

CITY OF ST. JOHNS

CITY COMMISSION MINUTES

JANUARY 23, 2012

The regular meeting of the St. Johns City Commission was called to order by Mayor Beaman at 7:00 p.m. at the Clinton County Courthouse, 100 East State Street, 2nd Floor, Room #2200, St. Johns, Michigan.

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Dana C. Beaman, Heather Hanover, Michael Nobach, David Hudgens

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Bill Jackson

STAFF PRESENT: Dennis D. LaForest, City Manager; Cindy M. Warda, Deputy City Manager; Mindy J. Seavey, City Clerk; Gregory T. Teichman, City Treasurer; Steven Wagner, Community Development Director; Jeffrey G. Stephens, Director of Public Services; John B. Salemi, City Attorney

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Beaman asked if any of the Commissioners or persons present wished to discuss any of the items on the Consent Agenda.

Motion by Commissioner Hanover seconded by Commissioner Nobach that the Consent Agenda be approved as presented.

YEA: Beaman, Hanover, Nobach, Hudgens

NAY: None

Motion carried.

a. Approval of Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Hanover seconded by Commissioner Nobach that the minutes of the regular meeting of January 9, 2012 be approved as presented.

YEA: Beaman, Hanover, Nobach, Hudgens

NAY: None

Motion carried.

b. Approval of Warrants

Motion by Commissioner Hanover seconded by Commissioner Nobach that warrant numbers 35497 through 35584 be approved in the amount of \$972,259.34.

YEA: Beaman, Hanover, Nobach, Hudgens

NAY: None

Motion carried.

c. Appointment of Election Inspectors for the February 28, 2012 Election

Motion by Commissioner Hanover seconded by Commissioner Nobach that the City Commission approve the appointment of election inspectors to the February 28, 2012 Election as noted.

YEA: Beaman, Hanover, Nobach, Hudgens

NAY: None

Motion carried.

d. Board Reappointment

Motion by Commissioner Hanover seconded by Commissioner Nobach that the City Commission reappoint Bob Bellgowan to the Planning Commission (term expiring in November of 2014).

YEA: Beaman, Hanover, Nobach, Hudgens

NAY: None

Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Mayor Beaman asked if there were any additions or deletions to the Agenda.

City Manager LaForest asked to add Wolohan Counter Offer to City under Old Business.

City Attorney Salemi said if you need to go into closed session for that we can if you vote for it.

Motion by Commissioner Nobach seconded by Commissioner Hudgens that the City Commission approve the Agenda as amended.

AGENDA

A. OPENING:

1. Invocation

2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consent Agenda

The staff proposes the following items for the Consent Agenda. If any Commissioner or person attending wishes to discuss any of these items, it should be placed on the regular agenda. The remaining items and recommendations may be approved en masse:

- a. Approval of Minutes
 - Regular meeting of January 9, 2012
 - b. Approval of Warrants
 - In the amount of \$972,259.34
 - c. Appointment of Election Inspectors for the February 28, 2012 Election
 - Staff recommends that the City Commission approve the appointment of election inspectors to the February 28, 2012 Election as noted.
 - d. Board Reappointment
 - Staff recommends that the City Commission reappoint Bob Bellgowan to the Planning Commission (term expiring in November of 2014).
4. Approval of Agenda

B. PUBLIC HEARINGS:

C. PERSONS WISHING TO PRESENT TESTIMONY:

1. Annamarie Bauer, Carolyn Kane and Roger Thelen – Discuss the Construction of the City’s Portion of Rails to Trails in 2012
2. Other comments from the public on items not on the agenda

D. COMMUNICATIONS:

E. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Wolohan Counter Offer to City

F. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Consumers Energy Street Light Contract Resolution
 - Staff recommends the City Commission authorize change in the Standard Streetlighting Contract with Consumers Energy by adopting the Resolution and authorizing the Mayor or Vice Mayor and City Clerk to sign.
2. Commissioner Comments

G. ADJOURNMENT – Next Regular Meeting Scheduled for Monday, February 13, 2012, 7:00 p.m.

YEA: Beaman, Hanover, Nobach, Hudgens

NAY: None

Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGSPERSONS WISHING TO PRESENT TESTIMONY1. Annamarie Bauer, Carolyn Kane and Roger Thelen – Discuss the Construction of the City's Portion of Rails to Trails in 2012

Ms. Bauer was present and she thanked the Commission for the opportunity to be here. She said it is nicknamed Project Go and is 80 miles of rail trail. They were scheduled to be here in November, but Fred Meijer passed away and they wanted to reschedule. You will see how significant the Meijer Foundation and Fred Meijer have been. The funding model has been shared with a number of communities. Ionia and Shiawassee Counties have formed a trail authority for the long term maintenance of corridor. The Meijer Foundation established a \$3 million endowment. She discussed the bigger picture of the Midwest Regional Rail-Trail Network, which is 125 miles. She discussed the development of the whole 80 miles and said the process is constantly changing because there are some unique situations along the rail trail. There is a total budget of \$12.5 million. She said Carolyn Kane was named a Rail Trail Champion. Carolyn and Fred Meijer won for the State of Michigan. She discussed State and Federal grants. Fowler has pledged \$10,000; Pewamo has pledged \$5,000; Ionia pledged \$25,000 for 2012 and 2013; Belding said yes; Greenville has not been presented to yet. They are asking each county for \$15,000 and are looking for \$25,000 for communities over 2,000. This has the potential to create jobs.

Mark Vandenberg was also present.

Director Wagner asked about the local funding model. He said he knows Pewamo got a grant to build a trail head.

Ms. Bauer said they were already going ahead with trail head and it is independent of the trail surface development.

Bob Craig was present. He asked about a cap for the trust fund grant. He asked if we pledged \$50,000 instead of \$25,000 what would that do for us.

Ms. Bauer said that would help the project move forward. Some costs are not eligible for grants, the big one is engineering.

Mr. Craig asked if we could do both a trail as well as a trail head here in St. Johns.

Ms. Bauer said absolutely. The trail will go through the area in the center of town.

Commissioner Hanover said Steve has applied for these.

Director Wagner said we are working towards that.

Kathy Simons with Friends of the CIS was present. They received a Delmac grant for \$15,000 and she discussed other grants they have received.

City Manager LaForest asked if you take members from the general public.

Ms. Simons said yes.

Mayor Beaman asked how often they meet.

Ms. Simons said they next meet on February 8th and their annual meeting is March 14th.

Ms. Bauer discussed the funding summary for 2012/2013 and 2013/2014. If we get the funding in place we could get the project built in one year.

Commissioner Hudgens asked about their bottom line and where they are at with funds in-house already.

Ms. Bauer said the \$730,000 they should know by April if they receive that. \$300,000 is in place; \$100,000 (actually have \$200,000 in place); \$25,000 from towns and villages. They hope to put County money in this one.

Commissioner Hanover asked about the project date.

Ms. Bauer said it will probably be ready to go out to bid in November.

Attorney Salemi asked how much of the total mileage is limestone.

Ms. Bauer said about 10 miles of paving and 32 miles of crushed limestone.

City Manager LaForest said a trailhead grant that Pewamo received was mentioned. We applied for it also, but did not receive it. This is a great project for us and 2% is a small grant match, it is usually a 50% match.

Commissioner Hanover asked about the piece of land by the depot that we could maybe purchase from you for \$1.

Ms. Bauer said they didn't want to close any doors in terms of what they might need to do with the trail alignment in St. Johns. That is part of the planning and total project.

Mayor Beaman thanked them for coming out tonight.

City Manager LaForest asked if the Commissioner wanted to vote on a pledge amount. He discussed the amount that was put into the fund balance from the last fiscal year.

Motion by Commissioner Hudgens seconded by Commissioner Hanover that the City Commission pledge \$25,000 towards the rails to trails project CIS for the 2012/13 fiscal year.

YEA: Beaman, Hanover, Nobach, Hudgens

NAY: None

Motion carried.

2. Other comments from the public on items not on the agenda

Tom Leonard, Dewitt Township, 14840 Robinwood Drive, Lansing was present. He said he is running to succeed Paul Opsommer for State Representative. His wife is Janelle. He is currently an Assistant Attorney General for the Michigan Department of Corrections. He said before that he was a Prosecutor in Flint for three years and his last year there he served with the undercover narcotics team. He has received the support of Attorney General Schute, Alan Cropsey, Sheriff Kangas, Chuck Sherman, and Carol Wooley as well as four of the seven county commissioners. He said he is trying to make the campaign personal and is reaching out to folks.

Mark Holden asked a question about the trail. He asked about the number of people using the trails.

Ms. Bauer said there have been a lot of studies on that. There are surveys of the users out there, but she is not sure if anything has been done on the Fred Meijer Hartland trail.

COMMUNICATIONS

OLD BUSINESS

1. Wolohan Counter Offer to City

City Manager LaForest said this is an item you discussed at an earlier meeting and agreed to make an offer to Wolohan on their site on Clinton and Ross. He said they met with Cindy Warda and myself and had discussions. Wolohan didn't care for the offer. You

have their counter offer information and we need direction on how to respond. He said if he was asked if he felt it was a good purchase, he would say no.

Commissioner Nobach said we would have to remove the existing buildings.

City Manager LaForest said we would certainly salvage items, but the Wolohan site we bought on Railroad we found out there is not much money for reclaimed materials. We told him our only intent would be to acquire the land.

Mayor Beaman said his opinion would be to reject that offer. We could offer to keep the door open if they would like to speak further on the property.

Motion by Commissioner Nobach seconded by Commissioner Hanover that the City Commission get back with Wolohan and tell them we are not in a position to offer more right now and to keep the communication line open if they want to talk further.

Commissioner Hudgens amended the motion to also take our original offer off of the table and Commissioner Hanover seconded the amended motion.

Mayor Beaman called for a vote on the amended motion.

YEA: Beaman, Hanover, Nobach, Hudgens

NAY: None

Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Consumers Energy Street Light Contract Resolution

City Manager LaForest said this is a request to install a streetlight at the southern entrance to the high school off of Townsend Road.

Commissioner Nobach said this is a service drive and is the one everyone is using right now.

There was a discussion of this area.

Motion by Commissioner Hanover seconded by Commissioner Hudgens that the City Commission adopt the Resolution and authorize the Mayor or Vice Mayor and City Clerk to sign.

YEA: Beaman, Hanover, Nobach, Hudgens

NAY: None

Motion carried.

2. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Nobach said he attended a committee meeting (Clinton Area Ambulance Service) for Commissioner Hanover and said there was some interesting discussion. The budget was approved. They discussed their billing and it is quite sad to think about what they are getting back. There was an individual there from Accumed. Currently, they are only recovering about 48%.

Commissioner Hanover discussed they bill \$600 per run and Medicare only pays \$200 per run.

Commissioner Nobach said Accumed handles 163 other agencies. The board ended up signing the contract that evening.

Commissioner Hanover said that hadn't even been brought up previously.

Commissioner Nobach said on Friday they had a meeting at the train depot and three items were dealt with: the Depot, train cars and the Veterans Memorial. He thanked Dennis Scott and said he was quite straight forward in what the Veterans were looking for. He said he thought it was very well resolved and the Veterans should be commended.

Mayor Beaman said about six weeks ago we made a presentation to the Drain Commissioner and they voted at that meeting to go forward. City Manager LaForest said he had an email from the Drain Commissioner soliciting help for getting easements.

Director Stephens said they were moving forward.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Hanover seconded by Commissioner Hudgens that the meeting be adjourned.

YEA: Beaman, Hanover, Nobach, Hudgens

NAY: None

Motion carried.

Mayor Beaman adjourned the meeting at 8:13 p.m.