

**MANISTEE CITY COUNCIL
WORK SESSION
MINUTES OF APRIL 28, 2020**

The Manistee City Council met in a work session on Tuesday, April 28, 2020 at 7:00 pm remotely as authorized by Executive Order of the Governor.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Dale Cooper, Lynda Beaton, Roger Zielinski, Jermaine Cipic, Michael Szymanski, James Grabowski and Erin Martin-Pontiac

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

ALSO PRESENT: City Manager, Department Directors, and Public

The following message was provided by Mayor Zielinski:

As an important step in preventing the spread of the COVID-19 virus, our Governor, Gretchen Whitmer, issued an Executive Order authorizing public boards in Michigan to conduct their meetings remotely. This is a critical step to help stop the spread. All aspects of how this meeting is being run is in compliance with the Open Meetings Act, as modified by the Executive Order, and has been reviewed by the City Attorney.

The City of Manistee is taking various steps to do our part during this pandemic, and this is one of them. We need to keep members of the public, our City Council and City Staff healthy. Therefore, no members of the public, City Council or City Staff are present in the Council Chambers.

Mayor Zielinski offered appreciation to Public Safety Director Tim Kozal for his service to the City of Manistee and wished him luck in his future endeavors.

Public Comments on Work Session Related Items.

All individuals in attendance of the virtual meeting were in a virtual waiting room, with their microphones muted. When it came time for public comment, each person waiting in the virtual waiting room was called individually by the City Clerk by the last four digits of their telephone number. Individuals were asked if they had a comment or if they were passing.

Mayor Zielinski reviewed the items on the agenda for those in attendance that did not have a copy of the agenda.

Jeremy Makowski, 486 First Street – voiced concern on eliminating funding from the budget for the Teen Center.

Linda Gamache Chick, 345 Fourth Avenue – spoke in favor of restoring the appropriation for the Teen Center and adding an officer to the budget.

Sheila Kaminski, Teen Center Director – stated that the Teen Center is not a redundant service and asked Council to consider restoring funding in the budget.

Discussion on Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget and Capital Improvement Plan. City Manager Thad Taylor and Finance Director Ed Bradford led the continued discussion on the Fiscal Year 2020-2021 Budget and Capital Improvement Plan. Taylor informed Council that, as requested, staff collectively reviewed the proposed budget and made reductions in order to add the unfilled police officer position and restore funding for Alternatives for Area Youth Teen Center.

Council offered their appreciation to staff for their efforts in making the necessary cuts in order to fund the requested additions in the budget.

Mayor Pro-Tem Grabowski asked for clarification on the budgeted amount for blight. Bradford explained the budget does not include a blight officer but includes \$12,000 for demolition of a blighted house.

Public Works Director Jeff Mikula spoke regarding the time and effort devoted to developing and presenting a budget that balances the need of the community and the various City departments and expressed concerns on behalf of the DPW staff with regards to potential layoffs during this financially uncertain time.

Mayor Zielinski made a statement to Jeff Mikula and DPW staff expressing the importance of the work they perform for the City and offered appreciation.

CONSENSUS: City Manager was directed to have the budget added to the May 6th meeting agenda for Council consideration.

Adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Pefley CMC/CMMC, MiCPT
City Clerk