to the claims made in recent meetings and publications.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilmember Kruger announced the Planning Commission will hold a meeting on May 11, 2010.

Councilmember Sanders indicated that the Fitch H. Beach Airport meeting scheduled for April 27th is cancelled.

Mayor Pro Tem Baker announced that the City will host a program called "Training Wheels" on May 12 at City Hall. The purpose is to educate decision makers about on road bicycle facilities.

Councilmember Cuttle announced a Charlotte Area Recycling Authority Meeting April 27th at 5:30 p.m.

Councilmember Arnold announced a Recreation Cooperative meeting on April 28th at 7 p.m. at Eaton Township Hall. They expect to be forming sub-committees and working on by-laws.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Deb Shaughnessy, 956 Chads Way, announced that she will have a fundraiser at the Charlotte Country Club on Thursday, April 29th from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. to support her campaign for State Representative-71st District.

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilmember Kruger commented that Councilmembers Weissenborn, Baker and he attended the MML Capitol Conference at the Lansing Center on April 13th and 14th. He also had a Police Ride-Along on Friday, April 23rd.

Councilmember Arnold thanked the DPW Staff and especially Sally Starkweather for planning the Earth Day Celebration on April 22nd.

Councilmember Baker reported on the sessions she attended at the MML Capitol Conference.

Councilmember Cuttle indicated that Step by Step is very close to finalizing plans for the downtown mural.

Mayor Smith thanked Sally Starkweather and the Good Neighbors who were recognized tonight. He thanked Ralph Miller for his contributions to the Community, most recently on the Hayes Green Beach Hospital Board.

Motion by Councilmember Arnold, second by Cuttle to recess to closed session pursuant to MCL 15.268(c) for the purpose of discussing collective bargaining strategy, at 9:14 p.m. Carried. 7 yeas. 0 Nays.

Motion by Councilmember Sanders, second by Baker to reconvene into open session at 9:55 p.m. Carried. 7 Yeas. 0 Nays.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:56 p.m.

Deleski R. Smith, Mayor

Michelle M. King, City Clerk