
PROCEEDINGS OF THE MANISTEE CITY COUNCIL – APRIL 21, 2020

A regular meeting of the Manistee City Council was called to order by his honor, Mayor Roger Zielinski on Tuesday, April 21, 2020 at 7:00 pm remotely as authorized by Executive Order of the Governor.

PRESENT: Dale Cooper, Lynda Beaton, Roger Zielinski, Jermaine Cipic, Michael Szymanski, James Grabowski and Erin Martin-Pontiac

ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager – Thad Taylor, City Attorney – George Saylor, City Clerk – Heather Pefley, DPW Director – Jeff Mikula, Finance Director – Ed Bradford, Public Safety Director – Tim Kozal, and City Engineer – Shawn Middleton

PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2020-2021 BUDGET AND CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN.

The City fiscal year runs from July 1 through June 30. Under Section 7-4 of the Charter, a public hearing is required on the budget which must be adopted not later than May 15 of each year.

A work session was held on Tuesday, April 14 and a budget work session is scheduled for later this evening. An optional work session is scheduled for Tuesday, April 28. The Budget Calendar anticipates adoption of the budget at the May 6, 2020 meeting.

At this time the public has an opportunity to comment on the 2020-2021 Budget and Capital Improvement plan.

All individuals in attendance of the virtual meeting were in a virtual waiting room, with their microphones muted. Each person waiting in the virtual waiting room was called individually by the City Clerk by the last four digits of their telephone number. Individuals were asked if they had a comment or if they were passing.

Susie Cooper, 267 Second Avenue – questioned what amount was allocated for blight committee; would like more detail and an update on the ordinance amendment.

Douglas VanSickle, 504 Seventh Street – asked for Council support to fill vacant police officer position; expressed concerns including elimination of SSCENT Officer, blight enforcement, and ability to maintain service levels with less officers.

Robert Goodspeed, 301 Cypress Street – spoke against closing the teen center and in support of filling the vacant police officer position.

Sheila Kaminski, 228 Third Avenue – expressed concern with the removal of funding for the teen center.

Linda Gamache Chick, 345 Fourth Avenue/ Teen Center Board President – spoke in favor of maintaining the teen center; asked Council to re-examine the budget and make appropriate changes to include funding for the teen center.

Public Hearing closed at 7:26 p.m.

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CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA RELATED ITEMS.

Mayor Zielinski reviewed the items on the agenda for those in attendance that did not have a copy of the agenda.

No comments received.

CONSENT AGENDA.

- Minutes
 - April 7, 2020 Regular Meeting
 - April 14, 2020 Work Session
- Financial Reports
 - Payroll March 2020
 - Invoices March 2020
- Notification Regarding Next Work Session – April 28, 2020, 7:00 pm
An optional Council work session has been scheduled for Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. A discussion will be conducted on the 2020-2021 Budget; and such business as may come before Council.
- Consideration of approval of invoices and Draw Request #3 for USDA Rural Development Wastewater Improvements Phase 1.
USDA Rural Development requires that invoices for construction projects they fund be approved by City Council and submitted as a Draw Request on forms that they provide.

MOTION by Grabowski, second by Cooper to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Cooper, Beaton, Zielinski, Cipcic, Szymanski, and Grabowski (*Martin-Pontiac absent from vote*)
NAYS: None

CONSIDERATION OF 911 BOARD AUTHORITY APPOINTMENT.

The City of Manistee has a seat on the Manistee County 911 Board Authority. With the departure of Public Safety Director Timothy Kozal there is a vacancy. It is Staff's recommendation that Det./Sgt. Josh Glass be appointed to fill this vacancy and represent the City of Manistee Police Department. A mayoral appointment is needed to fill this vacancy. Mayoral appointments require a motion, second, and Council voted support.

MOTION by Beaton, second by Grabowski to approve the Mayor's appointment to the 911 Board Authority.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Cooper, Beaton, Zielinski, Cipcic, Szymanski, Grabowski and Martin-Pontiac
NAYS: None

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CITIZEN COMMENT.

Every person waiting in the virtual waiting room was called by the last four digits of their telephone number.

Robert Goodspeed, 301 Cypress Street – expressed again the need to fill the vacant police officer position.

OFFICIALS AND STAFF.

Kozal thanked the Clerk for her work on the meeting.

COUNCILMEMBERS.

Szymanski thanked local 501c organizations for their help in the community during the pandemic.

Zielinski thanked the community for practicing social distancing and doing their part to keep everyone safe and encouraged everyone to continue doing their part to help prevent the spread of this virus.

ADJOURN TO BUDGET WORK SESSION.

A Council work session on the proposed Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget and Capital Improvement Plan was scheduled for immediately following the regular meeting.

MOTION to adjourn to adjourn to the Budget Work Session was made by Grabowski.

Meeting adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Heather Pefley CMC/CMMC, MiCPT
City Clerk