
PROCEEDINGS OF THE MANISTEE CITY COUNCIL – January 6, 2015

A regular meeting of the Manistee City Council was called to order by her honor, Mayor Colleen Kenny on Tuesday, January 6, 2015 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, Robert Goodspeed, James Smith, Mark Wittlieff, and Eric Gustad.

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager – Mitch Deisch, City Attorney – George Saylor, City Clerk – Michelle Wright, DPW Director – Jeff Mikula, Finance Director – Ed Bradford, Public Safety Director – Dave Bachman, and City Engineer - Shawn Middleton/Spicer Group.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA RELATED ITEMS.

Bob Hornkohl – 432 Cedar Street cited the number of deer/car accidents in the City and urged Council to move ahead with the deer cull.

Brad Blakeslee – 444 Sixth Street said his opinion is the number of deer in the City seems to have diminished.

Chris Vassallo – 1004 Manistee Street asked about snow removal in his area and what can be done to help the situation; also asked about the sidewalk plow.

John Brakora – 536 Eighth Street concurred with Mr. Hornkohl that something needs to be done about the deer, stated they are sufficiently domesticated and eat everything in sight.

CONSENT AGENDA.

Minutes	- December 9, 2014	- Work Session
	- December 16, 2014	- Regular Meeting

Payroll	- December 8 - 21, 2014	- \$ 127,550.97
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Cash Balances Report	- November 2014
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Notification Regarding Next Work Session – January 13, 2015

A discussion will be conducted on Assessing Services and other personnel issues, bond indebtedness; and such business as may come before the Council.

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

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

PRESENTATION BY CITY BOND COUNSEL PATRICK MCGOW REGARDING CITY BONDING AUTHORITY AND BOND AUTHORIZING RESOLUTION.

A PowerPoint presentation was given by Mr. McGow on the basics of municipal finance, the hierarchy of law as it relates to municipalities and borrowing, the various types of bonds available, which types of bonds the City has and how they impact the debt limit, and explained the reason the notice of intent for the proposed bond issue had a higher dollar limit than the proposed project cost.

Questions were asked about what happens to the bond reserve (*used for final bond payment*), what happens to unused funds if the project comes in much lower (*can be used for other capital improvement projects for the system*), and what happens if we requested a lower amount than the \$3.5 million allowed and the project comes in over that requested amount (*can borrow more money up to the \$3.5 million*).

CONSIDERATION OF CONTINUED DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE RESCINDING OF DEER HERD CULL PROGRAM.

In accordance with Council Guidelines Policy CP-10, Section 3, several councilmembers have requested that the deer herd cull program be placed before City Council for continued discussion and possible rescission. On October 21, 2014 City Council took action to authorize a deer herd cull to reduce the number of nuisance deer in the City of Manistee by up to 50 deer. The cull was scheduled to take place over the span of one month from January 5 through February 5, 2015.

City Attorney George Saylor advises that a Motion to Rescind is a request to strike action previously approved by Council. A Motion to Rescind or Amend that is raised without previous notice requires a two-thirds vote in order to pass. If notice of the Motion was given, either in an agenda or at a previous meeting, a majority vote is all that is required for passage.

MOTION by Smith, second by Zielinski to rescind the action previously passed by City Council on October 21, 2014 authorizing a deer herd cull program in the City of Manistee. Lengthy discussion followed.

With a roll call vote this motion to rescind passed, 4-3.

AYES: Kenny, Zielinski, Smith, and Gustad

NAYS: Cote, Goodspeed, and Wittlieff

A REPORT FROM THE RAMSDELL GOVERNING AUTHORITY.

Mr. Mike Terry reported on the activities of the Ramsdell Theatre Governing Board and responded to questions the Council had regarding their activities.

CITIZEN COMMENT.

Comments were received from:

- Bob Hornkohl – 432 Cedar Street / deer cull vote, need to come up with a plan and move forward.
- Jeremy Nowak – 383 Eleventh Street / cost of doing deer cull; purpose of the \$3.5 million bond; rumor that the Art Institute is moving out of the Ramsdell.

OFFICIALS AND STAFF.

None received.

COUNCILMEMBERS.

Cote stated that the DPW did a good job on the water main breaks this past week.

Zielinski was present at both water main breaks and has a new appreciation for the department; asked how we start a process on the deer problem.

Smith also thanked the Public Works water department on the water main breaks; stated that run water notices were sent out, asked if the notice was publicized also. Mikula stated that this is different than last year where it was City-wide, just those on the permanent freeze-up list should begin running their water.

Wittlieff asked how the ground temperature is comparing last year to this year.

Gustad asked if the ice rink is ready to use; also asked if the run water notifications have a caveat of what happens if they don't run their water, what they are responsible for.

ADJOURN.

MOTION to adjourn was made by Cote, second by Goodspeed. Meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

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