

October 27, 2009

The Mayor called the City Council meeting to order at 7:32 p.m.

Councillors present: Karen Doherty, Lara Mac Lean, Denise Hawkinson, and Mayor Jeff Dains. Councillor absent: Clay Christensen.

Staff present: Heather Butkowski, City Administrator.

Mayor Dains asked for changes to the meeting agenda. There being none, Councillor Mac Lean moved to approve the agenda. Councillor Hawkinson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Councillor Mac Lean moved to approve the October 13, 2009, City Council meeting minutes. Councillor Doherty seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Councillor Hawkinson moved approval of the claims totaling \$18,542.79. Councillor Mac Lean seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Dains asked if members of the public wished to address the Council. Larry Lambert, 1803 Eustis Street, addressed the Council.

Lambert asked that the City address the nuisance ordinances he felt were being violated in his neighborhood. After his presentation, the Mayor asked the city administrator to arrange a meeting with Mr. Lambert to address his concerns.

Mayor Dains asked if councillors wished to remove items from the consent agenda. Councillor Hawkinson asked to remove the PIC minutes. Councillor Hawkinson moved the remaining consent agenda items including: 2010 rental housing licenses, the final pay request for the hockey rink improvements, and the third quarter investment report. Councillor Mac Lean seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Mayor Dains welcomed Officer Jeremy Stroga to the meeting and asked him to speak to his work solving the recent burglaries in town. Stroga explained the process he and the department went through to solve the 13 burglary cases. He said that many of the stolen items were ultimately returned to the owners. In the end, three people were arrested.

Mayor Dains said he wanted to highlight the accomplishment and bring the story to a conclusion so that residents would know what happened. Councillor Mac Lean also thanked the officer and said the neighbors' cooperation, which helped lead to the arrests, showed that the community trusts the officers.

Captain Cotroneo introduced NIXLE to the City Council. He explained that NIXLE is a community notification system that the police department was starting to use. He said residents can sign up for various types of community notices with the option of having them delivered to an email account or cell phone.

The Council felt this was a great idea and another tool with which to reach residents.

Councilor Hawkinson reported on the preparations for the annual Halloween event taking place on October 31 from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Volunteers will be serving hot dogs, potato chips, beverages, and candy to those who attend. Young and old are invited.

Butkowski said the 2000A series bond had been paid. The final step in the process requires the Council approve a budget amendment allowing for the transfer of funds from the TIF fund (405) to the debt service fund (302) to cover the payment.

Councilor Doherty moved to adopt resolution 102709A – amending the 2009 adopted budget. Councilor Mac Lean seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

At the last meeting, the Council approved the 2030 Comprehensive Plan. The City now has nine months to bring its internal controls in line with the Plan. Butkowski addressed the need to bring in a consultant to lead the process, especially as the Plan proposes a new mixed use zoning district for the Larpeur Avenue corridor. Butkowski suggested a timeline that allows the Council to select a consultant by December 8, the last council meeting of the year. Staff asked whether 1 or 2 council members would review the proposals with staff and select which consultants would be invited for an interview with the City Council.

Councilors Hawkinson and Mac Lean volunteered to review the applications with staff on Thursday, November 19 at 3:30 p.m.

Councilor Doherty moved to allow staff to advertise the request for proposals (RFP) for a zoning ordinance update. Councilor Hawkinson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Councilor Hawkinson questioned the line in the PCIC minutes stating potato chips would replace the mini-donuts. Staff will amend the PCIC minutes before bringing them to the next PCIC meeting for adoption.

Councilor Mac Lean moved to acknowledge the PCIC minutes. Councilor Hawkinson seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Butkowski reviewed the preliminary agenda for the next meeting, which included: 2010 rental licenses, 2010 storm and sanitary sewer rates, Halloween donations, the municipal election results, storm sewer credit policy, and a closed session with the city attorney regarding pending litigation.

Mayor Dains explained the Council was moving into the work session. Work sessions are a continuation of the meetings but not aired on community television.

As the City Council is considering revising the animal ordinance, staff asked the Council for preliminary direction on three items related to pets that have become an issue. The first was the raising of chickens. Butkowski said it is a hot topic as urban chickens have become very popular. The current ordinance is vague about whether chickens are allowed. As a result, staff has issued one chicken permit, but more residents have inquired about how to receive one.

After much discussion, the Council expressed willingness to investigate the idea of allowing chickens if issues such as noise and smell could be adequately addressed in an ordinance.

Staff explained that the animal control ordinance did not address kennels, but they had been issued in the past. Residents generally inquire about kennel licenses when they want to own more than the two pets allowed by ordinance. The Council did not see a reason to reconsider the two species limit and agreed with staff that kennel licenses may be best treated as a home based breeding or boarding business.

There being no further business on the council agenda, Councilor Hawkinson moved to adjourn the meeting. Councilor Doherty seconded the motion and it carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Butkowski
City Administrator