

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
November 24, 2015

The Regular City Council Meeting was called to order by Mayor Bronson in the Council Chambers at City Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Bronson, Temple, King and Kwiatkowski

Absent: Lavender, Riddle and Couture

Mayor Bronson commented we heard from the three missing members.

Councilman King moved to excuse Councilman Lavender, Mayor Pro Tem Couture and Councilwoman Riddle; supported by Councilwoman Kwiatkowski. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Bronson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Approval of Agenda, and Receive and File all Communications:

Councilwoman Kwiatkowski moved to approve the Agenda and receive and file all communications; supported by Councilman Temple. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes:

▪ **Regular City Council Meeting Minutes – November 10, 2015.**

Councilwoman Kwiatkowski moved to approve the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of November 10, 2015 as presented; supported by Councilman King. Motion carried unanimously.

Department, Board and Commission Reports:

▪ **Department of Public Safety Monthly Statistics, October 2015 - (Received and filed.)**

▪ **Planning Commission Meeting, November 16, 2015** – City Manager Eustice reported he took the conditional rezoning issue regarding the Carnegie Library to the Planning Commission. The Commission did not make a recommendation to the Council at this point; they want City Manager Eustice to set up a meeting with the property owner and he will try and do that within the next 30 days, as the owner is not always in town, to see what his intention is going forward. The issue is that part of the conditional rezoning was the replacement of the sidewalk with a deadline of October 30, 2015. This deadline will likely be extended until the spring 2016. He is hoping to have this finalized in December 2015. City Manager Eustice also reported the Planning Commission has the latest draft of the new Zoning Ordinance, noting all the edits the Planning Commission made over the last year are now finalized and in the new draft. Mayor Bronson also has a copy. The Planning Commission will review this draft over the next several weeks and he believes there may be some minor changes, but thinks we can approve it at the next Planning Commission meeting and take it to Council the second meeting in December or first meeting in January 2016. City Manager Eustice stated the Ordinance will be much easier to read and handle, in addition to being user friendly and modern. He noted that most of the current Ordinance was drafted in 1973.

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Unfinished Business:

▪ **Consideration of Policy for Purchase of Supplies & Equipment and Procurement of**

Contracted Services – City Manager Eustice stated he did edit the current Policy, noting two corrections, being: page 2, item 1B – the dollar amount of \$5,000.00 is correct and the language should read five thousand dollars; and page 2, item 2B - the dollar amount of \$5,000.00 is correct and the language should read five thousand dollars. He stated this is somewhat similar to the Policy we have had in place since 2008. The amounts have been increase slightly, as costs today are higher than they were seven years ago and gives him, as City Manager, and DPW Director Jason Karmol a little more flexibility. He noted the DPW, which includes Water and Wastewater, are basically our largest contracted services and purchases of heavy equipment. It gives them the ability to buy product up to \$5,000.00 instead of \$3,400.00, but still with quotes. Also, he added No. 3, Exemptions from Bidding, noting most municipalities have a Sole Source exemption and Emergency Purchase or Service. City Manager Eustice stated he believes he has a sole source situation with regard to the repair of the Opera House roof at \$20,000.00. There is no one else that wants to touch the roof. Also, No. 4, Local Purchase Policy, which was always somewhat assumed so he has placed it into the Policy. City Manager Eustice and Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski will put together a document to send out to all local contractors and suppliers of products with regard to various bidding processes and will ask them if they wish to be included.

Ms. Trudy Lofgren asked what the minimum amount of a purchase that would not have to go out for bid. City Manager Eustice replied anything under \$5,000.00 would not have to go out for bid, but we would still get at least a minimum of three quotes. Ms. Lofgren then inquired how the City gets the quotes, and if the contractors on a list would be contacted for a quote. City Manager Eustice replied yes. Mayor Bronson asked in the list of contractors or suppliers of product will there will be a minimum requirement of insurance and other things we would have to have on hand to consider a vendor for the City, noting the list would contain people that can actually do the job. City Manager Eustice replied yes. Mayor Bronson asked how a new business that opens would get on the list. City Manager Eustice stated if they are located within the City we would know that and could contact them that they could be a bidder. Councilman King suggested having a business card made up regarding getting on the list to put into a welcome packet from the Chamber of Commerce.

Councilman King moved to adopt the Policy for Purchase of Supplies & Equipment and Procurement of Contracted Services with the corrections made to line 1B and 2B, effective immediately; supported by Councilwoman Kwiatkowski. A roll call vote was taken; motion carried unanimously.

General Business:

▪ **Consideration of Traffic Control Orders, Nos. 01/15 and 02/15** - City Manager Eustice explained these are Traffic Control Orders for No Parking signs, This Side of the Street in front of the Opera House and the Straits Area Federal Credit Union main entrance on Locust Street.

Councilwoman Kwiatkowski moved to approve the Traffic Controls Orders, Nos. 01/15 and 02/15; supported by Councilman Temple. A roll call vote was taken; motion carried unanimously.

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▪ **Consideration of City Council 2016 Regular Meeting Schedule** – City Manager Eustice stated there are 24 regular meeting dates for 2016, noting no conflicts. He pointed out that November 8 is Election Day but we have had meetings on election days before. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski informed Council that he, Janet Gahn or Judy Sanders would not be available that day and Council may want to consider changing this. Councilwoman Kwiatkowski commented she thinks December 27 is a little close to Christmas if people go away. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski made Council aware that it has happened, but not often, that Council would cancel the second meeting in December, depending on the agenda.

Councilman King moved to approve the City Council 2016 Regular Meeting Schedule; supported by Councilwoman Kwiatkowski. Motion carried.

▪ **Consideration of Exemption from Senate Bill 7 – Publicly Funded Health Insurance falls under Contribution Act for the Year 2016** – Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski stated this falls under Public Act 152; we have a choice every year of three different options that are mandated by the State of Michigan. The hard cap for the upcoming year for 2016 is \$6,142.11 for a single contract; \$12,845.04 for a 2-person contract; and \$16,751.23 for a family contract. This is health insurance only and does not include vision or dental. Currently the caps that the City has by contract with POLC and AFSCME are \$6,000.00 for a single contract; \$13,200.00 for a 2-person contract; and \$16,800.00 for a family contract, which includes dental, vision and medical. We fall pretty close in line to what the State has for hard caps. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski went on to explain the second option is 80/20, with the employer paying 80% of the health insurance premium and the employee pays 20%. The third option is by a two-thirds vote of Council, the City can exempt itself from the requirements of the Act, which is what we have done the last four years because we have the caps already in place. The recommendation of the City Manager and himself is option no. 3.

Councilwoman Kwiatkowski moved to accept the recommendation of Option 3 – Complete Opt-Out with regard to Senate Bill 7 – Publicly Funded Health Insurance Contribution Act for the Year 2016; supported by Councilman Temple. A roll call vote was taken; motion carried unanimously.

▪ **Consideration of Proposals – WWTP Biosolids Hauling:** DPW Director Jason Karmol explained the proposals were one lump sum to remove one pile. The proposals are comparable because there is no difference in what they are hauling. This will get rid of the pile requested by the State of Michigan. There were four proposals by four different contractors to remove the pile, i.e, trucking only. Mayor Bronson inquired where the removal is being taken. DPW Director Karmol replied he is following the recommendations of the MDEQ person in charge of biosolids hauling, which is to get rid of one complete pile and take it to a landfill, so he can appropriate the biosolids management program. Mayor Bronson stated one proposal stated Elk Run Landfill and another states Elk Ridge Landfill. DPW Director Karmol stated it is Elk Run Landfill. City Manager Eustice stated Elk Run Landfill is located in Atlanta, Michigan. Councilman King asked for its location. DPW Director Karmol stated it is located 34 miles south of Cheboygan and is owned by Republic.

Councilman King moved to accept the proposal from Robiadek & Sons Excavating, Inc. in the

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amount of \$7,000.00; supposed by Councilwoman Kwiatkowski. A roll call vote was taken; motion carried unanimously.

▪ **Consideration of Quotes – 12 Foot Push Plow – Department of Public Works** – City Manager Eustice distributed a photo copy of a push plow for Council’s information. He stated this request is for a 12-foot push plow (box plow) that will help us both with maintenance of parking lots such as the Recreation Center and Ice Pavilion, and will also improve the clearing of intersections when we have heavy snowfall. Regular plows are currently used. The 12-foot push plow will allow us to clean the intersections much more quickly and keep the snow within that plow. This plow will go in the front of a front-end loader. Councilman Temple asked how we will transport the plow down the road, since it is 12 feet. DPW Director Karmol informed Council they selected 12 feet is because it will allow the City to do a dead-end street in two passes. It will also allow them to go center to shoulder and push. If we got a 10 foot plow they would have to do three passes. He understands there are some width issues, but if we go smaller then we are back into the imprint of their tire and he wants to be wider than the tires and, as he stated, he would like to do the dead-ends and parking lots in two passes. Councilman Temple asked how they are going to get from the garage to where they are going to use a 12-foot wide plow. DPW Director Karmol replied they have the same issues with the extra width on the belly blades on the trucks, which are wider than normal. They can tilt the belly blades on an angle but there are still going to be those considerations. There will be considerations when they have to get from parking lot to parking lot, but once they get in a parking lot the plow is wider than the tires and pushing 12-foot wide, and the same with the dead-ends. DPW Director Karmol stated he cannot see having a push plow that is skinnier than the tires and making three passes on dead-ends or wind-rows, noting he wanted the extra width and depth to do large parking lots and be able to push as much snow as they can. He did ask for 12 foot by 4 foot by 4 foot, noting he did receive some other quotes and ideas. DPW Director Karmol explained to Council that the bucket on the front end loader is 10 foot wide, but the problem is we still have to dump the bucket and it doesn’t efficiently push everything forward and a lot of the snow would just run off. The other option would be to use big one-ways, which only push it out of the way. The 12-foot push plow would be a very efficient tool. City Manager Eustice asked DPW Karmol if he feels they can get from spot to spot okay. DPW Director Karmol replied yes, although there are considerations such as looking out for traffic and traffic will have to look out for them, which is the same thing when using a belly plow.

Councilman King moved to accept the quote from Michigan CAT in the amount of \$4,395.00 for a 12 foot push plow for the Department of Public Works; supposed by Councilwoman Kwiatkowski. A roll call vote was taken.

Yes votes: Bronson, King and Kwiatkowski

No votes: Temple. Motion carried.

Public Comments: *(None.)*

City Clerk/Treasurer’s Comments:

▪ **Audit** – Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski stated the Audit is pretty much done and he will be receiving a proof sometime next week. Once he reviews the proof, he and the City Manager will meet with the auditors. Then it will be presented to Council. It was a pretty clean audit this year with no adjusting entries so things look real good.

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- **Munetrix** – Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski informed Council for the past two weeks he has been working on a portion of revenue sharing that is tied to all the financial information that has to be on the City’s website (used to be called EVIP). To make sure we do it, the State has tied \$150,000.00 of revenue sharing to this item being done every year. He encouraged Council to look on the City’s website and click on Munetrix. There will be several years of budgets, as well as the finalized budget for 2015, the upcoming budget for 2016, in addition to a projected budget for 2017. These are all requirements. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski noted this is General Fund only, our main operating fund. He stated the other thing he had to do was a very detailed listing of all our debt service instruments. There are approximately 10-12 different borrowings, everything from bonds to installment purchase agreements. The debt schedules, also, had to be placed on the City’s website. He noted all this information, approximately a 33 page document, was sent in to the Treasury today. The State emailed him stating that everything looked good, so we are good for another year.

City Manager’s Report:

- **Utility Committee** - City Manager Eustice stated he and DPW Director Karmol have been discussing forming a Utility Committee because there are so many water and wastewater improvements that are necessary in the future – 3, 5 and 10 years out. DPW Director Karmol has suggested that the City form a committee that would consist of the City Manager, DPW Director Karmol, Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski and three Council Members. Not only do we have a new water tower on the horizon, we need infrastructure improvements that need to be made in our water and sewer systems. There is a possibility we can get grant dollars to do that but we need to look at our water billing accounts and how they are billed and so forth; so we want to have the Council’s input in that regard. City Manager Eustice then stated he would like to get some feedback in the next couple weeks, so he can get three Council Members on that Committee at the December 8, 2015 City Council meeting. The meetings of the Utility Committee would likely be monthly. He noted the Committee can review the Water Reliability Study. City Manager Eustice then informed the Council that DPW Director Karmol met with Mr. Brian Thurston, Regional Director, MDEQ last week and he received several suggestions on what we need to do going forward and how to get us to the level we need to be at to get grant funding. He went on to state the City has about 10 million dollars’ worth of projects that should be done in the next 5 to 7 years. He would like to do these projects mostly with State and Federal funded monies. He will inform the three Council members that are absent tonight, of the Utility Committee to see if there is any interest. Councilman King asked if having a Committee helps with the grant process. City Manager Eustice stated not necessarily, but it would help from an education standpoint so everyone knows what level we have to be at to be able to be eligible for grants. He noted our water and sewer fees are very low in the State of Michigan; so for us to be eligible to get grants we need to look at a different fee structure. There are other ways to accomplish this other than raising the usage fees to get us to the level where we are eligible for grants. This will be a very difficult thing to convince our residents and taxpayers of. We are eligible for loans based on our poverty level, low to moderate income status. Mayor Bronson commented loans have to be paid back. City Manager Eustice said it would be better if we could utilize 50/50 grant funding. Mayor Bronson stated he can see the Committee helping to prioritize what we try and tackle, as there is so much it is overwhelming.

Ms. Trudy Lofgren said there is a bid out for replacing water meters and asked if the City thinks there are a lot of defective water meters that might be the cause of why we are not getting the

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proper amount. City Manager Eustice replied this is certainly part of it. DPW Director Karmol stated currently we have a lot of people who don't even have meters; we have quite a few that are estimated. One of his priorities in doing this was getting an accurate accounting/water metering and starting to do actual metering as often as we can. In order to catch up we need to start putting in the water meters at a pace so that everybody has one, first of all, and then second of all we want to start changing these cycles so that we can get actual reads from radio. We will start with Cycle "C" and we are going to have all the reads done by radio and accurately, so we won't have to walk through sections of town and read it manually by hand, as there is a lot of work involved. He does understand there is a lot of work in changing the billing structure and he has explained to everyone it will be a lot harder before it gets better. It is going to take a lot of work to get to the point where we are actually metering everyone with actual readings and not estimations. It will be years down the road before we realize this, but we have to start somewhere and we start by collecting all of the revenue. DPW Director Karmol went on to state the second part is there are a lot of choices we can structure a rate that is either resident friendly or non-resident heavy. Like Mayor Bronson said there are a lot of choices in what we choose to tackle. He went on to state it is basically what Council wants to pass off to their grandkids as far as debt and infrastructure. Some of these choices we will make now and he would like to sit down with all the studies and see what we need to do in 5, 10 or 20 years. To sum up the meeting with Mr. Thurston from the MDEQ, we have an opportunity to borrow money and we have all these studies where we should be in 5, 10, 15 and 20 years. Do we just take out a loan and build a water tower or do we start these 1 to 5 years or 5 to 10 years where we might have to take out a 40-year loan. Why wouldn't we be tackling some of the things MDEQ says we should do within the near term. We need to decide as a community and Council as we are passing off debt and infrastructure, whether it's good or bad. We are going to try to make the bad infrastructure good and will try and see what we can pay now and not pass off, which is why he wanted to look at the rates. If we don't increase the rates, he thinks we are passing it off to our kids and grandkids. You can keep your rates low, but some day the bills will come due. What kind of compromises do we make as a Committee and how much infrastructure do we want to tackle when we take out a loan? DPW Director Karmol informed Council that Mr. Thurston explained that our rates are too low to qualify for grants. The grants are based off of your ability to pay them back; so your rates are not structured to be able to take on 10 million dollars of debt of infrastructure improvement. There will be a lot of background informational understanding for the Committee, so they will know all the decisions that went in to the package that we present as a project moving forward. He does not think we should just tackle the tower when we know that there is other infrastructure. City Manager Eustice thanked Ms. Lofgren for her question, stating what they want the Utility Committee to do is to look at all the rate structures and are we losing money by accounts that are not being billed properly. Ms. Lofgren then asked how somebody gets water without a meter. DPW Director Karmol replied a long time ago the City had meter pits, which we see all over. This is where the meter is two foot from the ground level, buried right underground. The water line is six feet under it and comes up two foot from the surface, they put a meter, put a cover and the service goes right back down. Whenever he encounters them, he buries them six foot down and not always does he have access to a home to put in a new meter. At the point when he buries the service to prevent it from freezing and put a curb stop there, not always is it ready to have a meter installed. So they have to try and set an appointment and not everybody's is cooperative; those are the ones that we are estimating and trying to get meters in. As he comes across these, he is just not throwing another meter in the pit in order to bill it; he is trying to bury it down so it doesn't freeze. If it freezes, he has to buy another meter and there is a disruption in service.

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Sometimes he cannot unthaw their service. So it is better if he buries it down to prevent freezing and try and get a meter in their house. He has decided, as he comes across them, to keep going with burying the service. City Manager Eustice informed Council there are homes and commercial businesses that have estimated reads and no meters. We are guessing what these places would use. There is some revenue that we are missing because we don't have meters. In some cases they may be paying more, but in a lot of cases they are paying less than what they should be. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski explained that every year he does a report to Rural Development because we have bonds with them and right now on the report he has to show Rural Development how much water we produce and how much we bill. We are actually billing about 50% of what we produce. DPW Director Karmol stated he feels he can safely recover 25% of that because of the let water run subtraction. So if he knows how much let run water he lets go, he can make some safe assumptions on how much revenue we can get back. We are easily shooting for 25%, if not 30% of the 50% back. Another 20% is lost due to water run and leakage. Eventually we will take care of that, but first we need to get every dollar of the 75% to 80% of what we make. We are getting close to recouping all the money of the chemicals, towers and operations that went into making that water.

Councilwoman Kwiatkowski asked when people should start to run their water. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski replied it depends on the weather conditions. If we have a mild winter, it may not be necessary.

Mayor Bronson stated he seems to recall when we did the bond for the water lines on the east side, we had to raise rates to get that loan; so it is not just for grants. City Manager Eustice stated that is correct; we have to prove that we have the ability to pay that loan back. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski clarified those were the 2011 bonds which are revenue bonds; however, if Jason is able to get the meters on and we can start recouping some of that lost revenue that will help. In 2021 we will retire the sewer bonds that are on the tax roll. He would have to talk to bond counsel to see if there is some way to keep those on the tax roll, which may require a referendum, but that's about \$220,000.00 in revenue that could be applied to whatever loan we want to take out, adding this normally would be Rural Development, which is the cheapest money out there right now.

A member of the audience asked if we have all these places that are being estimated right now will there become a point where either they are going to be owed a refund or have a giant bill because of the estimating. City Manager Eustice replied no.

DPW Director Karmol informed Council there are very few people calling him to have a meter installed because they know their estimation is a good deal. Those people that are calling him to have a meter installed know that their bill is high. He then explained there are several levels of grant funding, i.e. 25% grants, 50% grants and 75% grants, which is why he would like a Utility Committee. Each grant has different levels to achieve those with different benchmarks to achieve as far as a City. Not all of these are in his control. We need a consensus opinion of which grant to go after.

Ms. Lofgren asked DPW Director Karmol when the City starts to put in the meters does he go to all the estimated customers first or do you have to put them in in a row. DPW Director Karmol answered he has recommended that we start in a cycle and split the City into thirds. We are going

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to start with Cycle “C” because it has the largest meters and has some of the biggest meters that are estimated. He is going for the bigger chunk first. The other two-thirds of the City will follow after Cycle “C”. He stated we have 85 meters for installation and our meter installation bid is for 100 meters or by June 30, 2016 whichever comes first. When the current fiscal year ends, he will be asking Council to take bids again to install more meters, at which time he will have to buy more meters. Councilman Temple asked if the meter installation can be done into the wintertime. DPW Director Karmol explained the City buried some curb stops in the fall in lieu of not wanting them to freeze, but doesn’t have the meters inside. We did the outside work in preparation that a plumber can go in and finish the inside job on some of these that we can’t get to because we are going to be dealing with other issues. We can do the inside portion in the winter, but it would be difficult to bury the curb stops during the winter.

- **Girls Night Out** - City Manager Eustice stated a DDA event, Girls Night Out, occurred on November 12 and was very successful. Last year there were just over 100 participants and this year there were 408 participants. The downtown merchants say it was an excellent night for sales and revenue. This is something we are certainly going to continue.

- **Port Purchase Agreement Meeting** – City Manager Eustice reported Mayor Bronson, Councilman Temple, Councilwoman Riddle, Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski and himself held a conference call with Attorney Steven Joppich last Tuesday in regard to the purchase agreement received from Bois Blanc Township. Attorney Joppich requested at least three Council members in attendance when he made his recommendations. In the end, Attorney Joppich took on the task to make a counter-offer. There were several things in the purchase agreement that we did not like or agree with, so Attorney Joppich is editing that purchase agreement for the purpose of making a counter-offer, which involves the contingencies in the agreement. When he receives a new draft it will be forwarded to the Council. Mayor Bronson asked if the Council will see the draft before it goes to the buyer. City Manager Eustice replied yes, adding he is sure it will not be well received by the Township. Councilman King asked if there is any time limit set on this agreement, since there are still other interested parties in the property, expressing concern of losing somebody else. City Manager Eustice replied that is a concern, noting Councilman Temple has expressed this many times. A timeline was discussed with Attorney Joppich, but a determination was not made. Mayor Bronson stated the consensus was we don’t want it to go back and forth for very much longer. Councilman Temple commented he asked that question and also told the City Manager after the meeting that if we have another conference call he would like the Council members that were not at this conference call at the next one so they know what’s going on. Mayor Bronson noted the number of Council members in attendance must be no more than 3. Mayor Bronson asked if the parts the City found not acceptable will be shown on the new draft. City Manager Eustice replied yes.

Public Comment:

- **Economic Development** - Mr. Frank Gregg of Loomis Street commented he has owned property since the middle of the 1980’s and has watched all the industry leave including Fox Valley, Procter & Gamble, the tool and die shop and Tube Forming. He asked what the City is going to do for the young people in this town if they don’t start getting some industry up here, and is the City Council working with the Chambers of Commerce in the area and County Commissioners to try and get economic development to try and spearhead getting some kind of industry. He went on to state he has heard an argument over the years that it is a transportation issue, but if you look at East Jordan, Petoskey, Charlevoix and Boyne City they’re a little closer to the bigger hubs to get transportation in and out than we are here, but we don’t see any industry

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coming in and you can't let a town die because you don't get the kind of high paying jobs in here with the benefits. Now we have lost the hospital. Manufacturing would have supported the hospital and we still would have it. He does not see any kind of economic development happening the area; never reads about it in the newspapers. When he stops to talk to people in the local eateries they don't have an answer either. Mr. Gregg stating he is just asking if anything is being down about the economic development for the future.

City Manager Eustice replied certainly part of the Port of Cheboygan project is to try to attract industrial investors. It is difficult to do because we don't have rail here, but we are close to I-75 and have good trucking through here, in addition to having an unutilized asset in the Port of Cheboygan. This is how we came to purchase the property. We are trying to attract industrial investors that need water transportation. These investors are out there, but it is difficult. Mr. Gregg commented if we can't do it now, when we are having an economic boom, it will never happen. City Manager Eustice explained we have a marketing committee in place that is in the process of marketing our Port and trying to get those industrial investors here. Mr. Gregg inquired if it is on the City's website. City Manager Eustice replied no, it is on the Port of Cheboygan website. Councilman King stated he believes the Chamber's website has a link to the Port of Cheboygan website. City Manager Eustice noted there has been some interest through the Port of Cheboygan website from shipping companies that want to drop ship materials here.

Messages and Communications from Mayor and Council Members:

- **Ice Pavilion Parking Lot** - Councilman Temple asked if anything is being done about this parking lot. City Manager Eustice stated he looked at it last week, after he spoke with Councilman Temple, and it was not wet, in order to see where it was puddling up in the corner. Councilman Temple stated he will stop by and pick up the City Manager to show him. If you go in off of Cleveland you go all the way back to where there is a curb that follows to the ballfield. There are breaks in the curb where water flows down into the ditch, noting there is also dirt piled up in spots where the water cannot get down. He went on to state the other day there was probably six inches of water laying on the parking lot, and we need to get the water relieved out into the ditch. DPW Director Karmol indicated he is making a note of this now. City Manager Eustice stated he discussed this with DPW Crewleader Fein.
- **Parking Lot by Subway & Your Spirit** - Councilman King stated the parking lot for Subway and the back of the City's lot is bad. City Manager Eustice stated the City's property lot basically lines up with State Street Coffee and comes along the side of their building all the way back to the edge of the Kingston. The lot area between Your Spirit and Subway, including the curb stops, is all privately owned. Councilman King then commented on the nice new façade of Subway.
- **Leaves on Streets** - Mayor Bronson commented people are still putting leaves out on the streets, asking if we are reminding them that the pick-up is over. City Manager Eustice replied we are telling everybody it's done, noting the DPW has gotten a lot of calls. There are some people that put them out late, but we are no longer picking them up. Councilman Temple stated across from East Side School there are two piles of brush alongside the road that is going to create a mess when we start plowing. DPW Director Karmol commented if you hire out the tree removal they should make consideration of picking that up. He understands the owner called and wanted to time it with the brush pick-up. If you are privately contracting a tree removal on your property and it doesn't align with the pick-up, the residents can have the contractor take care of the debris. Councilman Temple suggested getting a hold of that property owner across from East

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Side School to have someone remove of the brush from the road. Councilman King asked if contractors are allowed to haul to the brush pile at the DPW. DPW Director Karmol replied yes and all the local tree trimmers are aware of it. We allow them to clean-up the brush and they have done chipping behind the DPW so it doesn't make a mess in the street. They try to accommodate the people that have it out in the cycle of the clean-up.

▪ **Blight Committee** – Mayor Bronson inquired about the status of the Blight Committee, adding he noticed several boats have been moved. City Manager Eustice replied in addition to boats, several junk cars have also been removed. He informed Council the Blight Committee still meets, although Chief Jones has been off for two weeks, stating there is a lot of emphasis on blight throughout the City, and Officer Danny Stacks is basically focused on that solely. There has been a lot of clean-up, but there is a lot of work to do, as well. There have been compliments from residents on the clean-up who are appreciative. Mayor Bronson stated it is pretty obvious that some places have been cleaned up.

Adjournment:

Councilman King moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:15 p.m.; supported by Councilman Temple. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Mark C. Bronson

Clerk/Treasurer Kenneth J. Kwiatkowski

Councilman Joseph Lavender

Councilwoman Winifred L. Riddle

Councilman Vaughn Temple

Councilman Nathan H. King

Mayor Pro Tem Nicholas C. Couture

Councilwoman Betty A. Kwiatkowski