

REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING
October 11, 2016

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

Roll Call:

Present: Bronson, Temple, King, Riddle, Couture and Kwiatkowski

Absent: Lavender

Councilman King moved to excuse Councilman Lavender; supported by Mayor Pro Tem Couture. Motion carried unanimously.

Mayor Bronson led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

Approval of Agenda, and Receive and File all Communications:

City Manager Eustice announced an addition to the Agenda, being item 8-A under General Business, a Resolution in Support of the Main Street Program, which the City will apply for with an application deadline of November 4. Part of the Application has to have a Resolution adopted by the legislative body.

Councilwoman Riddle moved to approve the Agenda with the addition of item 8-A, Resolution in Support of the Main Street Program, and receive and file all communications; supported by Councilman King. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Regular City Council Meeting Minutes – September 13, 2016:

Councilman King moved to approve the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of September 13, 2016 as presented; supported by Councilwoman Kwiatkowski. Motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Regular City Council Meeting Minutes – September 27, 2016:

Mayor Pro Tem Couture moved to approve the Regular City Council Meeting Minutes of September 27, 2016 as presented; supported by Councilman Temple. Motion carried unanimously.

Bills and Disbursements:

▪ **Prepaid Bills and Disbursements for the Month of September 2016.**

Mayor Pro Tem Couture moved to approve the prepaid bills and disbursements for the month of September 2016 in the amount of \$431,291.96; supported by Councilwoman Kwiatkowski. A roll call vote was taken; motion carried unanimously.

▪ **Unpaid Bills and Disbursements for the Month of September 2016.**

Councilman King questioned the expense for the Harrison Avenue Lift Station Repair. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski stated he does not have the detail, but DPW Director Karmol would; however, he could get more information for Council. Mayor Bronson asked regarding the expense for street light repairs and replacements to Stan's Electric. Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski stated these lights are in the DDA District, noting bollards that run east and west along Mulligan's were taken out

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due to winter plowing, so there will be an insurance claim on that. The remainder is downtown street lights. Councilwoman Kwiatkowski asked if the DDA is charged for these repairs. City Manager

replied no. Mayor Bronson commented the DDA would pay to have the lights installed, but once installed they become the property of the City and the City's responsibility, noting the same as the elevators.

Councilman King moved to approve the unpaid bills and disbursements for the month of September 2016 in the amount of \$43,830.58; supported by Councilwoman Kwiatkowski. A roll call vote was taken; motion carried unanimously.

Department, Board and Commission Reports:

▪ **Port Commission, September 12, 2016** – Mayor Bronson noted the October Port Commission meeting was cancelled. City Manager Eustice stated the October meeting will be rescheduled, if necessary, and he will give an update on the Kokosing possible sale as he got information late today from Mr. Joe VanAntwerp, under the City Manager's Report.

General Business:

▪ **Consideration of a Resolution in Support of the Main Street Program** – Mayor Bronson read the following Resolution into the record:

A Resolution in support of commitment and cooperation with the Michigan Main Street Program in becoming an Associate Main Street Community

Whereas, Downtown is vital to our community's identity and quality of life; and

Whereas, The City of Cheboygan supports improvements and enhancements to Downtown Cheboygan and has illustrated this by empowering the City of Cheboygan Downtown Development Authority; and

Whereas, It is the City's intent to reverse the historic trend which has led to the loss of population, jobs and businesses in the downtown district and to work on the continued improvement, revitalization and development of the community by improving pedestrian access and enhancing the areas aesthetics; and

Whereas, The Michigan Main Street Center @ MSHDA, formed in 2003, provides consulting services to up to three communities that commit to the Main Street Four Point Approach (Design, Organization, Promotion and Economic restructuring) to strengthen commercial activity and improve buildings in a community's downtown; and

Whereas, The Main Street Approach to downtown revitalization has generated community-wide interest and support; and

Whereas, the City will apply to become an Associate Main Street community and a local Main Street organization will be formed to stimulate economic development and maintain historic preservation of the downtown, thereby lessening the burden of local government.

Now, Therefore Be It Resolved as follows:

1. The Community and its Local Main Street Program agree to these minimum participation standards set forth by the MMSC @ MSHDA including submitting biannual reports to the MS Program and participation at required trainings and services.

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2. The Community and its Local Main Street Program agrees to participate as an Associate Main Street with the intention of applying to become a Select Main Street in 2018.

In witness whereof, we have hereunto set our hand on this 11th day of October, 2016.

Mayor Pro Tem Couture asked if this Resolution is one of the requirements for the Application. City Manager Eustice replied yes and it will be submitted with the Application.

Councilman King moved to approve A Resolution in Support of Commitment and Cooperation with the Michigan Main Street Program in becoming an Associate Main Street Community as read into the record by Mayor Bronson; supported by Councilwoman Kwiatkowski. A roll call vote was taken; motion carried unanimously.

Public Comments:

▪ **Bring It Cheboygan** – Ms. Sherry Nelson, representing the Bring It Cheboygan group, thanked Council for adopting the Resolution for the Main Street Program, asking for a copy of the same. She noted the group has been meeting since August and support has grown weekly. They are so excited and have built such enthusiasm for the Program. She then stated she wants to update Council and make them aware of what's going on. So far 56 volunteers have come to meetings; weekly meetings are about 25 members. They have outgrown the Purple Tree Bookstore and next week they will be meeting at the Carnegie so people can see the excitement that is going on there. Also Kirsten Guenther, Downtown Enhancement Administrator, offered to have the meeting here. Ms. Nelson went on to state many things have happened, noting they are a mix of people, i.e. merchants, service people, educators, farmers and volunteers; also, young and old people, men and women. There is a phenomenal mix of people of all ages. Recently an investor group got together and they tried to purchase a building so they could have a year-round farmer's market, but were out bid. Ms. Nelson noted Ms. Linda Konicki heads up their window program and has been in touch with 20 building owners of vacant properties and they are going to put in holiday decorations and décor in the windows and clean them up for the holiday season. After the holidays they are planning what they can do going toward spring that would have a little more longevity. Mr. Jim Conboy made a proposal and came to speak with the group regarding the Top of Michigan Trails Council. We should be working with him as a City to pursue becoming a trails designated city. The NEMCOG Master Plan is drafted to make Cheboygan a trail town. There are things we could do to really bring people on the trails here. Ms. Nelson stated they have to get their trails committee active, which is still in the forming stages. There is a mission statement in the works that Mr. Jim Soubly is working on. There are other people interjecting ideas, as well. Ms. Nelson asked that they be notified if there is anything they need to do with regard to the Main Street Application because they want to make sure it gets processed, accepted and approved. Also the group wants to capitalize on existing events as they missed such a golden opportunity with the Route 23 Discovery Tour that was taking place the first week in October. They want to have a triple bridge run next year with a run across the Lincoln Avenue Bridge, the pedestrian bridge and State Street Bridge finishing at the farmer's market; or perhaps a different order. This could be done in conjunction with some sort of Octoberfest. By partnering with the Discovery Tour we can let them do some of the marketing and advertising for it, but we have to have some knockout events that we can promote on it. Once they get the trails committee, they will make running trails a part of that. Ms. Nelson stated their ambition is to add businesses in downtown Cheboygan that put feet on the street. They want to make destination shopping and bring unique businesses to town and help recruit to make people want to come here, rather than filling up the buildings that don't draw customer/pedestrian traffic. They want to bring people downtown to make it interesting and fun and we want restaurants that are unique and different, as well, that will make people want to come and participate. Further, they want to promote all these events and capitalize on these things so they can

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give our visitors something to do because we live in the best, absolutely most

pristine area with the best natural resources available. Ms. Nelson then thanked Council.

Mayor Bronson commented that he, City Manager Eustice and Downtown Enhancement Administrator Kirsten Guenther are on the trail town committee.

Ms. Nelson then stated in speaking with Mr. Jim Conboy, Mr. Conboy stated part of the problem is we have to educate the merchants and some of the people because they don't even know the trails are there. It is an education process that we all have to work on to establish that.

- **Downtown Cornstalks** - Ms. Trudy Lofgren mentioned we are getting through the flower season and wondered if anyone thought of putting cornstalks up downtown for the Octoberfest feeling. City Manager Eustice stated Downtown Enhancement Administrator Guenther is working on that and thinks she has someone that will donate cornstalks. He noted the flower baskets will be taken down hopefully this week.

City Clerk/Treasurer's Comments:

- **City Audit** – Clerk/Treasurer Kwiatkowski stated the auditors arrived Monday morning, so we are in the midst of the City's annual audit. He explained what has been accomplished thus far and what will take place the rest of the week. They look to have the audit presentation the first meeting in December.

City Manager's Report:

- **Port Property** – City Manager Eustice reported we are diligently waiting on Kokosing to accept an offer for 767 feet of property. In talking with Mr. Joe VanAntwerp he thought they would turn that around fairly quickly. He spoke with Mr. VanAntwerp today and the Vice-President that replaced Mr. VanAntwerp is in Indiana with the owner of Kokosing today and are discussing the purchase of the property. Hopefully we will know something within the next couple of days. City Manager Eustice stated Mr. VanAntwerp commented it is almost a given they will purchase the property. He noted our offer is at \$428,000.00 and they like the price and he thinks they will go forward very soon. City Manager Eustice stated he was hoping to have a special City Council meeting to approve the sale of that property because we need, again, all seven members here to approve the sale with a majority vote. If something comes through, he believes we will still have a special City Council meeting instead of waiting until October 25. We will try and expedite a closing as quickly as we can.

- **Pop Up Store** – City Manager Eustice announced the Simply Marcella pop up store that was here last year next to Your Spirit will be coming back this year. They are opening November 1 and will be open until mid-January. They are hoping eventually she will open a permanent store. Councilwoman Riddle asked if a pop up store is one that comes in for a short period of time. City Manager Eustice stated that is correct. He noted there is some controversy over that, but overall it is a good and reputable business, with two locations in the St. Clair Shores area. He also stated the owners have a home in the area.

- **Food Cart Recommendations** – City Manager Eustice informed Council by the first meeting in November he and Chief Jones will have some ideas on the food cart situation. Mayor Pro Tem Couture asked if they have met with any of the food vendors and storefront food operators. City Manager Eustice replied they have, but they have not met all together. He and the Chief will take a look at this in the next couple of weeks, noting the Chief is on vacation until October 17, although he is here tonight.

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Messages and Communications from Mayor Pro Tem and Council Members:

▪ **Farmers Market** – Mayor Pro Tem Couture asked if there has been any discussion with the Farmer's Market group since early September. He then asked if the City applied to the Michigan Farmers Market Association designation and if it's been approved. City Manager Eustice replied the City applied and has been approved. It allows some benefits and advertising. Councilwoman Kwiatkowski asked if there are any requirements, such as being located in one spot. City Manager Eustice replied no, but thinks the Farmers Market is leaning towards Festival Square 100%. There are concerns during some of the festivals, and the City thought about closing Huron Street and moving the Farmers Market into Huron Street for the festivals. Mayor Pro Tem Couture commented just in talking to some of the vendors, there is still a little debate. He told them there is going to have to be a movement if this is going to move forward with the Bring It Cheboygan; someone is going to have to take charge and start the process of doing it regularly there, which they have and it is evident. Mayor Pro Tem Couture stated he does not know if joining the Michigan Farmers Market Association makes the Farmers Market an entity and comes under the City's wing. City Manager Eustice stated it could. Mayor Pro Tem Couture stated he does not want the City Manager to be the Market Manager, and thinks that would be on their terms. He thinks this needs to be done and handled all in the same talk with the food vendors (carts), annual fees, etc. We have to come up with something in writing as a policy of the City as to how this is going to operate, i.e. this is when they can be here, where they can't be, etc. It helps them as an entity grow and the Michigan Main Street Program could be a good hub for the Farmers Market and draw from the surrounding areas. City Manager Eustice stated Festival Square is the right place for the Farmers Market and advertise it, noting we have a pulley system to now put signage up in front of Festival Square. He noted we will have to work around the Waterways Festival and the Music Festival.

▪ **Meijer Project** - Mayor Pro Tem Couture inquired on the Meijer Project and the intergovernmental type group, wondering if there has been any conversation with anybody and how does the City Manager think we should proceed with that, i.e. form a committee and that's where we start with presentation to surrounding governmental units asking for their support. He believes this has to happen. He then stated he feels nobody was trying to hold anything up, it was just a lack of communication. Without having an arm between each of the governmental units for continuous flow of communication, it is not going to happen. One does not get the gist of it from just reading minutes. City Manager Eustice commented he feels they are close to a resolution, noting there is an Inverness Township DDA Meeting on October 19. The City is working on a Utility Service Agreement for both water and sewer, but is not sure it will be ready to make a presentation at the October 19 meeting, but we are going to present it at an Inverness Township meeting with DPW Director Karmol and himself present to lead them in the right direction. The Inverness Township DDA is trying to figure out how to fund it right now and believes they now have that funding source, which is Meijer's. Meijer's will pay for the entire project and then get two-thirds of it paid back from Inverness Township/DDA over time. He feels this is the best way to go. Mayor Pro Tem Couture commented he wants to make sure it is at the forefront of the City's mind and we are looking out for our constituents in the City and there is an agreement already in place between the County and Inverness Township regarding the prior sewer and there were already some REU's purchased at one point. He wants to make sure this all gets brought into the same conversation so there is no more doubt anymore because of the improvements we will need to have done.

▪ **Flowers for Annette Eustice** – Councilwoman Kwiatkowski inquired as to sending flowers to Annette Eustice. Councilwoman Riddle replied this is not something we can do from the City but would need to be done from private funds of Council Members.

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Adjournment:

Councilman King moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m.; supported by Councilwoman Kwiatkowski. 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