



CITY COUNCIL

February 16, 2015

A regular meeting of the City of Petoskey City Council was held in the City Hall Council Chambers, Petoskey, Michigan, on Monday, February 16, 2015. This meeting was called to order at 7:00 P.M.; then, after a recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, a roll call then determined that the following were

Present: William Fraser, Mayor
Kate Marshall, City Councilmember
John Murphy, City Councilmember
Grant Dittmar, City Councilmember
Jeremy Wills, City Councilmember

Absent: None

Also in attendance were Acting City Manager Alan Terry, Administrative Assistant Sarah Bek, Downtown Director Becky Goodman and Library Director Valerie Meyerson.

Resolution No. 18854
Approve Consent Agenda Items

Following introduction of the consent agenda for this meeting of February 16, 2015, City Councilmember Dittmar moved that, seconded by City Councilmember Marshall adoption of the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council does and hereby confirms that the draft minutes of the February 2, 2015 regular-session City Council meeting be and are hereby approved;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that receipt by the City Council of a report concerning all checks that had been issued since February 2 for contract and vendor claims at \$713,534.36, intergovernmental claims at \$107,115.11, and the February 12 payroll at \$168,067.33, for a total of \$988,716.80 be and is hereby acknowledged; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council does hereby authorize to contract with Jordan Construction Group, Inc., East Jordan, for roof replacements at various Bayfront Park facilities for \$78,196.

Said resolution was adopted by the following vote:

AYES: Marshall, Murphy, Dittmar, Wills, Fraser (5)

NAYS: None (0)

Hear Public Comment

Mayor Fraser asked for public comments and there were no comments.

Hear City Manager Updates

The Acting City Manager introduced the new Library Director, Valerie Meyerson, to Council; reviewed that the Downtown Management Board is proposing a bike corral on Howard Street in front of Momentum, which is currently a no parking zone; that the art committee met on January 29 to discuss the downtown public art plan, revisions were made and that DMB would review at their meeting tomorrow night. The Acting City Manager also reviewed that George Colburn is working with Robert Dau on an Ernest Hemingway project and documentary and that he may have a presentation for Council at a future meeting due to Mr. Dau's poor health; that MDOT will be repaving US-31 through Bay View, and construction is expected to be at night from April 6 to May 21, 2015 with no lane closures; and that the City thawed 14 services to-date compared to 99 at this time last year, with Public Works staff continually monitoring conditions.

In response to questions, the Acting City Manager reviewed that frozen services are not those included on the annual freeze list; that there has not been any frozen water mains; and that frost is approximately 2-3 feet down.

Discuss DMB & DDA Appointments

The Acting City Manager reviewed that at the February 2, 2015 City Council meeting two names were submitted to Council, as selected by the Mayor, for appointment to the Downtown Development Authority and the Downtown Management Board. City Council discussed, in general, Board appointments and deferred action on actual appointments pending further discussion by the City Council at the next regular meeting. A copy of the joint By-Laws and Committee Guidelines for the DMB and DDA were included for informational purposes.

Mayor Fraser reviewed that Jennifer Shorter had withdrawn her name for appointment, he was withdrawing Doug Buck's name at this time, but may bring it forward in the future and suggested that a joint meeting with Council and the DMB would be beneficial.

City Councilmembers supported a joint meeting with DMB and concurred that there were no issues with candidates brought forward, but that further discussion was needed on issues with the appointment process.

Larry Rochon, DMB Chairperson, addressed Council with various concerns including roles and responsibilities of the DMB; makeup of the Board; supported the Mayor's recommendations and that Ms. Shorter's presence will be missed; that underlying issues aren't evident and that the Board has the best interest of downtown and moves forward on issues; and presented DMB accomplishments over the past 10 years involving events, capital improvements, beautification, marketing, economic enhancement and parking.

City Councilmembers further discussed the process and if Council adequately followed up after announcements were sent out with tax bills to citizens; if the application form and questions are acceptable and should be reviewed; and that DMB is an independently acting Board, and Council has stayed clear of micromanaging the Board.

Mayor Fraser asked for public comments heard from those concerned with the number of people living in the district and having a resident on the Board; that a joint meeting is a good idea and if it will be announced and open to the public; concerns that there are problems between the Board and merchants and no discussion of issues from circulated petition; that appointments should not be made to those that don't have an interest in making changes; that if there is a City Charter issue then follow process in order to change Charter; that downtown accomplishments are best in the state and that there has been turnover on the DMB similar to other Boards or Commissions; and that Ms. Shorter is a valuable voice and will be missed.

City Councilmembers reviewed that as stated in the City Charter each Board or Commission is setup by ordinance and by-laws and that legislation dictates process. City Councilmembers concurred to have a joint meeting with DMB and possible dates will be discussed with the Downtown Director and Acting City Manager.

Hear Council Comments

Mayor Fraser asked for Council comments and heard from City Councilmember Dittmar that it is good to see that the County earmarked funds for local bus system; City Councilmember Murphy welcomed the new Library Director, Valerie Meyerson, and her openness and vision for the Library; and Mayor Fraser reported that the Winter Carnival was a success with true winter weather.

There being no further business to come before the City Council, this February 16, 2015, meeting of the City Council adjourned at 8:11 P.M.

W.J. Fraser, Mayor

Alan Terry, City Clerk-Treasurer