

**MANISTEE CITY COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION  
MINUTES OF AUGUST 8, 2017**

The Manistee City Council met in a work session on Tuesday, August 8, 2017 at 7:00 p.m., Council Chambers, City Hall, 70 Maple Street, Manistee, Michigan 49660.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Dale Cooper, Lynda Beaton, Roger Zielinski, Robert Goodspeed, James Smith, Mark Wittlieff, Erin Pontiac

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** City Manager Thad Taylor, Finance Director Ed Bradford, DPW Director Jeff Mikula, Sergeant Steve Schmeling, City Engineer Shawn Middleton, Public

*Public Comments on Work Session Related Items.* None

*Discussion on Recycling Center.* Councilmember Mark Wittlieff requested an opportunity to discuss the recycling center. He is concerned with camera clarity and with the possibility of problems with trash at the center.

- Viewed various video clips from various cameras at the Recycling Center.
- Question: Is Recycling Center open to businesses; it isn't.
- Discussion on recycle container contamination; has not been an issue to date.
- Talked about Manistee Township situation and avoiding a similar situation in the City.

CONSENSUS: Continue with current mode of operation. Monitor and recommend changes if/as necessary. Provide education on residential use only. Move high definition camera to position of maximum benefit. Work with media on article regarding recycling and rules of recycling center.

*Discussion on Traffic Speeds on First Street.* Councilmember Erin Pontiac requested an opportunity to discuss traffic speeds on First Street and requested 15 mph signs on First Street near Cherry.

- Sergeant Schmeling explained that 15 mph signs are unenforceable, prima facie speed on residential streets is 25 mph.
- Talked about enforcement steps taken and perception that vehicles are going faster than they actually are.
- Don't believe we can post lower than 25 mph due to UTC and MVC stipulations.

CONSENSUS: Place radar trailer in straight-away portions near beach. Police Department to have directed traffic patrol in the area of beach/playgrounds/pavilions. Consider portable speed bumps.

***Discussion on Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and Ways to Address Streets Faster.*** Mayor Pro-Tem Zielinski requested an opportunity to discuss ways to address streets faster. City staff and engineer provided a presentation on the current plan, cost estimates and past presentations to Council.

- Jeff Mikula talked about focus on protecting good roads to prevent them from going bad.
- Jeff Mikula said limiting factor is amount of dollars available.
- Discussed TIP and also increased state funding for streets.
- Discussed needed repairs to Quincy Street to include underground utilities.
- Discussed scope of work needed for streets in very poor condition.
- Discussed Headlee override to fund more street improvements.

CONSENSUS: Bring back dollars needed to address street problems and options for an expanded street improvement plan for Council to discuss.

***Discussion on Blight Ordinance / Procedures.*** Councilmember Lynda Beaton requested an opportunity to discuss blight and would like the Police Department to work with Tyler Leppanen on a fillable blight complaint form for City's website. Sergeant Schmeling explained blight complaint process. Talked about capacity of Police Department for blight enforcement. Discussed adding part-time person in next year's budget to assist with blight enforcement.

CONSENSUS: Develop an online reporting form for website for citizens to report blight conditions; include complainant contact information.

***Discussion on Redevelopment Liquor Licenses.*** DDA Director Tyler Leppanen requested an opportunity to discuss proposed changes to the DDA's Redevelopment Liquor License policy. Reviewed DDA's changes to the policy.

CONSENSUS: Agreed with the changes to the Redevelopment Liquor License policy/guidelines.

Adjourned at approximately 8:52 p.m.

Thad N. Taylor, City Manager

TNT:cl