

City of Olivet

Regular Session Minutes

March 12, 2018 – 7:00 p.m.

Council Call to Order

Present: Mayor Barlund-Maas, Marsh, Peterson, Hoffdahl, Steward-Bess, Frohm
Absent: Penny

Visitor Section Welcome

Visitors Present:

Jennifer Miller	Diana Newman	Judith Jenkins
Jeff Bierly	Jim Mott	Karen & Rod Randall
Kent Austin	Terry & Ann Noble	Bradley Fudge
Joe Barkley	Cheri Cain	Martha Perry
Dane & Erin Pavloski	Tina Sampson	Rose Perry
Libby Carpenter	Gerald Jenkins	Rod Beers

Rose and Martha Perry, 411 Cottage Street, cited a water issue in her yard and the street. She indicated the neighbor's ditch and culvert was removed years ago which helped manage the water. Also, there are no sewer drains on the north side of Cottage Street. Martha Perry is asking for relief from the water problem. Mayor Barlund-Maas replied that she and DPW Director Smith have discussed the issue, are looking into it, and it will be addressed in the next couple months.

Several residents and citizens had concerns with the by-laws, procedural changes and the current special use permit for the Eaton County Humane Society. Concerns included the discontinuation of pet adoptions and the housing of animals, as well as partnering with other animal welfare groups outside of Eaton County.

Diana Newman, Director of the Eaton County Humane Society (ECHS), clarified that ECHS has not changed their mission statement. She addressed several citizen concerns and explained that ECHS is changing to a spay/neuter clinic instead of housing animals.

Mayor Barlund-Maas thanked the visitors for addressing the Council and stated the Special Use Permit for ECHS would need to be reviewed by the Planning Commission.

County Commissioner Kent Austin shared recent activities at the County level. There was an approved lawsuit against the pharmaceutical companies on the opioid crisis. He also stated there was a list made naming all municipalities that had under-funded defined benefit retirement plans. The County is doing away with the Time of Sale or Transfer (TOST) program.

Approval of Agenda

MOTION by Marsh, supported by Steward-Bess, to approve the Agenda as written. Motion carried.

Approval of Previous Minutes

MOTION by Marsh, supported by Steward-Bess, to approve the Previous Minutes. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Resolution: State Deficit Elimination Plan – DPW Fund

MOTION by Steward-Bess, supported by Marsh, to accept the deficit plan and move the DPW fund to the General fund through the approved resolution. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

A. Lee Twp/Walton Twp Fire Contracts approval

Commissioner Steward-Bess reviewed the contract renewals for Lee and Walton Townships. The contracts will be brought back to Council for approval next month after being presented to the townships. Discussion followed. No motion.

B. Police Dept. Security Door & Wall approval

MOTION by Marsh, supported by Peterson, to approve the bid by Kingdom Builders to install a security door and wall in the Police Dept., not to exceed \$1,990.00. Motion carried.

C. Veteran's monument proposal for Memorial Park

Mayor Barlund-Maas presented a proposal submitted by Danny LaPoint for a new veteran's monument at Shrontz Park, which would consist of a large stone with plaque and drinking fountain. Discussion followed.

Council had further questions for Mr. LaPoint before taking action. No motion.

D. Deputy Clerk/Treasurer full-time position

Mayor Barlund-Maas presented a proposal to promote Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Amy Huepenbecker to full-time status. Discussion followed.

MOTION by Steward-Bess, supported by Marsh, to send the request to the Personnel Committee for making the decision on the full/part-time status of Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Amy Huepenbecker. A recommendation will be provided next month.

Approval of the Bills

MOTION by Marsh, supported by Steward-Bess, to approve the monthly bills with additions. Motion carried.

Employee Reports

Clerk Bierly provided a written report. She shared a letter received from Rural Development stating the City passed the General Fund portion of their annual audit. Bierly also provided Council a list of requested CD rates from both Eaton Federal and Independent Bank. She also indicated she was working with DPW Director Smith to update the equipment rental rates charged in accordance with State standards.

DPW Director Smith provided a written report. Smith attended the Copper and Lead meeting in Lansing on March 1st. Several ideas were discussed but no decisions made. Also, payment was received from Consumers Energy for the flashing light at Main Street and Butterfield Highway damaged during the recent accident.

Police Chief Garcia had provided a written report. Chief Garcia was not present.

Fire Chief Collins provided a written report. Collins said there was continued mutual aid with the Bellevue Fire Dept. There will be a large-scale event with the community schools in April, 2019. Mike McLeier will be receiving a professional excellence award from the 100 Club in Lansing.

Commissioner Comments

Marsh thanked the visitors who were part of the spirited discussion, along with those who stayed for the rest of the meeting.

Peterson said he isn't sure where we are going with the Humane Society. The Planning Commission will come up with something. He also asked to let County Commissioner Kent Austin speak.

Penny – Absent.

Hoffdahl said he will be looking into updating the traffic light at the Butterfield/Main intersection due to speed and safety concerns. This is not a City decision, so a study will need to be performed with the fee being absorbed by the City.

Steward-Bess thanked the Humane Society Director for coming to Council and talking to the citizens. She thanked John Collins for his fire contract assistance and said good job to all employees.

Frohm thanked all visitors and would appreciate action on the Deputy Clerk/Treasurer position.

Mayor Barlund-Maas presented Committee Assignments for all Commissioners. She will be looking into hiring a Code Enforcement Officer for the City.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Laura Barlund-Maas, Mayor

Larry Marsh, Mayor Pro-Tem

[Clerk/Treasurer Erin Bierly resigned on April 9, during the meeting at which these minutes were approved, so she was unable to sign the final copy. Mayor Pro-Tem Larry Marsh signed in lieu of the clerk.]