

CITY OF MONROE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2011

Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Monroe, Michigan held on Monday, February 7, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. in the City Hall Council Chambers.

Present: Council Members Paisley, Bica, Molenda, Conner, Beneteau, Hensley and Mayor Clark.

Charles D. Evans, City Clerk-Treasurer gave the invocation.

Mayor Clark led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Proclamation.

6 Rotary Recognition Day – February 23, 2011.

Mayor Clark presented the Proclamation to Don Leito, President of Rotary International.

Don Leito, President of Rotary International thanked Mayor and Council for the proclamation and commented on the services and the foundation of Rotary International.

Mayor Clark asked that Ken Miller and Steve Swartz come forward and introduce their special guest, Mr. Charlie Sanders to talk about his fundraising.

Steve Swartz and Ken Miller, Representatives of National Association of Insurance and Financial Advisors, NAIFA commented on the second annual scholarship program for high school students of Monroe County, and explained that Charlie Sanders has teamed up with them to promote the program and invited him to speak about the Scholarship Foundation.

Charlie Sanders commented on community leaders and pointed out Ken Miller as one of the best. He spoke about how he became involved with NAIFA's Scholarship Program and said that the fundraiser will be on February 23rd, 2011 at Schottenheimer's Rathskellar from 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

Council Action.

265 This item was postponed at the January 18, 2011 meeting.

Communication from the Building Official, reporting back on bids received for the demolition of a property located at 369 Armitage Drive, and recommending that Council award the contract to Earth Works Excavating, in the amount of \$8,300 and that a total of \$13,300 be encumbered to include a contingency of \$5,000 for the abatement of asbestos if identified, and further recommending that the Mayor or Clerk-Treasurer be authorized to sign the contract on behalf of the City of Monroe. It was moved by Council Member Beneteau and seconded by Council Member Bica that item 265 be postponed until the February 7, 2011 Council Meeting and to modify the list so that the first three (3) items be completed by January 31, 2011 and if not complete, execute demolition of the property.

It was moved by Council Member Beneteau and seconded by Council Member Molenda that item 265 be placed on the floor for discussion.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Council Member Beneteau referred to the document provided by the Building Official and said that it appears that the check list was not followed and because of that he is ready to make a motion if there is no other discussion.

Audrey Roach, 369 Armitage said that this was not an empty home with fallen ceilings; it was a furnished home that she has worked diligently to clean and to preserve some things that were salvageable. She said that she is only a week behind and that she has a contractor lined up and would like to continue to bring this to completion with Council's permission.

Mayor Clark said that there were several items that were asked to be completed by the end of January, and that it is now a week past that time. He explained that in the report as well as in the photographs, it does not appear that a significant amount was done and that there were terms of the agreement which the owner signed and agreed to that were not complied with.

Audrey Roach, 369 Armitage stated that she didn't know that the contract timeline was negotiable because she was handed the contract and was asked to sign it.

Council Member Conner asked if the cash bond was submitted on time.

Joseph Lehmann, Building Official said that the owner has deposited the cash bond.

Mayor Clark cited the three items on the task list that were to be completed by January 31; the debris on the interior of the structure was to be removed, that a cash bond of \$14,000 was to be submitted to cover the cost of demolition, and that all damaged drywall / plaster be removed so that a Building Department inspector could assess the damages. He said that the bond was deposited and the inspection was done but he can see by the pictures that the debris was not removed and the damaged drywall / plaster has not been removed.

It was moved by Council Member Beneteau and seconded by Council Member Molenda to award the demolition contract for item 265 to Earth Works Excavating, and to proceed with demolition of the property.

Ayes: 6 Nays: 1 (Council Member Paisley)

Motion carried.

Consent Agenda. (All items listed under the Consent Agenda are considered to be routine by Mayor and Council and may be approved by one motion. Any item may be removed for separate discussion by a Councilperson or citizen.)

- A. Approval of the Minutes of the Work Session held on Tuesday, January 18, 2011 and the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held on Tuesday, January 18, 2011 and the Minutes of the Work Session held on Wednesday, January 26, 2011.
- B. Approval of payments to vendors in the amount of \$831,731.98.
Action: Bills be allowed and warrants drawn on the various accounts for their payment.

- 7 Traffic Committee Meeting.
 1. Communication from the Director of Engineering & Public Services, submitting the minutes of the Traffic Committee meeting held on January 26, 2011, and recommending that the City Council accept and place on file the Minutes from the January 26, 2011 Mayors Traffic Committee meeting, and approve Traffic Control Orders 058-002 and 158-003.
 2. Supporting documents.
 3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

- 8 Proposed Large Water User Agreement Between A Proposed Large Water User, City of Monroe and Exeter Township.
 1. Communication from the Director of Water & Wastewater Utilities, submitting a Large Water User Agreement between Ruhlig Farms, LLC (Proposed Large Water User), the City of Monroe and Exeter Township, and recommending that the attached agreement be approved and that the Mayor and City Clerk-Treasurer be authorized to sign the agreement on behalf of the City of Monroe.
 2. Supporting documents.
 3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

- 9 Monroe County Convention & Tourism Bureau Banner Request.
 1. Communication from the City Manager's Office, reporting back on a request from the Monroe County Convention & Tourism Bureau for permission to display a banner across Monroe Street from January 1 – May 15, 2012, announcing the Michigan State Bowling Association Tournament, and recommending that the request be approved, as modified, for up to a four week period.
 2. Supporting documents.
 3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

- 10 Storm Sewer Repair Work to Kentucky Avenue – Change Order.
 1. Communication from the Director of Engineering & Public Services, submitting a Change Order to the October 4, 2010 contract for water main replacement work on Kentucky Avenue from First to Front Streets, and recommending that Council award a Change Order to the 2010-11 Water Main Replacement Program for repairs to the storm sewer on Kentucky Avenue, to C & D Hughes, Inc., on a time and material basis not to exceed \$15,000, and further recommending that the Director of Engineering & Public Services be authorized to execute the change order on behalf of the City of Monroe.
 2. Supporting documents.
 3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

- 11 Arthur Lesow Community Center (ALCC) Building Improvements Bids – Alternate #1.
 1. Communication from the Director of Engineering & Public Services, reporting back on bids received for the ALCC building improvements, and recommending that Council award a contract for Alternate #1 of the Building Improvements for the ALCC in the amount of \$73,550 to Erie Welding & Mechanical Contractors, Inc., with \$85,000 encumbered to include a 15 % contingency, and further recommending that the Mayor and Clerk-Treasurer be authorized to sign the contracts on behalf of the City of Monroe.
 2. Supporting documents.
 3. Action: Accept, place on file and the recommendation be carried out.

12 Appointments Resolution.

1. Communication from the City Manager's Office, submitting a proposed resolution for appointment to various City Boards and Commissions, and recommending the proposed Resolution be adopted.
2. Supporting documents.
3. Action: Accept, place on file and the resolution be adopted.

It was moved by Council Member Molenda and seconded by Council Member Beneteau that items 7, 8, 10, 11, and 12 be approved as indicated and that item 9 be removed and considered separately.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

9 The communication from the City Manager's Office was presented, reporting back on a request from the Monroe County Convention & Tourism Bureau for permission to display a banner across Monroe Street from January 1 – May 15, 2012, announcing the Michigan State Bowling Association Tournament, and recommending that the request be approved, as modified, for up to a four week period.

Council Member Conner said that the contract is ambiguous in its timeline, from what was requested to what is being recommended.

Mayor Clark said that our policy allows three weeks for display of a banner, but in consideration that the Michigan State Bowling Association Tournament will be in Monroe throughout the entire time of the request, the recommendation is for four weeks. He said that the DDA has some restrictions for events, but that the City Manager recommends approval of the request as modified.

George Brown, City Manager explained that the placement of banners is of a consecutive timeframe, no repeated activity of putting it up and taking it down. So if Council approves it in this form tonight, the City will work with the Convention & Tourism Bureau to select a window of up to four (4) weeks and that will allow other users to have the weeks on either side of the timeframe.

Council Member Hensley said that he would like to know a specific timeline for this request before approval because of other events in 2012, like the War of 1812 Celebration and other activities.

It was moved by Council Member Conner and seconded by Council Member Hensley that item 9 be postponed until the February 22, 2011 Council Meeting to obtain a specific timeline from the Monroe County Convention & Tourism Bureau.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Council Comments.

Council Member Bica thanked DPS for the wonderful job of removing the snow downtown and thanked the people who accepted the appointments to the various boards and commissions today.

Council Member Molenda commented on how organized, professional and efficiently effective the drivers of the snow plows were during the recent snow events.

Council Member Conner congratulated the citizens who went to the artist presentation this weekend and said it was very interesting to see that we have so many gifted artists in the community. She announced that the city had 148 foreclosures in January.

Mayor's Comments.

Mayor Clark congratulated Council Member Conner for her appointment to the National Leagues of Cities Energy on Environment and Natural Resources Committee. He recognized some of the new businesses that have moved into Monroe, one of which is Proactive Network Solutions, 131 E. Front Street and introduced Tim Gossiaux, President/Owner.

Tim Gossiaux, Proactive Network Solutions, President/Owner announced their grand opening is on Tuesday, February 22nd, from 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. He said that their business provides IT solutions at reasonable rates for homes and businesses.

Mayor Clark also commented about the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Session that he attended at Sterling State Park and the various topics covered at the meeting. He also commented on the separate locations of the Veteran's Affairs Office and the Southeast Michigan Veteran's Service, and suggested that a person should call them before heading out to find either office. He also commented on the War of 1812 re-enactors event over the weekend and the awards given out by the United States Daughters of 1812 Committee and who those awards were given to. He said that he received far more positive comments than negative comments regarding the snow removal over the weekend and he expressed his gratitude that the residents have cleared their sidewalks as many times as needed.

City Manager Comments.

George Brown, City Manager gave kudos to the DPS and their leadership during the recent snow events. He requested that the residents would take it upon themselves to note when a snow event is expected and move their vehicles in a timely manner, when and wherever possible, so that snow removal can be done more efficiently and he thanked everyone for their cooperation during these past snow events.

Citizens Comments.

Pat McElligott, 813 Reisig Street complained about the lack of snow removal and salting in his neighborhood, and asked how long their cars should be kept off the streets in anticipation of snow removal. He said that he is paying for services that he is not receiving.

It was moved by Council Member Molenda and seconded by Council Member Beneteau that Council go into Closed Executive Session to discuss Pending Litigation and Collective Bargaining at 8:29 p.m.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

It was moved by Council Member Conner and seconded by Council Member Beneteau that Council reconvene into open session at 10:30 p.m.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Adjournment.

It was moved by Council Member Beneteau and seconded by Council Member Hensley that the meeting adjourn at 10:31 p.m. until the next Regular Meeting on Tuesday, February 22, 2010 at 7:30 p.m.

Ayes: 7 Nays: 0

Motion carried.

Charles D. Evans
City Clerk-Treasurer

Robert E. Clark
Mayor