

Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, August 21, 2012
412 Main St. - City Hall
Frankfort, Michigan 49635 (231) 352-7117

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Johnson at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call - Present: Condon, Haan, Holwerda, Jackson, Johnson Absent: None

Request to Appear Before Council

Kim McKenzie – McKenzie wanted the council to know she appreciated the signs on Park Avenue. She had suggestions for other improvements to the area such as different colored caution signs informing the drivers of children in the area, maybe a sidewalk on the same side of the road as the hospital which could also be useful accessing the trails on tank hill. She has not noticed any increase in police patrol on the street.

Public Input

None

Correspondence

31 e-mails from Harbor Lights Condo owners asking that public restrooms be placed at Cannon Park.

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Holwerda, seconded by Haan to approve the regular minutes of 07/17/2012 and special meetings of 07/31/12 and 08/01/12 as presented.

RC: Yeas: All

Nays: None
Motion CARRIED

Approval of Bills

Motion by Holwerda, seconded by Condon to approve prepaid vouchers #42666-42751 in the amount of \$412,693.67. Payroll vouchers #26078-26207 in the amount of \$59,849.60.

RC: Yeas: All

Nays: None
Motion CARRIED

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Holwerda approving monthly Vouchers #42752-42829 in the amount of \$285,094.42 as presented.

RC: Yeas: All

Nays: None
Motion CARRIED

Committee Reports

a) Personnel/Public Safety

Department head contracts are signed. Mr. Cavric is back to work in the office. The City is still working out settlement negotiations with Mr. Cavric.

b) Finance

No meeting.

c) Water/Sewer & Solid Waste

No Meeting.

d) Recreation Board

No meeting.

e) Fire Advisory

Will be scheduling one for September.

f) Planning Commission

Jackson attended the meeting. Three recommendations are on the agenda. On the motion to plant shrubs around the Lake Michigan beach restroom, Jackson wanted to let the council know that this could be done with private funding. Jackson also mentioned that Bruce Ogilvie might consider resigning before his term is up in 2014. Holwerda would like to thank Ogilvie for all the hard work he has done on the zoning ordinance and the master plan.

g) Airport Authority

The authority is still working with MDOT on the plow truck. Condon reported that there has been an increase in usage over last year. They are still working with AT&T on the contract for the tower. The tower is in need of repair and they are working on who needs to do the repairs. The authority is pricing out insurance costs for their liability insurance. They are also working with the MDOT on the ALP.

h) Grants

Mills stated that we did receive a grant from the PAR Plan in the amount of \$4,500 for video surveillance equipment to be placed at the water towers. Mills stated he is still working on the \$18,700 grant for the Emerald Ash Borer. Mills is still waiting to hear if the City will receive anything from the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians grant applications. There is a \$15,000 grant from Grand Vision that Mills is hoping to get to have Wi-Fi installed downtown.

i) BLUA

Johnson reported that BLUA is having their audit done and is not yet completed.

j) Brownfield Redevelopment

No meeting.

k) Marina Authority

No meeting.

l) Tree Board

The Tree Board met twice since last month. They met on August 14th at tank hill where they did a walk through of the trails and planned for new trees to be planted. The Tree Board also met again today. They will be taking 30 trees from the nursery to plant on Tank Hill replacing those which were cut down. There will be a planting bee this Saturday and they plan on planting another 30 trees this fall. On September 6th at 9 a.m. there will be a work day at the nursery. Mike Villio attended a session on trail building and hopes to share that information with others. There is still firewood available for the public.

The Board received positive feedback from the Shakespeare group. They are developing a partnership with the Art Center. There was a drainage issue at the theater site and the actors participated in getting it dried up prior to their performances. There will be a public meeting on September 22 with the Benzie Conservation District from 10 a.m. to 12 noon for input on Tank Hill at Tank Hill.

m) Commissioner's Report

The commissioners are continuing union negotiations with a deadline of October 1st to have everything finalized. There are budget meetings 2 to 3 times a week with department heads to go over their budgets.

Marlene Zylstra resigned from the recycling/solid waste position and is now working in the County Clerk's Office. She will be missed since she was the one to procure contracts with waste haulers and vendors. They will need to get a detailed job description before a new recycling coordinator can be hired.

Stobie updated the council on Brownfield and the Commission on Aging. The commission is looking at having a direct contract with Benzie Home Healthcare. The Veterans Board will be expanded to 5 members and may have longer hours of operation. They have received an extension on the construction deadline for the Maples and are hoping to get somebody under contract to finish with the job.

Departmental Reports

Clerk/Treasurer – Kidder reported that the election workers attended a training session for election certification on Friday, July 20th. The tabulator had a problem during the election and Kidder had to call for a technician to come and fix it. The machine was down from 8:30 a.m. until about 12:30 p.m. There were no other problems once the tabulator was corrected. Voter turnout was very low.

Joan McKay and Marvin Blackford are getting their facts together to present to the tax tribunal. They are getting an appraisal for the City because the one that the Gold Coast is using is from the foreclosure/distress sale which does not reflect the actual market value of the property.

Kidder stated that the marina and launch ramp figures show an increase over prior year. It has been a good year at the launch and marina so far this year.

The office staff will remain the same for now, Renee Gokey will be staying here for the time being.

Superintendent – Mills was on vacation for a couple weeks in August. Mills reported that Caroline Kennedy from MML wanted to do a placemaking story about Frankfort and the partnership we have with the Art Center, she will also be doing a story on the State Theater in Traverse City.

Mills reported on the planning and zoning issues. There was a variance hearing for a garage/apartment for Barbara Fought for the roof pitch of 12:12 which exceeds the current ordinance pitch of 10:12. This was approved by the ZBA.

Another variance hearing for the Subway store at 111 Tenth St. for signage which exceeds the required total signage square footage of 50 sq. ft. Shreeji –Frankfort Corporation wanted to construct signage that exceeded this allowance. This variance was denied.

The ZBA switched hats to the Construction Board of Appeals and met with Mr. Bruce Schneider to discuss action needed to secure two properties and address safety concerns. Mr. Schneider plans to rehabilitate the property at 629 Forest Ave. and has the dwelling at 1335 Hall St. up for sale.

Mills updated the council on the planning commission meeting and the motions for their recommendations which are on the agenda for this evening. Mills stated that he is still waiting on the complete streets/safe routes to school grant and final procurement on the lighthouse.

The fire department responded to 13 calls from dispatch in the last month. From January 1st to July 20th there were 96 fire runs and from January 1st to July 19th there were 170 medical first responder runs.

Chief of Police – Redder reported that since the life saving devices were put out this spring there have been four life rings that have had to be replaced. No throw bags have been taken.

There are new changes instituted by the Liquor Control Commission. Now then new applications and licenses transfers are made the LCC does the approval and not the local governing body. The only time the City will need to approve and application is when it is for dance, entertainment and topless permits as well as extended hours. Redder did inform the council that paperwork has been submitted for a liquor license transfer from Leslie Perkins to Mary Pitcher for the Betsie Bay Inn.

Even though this has been a busy summer, arrests and complaints are less than last year. There has been a lot of traffic in town with an increase in accidents and parking tickets.

Redder attended the 911 meeting where they set the annual budget for 2012-13 which includes a ninth dispatch person. The county emergency services coordinator Gene Mayo is out on sick leave and Frank Post will be filling in for him in the interim.

Officer Tim Cavric is back on duty and working in the office handling complaints and answering phone calls. He has to get recertified to be able to go out on the road and currently he is awaiting the paperwork to do so. Officer Wolfe has been offered a job in Springfield near Battle Creek and will be accepting that offer.

Old Business

A) Recreation Center Lease – Mills

Haan had some concerns about the lease that was in the council packet. One concern was the terms of the lease and the fact that it was more than a three year contract. He also was not amiable to the fact that the funding is not by the City but from an outside source and that source would collect rents from that building. Johnson suggested that since there were still concerns with this arrangement and since it was first brought forth Crystal Temple if needed. Council members were to write down their questions and concerns so that they can be address at a special meeting. This agenda item was tabled.

B) Discuss Streets and Fire Department Millage

Holwerda noted that there were fire millages in the primary election from other government entities and those ballot proposals passed. Holwerda noted that most other entities do have separate fire millages.

New Business

A) Family Day – Mayor Johnson

Motion by Holwerda, seconded by Condon to proclaim September 24, 2012 as Family Day – A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Children and urge all citizens to recognize and participate in its observance.

RC: Yeas: All

Nays: None
Motion CARRIED

B) Planning Commission Recommendations

The following recommendations were given to the council as recommendations from the Planning Commission.

Motion by Jackson seconded by Holwerda to deny to request the City Superintendent to implement the immediate installation of signage for five public restroom facilities stating open hours.

RC: Yeas: All

Nays: None
Motion CARRIED

Motion by Holwerda, seconded by Haan to send draft ordinance of the Nuisance Wild Fowl Ordinance to incorporate into the current Municipal Code Chapter 5, Article 11 to Joan McKay.

RC: Yeas: All

Nays: None
Motion CARRIED

PUBLIC INPUT –

Alma Penfold-House – 221 Michigan Ave. – Inquired if the Fire Dept Millage and Street Millage would be one proposal. Informed that they would be separate. Nothing has been determined yet.

Ralph Jackson – Unit #91 Harbor Lights – Is in support of doing something with the restrooms at the beach.

Sam Barresi – Member of the Planning Commission – Wanted to clarify that the Planning Commission is looking at a 5-10 year strategic plan for all the public restrooms. Many of the restrooms are in need of updating, some need stall doors, need to be safer and handicapped accessible. There are grants available to do these things but they need to be passed through the City, not individual groups. Many public entities have received funding to fix up public facilities. You could join efforts with the building trades department to get the work done at little to no cost.

Bruce Ogilvie – Planning Commission Chair – Stated that this sub-committee involved many people and only came to these recommendations after careful consideration.

Bob Dittrich – 445 Park Ave. – Felt that this was one of the better council meetings he has attended because there was dialogue, discussion and conversations going on between the council. He thanked Dick Haan for raising questions and felt that the council should be commended for waiting to get more information regarding issues they may have.

Ann Arnold – 207 Seventh St. – Wanted to know if anyone had a herding dog to help control the geese in the Open Space Park.

pim Dodge – 649 Crystal Ave. – Wondered if anyone considered putting up signs to keep people from feeding the geese.

Janet Hessler – 311 Main St. – Restroom are important to Frankfort. Many people do not know where the restrooms are and she directs them to City Hall. She stated that up at Empire Beach you have to cross the street to use the restrooms. There is a need for restroom with flushable toilets and running water to wash your hands.

Katie Condon – Wants to see this public restroom matter back on the agenda.

Sandy Jackson – Jackson feels the restroom issue needs more input. She does not deny the need for it but is not ready to accept the recommendation at this point.

Josh Mills – Stated that this is a political issue and no matter where the bathrooms go someone is going to be upset. The City needs to move forward and come together as a community and plan accordingly.

Marcia Stobie –Gilmore Twp. – Initially Stobie did not think that Cannon Park was a good location buy then considered that there are porta-poties by the pier for those close to the water and Cannon Park would make sense.

Janet Hessler – 311 Main St. – Wanted to know how much use the City Hall restrooms get. Kidder stated that someone from the office will go in two to three times a day after they have been attended to in the morning. Hessler stated that that establishes a need for more.

Josh Mills – Believes that the City of Frankfort has moe public restrooms per capita than Traverse City.

Adjournment

Motion by Condon, seconded by Holwerda to adjourn the meeting at 9:16 p.m.

RC: Yeas: All

Nays: None
Motion CARRIED

Robert J. Johnson, Mayor

Kimberly K. Kidder, Clerk/Treasurer