

**MANISTEE CITY COUNCIL  
WORK SESSION  
MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 9, 2021**

The Manistee City Council met in a work session on Tuesday, February 9, 2021, at 7:00 pm, remotely as authorized by the Opens Meeting Act (MCL 15.263a).

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** David Bachman, Lynda Beaton, Roger Zielinski, Jermaine Cipic, Michael Szymanski, James Grabowski, and Erin Martin Pontiac

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**ALSO PRESENT:** City Manager, Department Directors, Boards & Commissions and Public

***Public Comments:***

None.

***DISCUSSION ON SIDEWALKS AND TREES*** – DPW Director Jeff Mikula led a discussion on the City’s sidewalk improvement program and the tree removal request process. Mikula explained that the City currently spends \$20,000 annually on repairing and replacing trip hazards in sidewalks, which repairs 550 – 650 hazards per year. Mikula is proposing a \$5,000 increase in funding this program as well as an additional \$5,000 which would be used as a 50/50 match if residents request improvements near their property. The program has covered approximately 1/3 of the City’s sidewalks to date. The next phase will be to replace broken sidewalks and fill in gaps. Mikula also stated that there are no restrictions for tree removal requests by residents and that the Tree Commission evaluates each request individually. Residents requesting tree removal are encouraged to attend Tree Commission meetings to provide additional information regarding their request.

***Annual RRC Board & Commission discussion to identify and prioritize redevelopment sites*** – Mr. Marc Miller, Chamber of Commerce Economic Development Director led a discussion on the Redevelopment Ready Community program for the City of Manistee. Mr. Miller reported that all the 2020 sites which were targeted for redevelopment are either currently under development or under contract for development. Mr. Miller presented the following list of potential redevelopment sites for 2021:

- 141-149 Washington Street – Northern Hotel
- 451-453 River Street
- 348 River Street – The Vault
- 260 St. Mary’s Parkway – 8 acres
- 350 River Street – River Street Station

- 30 Arthur Street - vacant
- 152 Cleveland Street/145 Harrison Street
- 11 Cypress Street – Chamber of Commerce
- 64 Arthur Street – Glass Specialties
- 113-115 Cypress Street – Family Video
- 51 Ninth Street – Century Boat assembly area

Other suggested sites to be considered:

- Water Works building on First Street
- Former Oleson’s property on Veterans Drive
- Stacey’s Flowers/First Street Bar on First Street

Mr. Miller encouraged all members of Council, Boards and Commissions as well as interested members of the public to complete the online survey to prioritize recommended RRC redevelopment sites for 2021.

**DISCUSSION ON FOOD TRUCKS** – City Manager Thad Taylor led a discussion on mobile vending located in the City of Manistee. Three years ago a proposed plan was presented to Council however the plan was not implemented. Taylor asked if Council is interested in revisiting the food truck issue at this time.

CONSENSUS: Council is interested in considering the options for mobile vending in the City of Manistee and directed staff to present a proposed plan for food trucks to be included on a future agenda.

**DISCUSSION ON SAFE BUILT RENTAL PROGRAM** – Steve Haugen, Building Inspector, and Kellie Lindsey, Account Manager, presented information on the current rental inspection program. The City is on a 3-year inspection cycle, which could be changed to a 2-year cycle by updating the rental program ordinance. Following are the objectives of a rental inspection program:

- Safety of tenants
- Improvement of housing stock
- Lessen blight issues
- Increase property values

Discussion also included fees, forms, property checklist, possible civil infractions and court ordered fines, and homeowner’s insurance.

CONSENSUS: Council would like to consider updating the rental inspection program ordinance to require a 2-year inspection cycle, increase fees for noncompliance and include a homeowner’s insurance policy requirement. City Manager Taylor will work with City Attorney Saylor on drafting the ordinance updates.

**OTHER:**

Beaton reported a resident's disappointment in continued littering and tree cutting in the Man Made Lake area and suggested appropriate signs be posted.

Martin Pontiac inquired about the search for a new firefighter. Chief Cameron reported there are currently 2 applicants and applications will continue to be received through February 28<sup>th</sup>.

Szymanski commended the DPW work on clearing snow from City sidewalks.

Adjourned at 8:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lora Y Laurain  
Deputy Clerk

Heather Pefley MiPMC/CMC  
City Clerk