

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
Special Meeting
Friday, January 22, 2016

CALL TO ORDER: By Mayor Lewis, Friday, January 22, 2016 at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Mayor Lewis, Councilmembers Bahmer, Russo, Sanders and Ridge, City Manager Guetschow and City Clerk Terpstra.

ABSENT: Councilmember Mitchell and Johnston.

PURPOSE: Mayor Lewis explained the purpose of the meeting would be to set goals and priorities for the coming year to determine what council would like to accomplish.

Councilmember Johnston arrived at 6:10 p.m.

The Mayor divided the council into two different teams and asked them each to come up the seven issues that they would like to see council focus on in the coming year.

Team One Priorities were:

- 1) Rising Tide
- 2) Brining Industry
- 3) Business Development
- 4) Neighborhood Revitalization
- 5) More direction to Department Heads, City Manager
- 6) Attract development
- 7) Downtown traffic

Team Two Priorities

- 1) Roads
- 2) Business Growth
- 3) Parking Lots

- 4) Water/Sewer
- 5) Parks & Recreation
- 6) Truck Traffic
- 7) Citizen engagement

Discussion was held regarding each of the issues on the two lists of priorities and how council may help to achieve these goals.

Discussion was also held on how to communicate better with the citizens to get information and answers to questions or concerns out to them. The council believes that they need to take an active role in accomplishing the goals they have discussed.

It was decided that the council will meet on the third Monday of each month at 6:00 p.m. for a work session starting on Monday, February 22, 2016.

PUBLIC COMMENT: **Kurt Cunningham**, 4732 Island Hwy, Charlotte, MI stated that he was concerned about people wanting to know why the roads were going bad and they are only putting a bandaid fix on them. He feels that the council should look at what businesses want to help them with growth. He cautioned what they do with limiting truck traffic because of the highways in close proximity to our city.

Elizabeth Siler, 1022 Northway Dr, Charlotte, MI stated she believes that public image is big and needs to be worked on because of the recent issues with Eaton RESA, the City Council and the recent public school issues. She feels we need to attract young people to buy homes here as we are a bedroom community to Lansing. The google search needs to look favorable. She agrees that more communication with the citizens is great. She stated that she has lived here for eight years and feels that there are red flags coming up now. She stated that all the topics discussed were hot topics for the community.

COUNCILMEMBER COMMENTS:

- Councilmember Johnston stated that he felt the meeting was very productive even though it was a broad scope of topics. He thanked the residents who attended for coming.
- Councilmember Ridge thanked the Mayor for calling the special meeting. She stated that there were some great ideas.
- Councilmember Bahmer thanked the Mayor for organizing the meeting. He thanked the citizens for coming.
- Councilmember Russo thanked the Mayor for organizing the meeting. He felt that it was very productive.
- Mayor Pro-Tem Sanders stated that the City needs progress and he feels that the council is headed on the right track.
- Mayor Lewis thanked the residents for coming. He told the council that their constituents should be proud. He asked the council to be forthright with each other and encouraged them to work with a team effort. He asked that they respect each others ideas and comments going forward. He appreciated all of their input and comments.

Councilmember Ridge moved, second by Johnston to adjourn at 7:55 p.m.

Tim Lewis, Mayor

Ginger Terpstra, City Clerk