

MONTROSE CITY COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

January 20, 2022

CALL TO ORDER: Mayor Brown called the regular Council meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The meeting was held at the Montrose City Offices located at 139 S. Saginaw Street, Montrose, MI.

ROLL CALL: Present Council Members were Mayor Colleen Brown, Robert Arnold, Mayor Pro-Tem Mark Richard, Tom Bigelow, Ryan Heslop, and Andrea Martin. Also present were City Manager Neil Rankin, and 3 citizens. Member Aaron Burch was recorded absent.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG: Mayor Brown led the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZEN OF THE MONTH:

1. *THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2021 NANCY OBERSHAW:* Ms. Obershaw unavailable.
2. *THE MONTH OF JANUARY 2022 CHERRY SAWDON:* Ms. Sawdon was unavailable.
3. *CHOOSE A CITIZEN OF THE MONTH FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2022:*
 - **MOTION** by Arnold **SECOND** by Bigelow to nominate The Montrose Museum Staff as Citizen of the Month for February. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: NONE

PRESENTATIONS:

1. *MARK EMMENDORFER – 911 CONSORTIUM:* Montrose Township Supervisor Mark Emmendorfer reported that 911 Consortium is asking communities to provide a resolution should the municipality require only 1 ambulance service inside their city/township limits. It takes away the liability from 911 by not allowing the closest ambulance service to respond. Discussion ensued over the pro's versus con's of exclusive services. Emmendorfer also spoke on a recent FANG drug bust that the Township profited close to \$128,000.00.
2. *CITY OF MONTROSE WEBSITE REDESIGN:* Rankin presented the new website that recently went live.

REPORTS

1. *FIRE & POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORTS:* Report on file at city office.
2. *BUILDING INSPECTION SERVICES:* Report on file at city office.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

MATTERS OF COUNCIL ACTION:

1. *APPROVAL OF THE 12/16/21 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:*
 - **MOTION** by Richard **SECOND** by Arnold to approve the December 16, 2021 regular meeting minutes. All Ayes. Motion Carried.
2. *APPROVAL OF CHECK REGISTER & TREASURER REPORT:*

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- **MOTION** by Richard **SECOND** Arnold to pay our bills and approve the check register and treasurer report. Roll Call Vote: Bigelow – Aye, Martin – Aye, Arnold – Aye, Richard – Aye, Heslop – Aye, and Mayor Brown – Aye. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

3. ***DISCUSSION/DIRECTION MOSQUITO ABATEMENT CONTRACT:*** Rankin conveyed, In 2017 City Council approved 3-year contract with Rose Pest Solution with an optional 2 year extension, Each of the last two years the company has reached out to me regarding the option. To have the special assessment run concurrently with the contract the city put out bids as the special assessment was expiring at the end of 2021 while the contract could expire at the end of 2022. Rose Pest to not put in a bid. I don't know why as the wording was the same as previous contracts. My guess is that the township that had Rose made it financially feasible. However, council did receive a bid from APM and approved their RFP. The price of APM would be higher but is a 3-year contract with a 2-year additional option. Rose Pest also said they couldn't do another contract, even if they could, for the price that they currently charge as fuel and labor costs has risen. Rankin requested council make a motion to have the city manager send a letter to Rose Pest Solution to state that the city would not be exercising the fifth-year option. In the 2021 Spring Newsletter as it would need to be approved at the May Election to be levied in July. This is based on the current funding structure of it being a special assessment vs. General Fund funded. The new special assessment if approved would cover the cost over the next five years. Obviously if the special assessment does not pass the city could utilize unassigned general fund to cover one year and take it to a vote in the future if necessary.

- **MOTION** by Arnold **SECOND** by Richard that we do not observe Option No. 5 for mosquito control. Roll Call Vote: Richard – Aye, Martin – Aye, Heslop – Aye, Arnold – Aye, and Mayor Brown – Aye. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

4. ***DISCUSSION/DIRECTION LION'S PARK BATHROOM REMODEL RFP:*** Rankin reported that the restroom at Lion's Park are in dire need of replacing the fixtures (toilets, sinks, urinals) and lighting fixture to LED motion sensor. The sinks are push button stainless steel and look more appropriate in a prison than a park restroom. I know it was meant to take the abuse by a destructive public but they are not easily repaired or cleaned. I'm estimating that the replacement/upgrade will cost between \$10,000 -13,000. I would like to an RFP out there to local plumbers, contractors to get some pricing and open the restroom this year that work for when the city has rentals and events..

- **MOTION** by Bigelow **SECOND** by Arnold to authorize the city manager to send out the RFP for the Lion's Park Restroom Restoration and set a deadline date. Roll Call Vote: Richard – Aye, Martin – Aye, Heslop – Aye, Arnold – Aye, Bigelow – Aye, and Mayor Brown – Aye. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

5. ***DISCUSSION/DIRECTION EMPLOYEE HEALTHCARE PLAN:*** Rankin conveyed that in January he was able to get the new rates for 2022. We are seeing an increase of 5.5% which is almost double of previous years. The city does get significant saving as a member. Rankin's belief is that small municipalities need to cover the majority of healthcare expenditures to attract and retain

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employees as promotion is usually not an option and recommended those who participate with the city's insurance start contributing. Informational only, no action taken.

6. *DISCUSSION/DIRECTION WATER RELIABILITY STUDY*: Rankin presented the study asking if there were any questions. Rankin mentioned the study gives information on current conditions of the pipes and what direction the city should invest in for future capital improvement projects which would co-inside with the mapping and GIS systems. One of the things they came across during the study were several shut-off valves were installed backwards, meaning, if the water was supposed to be shut off, it was actually being turned on, however, there were no customer complaints during this discovery. Brown mentioned she was surprised that the study referenced that Fleis Vandenbrink estimated that 100% of the service leads are copper which is amazing. Rankin also referenced the recently capped well that was decommissioned to avoid future legacy costs of testing and having a head well program in place. Informational only, no action taken.

7. *APPROVAL OF DENNIS GRAHAM TO MONTROSE DDA BOARD*: Mayor Brown recommended the appointment.

- **MOTION** by Richard **SECOND** by Arnold to put Dennis Graham onto the DDA Board. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

8. *APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL COUNCIL MEMBER TOM BIGELOW'S ABSENCE AT THE DECEMBER 16, 2021 CITY COUNCIL MEETING*

- **MOTION** by Richard **SECOND** by Heslop to approve Mr. Bigelow's December 16, 2021 absence at the council meeting. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

9. *APPROVAL/DISAPPROVAL COUNCIL MEMBER AARON BURCH'S ABSENCE AT THE DECEMBER 16, 2021 CITY COUNCIL MEETING*

- **MOTION** by Richard **SECOND** by Heslop to approve Mr. Burch's absence at the December 16th council meeting. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: NONE

REPORTS FROM BOARDS & COMMISSIONS:

DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BOARD: NONE

ELECTION COMMISSION: NONE

GENESEE COUNTY SMALL CITIES & VILLAGES ASSOCIATION: NONE

GENESEE COUNTY WATER AND WASTE SERVICE'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE: NONE

GENESEE COUNTY METROPOLITAN ALLIANCE: Meeting was moved to next week.

PLANNING BOARD: Cancelled due to Covid.

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911 CONSORTIUM: Next meeting will be in March.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS: NONE

REPORTS FROM CITY MANAGER AND CITY ATTORNEY:

CITY MANAGER: Rankin read aloud his report; The office remains closed due to Covid. Hopefully as the number of Covid cases come down I hope to reopen but it will be probably be after the first of the year. We have paused rental inspections as well but have sent out registrations to property owners. The planning board will have a special use permit meeting on December 28th for the Taco Bell. There will also be a planning board meeting on January 7th to hear public comments on the Draft Recreation Master Plan. Mayor Brown asked if the DPW's salt bin construction has started and Rankin replied that Atwell is currently busy working on site-plan for Retro Foam but it will continue in the spring. Rankin continued by saying Simms Chevrolet has delivered our 2021 work truck last week, the DPW will fit it out with the plow package this spring as plow prices are up and they want to swap our the utility body and don't want to risk it with snow in the forecast. Lastly please take moment to complete the survey on the city's website to help us with the Recreation Master Plan. Those comments will be added to the plan.

CITY ATTORNEY: NONE

MAYOR AND COUNCIL COMMENTS: Arnold mentioned Zales is offering free jewelry appraisals. Richard volunteered to help paint and/or drywall at 200 E. Maple Street. Bigelow asked the status on graduation banners along M-57. Mayor Brown announced the Montrose Porch Project will be meeting on the 4th Thursday of each month at the Depot at 7:00 p.m. and encouraged others to participate in future exciting upcoming projects.

COMMUNICATIONS TO THE COUNCIL: *On file at city office.*

ADJOURNMENT:

- **MOTION** by Richard **SECOND** by Arnold to adjourn the meeting. All Ayes. Motion Carried.

Mayor Brown adjourned the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

Prepared by City Clerk, Tina Rush