

**COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

**Regular Meeting**

**July 13, 2015**

**CALL TO ORDER:** By Mayor Burch on Monday, July 13, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Councilmembers Baker, Dyer, Ridge, Johnston, Conway, 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 JUNE 22, 2015:** Councilmember Conway moved, supported by Baker to approve the minutes of June 22, 2015 as presented. Carried. 7 Yes. 0 No.

**ABSENT:** None.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Emily Williamson, 1874 Otto Rd.,** addressed the council with an update in regards to the tennis court crowd funding project.

**CHARLOTTE HIGH SCHOOL LIAISON:** None.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:** Mayor Pro-Tem Sanders moved, supported by Conway to approve the agenda as presented. Carried. 7 Yes. 0 No.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:**

- a) Approve casting vote to elect Michigan Municipal League Worker's Compensation Fund 2015/2016 slate of candidates
- b) Approve First Reading of Rezoning of 440 N. Sheldon from I-2 to R-1 (Single Family Residential and set Public Hearing for July 28, 2015 Planning Commission Meeting
- c) Approve Church Street Road Closure for August 1-3, 2015 for 9<sup>th</sup> Annual NASCAR Derby.
- d) Approve appointment of Ken Wirt to the DDA Board with term expiring 3/15/2018
- e) Approve Claims & Accounts in the Amount of \$660,060.65

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

**A. DISCUSSION ON PARKING LOT PROJECT BETWEEN WASHINGTON & LOVETT STREETS (JOHN FORTE):**

John Forte, owner What's Your Forte, S. Cochran, addressed the council with his concerns for the need for parking lot improvements to the parking lot behind his business between Washington and Lovett Streets.

Discussion was held on when and how to pay for the reconstruction of the parking lot.

**Councilmember Conway moved to approve \$350,000.00 out of the OI settlement to fix the parking lot. Motion died with lack of support.**

City Manager Guetschow stated that the city is working with an engineering firm on design and construction for that lot and it will be presented at the next council meeting.

Discussion was held among councilmembers on funding for the parking lot project.

**Councilmember Conway moved to approve spending up to \$400,000 including the money set aside in the budget for parking lots and the rest coming from the OI settlement funds. Motion died with lack of support.**

Discussion was held among councilmembers and a consensus was reached to wait until the next meeting when a more definite cost will be presented for the project and decide at that time how the funding can be reached.

**B. APPROVE FIRST READING OF ORDINANCE 2015-02 TO AMEND CHAPTER 54-3 OF CHAPTER 54 – SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS:**

City Manager Guetschow stated that this is a housekeeping item as there was inconsistency in the language between the Charter and the Ordinance. This is to correct the language in the Ordinance.

**Councilmember Ridge moved, supported by Sanders to pass first reading of Ordinance 2015-02 to amend Chapter 54-3**

**Special Assessments and set public hearing for July 27, 2015 and pass to a second reading as presented. Carried. 7 Yes. 0 No.**

**C. CONSIDER COUNCILMEMBER RIDGE’S REQUEST TO INSTALL SIGNAGE AT ARMORY STATING THAT IT IS CITY PROPERTY:**

Councilmember Ridge stated that it is important to identify city property with signage.

Discussion was held on the cost of a sign.

**Councilmember Ridge moved, supported by Conway to table this issue until the next meeting when costs could be presented for the erection of a sign at the Armory location. Carried. 7 Yes. 0 No.**

**D. CONSIDER COUNCILMEMBER DYER’S REQUEST TO ATTEND WEST MICHIGAN GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE CONFERENCE IN GRAND RAPIDS, MI:**

Councilmember Dyer stated the the West Michigan Green Infrastructure Conference is being held on August 5, 2015 at GVSU Eberhard Center in Grand Rapids. The cost of the conference is \$65.00 and he would like to attend.

**Mayor Pro-Tem Sanders moved, supported by Conway to approve Councilmember Dyer attending West Michigan Green Infrastructure Conference in Grand Rapids, MI. in the amount of \$65.00. Carried. 6 Yes. 0 No. 1 Abstain (Dyer)**

**E. CONSIDER AUTHORIZATION FOR PAYMENT OF \$10,000 TO THE TENNIS COURT PROJECT CROWDFUNDING EFFORT:**

Councilmember Ridge explained that there is a deadline of August 21<sup>st</sup> for matching funds. She stated that she would like the council to authorize payment of \$10,000.00 to the crowd funding effort at this time.

Discussion was held by councilmembers on the amount of funding that has already been raised and the need for more funding. Councilmember Ridge stated that if the match of the funds does not come thru that the \$10,000.00 would revert back to the city.

**Councilmember Baker moved to not pay the \$10,000.00 at this time and wait until a later meeting. Motion died with lack of support.**

**Councilmember Ridge moved, supported by Dyer to approve authorization for payment of \$10,000 to the tennis court project crowd funding effort. Carried. 5 Yes. (Johnston, Dyer, Ridge, Conway, Burch) 2 No. (Sanders, Baker)**

**CITY ATTORNEY REPORT:** None.

**CITY MANAGER REPORT:** City Manager Guetschow stated that the 5-year program for street improvements will be presented at the next meeting.

He stated that design work for the tennis court project is nearing completion. No further action will be taken until the funding has

been secured.

He stated that the deadline for submitting petitions for the November City Election Councilmember and Mayor is Tuesday, July 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:00 P.M. Petitions can be obtained from the City Clerk's office.

**COUNCILMEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Councilmember Dyer reported that the Sustainability Committee does not meet in summer months.
- Councilmember Conway reported that the next Planning Commission meeting will be held on July 28<sup>th</sup> due to the election being held on the normal meeting date.
- Councilmember Ridge reported that the Recreation Co-op has agreed to put a sign at the tennis courts showing all levels of donors for the project if it succeeds.
- Councilmember Baker reported that Eatran will be meeting on Wednesday, July 15<sup>th</sup>.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Mike Lahr, 422 Pearl St., asked if the townships were being asked to contribute to the funding of the tennis courts to support their users.

**John Forte, 135 S. Cochran,** stated his concerns for signage on all city properties.

**Brian Dempsey, 420 W. Harris,** stated his concern for parking lot improvements.

**Brenda Hampton, 118 E. Lawrence,** stated her concerns for the improvements to the parking lot area behind her building.

**MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS:**

- Councilmember Baker stated that it is the foundation part of the signage that is so expensive, not necessarily the sign itself.
- Councilmember Conway stated that he is looking forward to moving along with the parking lot and signage issues. He would like to see the traffic study for the truck traffic issue downtown.
- Councilmember Ridge thanked Mr. Forte for the parking lot information. She stated that the Concert on the Square was well attended on Thursday. She invited everyone out to the Eaton County Fair this week.
- Mayor Pro-Tem Sanders thanked everyone for coming out and for the discussion on the parking lot.
- Councilmember Johnston thanked everyone for coming out. He encouraged everyone to attend the Eaton County Fair and support the 4-H kids.
- Councilmember Dyer thanked everyone for attending.
- Mayor Burch announced that there are openings on many committees if anyone is interested in serving the community they can get in touch with her. She wished a Happy Birthday to Calie, the Fire Department dog. She stated that the overwhelming support on Saturday to Wyatt Martin was very touching. She stated that her heart goes out to his family. She reminded everyone that the deadline for turning in petitions for City Council is Tuesday, July 21<sup>st</sup> at 4:00 P.M. She went over the duties of councilmembers and the Mayor position. She encouraged everyone to shop local.

**Councilmember Conway moved, second by Ridge to adjourn at 8:05 P.M. Carried. 7 Yes. 0 No.**

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Mayor Burch

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Ginger Terpstra, City Clerk