

Regular Council Meeting
Tuesday, September 18, 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

Agenda Amendment

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Holwerda to amend the agenda to delete the item b) Discuss Streets & Fire Department Millage. Add to old business the Goose Ordinance and to new business funding for Marina/Launch Ramp roofing.

RC: Yeas: All

Nays: None
Motion CARRIED

Request to Appear Before Council

Sam Barresi – Bruce Ogilvie was unable to attend. Barresi was reporting as a Planning Commission member and a member of the facilities sub-committee on restrooms. Barresi went over the executive summary regarding the restroom facilities which detailed the events and timelines preceding the formation of the restroom facilities sub-committee, the survey and results and inspection of the facilities. Their next step is to develop short-term and long-term strategic plans to upgrade the facilities. Barresi passed out handouts on the survey results, restroom assessments and a landscape design for the current Lake Michigan Beach Restroom.

The sub-committee met last Friday and would like to enlist the help of Kurt Schindler from the MSU extension to help get funding or maybe a doctoral student to assist with grants, funding and educating the public of the need for better facilities.

Public Input

Steve Campbell - 15 Second St. – Came to the council four years ago in an attempt to locate restrooms in Cannon Park to serve the Lake Michigan Beach area. Campbell is still a proponent of that location and will assist in finding a solution to move the current restrooms from their location at Lake Michigan Beach.

Suz McLaughlin – 670 Crystal Ave. – Wanted to speak to the council regarding the recreation center lease that is on the agenda. McLaughlin has a history with that building and the previous lease between the City of Frankfort and the COA. McLaughlin wanted to inform the council that the COA did not hold up their end of the lease. They did not maintain the property as stated in the lease. When they left they took many items belonging to the City; they left the building in need of much repair. The COA did not adhere to the contract as they were suppose to and McLaughlin wants to make sure that if there is a new lease that both parties understand what they are responsible for.

Mayor Johnson - Wanted to let the council and public know that there are two new photos in City Hall. One being a 1908 photo of the then Frankfort Chief of Police George Robinson. He is the grandfather to Frankfort resident Paul Robinson. There is also a picture of Frankfort taken from Elberta with a car ferry.

Norma Elias – 107 Park Ave. – Thinks that maybe the City should run water and sewer to the existing Lake Michigan Beach restroom instead of putting up a new one. This would alleviate the smell which is only in the summer when the restrooms are in use. The City should work on the smell from BLUA.

Correspondence

Gordon Rollenhagen – Beach Restrooms
Ralph Jackson – Beach Restrooms
Ken & JoAnne Wise – Beach Restrooms
Anne Hood – Beach Restrooms
Terry Rowland – Beach Restrooms
Nancy Honchell & Susan Wood – Thank you

Approval of Minutes

Motion by Holwerda, seconded by Haan to approve the regular minutes of 08/21/2012 and special meetings of 08/27/12 as presented.

RC: Yeas: All

Nays: None
Motion CARRIED

Approval of Bills

Motion by Holwerda, seconded by Condon to approve prepaid vouchers #42830-42894 in the amount of \$642,052.11. Payroll vouchers #26208-26313 in the amount of \$51,778.72.

RC: Yeas: All

Nays: None
Motion CARRIED

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Holwerda approving monthly Vouchers #42895-42944 in the amount of \$141,413.60 as presented.

RC: Yeas: All

Nays: None
Motion CARRIED

Committee Reports

a) Personnel/Public Safety

Mr. Cavric is back to work in the office. The City is still working out settlement negotiations with Mr. Cavric.

b) Finance

Next meeting will be October 10th at 10:00 a.m.

c) Water/Sewer & Solid Waste

No Meeting.

d) Recreation Board

No meeting.

e) Fire Advisory

Looking to schedule a meeting for October 3rd.

f) Planning Commission

Mills will go over in his report.

g) Airport Authority

No one from the council was able to attend.

h) Grants

Mills stated that we did put in for a Community Growth Investment Grant for community WiFi. This will be awarded October 10th. The fire department and police department received grant funds from the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. The fire department received \$4,000 towards gas detection equipment and the police department received \$10,000 for in-car video cameras and tasers.

i) BLUA

Nothing new to report.

j) Brownfield Redevelopment

No meeting.

k) Marina Authority

No meeting.

l) Tree Board

Haan reported that the tree board met today. They had a work day on September 6th where new trees were planted. On October 11th at 9 a.m. they will be taking inventory of the trees. This Saturday at 10 a.m. there will be a public input meeting at the amphitheater on Tank Hill weather permitting (otherwise the meeting will be at the elementary school). The meeting is to gather public input on plans for tank hill.

The grant for cleaning up the emerald ash borer has been completed. There will be tree pavers in place in front of City Hall this Friday so the public can check them out. They will be setting a date to survey the City for planting and removal of trees. The board will be sending a representative over to the Village of Elberta to assist them in putting together a maintenance plan for their trees. There will be two new trees planted at the Frankfort Post Office to replace the ones that had to be removed.

m) Commissioner's Report

The commissioners met today for a five hour meeting. Kay Bond is the interim director for the COA. Amy Bissell the county Register of Deeds has all documents scanned and are now on disk. A mutual aide agreement has been signed with the park service for EMS.

The commissioners settled all four union contracts and three have been ratified. Interviews are being conducted for a new solid waste manager. The county budget of just over \$5,600,000 was adopted today. They also voted to disband the building department due to budget constraints. The commission decided to contract with a private firm called AGS (Associated Government Services) to handle the permits and inspections for the building department. They are a professional business group that handles many other municipalities and they hire their own people. They get a percent of the permits they handle. The County will now be taking an administrative fee for handling jail, 911 and EMS monies. The 911 department will be separating from the Sheriff's Department on October 1st. Those 911 employees plan on forming their own union.

Departmental Reports

Clerk/Treasurer – Kidder reported that the Bureau of Elections has required that all jurisdictions must now have receiving boards. This requires the council to approve the formation of a receiving board. This will be on the agenda for tonight's meeting. Kidder stated that there are over 100 absentee ballot applications pending.

The audit will be the first week of October. The girls are getting ready and compiling test data for the auditors. Taxes were quite heavy last week with over a million dollars coming in. Kidder reported that while the launch ramp and marina were down from last year for the month of August, for the three month period of June, July and August both the launch ramp and marina exceeded the previous year's totals.

Superintendent – Mills stated that there is a growing concern associated with the shoaling and low water levels at the base of the river. Although it is not the City's responsibility to tend to this problem, the impact from the fishing in the river and bay is. Mills feels that it would be good to keep in contact with other agencies to discuss a proactive plan to ensure the river remains open for fish and other ecological impacts.

Mills reported that there will be a wayfinding signage meeting at 1:00 p.m. tomorrow. The signs will be non-business specific. Other items that will be discuss are information kiosks and banners on streetlights.

October will be busy with the Fall Festival on the weekend of October 13th and the Frankfort Film Festival the next week from October 18th through the 21st. Approximately 25% of the attendance for the Film Festival comes from over 100 miles away.

The DPW is preparing for winter. The plow truck will not pass DOT inspections next year and Mills wants to look at a capital outlay schedule for replacing those vehicles are or will be no longer reliable or able to be certified.

The Main Street Lift Station is experiencing issues and is in need of repair. This poses a problem because some parts are not repairable and replacing them can be very costly since it would be patching an antiquated system. The current bubbler system needs to be replaced with a SCADA system. Mills believes that repairing the current system is only a temporary fix. Mills would like to schedule a special meeting to discuss the options for this lift station.

Mills updated council on zoning and planning issues in the City. A zoning variance was approved for Mr. & Mrs. Holwerda for an accessory building. The Planning Commission met on September 11th. New business included a preliminary site plan for 303 Main St. for Stormcloud Brewing's "Brew Pub" and to recommend to council the creation of a DDA.

The fire department responded to 17 calls from dispatch in the last month. From January 1st to August 20th there were 113 fire runs and from January 1st to August 21st there were 207 medical first responder runs.

Chief of Police – Redder reported that the State has lowered the maintenance of effort agreement from \$1,700 to \$800 for the 302 State training fund money. Redder was award a \$10,000 grant from the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians for in-car videos and tasers.

Officer Wolfe's last day was September 4th and he has been hired by the Springfield Police Department. Officer Cavric is working in the office working on follow up to complaints that can be done by phone and answering phone calls. Redder is waiting to hear if he can get into the October class for recertification. All his paperwork has been sent to the State.

Complaints are down from this time last year while arrests remain about the same. Redder believes that there are fewer drive offs and larcenies than last year.

Old Business

A) Recreation Center Lease – Mills

Joan McKay is going over questions concerning the lease that were presented by Haan. She is hoping to have some answers by the end of the week.

B) Goose Ordinance

Joan McKay will look at addressing these concerns in the current Municipal Code.

New Business

A) MERS Delegate - Kidder

Motion by Condon, seconded by Holwerda not to send representatives to the MERS conference in Grand Rapids this year.

RC: Yeas: All

Nays: None
Motion CARRIED

B) Establish Election Receiving Board - Kidder

Motion by Holwerda seconded by Condon to establish an election Receiving Board to be appointed by the election commission.

RC: Yeas: All

Nays: None
Motion CARRIED

C) DDA Resolution - Mills

Holwerda was unsure about a DDA and it had not been discussed prior to this meeting. Condon wondered if the Chamber of Commerce was contacted regarding the formation of the DDA. Mills informed the council that this would be the first step in considering a DDA.

Motion by Condon seconded by Johnson to determine that it is necessary for the best interest of the public to establish a DDA Corridor that halts/prohibits property value deterioration, increases property tax valuation, eliminates the causes of deterioration, promotes economic growth and create and provide for the operation of a DDA. Continue final review of proposed City of Frankfort DDA Resolution through input provided by the Zoning Attorney, thus enabling adoption of a Resolution of Intent to create a DDA.

RC: Yeas: Condon, Haan, Jackson, Johnson

Nays: Holwerda
Motion CARRIED

D) Funding for Roofing Project - Holwerda

At the special meeting on August 27th the roofing contractors were established but the funding for the projects was not allocated.

Motion by Condon, seconded by Jackson to allocate \$5,000 from the launch ramp improvement, for funding the fish cleaning station, \$13,394.30 from marina cash and the balance \$12,811.51 from the general fund operating reserve to total \$31,205.81 for all the roofing projects.

RC: Yeas: All

Nays: None
Motion CARRIED

PUBLIC INPUT –

Bonnie Warren - 590 Corning Ave. – Encouraged those in attendance to attend the meeting on Saturday morning at 10 a.m. for the public input on Tank Hill. If the weather is inclement the meeting will be held in the multi-purpose room of the Frankfort/Elberta Elementary school.

Adjournment

Motion by Holwerda, seconded by Condon to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

RC: Yeas: All

Nays: None
Motion CARRIED

Robert J. Johnson, Mayor

Kimberly K. Kidder, Clerk/Treasurer