

CITY OF GRAYLING
CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
Monday, April 26, 2021

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

II. Roll Call

Members Present: Forbes, Kersey, Sloan, Schreiner

Members Absent: Moshier

Vacant Seats: None

Also, in Attendance:

Via Phone/Video: Doug Baum, City Manager, Lisa Johnson, Clerk/Treasurer, Rae Gosling, Main Street Manager, Justin Gluesing, School Superintendent, Caleb Casey, Hayley Strohpaull, Traci Cook, Andy Moore, Joe Wakeley and other members of the Canoe Marathon Committee.

III. Public Comment

None

IV. Approval of Agenda

Mayor Forbes asked to add #J Crawford AuSable School discussion regarding Middle School. And # K. City Building Operations under New Business.

21-036

Moved by Schreiner seconded by Sloan to approve the agenda with addition of #J Crawford AuSable School discussion regarding Middle School. And # K. City Building Operations under New Business.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Carried

V. City Manager's Report

No Report

VI. Project Updates

No Report

VII. Unfinished Business

A. Social District Discussion

Gosling explained the updated Resolution and map of the social district, most of the City Park was taken out. She mentioned that she had contacted the Sheriff's department and talked with the City Manager and both were ok with trying this.

City Manager Baum mentioned he had talked with another community and so far, they have not had any issues, but it is quite new to them. He doesn't see a problem with trying it and the City Officers are ok with it as well.

Gosling mentioned that Council could approve for one year to try the Social District and if all goes well, she could come back next year for a new approval.

21-037

Moved by Sloan seconded by Schreiner to waive the reading of the resolution.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Carried

21-038

Moved by Sloan seconded by Schreiner to approve the Resolution #21-038 establishing social district and commons area.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Carried

VIII. New Business

A. Draft 21/22 Budget

Mayor Forbes asked if all members received the binder and to review. Discussion on this will take place at the Work session on Thursday, April 29, 2021 @ 5:30 pm.

B. DIDI Day – Multi-Use Permit – Community Clean-up

Gosling explained the DIDI Day to council members.

Member Kersey asked if the road would be closed all day.

Gosling said yes from 9 am to 6 pm.

21-039

Moved by Forbes seconded by Sloan to approve the DIDI Day Multi- Use Permit as presented.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Carried

C. DDA/GMS Block Party Multi-Use Permit

Gosling explained the Multi-Use Permit and they would only be closing the 100 block of Michigan Ave and that two new businesses would also be open by this day.

21-040

Moved by Sloan seconded by Schreiner to approve the DDA/GMS Block Party Multi-Use Permit as presented.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Carried

D. AuSable River Festival – Multi-Use Permit

City Manager Baum explained it is the same as in past years and reminded council that if approved the city surrenders issuing permits for this day and any permits must go through the Chamber.

21-041

Moved by Sloan seconded by Schreiner to approve the AuSable River Festival – Multi-Use Permit as presented.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Carried

E. AuSable River Festival Parade – Multi-Use Permit

Gosling mentioned the parade route has changed this year.

21-042

Moved by Schreiner seconded by Sloan to approve the AuSable River Festival Parade – Multi-Use Permit as presented.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Carried

F. Liquor Licenses- Resolutions Block Party and River Festival

21-043

Moved by Schreiner seconded by Sloan to waive the reading of the resolution.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Carried

21-044

Moved by Schreiner seconded by Sloan to approve the Resolution for the Block Party liquor licenses as presented.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Carried

21-045

Moved by Sloan seconded by Schreiner to waive the reading of the resolution.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Carried

21-046

Moved by Sloan seconded by Forbes to approve the Resolution for the River Festival liquor licenses as presented.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Carried

G. Canoe Marathon Multi-Use Permit-Race line up

21-047

Moved by Schreiner seconded by Kersey to approve the Canoe Marathon Multi-Use Permit-Race line up as presented.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Carried

H. Canoe Marathon Multi-Use Permit-Time Trials booth

Member Sloan asked if it is different than as past years.

Canoe Marathon members said no.

21-048

Moved by Sloan seconded by Kersey to approve the Canoe Marathon Multi-Use Permit-Time Trials booth as presented.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Carried

I. Canoe Marathon Multi-Use Permit-VIP Area

Member Sloan asked if it was the same as past years.
Canoe Marathon members said yes.

21-049

Moved by Kersey seconded by Sloan to approve the approve the Canoe Marathon Multi-Use Permit-VIP Area as presented.

Roll Call Vote

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

Motion Carried

J. Crawford AuSable School discussion regarding Middle School.

Gluesing explained that the school has purchased the Chestnut property and the long term plan on options for a green space across the street from the campus.

Member Sloan asked if they were looking at closing the street.

Gluesing that is an option they are looking at.

General discussion took place.

Mayor Forbes asked if members had any questions

There were no other questions or comments.

K. City building discussion

Mayor Forbes mentioned she has not been getting positive comments in regards with public contact with the city building. She asked if members wished to discuss this.

Member Sloan mentioned that you can't get anyone on the phone. Someone needs to be working everyday including Fridays and also feels the building should not close for lunch.

Member Kersey mentioned the County building doesn't close for lunch and they are all working and not working from home.

Member Schreiner mentioned he heard that emails are not being returned and that phone calls are not being returned.

Mayor Forbes said she is just looking for options to make things better.

City Manager Baum mentioned that the City did get a new phone system and has just been made aware of these issues. He is not sure if it is an internet issue, but would look into it. He also mentioned that due to COVID and revenues two employees were let go, the office is short on staffing. MIOSA mandated working from home if an employee could do their job remotely and if he brings staff back 100% the city could be fined.

Member Kersey mentioned if work is being delayed, doesn't that take you out of the mandate.

Member Sloan asked if the front desk receptionist could work on Fridays.

City Manager Baum said no, she's part time.

Mayor Forbes asked if the City Clerk/Treasurer, Utility billing clerk and the Zoning/Economic Development personal could rotate and work Fridays.

City Manager Baum mentioned he tries to always have two employees in the office when it is open.

City Clerk/Treasurer Johnson mentioned they stagger days in office to make sure two are in the office. She mentioned she is in the office more than the two day, but this way we know the office is always staffed.

Member Sloan asked the City Clerk/Treasurer how many hours she works.

City Clerk/Treasurer Johnson said she is salary and she works as many hours as it takes to do her job. She takes calls on weekends and when off on vacations/personal time to make sure things are completed and checks her emails. That is part of the job.

Mayor Forbes mentioned they are not blaming one person, just looking for better ways to have the office operations work better. Can laid off personnel be brought back.

City Manager Baum explained when working on the budget, staffing was added to get the employees back, but to have a balanced budget due to lower revenues expected the budget can't support that in the upcoming year.

Mayor Forbes mentioned that at the work session for the budget, this could be looked at to see if savings could be found.

Member Schreiner feel the biggest complaint is not getting phone calls returned.

Member Kersey said working on the budget and work on getting staffing back.

IX. Reports

No Reports

X. Public Comment

Joe Wakeley mentioned the city may be able to increase its millage to help with bring staffing level back to where they should be.

XI. Council Member Comments

Member Kersey mentioned the Sawmill building is slowly going down. She also asked if some of the old items, woodwork is being saved.

Gosling wasn't aware if they are saving anything, but some items were sold or gifted before this project.

Mayor Forbes reminded everyone of the work session on Thursday.

City Manager Baum mentioned EGLE is doing testing on the sewer and lagoon system and taking samples and testing for PFAS. He also mentioned a grant program he had been contacted on and would give council an update at the next regular meeting in May.

Member Schreiner asked if the bike lanes would be painted this year with markings.

City Manager Baum said yes

Mayor Forbes asked how the search for a new DPW Director was coming.

City Manager Baum mentioned he was getting applications, but they are not qualified applicants.

Mayor Forbes asked if the new snow removal equipment had been tried out yet.

City Manager Baum said no, but the company extended the start of the warranty to begin next fall since the equipment hasn't been used.

XII. Correspondence

None

XIII. Adjournment

21-050

Moved by Sloan seconded Schreiner that the meeting is adjourned.

Roll Call Vote

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

Mayor Forbes adjourned the meeting at 7:24 pm

Lisa K Johnson

City Clerk/Treasurer

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