

**MANISTEE CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
MINUTES OF AUGUST 12, 2014**

The Manistee City Council met in a work session on Tuesday, August 12, 2014 at 7 p.m., Council Chambers, City Hall, 70 Maple Street, Manistee, Michigan 49660.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Colleen Kenny, Bob Hornkohl, Catherine Zaring, Ed Cote, Robert Goodspeed, Mark Wittlieff, Eric Gustad

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Department Directors, City Attorney, City Engineer, Media and Public

Public Comments.

- Ross Spencer – Commented on readiness-to-serve for sprinkling meters. Needs to be adjusted and bond debt should be on water bills.
- Bob Grabowski – In favor of River Parc redevelopment. Not in favor of use of public parking.
- Rachel Estabrook – Supports redevelopment in downtown but not enough information has been presented to Downtown Development Authority to make an informed decision.

Discussion on River Parc / North Channel Outlet Development. Finance Director Ed Bradford, Brownfield Consultant T Eftaxiadis and Developer John Groothuis presented a Brownfield Redevelopment Scope and Financing Summary. Numerous questions were asked by Council and answered by staff. Discussion focused on overall improvements to the project and upgrades to public infrastructure that could be funded by TIF capture. Total project investment is approximately 4.5 million dollars. Discussion continued on the various incentives that will be required to be granted by both the State of Michigan and the City Downtown Development Authority (DDA) for the project to move forward.

Ultimately the DDA and City will have to approve the BRA TIF plan, other grants, and a development agreement.

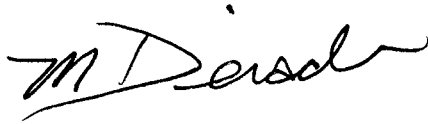
Discussion on Water and Sewer Rates. Significant discussion was had on the water and sewer rates as the billing was amended this year based upon Council adopting the Utility Rate Study during the 2014-2015 fiscal year budget process. Staff informed Council that due to existing bond requirements and federal grant requirements; that a differentiating rate structure (senior discount) was not permitted. Council also discussed and the majority felt that the readiness-to-serve charge on sprinkling meters should be maintained as presented.

CONSENSUS: No changes to the utility rate structure was approved. Staff will work on an article for the Manistee News Advocate to further explain the new rate structure.

Discussion on Deer Herd Management. Council discussed culling deer out of the City. Several residents were in attendance and supported this effort. Both the Public Safety Director David Bachman and City Manager Mitch Deisch advised Council that in their professional opinion this was not a safety issue, rather a landscaping issue, and that Council was not required to take on this issue.

CONSENSUS: Majority of Council asked for staff to prepare a plan to cull deer. Public Safety Director said the plan would be ready in one month and will be presented back to Council.

Adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M Deisch". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a prominent initial "M".

Mitchell D. Deisch, City Manager

MDD:cl