

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE MANISTEE CITY COUNCIL – January 24, 2017

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A special meeting of the Manistee City Council was called to order by his honor, Mayor James Smith on Tuesday, January 24, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers, 70 Maple Street, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

PRESENT: Dale Cooper, Roger Zielinski, Robert Goodspeed, James Smith, Mark Wittlieff, and Erin Pontiac.

ABSENT: Lynda Beaton.

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager – Thad Taylor, City Attorney – George Saylor, City Clerk – Michelle Wright, and Finance Director – Ed Bradford.

### **CITIZEN COMMENTS ON AGENDA RELATED ITEMS.**

Ruth Pratt commented on the FOIA cost estimate, gave some background information on the reason for the FOIA request.

Glen Zaring – 321 Fifth Street commented on the public hearing for the CDBG grant, spoke in favor of the project, stated the area needs improvement and development.

### **PUBLIC HEARING ON THE APPLICATION FOR A \$1,000,000 COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT FOR THE FORMER NORTH CHANNEL OUTLET PROPERTY.**

The City of Manistee is applying for a \$1,000,000 Community Development Block Grant to help fund the restoration of the former North Channel Outlet building. The grant will be used for blight elimination and historical restoration. A public hearing is required to allow the public to provide input into the proposed grant application.

Mayor Smith opened the public hearing on the proposed Community Development Block Grant application.

Comments received:

- Ed Bradford stated that the developer John Groothuis planned on attending the meeting but had a miscommunication on the starting time of this meeting; commented on the third party administrator.
- Zielinski wanted to confirm that this is a grant, not a loan.
- Smith asked if the third party administrator was a state requirement and there would be no cost to the City.
- Glen Zaring formally expressed his support for the grant.

No further comments received. Public Hearing closed at 6:10 p.m.

**CONSIDERATION OF A FOIA COST ESTIMATE APPEAL, JAMES PRATT.**

James Pratt submitted a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to the City. An estimate of the costs for complying with the request was developed. Mr. Pratt feels the cost estimate is excessive and is now appealing the cost estimate to City Council.

MOTION by Zielinski, second by Wittlieff to approve the revised cost estimate associated with Mr. Pratt's FOIA request, in response to his appeal. Discussion followed.

With a roll call vote this motion passed unanimously.

AYES: Cooper, Zielinski, Goodspeed, Smith, Wittlieff, and Pontiac

NAYS: None

**CITIZEN COMMENT.**

John Groothuis, managing member of North Channel Investors LLC, talked about the property being blighted, obsolescent, and having historic issues; described the route they have taken to get to this point; staff has been very supportive in the process; brewery is committed to get in on time; estimated the Edgewater building will be completed in one month; excited on what's happening.

**OFFICIALS AND STAFF.**

*None received.*

**COUNCILMEMBERS.**

Goodspeed commented on the fence on Second and Walnut Streets, asked for a time frame for it to be removed.

Smith stated the League of Women Voters have invited City Council to a Meet & Greet meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup>, asked how many planned to attend, will need to call a special meeting if a quorum will be in attendance.

**ADJOURN.**

MOTION to adjourn was made by Goodspeed, second by Cooper. Meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

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