

**Regular Council Meeting**  
**Tuesday, September 20, 2011**  
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, Holwerda, Jackson, Johnson, Stransky  
Absent: None

**Agenda Amendment:**

Mayor Johnson amended the agenda to add Item D) Asset Management Workshop.

**Request to Appear Before Council**

***Kurt Luedtke – Betsie Lake Utilities Authority representative–***

Luedtke came to the council meeting at the request of the Mayor to answer any questions regarding the increase in the sewer rate to the City from .0025 to .0031 per gallon beginning in September. Luedtke informed the council that their budget ran in a deficit and the increase was needed from Frankfort and Elberta in order to balance the budget. Their audit showed a deficit of \$17,000. They have money set aside for the bond payments and \$190,000 in reserves. Luedtke stated that the reduced flow from the City and the loss from leach aid had caused the projections to be lower than anticipated. Council did not know how they could handle the increase since the sewer budget was tight and they just increased the last rate hike to the customer last fall. Council did not feel that the City could absorb the increase. The water and sewer committee will look over their options and report their recommendations back to the council.

**Public Input**

Alma House – 221 Michigan Ave. – Asked about the \$190,000 in unrestricted funds that BLUA has and if that is used for their bond payment. Luedtke informed her that the \$190,000 was for contingency and there is a separate fund for the bond payments.

Suz McLaughlin – 670 Crystal Ave. – Informed the council that the Phragmites treatment will begin on September 24<sup>th</sup>. Notices have been sent out to property owners who can opt out if they do not want their property treated. The treatment will be limited to Betsie Bay only and there will be restricted access during the treatment.

**Correspondence**

Robert F. Smith – Resignation from the Zoning Board of Appeals

BLUA – Notification of rate increase

Charter – Notice of increase in late fees

Dick Haan – Requesting a credit on his water/sewer bill (referred to w/s committee)

### **Approval of Minutes**

Motion by Holwerda, seconded by Johnson to approve the regular minutes of 08/16/2011 and special meeting minutes for 09/06/2011, and public hearing 08/23/2011 as presented.

RC: Yeas: All

Nays: None  
Motion CARRIED

### **Approval of Bills**

Motion by Stransky, seconded by Condon to approve prepaid vouchers #41393, 41434 - 41509 in the amount of \$1,270,407.99 of which \$1,103,068.44 was for taxes collected for distribution and \$101,375.00 for the wellhead booster bond payment. Payroll Vouchers #25038 – 25168 in the amount of \$50,147.91 as presented.

RC: Yeas: All

Nays: None  
Motion CARRIED

Motion by Holwerda, seconded by Stransky approving monthly Vouchers #41510 - 41566 in the amount of \$188,697.51 as presented.

RC: Yeas: All

Nays: None  
Motion CARRIED

### **Committee Reports**

#### ***a) Personnel/Public Safety***

Contracts have been signed for both the POAM and the T-POAM. Administrative contracts are ready with approval on recommendations from personnel committee.

#### ***b) Finance***

The meeting will be on Thursday. Last month was unremarkable. Finance members will meet with the auditor after the audit.

#### ***c) Water/Sewer & Solid Waste***

The mediation session at Crystal Mountain, regarding CJ's suit was unable to be settled.

#### ***d) Recreation Board***

The dog park at the school has been closed and now patrons are looking for another location. The Village of Elberta has been approached and may have a site for the dogs. Discussed working with Elberta on a joint effort for the dog park. Mineral Springs park equipment was discussed as well as the recreation center and beach bathrooms.

#### ***e) Fire Advisory***

No meeting.

#### ***f) Planning Commission***

There was no quorum for the last meeting. Bayview Grille was given a thirty day extension by the commission. This was the recommendation of the zoning attorney. This is in an effort to settle this matter. There will be a letter drafted to address the issues

***g) Airport Authority***

The airport has been busy. They are still working on getting equipment with a grant from the MDOT from the bids they procured.

***h) Grant***

Working on money for the playground equipment. So far there has been about \$32,000 raised and there was money given by the Dow Foundation. The City will be looking to put in an application for a tribal grant to help with this endeavor.

***i) BLUA***

BLUA is increasing their rates from 25 to 31 cents per thousand gallons.

***j) Brownfield Redevelopment***

No meeting.

***k) Marina Authority***

No meeting.

***l) Tree Board***

The Tree Board met today. Attending the meeting was Paul Gerhardt who is a student from Michigan Tech who is studying forestry. He will be looking at what needs to be done on the Tank Hill property. The board is planning for a fall fundraiser during the Octoberfest. Tree trimming will begin on October 12th.

***m) Commissioner's Report***

Commissioner Stobie was unable to attend due to the County Commissioners meeting scheduled for this evening.

**Departmental Reports**

***Clerk/Treasurer*** – Kidder reports that the marina and launch both showed increases over last year. It has been a very good season after a slow start.

There are only two residents that have filed for candidates for the council positions open in the November election. They are Katie Condon and Sandy Jackson. One resident has picked up an application for a write-in. Kidder missed the electronic poll book training and will try to attend a different class if one becomes available.

Water/sewer bills were higher for some residents due to two months of estimated readings and this last months reading picked up the usage for all three months.

Auditors will be arriving this week for a week. The staff has been busy with samples for them. Kidder is also working on the dashboard for the website.

***Superintendent*** – Mills sent in the final paperwork on the Frankfort North Breakwall Light and the City should have the transfer of property in the next sixty days.

The dog park at the high school track was closed by the school board due to excessive use and conflicts with the cross-country practices. The dog park organizers would like the City to construct a park and is willing to assist in a fundraising effort to get such a facility for the residents with dogs. There has also been discussion with a collaboration with the Village of Elberta. Mills also updated council on the Mineral Springs playground equipment.

On Thursday the 6<sup>th</sup> grade class at Frankfort Elberta Schools will be doing a beach clean up. Mills informed the council that the street sweeper is currently down for repairs. The watering truck used to water the City trees and flower pots is also needing repairs and has been unavailable for service.

Mills also reported that there were 4 land use permits issued. The Fire Department responded to 11 calls since his last report. Up until August 24<sup>th</sup> there has been 217 MFR calls logged and 73 fire runs. There is a FEMA grant available to the fire department which the City will apply for.

It has been a busy summer for the DPW keeping the streets and parks and beaches cleaned for all the residents and visitors to use.

**Chief of Police** – Robert Cheek has plead guilty to 2<sup>nd</sup> degree murder and is now awaiting sentencing. He also is awaiting sentencing in Manistee on other charges.

Redder met with Larry Jones from the Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement to discuss state training money. He will be reviewing the City's funding levels and may lower the baseline for training monies since the City did not use enough for training in the past.

July and August have been busy months for the police department complaints and arrests are up over last year. Redder is working with Gene Mayo to try and procure portable and mobile radios for the department through grant funds.

The electronic crash reporting systems is online and Redder will now be able to file paperless accident reports to the State. Insurance companies will now contact the State for reports. The State will ask for a \$7 charge for the reports and of that the City will receive \$3.50.

### **Old Business**

#### ***A) Recreation Center Lease - Mills***

Mayor Johnson and Mills met with Mason's representatives to go over changes. The City is still waiting to hear from the Department of Interior and then refer lease back to McKay & McKay.

### **New Business**

#### ***A) Discuss Water/Sewer Rate Increase***

The finance committee will go over the increase and report back to the council.

***B) Budget Amendments***

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Condon to approve budget amendments as presented.

RC: Yeas: All

Nays: None

Motion CARRIED

***C) Administrative Contracts***

Administrative contracts for the City Superintendent, Chief of Police, Clerk Treasurer and Superintendents Secretary dated 09-13-2011 are slated for approval following the recommendations of the personnel committee.

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Jackson to approve recommendations by the personnel committee for the Administrative Contacts dated 09-13-2011 for fiscal year 2011-2012 as presented.

RC: Yeas: Condon, Jackson, Johnson,

Nays: Holwerda, Stransky

Motion CARRIED

***D) Asset Management Workshop***

Motion by Johnson, seconded by Stransky to send Holwerda, Condon and Jackson to an Asset Management Workshop in Gaylord on October 19<sup>th</sup> if available to attend.

RC: Yeas: All

Nays: None

Motion CARRIED

**PUBLIC INPUT –**

Jon Armstrong – 1 Sac St. – Informed the public that the issue on the ballot in November is to reduce the millage that the City of Frankfort taxpayers will pay to the library.

Norma Elias – 107 Park Ave. – Wanted to know if there will be discussions on the lease with the Masons. She also asked if the administrative contracts were for 1 year. Council informed her that there would be discussions regarding the lease and that the contracts were for 1 year.

**Adjournment**

Motion by Condon, seconded by Holwerda to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

RC: Yeas: All

Nays: None

Motion CARRIED

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Robert J. Johnson, Mayor

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Kimberly K. Kidder, Clerk/Treasurer