
PROCEEDINGS OF THE MANISTEE CITY COUNCIL – November 4, 2015

A regular meeting of the Manistee City Council was called to order by her honor, Mayor Colleen Kenny on Wednesday, November 4, 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: Interim City Manager – R. Ben Bifoss, City Attorney – George Saylor, City Clerk – Michelle Wright, Finance Director – Ed Bradford, Public Safety Director – Dave Bachman, City Engineer – Shawn Middleton / Spicer Group.

CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA RELATED ITEMS.

None received.

CONSENT AGENDA.

- Minutes - October 20, 2015 - Regular Meeting
- Payroll - October 12-25, 2015 - \$ 109,175.49
- Cash Balances Report - September 2015
- Notification Regarding Next Work Session – December 8, 2015
There is no work session in November. A discussion will be conducted on fireworks, Ad Hoc Deer Herd Committee, and such business as may come before the Council.
- Consideration of Annual Victorian Sleighbell Parade and Old Christmas Weekend.
The Manistee Main Street Downtown Development Authority requests authorization to conduct the 27th Annual Victorian Sleighbell Parade and Old Christmas Weekend on December 3-6, 2015. The committee has requested various street closures and other assistance from City personnel. This annual event includes a parade along River Street on Saturday, followed by a fireworks display. Many other activities throughout the weekend highlight our Victorian heritage.
- Consideration of First Quarter Financial Report by Finance Director Ed Bradford.
- Consideration of First Quarter Investment Report by Finance Director Ed Bradford.
- Consideration of Event Signage for the Turkeybowl Annual Fundraiser.
A request has been received from the organizers of the Annual Turkeybowl fundraiser to allow the placement of ten signs on private property advertising their event on November 25, 2015. Under Section 2101.A.8 of the Zoning Ordinance City Council may approve exceptions to the Sign Ordinance for community events.

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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 ANDERSON, TACKMAN & COMPANY ON THE JUNE 30, 2015 AUDIT.

Kenneth Talsma of Anderson, Tackman & Company PLC presented the June 30, 2015 audit. He stated that the City received an unmodified or unqualified audit which is the best you can get. The 2015 General Fund - fund balance is \$1,051,792.

CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSED CITY MANAGER CONTRACT.

Details of the proposed contract between the City of Manistee and Mr. Thad Taylor for the City Manager position were reviewed. Contract negotiations were completed by Interim Manager Ben Bifoss and the agreement was drafted by the City Attorney. Mr. Taylor is tentatively scheduled to begin work in December.

MOTION by Gustad, second by Wittlieff to accept the agreement as written and extend an offer to Mr. Thad Taylor to serve the citizens of Manistee as its City Manager.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION OF SUPPORT FOR THE ENHANCEMENT OF VETERANS PARK.

The local Manistee County Veterans Group in conjunction with the Alliance for Economic Success and the Community Foundation are requesting a resolution of support to prepare a site plan for the park that can serve as the basis for future development and for future grant applications. City Council would reserve the right to approve any grant submissions on behalf of the City including a review of any financial implications for development and long term maintenance and operations.

MOTION by Goodspeed, second by Cote to adopt a resolution of support for the enhancement of Veterans Park.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

CONSIDERATION OF AN ASSIGNMENT AND ASSUMPTION AGREEMENT WITH T-MOBILE AND AGRIVALLEY BROADBAND FOR A LEASE AT THE INDUSTRIAL PARK WATER TOWER.

The City previously leased space on the Industrial Park water tower to Agri-Valley Broadband, Inc. for telecommunication equipment. Agri-Valley terminated the lease in November 2014, and later approached the City about the possibility of assigning the lease to T-Mobile. The City has negotiated an assignment agreement with the parties for two years, with two additional five year extension terms. Annual rental will be \$15,000 with a 2.75% annual escalator. The City Attorney has reviewed and approved the agreement.

MOTION by Cote, second by Zielinski to approve an Assignment and Assumption Agreement with T-Mobile Central, LLC and Agri-Valley Broadband, Inc. for a lease on the Industrial Park water tower.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

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

NAYS: None

A REPORT FROM THE HARBOR COMMISSION AND THE MANISTEE MAIN STREET DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY.

Harbormaster Dave Bachman reported on the activities of the Harbor Commission and responded to questions the Council had regarding their activities.

Mr. Patrick Kay reported on the activities of the Manistee Main Street Downtown Development Authority and responded to questions the Council had regarding their activities.

CITIZEN COMMENT.

Comments received by:

- Jennifer Bufka Teller, 712 Harbor Drive / requested removal of a tree limb taking away their view of Lake Michigan.
- Lynda Beaton, 256 Hughes Street / thanked Councilmember Cote for civil competition in the City Council race; resigned from Board of Review due to her being elected to City Council.

OFFICIALS AND STAFF.

Wright thanked the citizens for coming out to vote at yesterday's election, there was a good turnout.

COUNCILMEMBERS.

Councilmembers all thanked Cote for his past service on the Council and stated that he will be missed; welcomed Lynda Beaton as a newly elected Councilmember.

Smith thanked the City Clerk's office and crew for the hard work and long day on the election.

Smith and Gustad thanked Chief Bachman and his department for their work on the series of break-ins.

ADJOURN.

MOTION to adjourn was made by Cote. Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

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

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