

Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, February 16, 2010
412 Main St. - City Hall
Frankfort, Michigan 49635 (231) 352-7117

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Pro-Tem Holwerda at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call - Present: Haugen, Higman, Holwerda, Stransky
Absent: Johnson

Request to Appear Before Council

Susan May – Recruiter for the US Census – Ms. May is trying hard to find qualified applicants to work the census in Benzie County. She is reaching out to all civic and community groups to get the word out. The job pays \$11.25 an hour and will be from late March until May.

Elizabeth Guzman-Shrake – Wanted the public to know about an upcoming event to help with Autism research. The Betsie Bay Music Festival will be on July 10th from 10 a.m. to 11 p.m. It will feature many local groups, duos and individuals performing throughout the day. The event will be held in the Open Space Park by the Recreation Center.

Public Input

Suz McLaughlin – 670 Crystal Ave. – Encourages council to postpone any decision regarding the Lions Club Property. She reminded council of the building they inherited back when the senior center left. It was in very poor condition. McLaughlin also wanted to know how the Planning Commission is going to address the Tobin issue in the draft Master Plan. Holwerda stated she would respond under the Planning Commission report.

Fred Stransky – Wanted to know the status of the 4th of July parade, since there was discussion last month on what day the parade will be held. Mills stated that Mayor Johnson was contacting the businesses and Johnson would be able to report more when he returned. Stransky asked that this be on the agenda for next month.

Thelma Rider-Novak – Would like to be put on the agenda next month to see about holding town hall meetings in the Chamber once a month.

Correspondence

Suz McLaughlin – Resignation from the Pier Safety Committee - Stransky thanked her for her help over the years and stated that her resignation would be a great loss and her recommendations will be looked into and will be responded to in a letter.

Master Plan Draft Committee and 3) Budget Committee. Holwerda and Mills spoke with Bryan Graham on the Tobin issue as it relates to the New Master Plan. Graham stated that the property will be ruled by the Consent Judgment entered into the Circuit Court on November 20, 2009, providing the Friends of the Betsie Bay fail to get the decision overturned either in Circuit Court or the Court of Appeals. If the Friends of the Betsie Bay succeed in getting the decision overturned, then it will be what it states in the Master Plan as agreed upon. His suggestion was to put that section to be zoned and the land use description, as the public and Planning Commission wants it to be with a footnote describing the tax parcel. State that it is subject to the consent judgment, entered on November 20, 2009, along with court file numbers relating to this decision. By doing this, future administrations, councils and planning commissions will have a clear understanding of this piece of property.

g) Airport Authority

Higman report that the Airport Authority meeting went well. The manager's report was given. It was an interesting meeting with lots of knowledgeable members. The airport is a very valuable asset to this community.

h) Grant

Mills will meet with Mr. Higman to try and dovetail some meetings with the Planning Commission's Capital Improvement Committee. Some of the projects to be considered are playground equipment, a new stairway at the end of Nipissing to the beach, sidewalks and an ice skating rink.

i) BLUA

Will meet this Thursday.

j) Brownfield Redevelopment

No meeting.

k) Marina Authority

Meets tomorrow.

l) Commissioners Report – Kristin Hollenbeck

Unable to attend.

m) Sheriff's Report – Rory Heckman

Unable to attend.

Departmental Reports

Clerk/Treasurer – Kidder reported that she will be out of the office starting February 22nd for at least two weeks. She will be available by phone and can access her e-mails.

The FOIA/OMA seminar will be held on March 11th at the Betsie Bay Inn from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. There are at least 50 people who have signed up to attend the seminar so far.

There are some committee appointments that are set to expire in the coming months and Kidder will contact those with terms expiring to see if they are interested in continuing with another term.

State revenues look to be about \$2,000 less for next year but then stay the same for the following year according to the Department of Treasury website. Marv Blackford revealed that the taxable value for the City will decrease this coming year by about 4%. This means a drop in the operating budget of about \$40,000 to the City. The marina seasonal slips are all filled and there is a long waiting list for those wanting a seasonal slip. Chris Ward has been working with the assessor to update him on new businesses in Frankfort. Kidder asked council if they wanted to change any dates or times on the council meetings so they are not the same time as the county commission meetings. It will be on the agenda for next month.

Superintendent – Chris Luedtke, Bob Kerby Brent Larkin and the DPW are hauling snow for the Shiver by the River. Melina Penne will be using the Recreation Center for fundraising during the sno-cross event. Mills has projected out the wages for DPW for the remainder of the fiscal year and believes that they will be on target to finish out the year on budget.

Upon review of the Consumers Energy bills, it appears that Consumers has been overcharging the City for some of the street lighting and they have been charging tax to the City. If this is correct, Consumer's could owe the City credits totaling over \$4,800 a year. Mills will be meeting with Consumers Energy on February 23, 2010 at 11:00 a.m. and asked if anyone from council would like to participate.

Mills updated council on the DPW, water/sewer operations. He will be meeting with the Fire Advisory Board before the end of the month. A pre-construction meeting for the launch ramp project is scheduled for Wednesday at 10:00 a.m. The Marina Authority will meet later that Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. to go over the contract for Marina Manager, launch ramp upgrades, the Marina Master Plan and next year's budget.

Chief of Police – The new patrol car is here and the striping should be done this week with the equipment to be transferred next week. Officer Wolfe completed his DataMaster training class last month. The DataMaster is a new PBT unit. Redder received the rifles donated by Rick Rineer as well as the ammunition. Mr. Rineer is also going to fit the units with new scopes.

Chief Redder attended a 911 Advisory Board meeting. There is to be a compliance review done by the State on the dispatch center. The board has also asked for a financial audit.

Redder stated that complaints are about the same as last year and arrests are down for the year.

Old Business

None

