
PROCEEDINGS OF THE MANISTEE CITY COUNCIL – December 2, 2014

A regular meeting of the Manistee City Council was called to order by her honor, Mayor Colleen Kenny on Tuesday, December 2, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 70 Maple Street, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Colleen Kenny, Edward Cote, Roger Zielinski, James Smith, Mark Wittlieff, and Eric Gustad.

ABSENT: Robert Goodspeed.

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager – Mitch Deisch, City Attorney – George Saylor, City Clerk – Michelle Wright, City Assessor – Julie Beardslee, Finance Director – Ed Bradford, Planning & Zoning Administrator – Denise Blakeslee, and City Engineer – Shawn Middleton/Spicer Group.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA RELATED ITEMS.

None received.

CONSENT AGENDA.

- Minutes - November 18, 2014 - Regular Meeting
- Payroll - November 10-23, 2014 - \$ 109,967.34
- Cash Balances Report - October 2014
- Notification Regarding Next Work Session – December 9, 2014
A discussion will be conducted on the Recycling Contract, Ready to Serve Utility Fee, Assessing Services; and such business as may come before the Council.

MOTION by Cote, second by Wittlieff to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Kenny, Cote, Zielinski, Smith, Wittlieff, and Gustad

NAYS: None

CONSIDERATION OF A CONTRACT, BYRNE / SSCENT TEAM GRANT.

The BYRNE grant partially funds our police officer in the SSCENT drug team. During this state fiscal year the grant amount is \$8,467. The grant is administered by the Michigan State Police. We request monthly reimbursements until the funds are exhausted. The City Attorney has reviewed and approved the contract document.

MOTION by Gustad, second by Wittlieff to authorize the City Manager, Police Chief and Finance

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Director to execute the grant documents; accepting \$8,467 from the BYRNE Grant funds to partially pay the salary of the police officer assigned to the SSCENT Team. Sgt. Steve Schmeling commented on the benefits of having an officer assigned to the SSCENT Team and the number of complaints handled in the past year.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Kenny, Cote, Zielinski, Smith, Wittlieff, and Gustad
NAYS: None

CONSIDERATION OF MICHIGAN’S CERTIFIED LOCAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAM GRANT RESOLUTION.

The City of Manistee requested designation as a Certified Local Government from the State Historic Preservation Office in 2013. This program would assist the Historic District Commission with training/workshops that are available through the program and provide a new opportunity to apply for grants that are only available if a community is certified. Final review of our request has been completed and the only remaining component is the adoption of a resolution appointing a lead contact person.

MOTION by Smith, second by Zielinski to adopt a resolution authorizing the City Manager to serve as the lead contact person and sign documents as necessary.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Kenny, Cote, Zielinski, Smith, Wittlieff, and Gustad
NAYS: None

PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION ON CITY ASSESSING SERVICES.

City Manager Deisch gave a PowerPoint presentation on the options available for assessing services including remaining at the status quo, contracting with the Manistee County Equalization Department, or hiring a private assessing contractor. Comments and discussion followed. The Mayor summarized the Council’s position as seeming to be leaning towards contracting the position. Further discussion will continue at the December 9th work session.

A REPORT FROM THE CITY CLERK.

Ms. Michelle Wright reported on the activities of the City Clerk’s Office and responded to questions the Council had regarding their activities.

CITIZEN COMMENT.

Comment was received from:

- Joyce O’Hagan regarding the blight/junk at 1001 Kosciusko Street; feels they are being retaliated on for reporting it; asked for Council’s help.

OFFICIALS AND STAFF.

Deisch stated that Council had approved his contract on November 5th which included a 1.6% increase in salary; unbeknownst to him the increase actually started back on July 1; he assured Council that if the contract had not been approved he would have written a check back to the City for that amount; new procedures will be put in place to ensure something similar would not happen again.

Beardslee added one more concern regarding assessing, the necessity to have a full Board of Review and the need to recruit members; has asked Council to help recruit members in the past.

COUNCILMEMBERS.

Cote stated he will be unavailable at next Tuesday's work session; voiced his position on the readiness to serve charge on a second meter on one line – against.

Zielinski thanked the DPW for their work, stated there is ice on the skating rink tonight.

Smith thanked Beardslee for her insight on the assessing services; also thanked Wright for an informative report and all of the work that goes into elections.

Gustad stated the City of Big Rapids is also doing a deer cull in January, Manistee isn't alone; also will not be in attendance at next week's work session.

Kenny stated that Sleighbell Weekend is coming up, wished everyone safe travels, and a good time; stated that the DPW has done a good job on decorations.

ADJOURN.

MOTION to adjourn was made by Cote, second by Gustad. Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.

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