

**MANISTEE CITY COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION  
MINUTES OF DECEMBER 8, 2015**

The Manistee City Council met in a work session on Tuesday, December 8, 2015 at 7 p.m., City Hall Council Chambers, 70 Maple Street, Manistee MI 49660.

PRESENT: Colleen Kenny, Lynda Beaton, Roger Zielinski, Robert Goodspeed, James Smith, and Mark Wittlieff.

ABSENT: Eric Gustad.

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager, Department Directors, City Engineer, Media, and Public.

***Public Comments on Work Session Related Items.***

None received.

***Discussion on Ad Hoc Deer Herd Committee Report and Recommendations.*** Committee members in attendance were John Brakora, Bob Hornkohl, Barry Peterson, and Roger Zielinski. Mr. Brakora described the options that the committee researched and the feasibility of those options. The written report contains more detailed information; hard copies were provided to the Council and committee members; survey results were also discussed.

**Committee Recommendations:**

- Implement a feeding ban.
- Reduction in the size of the existing deer herd.
- Explore the contracting of the services of the USDA.
- Ongoing analysis, annual survey to evaluate the public perception.
- Provide public education via City's website.
- Appropriate resources to facilitate this process.

Considerable discussion was held by Council. Kenny thanked the committee and feels the committee's work is done; they have made their recommendation – great work and great report.

CONSENSUS: Council requested that taking action on the committee's recommendations for deer management be on the next Council meeting agenda; also to set a spending limit of up to \$5,000.

***Discussion on City Council Guidelines.*** At the Organizational Meeting held in November Council had indicated several items they would like to discuss further. Items included direction of the Auditing Committee, boards and commissions, and inserting additional language regarding acceptance of gifts and gratuities.

The Finance Director recommended changing the *Auditing* Committee into a true *Audit* Committee and follow the recommended best practices provided by the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA). Council discussion followed including audit committee duties, comparing the committee with

a financial committee (hospital example), setting direction to staff and allow FD to research and make recommendation of financing expenditures, and posting meeting notices.

CONSENSUS: Council in favor of new Audit Committee language being included in the Council Guidelines. Agenda items authorizing an expenditure should include where the funds are coming from – was it budgeted, if not, where are the funds coming from and how that would affect the budget, any cost savings anticipated.

**Discussion on Boards and Commissions.** Discussion held regarding the number of committees, if any of the committees could be combined or eliminated, are the length of the terms hindering volunteers to come forward. Suggestions made to take a poll of current board members regarding the length of committee terms; include on the City website a more detailed committee description; review times that meetings are held.

Another discussion was held regarding how many councilmembers could be appointed to a board or commission; suggested number was a maximum of two; various councilmembers felt being on other committees was both informational and enjoyable; did not want to replace citizens that might apply for the positions. No changes to the Council Guidelines were recommended at this time.

CONSENSUS: Council recommended more marketing for recruitment of board members, more recognition, and research the possibility of holding a 'Meet and Greet' open house for all boards and commissions, allowing them to meet each other and the public to discuss what their board is all about.

**Public Comment.**

Comments received by:

- Barry Peterson – 575 Eighth Street / ad hoc deer committee member / committee's recommendation was a combination of available options; USDA is precise and professional – price depends on what we want; his personal opinion on the survey was that the results were skewed because it was a survey developed by a humane society.
- T. Eftaxiadis – 817 Cherry Street / committees and commissions have different authorities and requirements by law; suggested looking into the State law or the committee bylaws to see if councilmembers are allowed; stated that citizens don't know the functions of the committees, include a short description in the advertisement of their function; a get together of all boards and commissions is a good idea.
- Steve Wall – 314 Oak Street / suggested there is an intimidation factor if councilmembers are sitting on a board – give opportunity to citizens first; membership on committees may have a barrier on how to proceed in different situations, suggested training to learn how.

Work session adjourned at 8:55 p.m.



Michelle Wright MMC / CPFA, MiCPT  
City Clerk / Chief Deputy Treasurer