

**COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**  
**Regular Meeting**  
**February 9, 2015**

**CALL TO ORDER:** By Mayor Burch on Monday, February 9, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councilmembers Baker, Dyer, Ridge, Conway, Johnston, Mayor Pro-Tem Sanders, Mayor Burch, City Clerk Terpstra and City Manager Guetschow.

The invocation was offered by Mayor Burch followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR REGULAR MEETING OF FEBRUARY 9, 2015:** Mayor Pro-Tem Sanders moved, supported by Conway to approve the minutes of January 26, 2015 as presented. Carried. 7 Yes. 0 No.

**ABSENT:** None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** **Brian Stults, 102 S. Sheldon**, stated he was a retired City employee and stated “ a new broom sweeps clean”. If property is needed the city needs to look around. He is opposed to the purchase of the Armory.

**Ron Moss, 1218 S. Clinton, 1218 S. Clinton**, stated he had new information in a letter regarding the purchase of the armory stating that Mr. Myrkle had met with someone regarding the possible purchase for apartments. He does not feel that the City should be in the real estate business. Also, then, the City would still have the same storage problem. He stated that space could be gained by reorganization of what is already there.

**Anthony Rodriguez, 717 N. Sheldon**, stated that Councilmember Ridge had mentioned using the Armory, if purchased, for the gymnasium or cheerleading practice. He then heard that it would not be used for that purpose. He asked the council to make the right decision.

**Chris Bahmer, 619 S. Bostwick**, stated that some of the existing equipment could be moved to free up storage space. He stated the pictures posted online make it look flattering. He is concerned that city officials could resell the property. He encouraged councilmembers to opt out of the agreement to purchase the Armory.

**Zach Story, 105 ½ S. Cochran, Ste. B**, stated that tonight is a big night in the direction that Charlotte will be going. He stated that storage needs to be reorganized and if more is needed a pole barn can be built for \$50,000. He stated the City needs to prioritize, new roads are needed.

**General Mike Stone, 3411 N. Martin Luther King Blvd., Lansing**, representative for the Armory, stated that he was the seller and invited anyone with questions to please call his office, 517-481-8080. He also offered to answer any questions that council or the audience may have tonight.

**William Mitchell, 112 N. Oliver**, stated that he had heard many things this would be used for; to protect the wellhead, storage, making into apartments, etc. He stated that nothing makes sense. He stated that the ambulance runs down his street all the time and there are a lot of pot holes. The DPW fills them and the ambulance pushes it back out. He feels that the \$237,000 can be spent in a better way.

**Ben Phlegar, 425 Horatio**, thanked the Department of Public Works for getting the city streets cleaned in such a timely manner last week

after the storm. He stated that he is in favor of the purchase. He stated the funds being used to purchase this building can not be used for fixing the streets. He stated that if a building were to be built for storage it would take away from where residents deposit leaves and the people would be upset. He stated that it is in a good location next to other city facilities.

**Tim Bahmer, 211 Munson**, stated that the city owns 30 acres on Hall Street and that the leaves could be put there.

**CHARLOTTE HIGH SCHOOL LIAISON:** None.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Councilmember Conway moved, supported by Dyer to approve the agenda as presented. Carried. 7 Yes. 0 No.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

- a) Appoint Mark Rosekrans to LDFA/EDAB Board to fill the unexpired term of Nancy Hipskind expiring 3/15/2016
- b) Approve Claims and Accounts in the Amount of \$295,709.73

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA BY ROLL CALL VOTE:** Mayor Pro-Tem Sanders moved, supported by Dyer to approve the consent agenda as presented. Carried. 7 Yes. 0 No.

**ITEMS OF BUSINESS:**

**A. DISCUSSION REGARDING TERMINATING AGREEMENT TO PURCHASE NATIONAL GUARD ARMORY:**

Councilmember Johnston stated that he was in favor of the purchase in the beginning but, that now he is not. He respects the concern of the people and the need for more storage, but felt we need another alternative.

Councilmember Dyer questioned if it would be feasible to lease some space.

Councilmember Ridge stated that she toured the Armory, DPW facilities and the police department. She sees the Armory as an immediate solution to the storage issue. She has taken everything into consideration. She also sees it as a possible solution to helping the youth in the community for a practice facility.

Mayor Pro-Tem Sanders stated that the tour of the Armory reaffirmed his decision that they should not buy it. He stated that we can make room with what we have for more storage.

Councilmember Conway stated that he had toured all facilities. He stated that one of three things can take place. 1) Do nothing. 2) build a pole barn or 3) purchase the Armory. He stated that the Armory purchase is still the best option in his opinion.

Mayor Burch stated that the Armory would be purchased for storage. She would not be in favor of reselling the property.

**Councilmember Dyer moved, supported by Mayor Pro-Tem Sanders to terminate agreement to purchase National Guard Armory. Denied. 3 Yes. (Johnston, Dyer, Sanders) 4 No. (Conway, Ridge, Baker, Burch)**

**CITY ATTORNEY REPORT: None**

**CITY MANAGER REPORT:** City Manager Guetschow reported that the Supreme Court has rejected the application for leave to appeal submitted by Owens Brockway.

He reported that Union negotiations with the Police Supervisory unit have begun and the Police Patrol Unit will be starting later in the month.

**COUNCILMEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Councilmember Ridge reported the Rec-CoOp is seeking a DNR Grant for the girls' softball fields. The grant is due by April 1<sup>st</sup> and takes up to one year.
- Mayor Pro-Tem Sanders reported that he attended an Airport meeting last Tuesday and there was not a quorum. They were able to meet Prein & Newhof and he was very impressed. The Fuel Farm project is all done. All hangars are rented out.
- Councilmember Baker reported that the Eatran monthly ridership is at 11,210 riders. This is up 424 riders.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** **Ron Moss, 1218 S. Clinton**, stated that the property next to the garage, that was sold 13 years ago, was in a flood plain, there would not be a half million dollar house built there.

**Zach Story, 105 ½ S. Cochran, Ste. B**, stated that he would like to change the way the city budgets money in funds. He would like to find a way to put money in a fund for roads.

**Ben Phlegar, 425 Horatio**, stated that he thinks the purchase was a great idea. He stated that the Owens Brockway money is one time money and should be used for a one time purchase.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

- Councilmember Baker stated that she had only three calls regarding the Armory purchase.
- Councilmember Conway thanked General Stone for attending. He also thanked citizens for coming. He stated that the people that he had talked to were about 50/50 on whether or not to purchase the Armory. He would like to use the Owens Brockway money to possibly pay down debt or fix parking lots.
- Councilmember Johnston stated that he had poured over a decision on the Armory purchase for weeks. He thanked staff for their work on this.
- Councilmember Ridge stated that she is very active in the City and that everyone she talked to was in favor of the purchase. She believes she made a very informed decision. She stated that she understands fund accounting and it is used to plan for the future. She believes the City has done a good job.
- Mayor Pro-Tem Sanders thanked everyone for coming. He thanked the Department of Public Works for getting the streets cleaned last Sunday and Monday.
- Mayor Burch thanked the staff of the Department of Public Works for clearing the streets in the storm. She stated she feels she made the right decision for the long term and future of the City. She encouraged councilmembers to be thinking about what to do with the money from Owens Brockway.

**Councilmember Conway moved, second by Johnston to adjourn at 8:10 P.M. Carried. 7 Yes. 0 No.**

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Mayor Burch

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Ginger Terpstra, City Clerk