

CITY OF GRAYLING
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, January 11, 2021

Meeting was held via Go to Meeting video conference

I. Meeting called to order by Mayor Forbes at 6:30 P.M.

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Forbes, Kersey, Moshier, Sloan, Schreiner

Members Absent: None

Vacant Seats: None

Also, in Attendance:

Via Phone/Video: Doug Baum, City Manager, Lisa Johnson, Clerk/Treasurer, Amanda Clough, Deputy Police Chief, Caleb Casey, Crawford County Avalanche.

Erich Podjaske, Zoning Administrator, Rae Gosling, Main Street Manager, Mike Edwards, City Attorney, Lacey Stephan, Grayling Twp. Supervisor, others unidentified

III. Public Comment

None

IV. Approval of Agenda

Mayor Forbes asked that Council Member Kersey's email sent to the members be added for discussion before City Manager Report.

21-001

Moved by Sloan seconded by Moshier to approve the agenda with the addition of Member Kersey's email for discussion.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0, Vacant 0,

Motion Carried

V. Approval of Consent Agenda

21-002

Moved by Schreiner seconded by Kersey to approve the consent agenda as presented.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0, Vacant 0,

Motion Carried

VI. Council Member Kersey's email discussion

Mayor Forbes asked if anyone had discussion on the email.

City Attorney Edwards asked if he could discuss items in the email.

He asked if council understood the Fire Department is a joint department so it operates a little different. There is an agreement between the City and the Township. The City Manager has the authority of hiring and firing the Fire Chief and the committee which consist of city and township employees making discussions, (paragraph 27). The City nor the Township have the authority. If the fire committee or boards had input, they could, but at the end of the day the City Manager hires and fires the Fire Chief. There are no set requirements to post the position and it is not in the agreement. The City and the Township don't vote on the Fire Chief, because this could cause grid lock and delay the hiring process. It's a contractual process laid out in the agreement and the process was followed.

Member Kersey mentioned she only sent the email to explain why she voted no on hiring Mark Brown. She mentioned she doesn't agree with the protocol.

City Attorney Edwards mentioned even if council voted no, the City Manager could still hire the person.

Member Kersey asked why did it have to come to council.

City Attorney Edwards said, so council was aware of his recommendation.

Lacey Stephan mentioned the Fire Committee discussed the hiring of Mark Brown at length and the volunteer fire fighters also approached him about hiring Mark Brown, He mentioned Mark Brown had been the past Assistant Chief for years and stepped down for some personal reasons and when approached was interested in coming back on the department. Mark Brown is a perfect choice. Discussion has taken place on CSI. The agreement put the City Manager in charge of the hiring or firing of the Chief so the position would never go unfilled for a long period of time. Since working with Doug, Lisa and Erich he has faith in Doug and has no issues.

Member Moshier asked what his, Mark Browns, priority is: CSI or the Fire Department.

City Manager Baum said both. He makes his own schedule, as long as the job is getting done. It is a part time position and it always was a part time position until the full-time military contract. The department only has one full time employee, so he feels a part time Chief is ok. Mark Brown is aware that if a full time Chief is needed at a later date he would step down for that to happen.

Member Schreiner has no issue with not posting a position. In the past employees qualified for a position moved up and postings didn't happen. Such as in the Police and DPW departments, employees were promoted within. He doesn't feel we need to have a posting requirement.

Mayor Forbes asked if anyone had any more questions. There were none. She thanked City Attorney Edwards and Mr. Stephan for attending the meeting.

VII. City Manager's Report

City Manager Baum explained his report to the members. He mentioned he was unsure of when City Hall would reopen, that would depend on MDHHS orders. The open police officer position was filled by Travis VanDeCastele. He than mentioned that at the December meeting, council moved the Park and Rec. Committee to be under the Planning Commission. Checking on this, the Planning Commission can't absorb the Park and Rec. Committee. He is doing some looking into this and other options and will bring those back to the next meeting in February. He asked if members had any questions.

Members had no questions.

VIII. Mainstreet Managers Report

Main Street Manager Gosling gave a verbal report on the Sawmill project and what was happening with that project. She also mentioned a community study was taken for what the community wanted to see in the downtown. The wish to see dining, shopping, steakhouse, a farm to table restaurant and a General store. She also mentioned that at the last meeting they set a committee to work on updating the Master Plan.

IX. Project Updates

City Manager Baum said there was nothing new to report.
Zoning Officer Podjaske also mentioned the Sawmill project and how that was moving forward.

X. Unfinished Business

A. City Charter

City Manager Baum is still working on setting some days with Schreiner and Kersey.

B. City Managers Review reminder

City Clerk/Treasurer Johnson mentioned she had only received one back and needs them to be returned to compile the data and have on the February agenda.

XI. New Business

A. Suspend Zoning Ord 3.6.7a/8 for restaurant use through MDHHS orders.

Zoning Officer Podjaske mentioned due to the temporary structures currently up, this would allow them to continue to have outside seating during the MDHHS orders and keep operating their business.

21-003

Moved by Sloan seconded by Schreiner to suspend Zoning Ord 3.6.7a/8 for restaurants through the MDHHS order.

Member Moshier asked on the Margarita restaurant and if that was also allowed for them.

Zoning Officer Podjaske said yes, any commercial restaurant.

Member Kersey asked if this would be till allowed to open at 100%

Zoning Officer Podjaske said yes.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 1, Vacant 0,

Motion Carried

XII. Reports

Member Moshier asked if more details could be given on the Planning Commission minutes in the Zoning Officers report.

XIII. Public Comment

None

XIV. Council Member Comments

Member Moshier asked if the new snow removal machine was in and being used.

Member Sloan said he talked with DPW Director Bond and it won't be in for about 60 days from ordering.

Member Moshier also mentioned the City Map in the Handbook is outdated and should use the one from the Zoning Ordinance. He said it was missing the list of committees and expiration dates and lacking the committees bi-laws.

Member Sloan mentioned he would like to see a second shift added to the Police Department. City Manager Baum is working on that, but currently had over lapping shifts to try to get the complaint work load done.

Member Sloan asked that could it possibly change to 4 pm to 4 am.

City Manager Baum said he would look into that and come back to the members.

Member Kersey asked City Hall is closed due to orders, what is it going to look like when it opens up. She also asked why the front doors were covered with paper. She has received complaints with the office closed and phone calls not being returned.

City Manager Baum said the current order is if they are able to do their job from remotely, then he shall have them do so. But they do come in and work on items as needed if need to.

As other communities are being fined for not doing so. He mentioned the front desk employee is in daily Monday – Thursday processing payments and answering phone calls.

The doors are covered so residents would not bang on the doors to have someone come to the door. He mentioned that voice mails were being returned and that if someone needed an appointment set to discuss anything, one would be made to meet with them in person. He then mentioned, when no mandate to work from home was set, the office would reopen.

Someone is in the office daily with the exception of Fridays.

Member Kersey mentioned she was sorry for her email and the confusion. She was only stating her reason for voting no on the Fire Chief.

Member Kersey also mentioned the need for two meetings a month. One meeting doesn't keep council up to date. She also mentioned she heard that some city employees had a meeting with the union and that council was not updated on this.

Member Sloan mentioned he was going to motion for two meetings.

Mayor Forbes mentioned in the past council had two meetings a month, then some were being cancelled due to no items to be on the agenda and the members agreed to hold a second meeting as needed.

Mayor Forbes asked if any other members had comments.

City Manager Baum wanted to comment on Member Kerseys comment about city employees having discussion with the union. He mentioned if they had discussion it was between themselves and had no discussion with the city. So, it would not be something to bring to council.

XV. Correspondence

- A. Michigan Works January Newsletter**
- B. 2019 Annual Report to the Community**

Members had no comments.

XVI. Adjournment

21-004

Moved by Schreiner seconded Sloan that the meeting is adjourned.

Roll Call Vote

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0 Abstain: 0, Absent: 0, Vacant 0,

Mayor Forbes adjourned the meeting at 7:26 pm.

Lisa K Johnson

City Clerk/Treasurer

Approved Minutes can be found on our website: www.cityofgrayling.org