

## COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

### Regular Meeting Monday, May 23, 2011

**CALL TO ORDER:** By Mayor Smith on Monday, May 23 2011, at 7:00 p.m.

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

**ABSENT:** None

The invocation was offered by Councilmember Kruger, followed by the pledge of allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR THE REGULAR MEETING OF MAY 9:** Motion by Councilmember Sanders, second by Baker to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of May 9, 2011, as presented. Carried. 7 Yeas. 0 Nays.

**EXCUSE ABSENT MEMBERS:** None

**PUBLIC COMMENT/PRESENTATIONS:** None

#### **CHARLOTTE HIGH SCHOOL LIAISON:**

Josh Holliday reported the following events, activities and achievements at the High School:

- Band Banquet Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> at First Baptist Church and they will perform in the Memorial Day Parade
- Band and Choirs will perform at the annual Vietnam Veterans Roundtable on May 27<sup>th</sup>, Veterans will have open discussion with students throughout the day
- Senior Honors Convocation is May 24<sup>th</sup> at the CPAC reception at 6:00 p.m., ceremony at 7:00 p.m.

- Prom was Saturday, May 21<sup>st</sup> at Hawk Hollow Golf Course
- Mrs. Crossman's Anatomy class recently went to the Grand Rapids Public Museum to see the "Bodies Revealed" exhibit
- June 7<sup>th</sup> is the Underclassman Awards Ceremony at 8:15 a.m. in the CPAC
- Track is going to St. Johns for a meet on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and CAAC Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> in Ionia

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

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

- A. Appoint Troy Stowell to the Park Advisory Board, term expiring May 30, 2014
- B. Re-appoint Henry Jarabek to the Airport Advisory Committee, term expiring April 1, 2013
- C. Re-appoint Chad Crandell and Joe Pray to the Airport Advisory Committee, term expiring April 1, 2014
- D. Re-appoint Mary Hall to the Camp Frances Board, term expiring May 15, 2014
- E. Re-appoint Sylvia Colles to the Charlotte District Library Board, term ending June 30, 2014
- F. Re-appoint Wayne Kruger to the LDFA/EDAB/BRA Board, term expiring March 15, 2015
- G. Re-appoint Lyle Robinette to the Planning Commission, term expiring March 31, 2014
- H. Approve Spartan Motors request for road closures on July 22<sup>nd</sup> and July 23<sup>rd</sup> for the Fire Fighters Combat Challenge
- I. Adopt Proclamation for Nancy Oliver congratulating her on her Retirement from the Siren Shelter
- J. Claims and Accounts – \$292,638.14

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

**ITEMS OF BUSINESS:**

**A. Public Hearing Regarding Budget**

Public hearing opened at 7:09 p.m. City Manager Guetschow explained that the purpose of this public hearing is to allow citizens to provide input and information to Council regarding the budget.

**Christi Dutcher**, representing Courthouse Square Association provided answers to questions and concerns that were expressed by Council at their last meeting in regard to Courthouse Square

**Mary Nordenbrock, Horatio Street resident**, does not want to see the City put more money into the Airport; she believes the airport should be supported through private funds because it is not a necessity and it is not a program that benefits the majority of City residents

**Dave Ulrey, Henry Street resident**, encouraged City Council to raise taxes and stop making cuts to programs and improvements that make the City a quality place to live

**Dorothy Dumire, W Harris Street resident**, thinks Council should eliminate the street side leaf pick-up to save \$20,000; people should take their leaves to the DPW Garage.

**Public hearing closed at 7:26 p.m.**

**B. Discussion regarding Budget**

The City Manager indicated that the Finance Director has supplied a draft Budget Resolution for Councils information. It is not expected that Council take action tonight, but this is what the resolution will look like if it is passed as it stands right now. This is the time to discuss any changes that Council wishes to make.

The City Attorney presented a proposal which he developed at the request of the City Manager in response to

the City Manager's interest in shifting prosecutions to the County Prosecuting Attorney's office, in exchange for the Prosecuting Attorney's office capturing all costs and recovery monies. The City Attorney believes the Prosecutors office will do a decent job of prosecuting drug/alcohol violations and juvenile related crimes; however, he believes that the City Attorney's office can do a better job with civil infractions and non drug/alcohol related misdemeanors. This change could cut the City's prosecution costs from the \$90,000 to \$106,000 range over the last five years to about \$41,600. After considering the costs and forfeitures that the City would not receive from the Prosecutor's office handling prosecutions, the City is still saving about \$26,600 per year. This savings was not anticipated in the budget resolution. Council indicated that this change should be made prior to the next meeting.

Although Courthouse Square is an important part of the community, some Councilmembers, but not all, are reluctant to allocate money to it while we are laying off staff.

The City Manager replied to Mrs. Nordenbrocks concerns about the Airport, stating that the hangar project at the airport is only partially financed through the City, most of the funding for the project will come through state/federal grants. The project will pay for itself in the first year and help the Airport become self sustaining more quickly than not doing the project.

The millage request and special assessment proposal were discussed. The City Manager reminded Council that even if the City requests a Headlee override on the November ballot, it will not effect this budget year. And pass or fail, there will still be significant cuts needed next year.

**COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:**  
**COUNCILMEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

The City Attorney reviewed his written report.

The City Manager reported on the progress of the new website and commented on the report from the DEQ, which is requiring that the City build a water treatment facility. It is still early in the process, but we will vigorously defend our ability to deliver safe water without a \$3 - \$4 million dollar water treatment facility.

Councilmember Arnold attended the Recreation Cooperative meeting Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup> at Eaton Township Hall. They discussed AYSO soccer, CJO Softball and the Senior Center programming. The next meeting is June 9<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at the Eaton Township Hall.

Mayor Pro Tem Baker attended the Step By Step meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup> at Bigby Coffee, they discussed the self-guided historic home walking tour.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Dorothy Dumire**, W. Harris Street, asked who are the Councilmembers representing her district

**Christi Dutcher** asked about the possibility of receiving LDFA funds to support Courthouse Square and thanked the DDA for their contribution. They have agreed to make a contribution equal to ½ of the City's contribution.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

Councilmembers wished everyone a Happy Memorial Day. They also thanked those audience members who spoke at the public hearing, Finance Director Mossner and Police Chief Callahan for attending the meeting to answer questions and Josh Holliday for doing a great job as high school liaison. They wished Josh well in his future endeavors.

Councilmembers Arnold and Kruger indicated that they will support paying for health insurance for Diana Lake for a period of time.

Mayor Smith announced the retirement party for Nancy Oliver of the Siren Shelter on June 22<sup>nd</sup>. He invited the public to the Memorial Day parade and the Vietnam Veterans Roundtable at the High School May 27<sup>th</sup> starting between 7:30 – 7:40 a.m.

**There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:36 p.m.**

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Deleski R. Smith, Mayor

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Michelle M. King, City Clerk