

CITY OF GRAYLING
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, December 16, 2019

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

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Roll Call

Members Present: Karl Schreiner, Kimberly Kersey, Roger Moshier and Heather Forbes

Members Absent: Clinton Ross,

Vacant Seats: None

Also, in Attendance: Doug Baum, City Manager, Lisa Johnson, City Clerk/Treasurer, Rae Gosling, Main Street Manager, Debra Mead, Ken Talsma, Anderson, Tackman & Co. PLC, Matt and Christine LaFontaine.

IV. Public Comment

None

V. Approval of Agenda

19-125

Moved by Schreiner seconded by Moshier to approve the agenda as presented

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 1, Vacant 0, Motion Carried

VI. Approval of Consent Agenda

19-126

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

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 1, Vacant 0, Motion Carried

Member Moshier asked on the line item under City Manager, vehicle expense and why a large expense during the month.

City Manager Baum explained it was his car expense paid out for the year per his contract.

Member Moshier asked on the line under Admin. Services and the miscellaneous line being over budget.

City Clerk/Treasurer Johnson explained this was due to a city parcel that is vacant and per new laws, cities have to pay taxes on those unused parcels.

Closed Regular Meeting and Opened Public Hearing 6:34 pm

VII. Public Hearing -Michigan Community Development Block Grant Closeout
A. AuSable River Canoe Launch CDBG Grant.

Mayor Forbes asked if there was any public comment.

No comments were made.

City Clerk/Treasurer Johnson mentioned no letters were received from the public.

Closed Public Hearing 6:34 pm

Opened Public Hearing 6:35 pm

B. Sanitary Sewer Force Main CDBG Grant.

Mayor Forbes asked if there was any public comment.

No comments were made.

City Clerk/Treasurer Johnson mentioned no letters were received from the public.

Closed Public Hearing 6:35 pm and resumed Regular Meeting

VIII. 2018-2019 Audit Presentation

Ken Talsma explained the audit findings to members and reported that the city's financials are in good shape with the States requirements. Bank, Attorney letters of confirmations all came back confirming documentation and activities. They checked transactions of money, payroll expenses, receipting of monies, income tax in's and out's. He also mentioned that with the Grants received and them over \$750 K that a single audit was required and all went well with that audit. He felt over all the city was in good standings and also has enough in the fund balance to satisfy the states requirement for reserve funding and the revenues are stable. Mayor Forbes asked if any members had questions.

No questions were asked.

19-127

Moved by Schreiner seconded by Forbes to accept the 2018-2019 Audit as presented.

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 1, Vacant 0, Motion Carried

Ken Talsma thanked the city staff for working with them and making the audit go smoothly.

IX. City Manager's Report

City Manager Baum explained his.

He asked if any members had questions.

No questions were asked.

X. Mainstreet Managers Report

Mainstreet Manager Gosling gave a verbal report to members.

XI. Project Updates

Debra Mead gave updates on the MEDC projects, DPW Building and Trails
City Manager Baum gave updates on the Northern Market, Lift Station, Well 2 and the Water Tower maintenance. He also mentioned that a ribbon cutting would be set up for the DPW Building and asked if members would like to see that at a specific time.
Member Forbes said that lunch time would maybe be better for one's that work other jobs.

XII. Unfinished Business

A. Charter Revision

City Clerk/Treasurer Johnson explained the process per The Home Rule City Act and that they would have to motion to approve placing wording on the ballot at either the August or November Election to see if residents wish the Charter to be revised.
Member Schreiner said only a few area's need to be updated and didn't know if 9 residents would run to be elected to a Charter Commission Board.
Member Kersey feel it is old and needs to be updated.
General discussion took place.

19-128

Moved by Forbes seconded by Schreiner to place wording on the November Ballot and to also place electors for a Charter Commission Board on the same Ballot.

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 1, Vacant 0, Motion Carried

B. Blight Ordinance

City Manager Baum explained that a Public Hearing was held and that council never took action on the Blight Ordinance and asked if this was something they wished to do.
General comments were made.

19-129

Moved by Schreiner seconded by Forbes to approve the Blight Ordinance as presented and to make it effective May 1, 2020.

Ayes: 2, Nays: 2 Moshier, Kersey, Abstain: 0, Absent: 1, Vacant 0, Motion Failed

City Manager Baum asked if council had a problem with him continuing to work on the Blight Ordinance.
Member Kersey mentioned her concerns with the Blight Ordinance and is worried about the residents that can't afford to fix their homes.
Member Schreiner asked if something can be changed to make it more acceptable.
Member Kersey said no, but then mentioned if it would be obtainable for everyone, she would then maybe consider it.
Member Moshier agreed with Kersey's concerns
Mayor Forbes asked if the members wished to have this back on the agenda.
Member Moshier said no
Member Kersey said yes if it can work for all.
Member Schreiner said it can be revised to make it work.

Mayor Forbes said to leave it off for now and the City Manager can work on it and bring it back for review in the future.

City Clerk/Treasurer Johnson said for members to review and send areas of concerns to her and the city manager and they will work on it.

C. City Recycling

Mayor Forbes mentioned it was not on the agenda, that it was mentioned that council would work on that after the waste item was figured out. So, she mentioned that it would be put back on the agenda and would be addressed in the near future.

D. Approval of Sawmill Lofts Neighborhood Enterprise Zone No 1 Resolution

City Clerk/Treasurer Johnson mentioned no letters were received.

19-130

Moved by Schreiner seconded by Kersey to waive the reading of the Resolution.

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 1, Vacant 0, Motion Carried

19-131

Moved by Schreiner seconded by Forbes to approve the Sawmill Loft Neighborhood Enterprise Zone No 1 Resolution as presented

Ayes: 3, Nays: 1 Moshier, Abstain: 0, Absent: 1, Vacant 0, Motion Carried

XIII. New Business

A. Accept Natasha Ritter's resignation from the Park and Rec. Board

19-132

A. Moved by Forbes seconded by Kersey to Accept Natasha Ritter's resignation from the Park and Rec. Board

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 1, Vacant 0, Motion Carried

B. Appointment of Greg Nelson to the Park & Rec. Board

19-133

Moved by Schreiner seconded by Moshier to Appointment of Greg Nelson to the Park & Rec. Board

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 1, Vacant 0, Motion Carried

C. Late Fee – 201 Meadows Drive

Member Kersey mentioned that council has been trying to be consistent with these and is not sure.

Member Moshier mentioned council didn't make the payment error amount as council cant worry about when they mail their payments.
General discussion took place.

19-134

Moved by Kersey seconded by Schreiner to waive the late fee for 201 Meadows Drive.

Ayes: 3, Nays: 1 Moshier, Abstain: 0, Absent: 1, Vacant 0, Motion Carried

D. Sidewalk snow removal ballot renewal discussion

City Clerk/Treasurer Johnson explained that this is the last year for sidewalk snow removal and asked council if they wished to place the wording back on the 2020 November Ballot. She also mentioned they can place it on the ballot for a longer term if they wished, but advised that she wouldn't recommend to long of a term, so cost replacement wouldn't be covered.

General discussion took place.

19-135

Moved by Schreiner seconded by Kersey to place the sidewalk snow removal wording back on the November ballot with date changes made to the wording and for a 4 year time.

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0 Moshier, Abstain: 0, Absent: 1, Vacant 0, Motion Carried

E. City Managers review -discussion

Mayor Forbes mentioned that last year it was mentioned that some of the questions were hard to answer and that it was discussed changing them to be questions council could review the city manager on.

City Clerk/Treasurer Johnson mentioned that the City Attorney, Mayor Forbes and herself would work on this if members wished.

Members agreed some need to be changed.

City Clerk/Treasurer Johnson asked that members review the current review and mark it up with changes they wished to see and what they would like to see on the review and to bring it back to the Special meeting on January 6th to her and it would be taken to the meeting once set up for the City Attorney to review. Once they have a new review, it will be given to members to complete.

XIV. Reports

- A. Planning Commission – November Meeting Cancelled
- B. Parks and Rec Committee – No November Meeting
- C. DDA/GMS Meeting –November 7, 2019 Meeting Minutes
- D. Grayling Agricultural and Education – November 7, 2019 Meeting Minutes
- E. Fire Committee – No December Meeting.

- F. Housing Commission – No meeting minutes received
- G. Public Safety – not completed
- H. Public Safety Police-not completed

Members had not questions

XV. Public Comment

Matt and Christine LaFontaine voiced their concerns on council not approving the Blight Ordinance and taking it off the agenda. It is for general maintenance. Landlords and Businesses need to be accountable. They live pay check to paycheck just like others in the community and have employees that also do. Christine said to member Moshier; we are not rich and no better than anyone else. She also mentioned to member Kersey that she understood her concerns, but that is not what the blight ordinance is meant for. We need this in our community to make everyone accountable.

Matt LaFontaine said taking this off the table is irresponsible by council; you need to start somewhere.

XVI. Council Member Comments

Member Moshier mentioned some street lights that were out.

Member Kersey also mentioned a couple of street lights that she noticed were out as well.

Rae Gosling mentioned a few Christmas lights that were out, that also needed to be reset City Manager Baum is going to check on those.

Member Kersey wanted to mention to the LaFontaines that it's not a personal attack on them, that it wasn't taken off the table, the City Manager has been asked to work on this and bring it back to them at a later date. She mentioned maybe there should be one for rentals and businesses and one for residential. She also mentioned that maybe some of this could be enforced better by the zoning department.

Member Kersey then mentioned that at her grandma's funeral the Lockwoods mentioned doing winter burials and they would possibly purchase the equipment to do so.

City Manager Baum mentioned they would need to get with him on this and he would then take it to the Cemetery Committee for discussion on it.

Member Kersey said she did tell her to contact the city manager, and she would do that again.

XVII. Correspondence

- A. Letter from Matt and Christine LaFontaine

XVIII. Adjournment

19-136

Moved by Schreiner seconded Moshier that the meeting is adjourned.

Ayes: 4, Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 1, Vacant 0, Motion Carried

Mayor Forbes adjourned the meeting at 8:18 pm.

Lisa K Johnson,

City Clerk/Treasurer

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